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# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Bobath centre in crisis

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Staff at the Bobath Centre in East End Road do not know how long they can continue providing specialist care for children with cerebral palsy. The crisis has come about because the flow of patients referred by NHS primary care trusts is drying up, leaving the centre facing a financial deficit of £280,000. In November 2010, 20 children were receiving two weeks each of intensive treatment; in November 2011, there were only nine.

### Delays and refusals

Bobath staff acknowledge the difficulties faced by primary care trusts hit by budget cuts and an estimated loss of 40% of their commissioning posts, but say that funding is being delayed, refused, or beset with obstacles. Mandy Franklin, appointments and funding manager, gave examples: "One child's doctor called to say he had been sent a 60-page funding application form to complete. I receive refusal letters with all the contact details removed so that I can't respond, and more often, I am simply unable to get through on the phone."

Centre director Jayne Pearce said: "We realise times are



Service under threat: MP Mike Freer watches Alan and Amanda Campbell support their six-year-old son Joshua through a treatment session at the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

tough and we empathise with our colleagues in the Health Service. However, it is critical that children with cerebral palsy are treated as early as possible. Delaying funding threatens their future wellbeing, and the inevitable health problems they will face later in life will only be more costly to treat."

### MPs lend support

The Bobath Centre is unique and internationally respected. As a small charity, though,

it is vulnerable, and staff are very grateful for fundraising from supporters and for the generosity and involvement of local people.

They recently explained their problems and asked for support during visits by local MP Mike Freer and Blackpool and Clevellys MP Paul Maynard, who belongs to the All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group. Paul Maynard, who has mild cerebral palsy himself, sat in on a treatment session with six-year-old Sammy Wright, who was visiting with his mother Rachel from Southend.

Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer officially

opened the charity's new Students' Learning Zone. The Bobath Centre recently raised £12,000 to improve teaching facilities for students, adding to its world-class reputation for treatment and for training of physio, occupational and speech and language therapists. Mr Freer met staff and students and watched the treatment session of six-year-old Joshua Campbell, who was visiting with his parents Alan and Amanda from Great Sampford in Essex.

For more information about the centre, or to get involved in fundraising, call 020 8444 3355 or visit [www.bobath.org.uk](http://www.bobath.org.uk).

## Man stabbed in children's park

By Janet Maitland

A young man was stabbed in the children's playground on Park Road at about 11pm on 27 January. A local resident who was first on the scene believes the incident should be a wake-up call about the lack of facilities for young people in East Finchley.

The resident, who asked not to be named, was at home when he heard the sound of an argument coming from the park. He looked out of his window and saw a young man he recognised, clutching his side and obviously in pain. The resident hurried to the park and found two groups of young people shouting at each other.

### Aggressive

"I got the victim and his friends out of the park," said the resident. "A youth in the other group looked very aggressive and I didn't want him stabbing anyone else. When we got to the High Road I called an ambulance. The victim told me later that a nurse said if the knife had gone a quarter of an inch deeper, he would have died."

"They told me they'd just been messing around, playing on the swings, when this group of youths came into the park. One of them asked the victim for a cigarette. Then words were exchanged and the youth suddenly pulled out the knife and stabbed him."

"I ran the football team at the Monday Club for three years but since the demise of the club and the question mark hanging over Stanley Road Playing Field, we have no provision for young people in East Finchley at all. Believe me, we need to invest in our young people, now."

A doctor from the air ambulance service treated the victim in the ambulance before he was taken to hospital. He was given stitches and discharged the following day.

Continued on page 4

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### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please  
contact us at the above address.

*Comments to THE ARCHER may  
be published unless clearly  
marked 'Not for publication'  
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### Copy deadlines

*April: 16 March*

*May: 13 April*

*June: 11 May*

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

#### Barnet Council:

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

### Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000  
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792  
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
St Luke's 020 8219 1800  
Whittington 020 7272 3070

### Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141  
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555  
Barndoc 0300 033 3777  
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211  
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777  
Drinkline 0800 917 8282  
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
MIND 020 8343 5700  
NHS Direct 0845 4647

### OAPs' Advice

Age UK 020 8203 5040  
Contact (N2) 020 8432 1415

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789  
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

### Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 7484950  
City Airport 020 7646 0088  
London Transport 0843 222 1234  
National Express 08705 808080  
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Barnet Police 020 8200 1212  
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148  
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0845 303 0900  
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood  
Team 020 7161 9014

### Help & Advice

Barnet Community  
Counselling 020 8446 7460  
Childline 0800 1111  
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935  
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300  
RSPCA Inspector 0300 1234 999  
Samaritans 08457 909090

## Can you help THE ARCHER sort our papers?

One of the most important jobs here at The Archer each month is sorting our papers into rounds and we're looking for someone who can take on this vital job for us.

It only takes a couple of hours once a month and all you need is a ground floor space to sort the papers. They're delivered direct to your door divided into easy-to-count batches and then our distributors collect the rounds directly from you.

Please get in touch if you

can volunteer for this crucial task that will help us ensure our community newspaper continues to reach our readers all around N2. You can email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or leave a message by telephoning 0844 579 6949 accompanied by mailbox number 63450. Thank you.

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

**First Floor Flat, 8 Baronsmere Road, N2**

Alterations to roof, including rear dormer and roof lights to front to facilitate a loft conversion.

**66 Bedford Road, N2**

Demolition of existing conservatory, and erection of a single-storey rear extension with patio area.

**Workshop rear of 7 Church Lane, N2**

Change of use from Class B2 (Joinery shop) to Class D2 (Martial Arts Studio)

**97 Leslie Road, N2**

Single-storey rear extension, with a staircase and handrail at first-floor level.

**3A Sedgemere Avenue, N2**

Extensions to roof including rear dormer windows with balcony to rear elevation and roof lights to front elevation to facilitate a loft conversion.

**Land rear of 2 Market Place, Viceroy Close, N2**

Material minor amendment to Appeal Decision APP/N5090/A10/2140752 dated 27/05/11 (planning application F/03625/10) for 'Erection of two new town houses on vacant land'.

Amendments to include correct

site area as 194.31sqm (previously submitted as 205sqm); minor alterations to fenestration layout; provision of enclosed bin facilities; new first-floor roof including alterations to slope; roof above study room at first floor to be a lead flashing roof; alterations to terrace railing and enlargement of terraces; replacement of Sedum roof above first-floor projections with lead roof including installation of solar-thermal panels and access ladder from first-floor terrace.

### Haringey Council

**28 Church Vale, N2**

Erection of rear ground-floor extension, alteration of roof from hip to gable, enlargement of existing rear dormer and insertion of two roof lights to front roof slope, one roof light to rear roof slope, and obscure glazed window to new side.

**1 Midhurst Avenue, N10**

Erection of rear dormer to facilitate a loft conversion

**3 Sussex Gardens, N6**

Conversion of integral garage into habitable living space

**2 Twyford Avenue, N2**

Insertion of two Velux windows to front roof slope, erection of rear dormer with Juliet balcony, and extension of side gable.

## Festival date in the diary

The East Finchley Community Festival will take place this year on Sunday 24 June. Stalls, live entertainment and food and drink will make the party go with a swing in Cherry Tree Wood.

Application forms for stallholders have gone out via email. If you are not on the regular database and are interested in a stall, you can email [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com) for information.

The organisers of the festival have managed to keep it a free event for over 35 years. It has never been grant aided by Barnet

Council and is run entirely by local volunteers. On the day, at least 50 volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets, steward the event or help in the bar. If you can spare an hour during the day and make a contribution to the success of the festival, ring 07983 360 834 or email the same address: [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com)

## Parks for hire

The Finchley Society has written to Barnet Council to raise concerns about the proposal to make Victoria Park, off Long Lane, and Lyttelton Playing Fields, off Lyttelton Road, available for private hire.

In a seven-point letter, chairman David Smith states that while the Society understands that this is "being promoted as a money-raising exercise so that the burden on the shoulders of council tax payers is alleviated" the plan "should be discussed in a constructive and co-operative way, involving the Local Authority and 'stakeholders', i.e. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association, FORAB, and The Finchley

Society."

He calls for residents' associations to be involved in discussions about park projects so their voices are heard. Only then could the London Borough of Barnet be seen to be "Putting the Community First".

The Society asks anyone living in Finchley who feels they may be affected by these changes to local parks to contact them or local residents' groups.

## Don't lose your TV stations

In April 2012 all TV is going digital. The existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal. If you have an analogue TV (five channels or fewer), you will need to convert your TV or you will lose channels at switchover.

The BBC's Switchover Help Scheme provides older and disabled people with everything they need to switch one TV set to digital. This service is available to them for £40. It is free for eligible people on certain income-related benefits. For more information, visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk) or call 08456 50 50 50.

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# New threats to Newstead Children's Centre

By Diana Cormack and Janet Maitland

Only a year after surviving the threat of closure, parents who use the Newstead Children's Centre are set to start fighting all over again. They fear that the centre, in Fallows Close off Tarling Road, will suffer badly under budget cuts proposed by Barnet and that such amenities will eventually disappear.

Local parent Jenny Borst described the centre as "excellent" and told *THE ARCHER* that it recently came second in a nationwide award for safeguarding children. Previously it was judged as "outstanding" by Ofsted.

Used by all sections of the community, the centre provides a wide range of services for parents and children under five, including those with special needs. Many parents rely on it in order to go out to work and losing the nursery would create major problems, particularly for those in tough circumstances who do not wish to be a burden to the tax payer.

Parents were preparing their protest plans as we went to press towards the end of February, when any cuts to the service were due to be announced.

## Commercial competition

Meanwhile parents have been disturbed to hear rumours that a new private nursery could open in the Old Barn Community Centre, a Barnet Council building situated directly opposite Newstead. This is seen as a further threat to the children's centre.

Ruth Mulandi, CEO at Community Barnet, which supports community organisations, said she was concerned to hear that there could be commercial tenants at the Old Barn.

"We feel this is not appropriate for a community centre," she said. "Although there is nothing to stop a community centre having tenants, or partners, delivering services, these services cannot take precedence over other services. They need to complement and not replace existing community services."

# Parking campaign lost

By Diana Cormack

At a hearing in the Royal Courts of Justice on 8 February, Summerlee Avenue solicitor David Attfield had his attempt to overturn Barnet Council's CPZ charges rejected.

Crucial to the case was the question of whether a council can set residents' parking charges to raise revenue for things that have nothing to do with residents' parking. Deputy High Court Judge Robin Purchas said: "There is no evidence put before me that the authority has any objectives in mind other than the money should be put towards traffic management purposes under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act."

Barnet CPZ Action, a group formed to fight against the huge increase in parking permits last April when residents' permits rose from £40 to £100 and visitor vouchers from £1 to £4 each, still firmly believe in their cause.

They relied on two High Court cases which, they say, made it clear that parking charges need to address a parking-related need. They suggest that lawful reasons to increase charges might be the cost of running a CPZ and the need in some areas to dampen demand. This view, they claim, is shared by David Attfield's solicitors, his QC, the RAC Foundation and even Westminster Council.

At the time of writing the group was considering its next steps.



Steph and Caroline ready to work on the land. Photo by David Broome.

# Garden girls back on the land

When Caroline Broome was made redundant from her office job at Christmas, the general response from her friends and family was, "So when are you setting up your gardening service, then?"

Caroline had regularly opened her garden to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme and knew that, while many of her visitors admired large landscaped gardens, their own horticultural needs were less ambitious: a nice neat lawn, well pruned shrubs and weed-free borders, with a succession of flowers throughout the year. To employ professional garden designers would be 'overkill' for their suburban plots yet they did not know how to create and maintain an attractive garden without huge expense or upheaval.

Her business The Garden Girls hopes to fill this gap in the market. Along with her apprentice Steph Goldstein, Caroline will provide practical skill and horticultural knowledge for the small urban gardens of busy people and the elderly.

Services will range from one-off spring spruce-ups and autumn tidy-ups, to regular

maintenance, winter and summer container displays, as well as advice on planting schemes and design, leaving larger gardens and hard landscaping to the big boys.

## Land Army ladies

Caroline said: "The idea for The Garden Girls was inspired by the Second World War Women's Land Army posters. After 11 years at a desk the idea of kitting oneself up in 1940s gear for a *Healthy Happy Job* in the *Healthy Open Air* was too tempting to pass up."

Later this year, Caroline will introduce a series of "How To..." workshops and her friend Kathryn Gerrard, who sells her Potters Bar honey to Tony's Greengrocers in the High Road, will be invited to instruct on bee-keeping and chicken keeping.

Garden owners can contact Caroline on 020 8444 2329 or email: [caroline@thegarden-girls.biz](mailto:caroline@thegarden-girls.biz).



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Bikes are given a unique security code at the Safer Neighbourhood cycle marking event. Photo by Nick Young.

## Stay alert to crime

By Janet Maitland

Twenty five people had their bikes marked with a unique serial number outside the tube station on 31 January. These bikes are now registered with the Bike Register so they can be returned to their rightful owners if lost or stolen.

The bikeregistration event was organised by the Cycle Task Force and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who are planning another event during the summer. All you have to do to get registered is turn up with your bike with a few minutes to spare.

### Free email alerts

Did you know that the SNT can send you emails about any crime that's been committed in your street? To register with E-Watch, send an email including your name, email address and home address to [eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk). This free service was created two years ago and has been so successful it is now being copied by teams in other wards.

If you want to know about

crime in other parts of London, such as where you work, or where an elderly relative lives, go to [www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk) and register for the Neighbourhood Link Community Messaging Service. This was recently launched by the Metropolitan Police Service and is also free. You can select the kind of information you want to receive and you can register for more than one area. Another way of finding out about crime is to use Twitter. You can keep in touch with police reports for the whole of Barnet by searching @MPSBarnet.

You can talk to the Safer Neighbourhood Team about any crime concerns by ringing 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767 or

emailing them at [EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk). You can also talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

## Bogus clampers

East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team is warning drivers to be on their guard against bogus private wheel clampers.

A vehicle was clamped in Finchley recently but when the company that owned the land was contacted it stated it had never used clampers. Signs had been put up without permission and motorists had been paying out £180 to £400 to the bogus clampers with no receipts given. In another incident in NW2, the clamber removed the clamp and fled when the driver said she would call police.

## Boy threatened with knife

By Janet Maitland

A 16-year-old boy was threatened with a knife on his way home from school on 31 January. He was walking up The Causeway, the path behind the tube station, at about 5.30pm when a youth approached him, pulled out a knife and demanded his phone.

The boy quickly turned round and ran back to the station where he knew there was CCTV. He called his mother, who called the police, who in turn radioed the transport police. They thought they had spotted the youth boarding a train so stopped the train at Highgate but found it was a case of mistaken identity.

### Local robber

"My son recognised the youth who threatened him because he'd already been mugged by him last July," said the boy's mother. "That also happened on The Causeway, at about eight in the evening. He threatened to hit him if he didn't hand his phone over."

"At first, my son thought he was just an unusually friendly person because he came up and asked him what music he was listening to. The police told me that's just a trick to get a look at the phone. We've also seen him three times since then walking down East End Road towards the tube. Each time I've called the police, but by the time they arrive he's gone."

"The police think he's local and finding easy pickings in East Finchley. Please warn your readers that The Causeway isn't safe while this youth is at large. My son has written to the council asking for CCTV on the footpath and is setting up a Facebook petition about it."

The youth is described as aged about 19, tall, slim and black, with a friendly face. At the time of the incident he was wearing a beige hooded top with fur round the hood.

## Man stabbed in children's park

Continued from page 1

### Police response

The attacker is described as aged 16-17, black or mixed race, slim, 5ft 9inches tall and wearing a grey hooded top. Anyone with information should call 101 quoting crime reference number 2402215/12 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team patrolled the area in the week following the attack as a reassurance measure. "We've also carried out stops where appropriate and have changed the shift working hours in order to work past 10pm. Extra police forces have also been deployed in East Finchley," said a spokesperson.

### Nowhere to go for N2's youth

The popular Monday Club for young people used to meet at the Old Barn in Tarling Road. But since a group of new trustees took over the Old Barn in July 2010, all services have been discontinued or forced to move out. The Old Barn Action Group (email [endofstrife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:endofstrife@hotmail.co.uk)) has been campaigning to restore the community centre to local people for over a year. The Monday Club currently has nowhere to meet.

Local people have also been trying for many years to ensure that Stanley Road playing field becomes a community sport resource rather than a housing development. Sport East Finchley, a group of local residents, has submitted a plan to the council for the field to be used for a range of different sports. Barnet Council has not agreed to this bid. Instead it has asked three other bidders, who are proposing to build houses, with some community facilities, to see if they can work with Sport East Finchley to provide a mixed development scheme on the site. Find out more at [www.stanleyroadsports.org](http://www.stanleyroadsports.org)



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# Biting robber sentenced

By Janet Maitland

A 17-year-old youth who bit a boy on the face and then stole his mobile in East End Road last October was sentenced at Hendon Magistrates Court on 16 January. He received a 12-month Youth Offender Panel referral.

Because of the severity of the attack, which left the victim bleeding, the court heard that one option was detention in the interests of public safety. "But we are persuaded to give you a chance," said the magistrate.

At the time of the youth's arrest on 29 November, he was already on bail for another alleged robbery, and although he was given bail on curfew conditions, he breached these and was again arrested. He subsequently pleaded guilty to the offence.

Police informed *THE ARCHER* shortly after the recent sentencing hearing that the youth was now wanted by police again

after he failed to answer police bail to be charged with a drugs offence.

## Binding contract

The aim of a Youth Offender Panel referral is to bind the offender to a contract which includes reparation to the victim or the wider community and a programme of activity to change his or her behaviour. Victims and their families are invited to participate either by attending panel meetings or having their views represented. If the contract is broken in any way, the offender is sent back to court with the likelihood that they will receive a more severe sentence.



# Woman cut free from car

A driver was trapped in her car for two hours while firemen cut her free following a collision at the junction of Bancroft Avenue and Aylmer Road on Saturday 11 February. Her car was in collision with an HGV lorry travelling north.

The car driver was taken to hospital but her injuries were not life threatening, and the lorry driver was not injured. *ARCHER* reader Allan Ramsey photographed the aftermath of the collision, which is not thought to have been connected to the icy conditions at the time.



# Band makes its sound heard

By John Lawrence

Rock and rockabilly group Sound of the Suburb have played regularly on the main stage at the East Finchley Festival and now they're taking their music to an even wider audience with the release of their first album.

The album, called not unrealistically *Sound of the Suburb*, was launched with a packed gig at Madden's Ale House in the High Road in late January and it's available to buy now at Alan's Records, in the High Road, and online via iTunes, Spotify and other download sites.

The band came together six years ago when they were all dads at Brookland Junior School. Since then they've been playing their mix of classic cover versions from all decades at local venues, parties and the festival. The line-up is Chris Berlingieri on lead guitar, Rafael Landicho on vocals, Steve Phillips on drums, Martin Ross on acoustic guitar and Mike Solomon on drums.

## Original songs

Their album has ten original and self-penned tracks in a mix of styles including the rocking '70s *Girl* and the funny but poignant *The Ballad of East Finchley*. It follows on from an EP they released last year with their versions of tracks by The Beatles, Stray Cats, Steppenwolf and Cheap Trick.

Chris, of Durham Road, said it was thrilling to record their

own tracks. "When we did gigs at pubs, we always put a few of our original songs in the set and they went over well. We liked the songs we were coming up with, and before we knew it, we had enough for an album."

"We recorded the basic

tracks in one very long day at Livingston Studios in Wood Green and then mixed them at the home of our producer. People always get up and dance and have a good time at our gigs and we're hoping they like the album too."

# Spring fair supports special cause

The regular Vintage Tea Party and Gift Fair held at The Boogaloo in Highgate on the first Saturday of each month is supporting The Eve Appeal in March, funding research into gynaecological cancers.

Entry to the event at 312 Archway Road, N6, is free and it runs from 11 am to 5 pm. Every month, there are vintage clothes and gifts to browse and buy from a collection of small local craftspeople and businesses, along with homemade cakes and refreshments to enjoy.

The fair is run by Susanna Guidone-Sorkin and Cristina Guidone-Charles, whose vintage goods business A Room in My House is based in King

Street Mews in East Finchley, along with Alison Stephens, who makes and sells seasonal jams and chutneys through her Delightful Pantry Company.

"We have been working extremely hard to establish a warm, welcoming and relaxed atmosphere," they said. "Together with the choice of shopping, this brings customers and stallholders back to visit us again and again. We're proud to be supporting The Eve Appeal."



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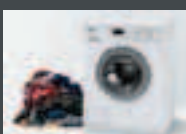
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## Ski Sunday

When snow hit us on Sunday 5 February, some people wore their wellies while others slipped on their skis. We saw few people out and about with skis and poles on the day. Abi, photographed by Nick Young, said she had a "whizzy time" managing three shaky circuits of Cherry Tree Wood. "The skis were borrowed from my sister and the poles from my mum and I just had a go," she said. "It's been ten years since I last skied. I was like a kid again, it was an amazing day."

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## A school for children with learning differences

Over the last few years we have become familiar with the term 'dyslexia' and, perhaps less so, with other terms such as dyspraxia and dyscalculia. But do we really know what all these terms mean?

It's a question posed by Denise Drinkwater, the founder and principal of Limespring School, a school for children with learning differences, which opened earlier this year in Park House, High Road.

Denise has worked as a specialist tutor supporting many children with a range of learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. She told *THE ARCHER*: "My interest in this field developed as my own children started school. I was perplexed and confused about what caused them to fall behind."

"Naturally, as a parent, you try to seek out the cause. A child falling behind at school is often related to dyslexic or dyspraxic difficulties. In essence, dyspraxia affects motor control and hence planning and co-ordination of tasks. Dyscalculia affects the ability to acquire arithmetical skills."

"But this is only the start", Denise continued. "Whilst it is good to understand why your child is a little different, then comes the realisation that there is no magic cure. And it is not a disorder; there is nothing wrong with your child. Very simply, the child learns in a different way."

### Relearning key steps

So why set up the school? Denise believes that, on the whole, schools work very well for the majority of children who tend to learn in similar ways. For a significant minority of children, though, school can be a negative experience. Teachers do not have the time to differentiate due to the numbers of pupils in a class and a child's confidence can suffer.



Henry and Daniel analysing data from woods.  
Photo by Erin Dowdell.

Limespring School has four classes of no more than eight children. It aims to revisit and retrain some of the key steps in their educational development within a specialist and therapeutic curriculum designed to meet the child's individual learning needs and differences, whilst developing their strengths.

For more information visit [www.limespring-school.co.uk](http://www.limespring-school.co.uk) or telephone 020 8444 1387.

## In the footsteps of Dickens

By Angela Anderson

"He went through Islington; strode up the hill at Highgate on which stands the stone in honour of Whittington; turned down to Highgate Hill, unsteady of purpose, and uncertain where to go; struck off to the right again, almost as soon as he began to descend it; and taking the foot-path across the fields, skirted Caen Wood, and so came on Hampstead Heath. Traversing the hollow by the Vale of Heath, he mounted the opposite bank, and crossing the road which joins the villages of Hampstead and Highgate, made along the remaining portion of the heath to the fields at North End, in one of which he laid himself down under a hedge, and slept."

This is a description of Bill Sykes's actions after he has killed Nancy in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Dickens knew London well and often walked around it, getting ideas for his characters and observing everything closely.

George Sala in a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, June 1870, wrote of Dickens: "He was to be met rapidly skirting the grim brick wall of the prison at Coldbath-fields, or trudging along the Seven Sisters Road at Holloway, or bearing, under a steady press of sail, underneath Highgate Archway or pursuing the even tenor of his way up the Vauxhall Bridge Road."

The author had stayed in Highgate and *David Copperfield*, Dickens's favourite of his own books and generally regarded as autobiographical, contains this description. "It was dusk when the stage coach stopped with us at an old

brick house in Highgate on the summit of the hill... From the windows of my room I saw all London lying in the distance like a great vapour, with here and there some lights twinkling through it".

### Celebrating Dickens

Many events are being held to celebrate the bi-centenary of his birth this year, one of them at Jacksons Lane in Archway Road. There in February White Rabbit presented a story telling night for grown ups called *Are You Sitting Comfortably? A Dickens Special*, including work by new writers inspired by him. I'm sure he would have approved.

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Karen Pepper, Jayne Lobley, Emily Burnham, Harriet Connides and supporters! Photo by Jim Saunders.

## Thousands support safer roads campaign

**In just 11 weeks, well over 2000 local people have signed the WALKSAFE N2 petition for improved pedestrian and road safety along Church Lane, the High Road and Creighton Avenue.**

Jayne Lobley of WALKSAFEN2 says: "We want to say a big thank you to those local shops and schools holding our petition (honourable mentions to Amy's and Cootes for collecting the most signatures on the High Road!). Thank you also to all parents, carers and other residents who helped to gather signatures and who wrote supporting letters that make an essential case for the aims of the campaign."

Local schools Martin Primary, Holy Trinity CE Primary, Eden Primary and Oak Lodge are formally backing the campaign, along with Newstead Children's Centre, East Finchley Development Trust and East Finchley Village Residents' Association.

Holy Trinity Church, East Finchley Methodist Church

and East Finchley Baptist Church have all written letters of support, as have East Finchley Library Users Group and Barnet Green Party. The former police sergeant of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Andy Matthews, has written of his concerns about the junction outside the Martin School.

Campaigners were aiming to present their case at Barnet Council's Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29 February 2012. Councillor Brian Coleman, Cabinet Member for the Environment, has shown an interest and has agreed to meet with campaign members to discuss action to improve these road safety hotspots.

To hear more about the campaign, email [walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Support for free school hits target

By Catherine Whitelock

**Campaigning group Local Schools for Local Children says it has been overwhelmed with support for its proposed new free school, with initial survey results showing that the school would be over-subscribed even in its first year.**

As we reported last month, the group is proposing to open TheArcherAcademy, a co-educational, non-selective school, to fill the gap in secondary school provision in N2, N3, NW11 and parts of N12. The school would open in 2013, with current year 5 pupils making up the first intake.

### Support from local parents

As part of the application process, the group has been required to show that there is demand from local parents, and so far, more than 1,000 have said they would be prepared to put the school as their first choice. Crucially, almost 200 parents of year 5 children have said yes to the school, which would more than fill the five forms that it is planning to offer in its first year.

Local parent Justine Csaky is one supporter. She said: "We are really worried about where our daughter will go to school in Year 7. There is no state secondary for us to apply to where we live in East Finchley. The Archer Academy would be a fantastic solution for us and countless other families living in this area of Barnet."

### Next stages

Plans for the school are well underway, with an educational plan, budget, staffing structure and a timetable already set out. The school would specialise in

maths and English.

The application has been delivered to the Department for Education and will now be assessed for funding provided by the government's Free Schools initiative. The school's location would be decided at a later date.

Local MP Mike Freer has given the campaign his backing, and Barnet Council has acknowledged the lack of non-denominational, co-educational school places in the areas that The Archer Academy intends to serve. The issue was addressed at a packed public meeting on 19 January attended by Mr Freer and Labour Councillor Alison Moore.

Sarah Cohen, from Local Schools for Local Children, commented: "We can never have too much support, so if you haven't yet signed our survey or want to throw your weight behind our campaign, please get in touch." The campaign can be contacted at [www.localschoolsforlocalchildren.org.uk](http://www.localschoolsforlocalchildren.org.uk) or by email at [localschools@live.co.uk](mailto:localschools@live.co.uk)

### Late News

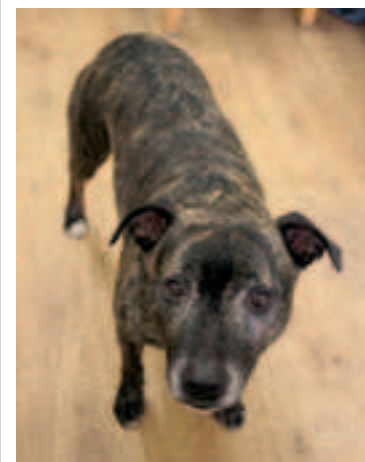
As we went to press, Barnet Council announced a shake-up of secondary school places in the borough. The Compton, Christ's College and Copthall schools will be expanded to provide a total of an extra 90 pupil places from 2013 while the under-subscribed St Mary's High School in Hendon could close and be merged with the nearby St John's CE Primary to provide an all-through school from reception to age 18. Announcing the changes, Councillor Andrew Harper, cabinet member for education, children and families, said: "Free schools can also play an important role in meeting the growing pressure for school places. The council will continue to engage with groups with proposals for free schools where there is a proven demand, a robust business case and available property."

## Abandoned dogs in need of new homes

By Nick Young

**It is a sad fact of modern life that many dogs, over 100,000 in the past year, are abandoned in the UK. Many are put down, but some can be rescued and re-housed. Although most councils have dog wardens, much rescuing and rehoming is done by charities, including N2-based All Dogs Matter (ADM), which operates from Aylmer Parade.**

Most of the dogs that ADM deals with are strays or abandoned dogs that can be re-housed. In North London, many dogs picked up by councils are Staffordshire bull terriers that have been bred for fighting and then abandoned, a phenomenon that has been in the news a lot recently and featured on the BBC's *Panorama*.



Abi has a loving home with Ira Moss from All Dogs Matter but many of the stray dogs brought into the charity are Staffies like her. Photo by Nick Young

"Dog welfare is in a major crisis because of the Staffies, basically; well, not the Staffies but the people who keep breeding them," explains ADM's Ira Moss. "There's a trade on the internet. They advertise them for free and just pass them on; people get them and don't know what they're doing."

### Making all dogs matter

Each abandoned dog found by the charity is given a thorough check-up by a vet and is microchipped, vaccinated and neutered. Potential new owners, who can get in touch with ADM via their website, are themselves assessed by the charity before they are allowed to adopt a dog.

ADM is also involved in education, visiting many schools in North London to teach children about their work. Chaired by the actor Peter Egan, the charity has been running for three years. As well as its office on Aylmer Parade, it has kennels in Bushey where most of the rescue dogs are kept. For more information, visit [www.alldogsmatter.co.uk](http://www.alldogsmatter.co.uk)

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## YOUNG ARCHER



Billy Bob Buttons signs copies of his books at Holy Trinity Primary School.

## Billy Bob Buttons book bonanza

*Holy Trinity's Year 5 teacher Katie Artemiou has started a special club for her class. Every Friday lunchtime, members of The Archer Club ask class teachers and other pupils for stories that would be exciting to write about. The pupils then get together in pairs and type up the stories into newspaper reports. Together with their teacher they choose articles to email over to The Archer newspaper, something that encourages writing and keeps the community in touch with what's happening in the school. Here is their latest report:*

By Rosie Dickins and Callum Conway, Year 5

**On Tuesday 17 January, Billy Bob Buttons visited Holy Trinity Primary School. Everyone was very excited and we thoroughly enjoyed the visit of a real author.**

Billy Bob Buttons is the pen name of Edward Trayer. He spoke to all of the junior classes about being an author. We were really lucky to get lots of tips on how to improve our own writing. We learnt that it is very important to read as much as possible and this would help with our writing. Also, that planning and editing our stories is vital.

After school, we had the chance to buy his books and get them personally signed. We are pleased to say he sold *loads* of books and everybody is enjoying reading them. Our school loves author visits and this was one to remember.

## Up for a challenge?

The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy is looking for fundraisers with a head for heights who fancy joining a team of charity parachute jumpers in May.

The charity, which is based in Muswell Hill, asks that anyone interested in the adventure at Headcorn Airfield in Kent on 12 May pledges to raise at least £600 in sponsorship.

For more information about this and other challenges, contact the charity's corporate and events fundraiser Daisy Mathabula on 020 8444 7242 or [daisy@cplondon.org.uk](mailto:daisy@cplondon.org.uk)

The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy supports children with cerebral palsy, their families and professionals working with them. It specialises in an approach known as Conductive Education, which covers everything a healthy child would experience in day-to-day life, from meal times and hygiene to play and learning. Find out more at [www.cplondon.org.uk](http://www.cplondon.org.uk)

## Spiked by Maureen

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Maureen Lipman knows her Spikeology. The BT advertiser, actress, Phoenix patron and former Muswell Hill resident has included a chapter on Spike Milligan in her latest book *I Must Collect Myself* (ISBN 978-1-84737-348-9).**

Maureen is also a patron of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund, set up to finance a representation in bronze of the comic genius who contributed a great deal to Finchley. Sculptor John Somerville has finished making the statue, which will be placed at Avenue House, East End Road, but money is still needed for casting.

If you would like to join in fundraising quizzes in April and June, or even to organise some yourself, contact The Finchley Society's Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258.

Donations should be sent c/o David Smith, 17 Abbots Gardens, N2 0JG, or made via [www.spikemilliganstatuefund.org.uk](http://www.spikemilliganstatuefund.org.uk).



Football champs Sohaila Khan, Emily Rea, Carmela Drake and Csilla Florian

## Footballers score first place

By John Jackson

**Martin Primary School entered two teams into the Barnet girls' football competition at Compton School, and out of 22 teams our girls claimed first place, beating St Theresa's in the final on penalties. Our second team also came away with medals for finishing in third place.**

Both our teams now go to Livingstone School on 18 April to compete against all the other winning schools across the borough. If the girls are successful there, they will then go on to represent Barnet in the London Youth Games at Crystal Palace. Good luck, girls.

## Time out to watch bird life

By Nick Young

**On a cold Saturday morning in late January, I made my way to my local birdwatching 'patch', Cherry Tree Wood, in order to do my bit for the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. As my flat does not come with a garden, I go to see what I can see in the park instead.**

The rules for the Big Garden Birdwatch are simple: for an hour on the designated weekend (invariably the last in January),

you spend an hour watching birds, then record what you see and send the results off to the RSPB. With over 600,000 people taking part every year, this survey plays an important role in helping the RSPB to identify which species are doing well, and which ones are in decline.

I can hear many great tits and blue tits, but the survey is about what you can actually see, not what you hear. Eventually, two of each make an appearance in the trees, as does one of their long-tailed cousins. More visible is a pair of robins hopping along the ground, while pigeons are there in abundance. There are also half a dozen chaffinches looking for something to eat in the undergrowth.

The highlight of the hour, though, is the smallest bird that is usually seen in the park. A wren lands on a branch just yards from me, and gives off a wonderful burst of song before flying away.

## Spare change, please

**Get your spare change ready for a collection in aid of the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal in the High Road on Saturday 17 March from 11am to 1pm.**

Collector Jane Brown will be wearing a yellow tabard and a tall yellow hat so she'll be hard to miss.

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## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

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Then there is the downside. How will they deal with Nelson's demolition of the French Fleet at Trafalgar? Probably by giving you a 3D opportunity to be the sniper who shot him. The retreat from Moscow? Who could want more than the chance to throw snowballs at a bunch of retreating unemployed actors as they re-enact the tragedy? I bet they won't mention that Napoleon did a runner and dashed back to the warmth of Josephine, leaving his troops behind to freeze.

And that's all before we get to Waterloo, Wellington or the small house on a small island in the Atlantic where the Brits dumped Napoleon in 1815. Yes, come to Napoleon Land for a rollercoaster ride through French history, see the greatness that was France (Mickey Mouse not included).

In the glorious world of historical theme parks should we be worried? No! Why? Simple really, the French will have to build their own, but us Brits don't have to bother, because we live in one already. We have battlefields, palaces, cathedrals and slums. So what if some of them are falling down, there's very little that can't be improved with a few holograms and a bit of CGI. Yes, welcome to Lizzie Land, an entire country looking over its shoulder at the pomp, circumstance, bloodshed and squalor that made it great.

## Ultimate guide to Jewish London

Two authors have compiled the ultimate guide to Jewish London and will introduce it in person at a special event at the Phoenix Cinema this month. Rachel Kolsky, an East Finchley resident since 1995 and a trustee of the Phoenix since 1997, co-authored *Jewish London* with Roslyn Rawson.

The 224-page guide covers where to stay, eat, shop and pray, with detailed maps, practical advice, travel information and more than 200 colour photographs.

Special features include eight self-guided walking tours, restaurant reviews of over 40 eateries for all budgets and tastes, information on 44 synagogues and sections dedicated to the Jewish Museum, Holocaust memorials, Jewish art and artists, films and literature, Jewish cemeteries and day trips out of London.

Rachel said: "Despite a growing interest in Jewish heritage in London, no guide-book existed to ensure visitors and residents have all the information they need in one easy-to-read format. With Roslyn's knowledge of the Jewish community, particularly the synagogues and food, matched with my knowledge of the history of Jewish London, it seemed that we must write the book."



Jewish London co-author Rachel Kolsky

### Special event

You can meet the authors at a launch event at the cinema on Sunday 25 March at 2pm. The varied programme will include a virtual tour of Jewish London, the delightful short *The Tenth Man*, which was filmed in the East End, Searle Kochberg's introduction to Jewish London on film and one of the best, but often overlooked, Jewish films from the 1940s, *It Always*

*Rains on Sunday*. Book via [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/whatson/](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/whatson/) or phone the box office on 020 8444 6789.

To purchase a copy of the book contact New Holland Publishers and at the checkout use the Special Discount Code "Jewish London Rachel" for a £3 discount off the price of £10.99 (valid until 31 March 2012), with free postage and packing.

## Life in a winter shelter

By Angela Anderson

**Many of us know what it is like to feel cold outside in the winter, longing to get back to our home and its warmth. What of those who don't have that comfort, who don't have a home at all and who sleep in shop doorways?**

A winter shelter began eight years ago as an initiative by Churches Together in Finchley, using their premises and providing volunteers and funding. Over the years the scheme has expanded to include 16 churches and synagogues, including recent additions New North London Synagogue and Holy Trinity Church in East Finchley, with volunteers from both faith groups working at Trinity Church in North Finchley.

### Food, warmth and safety

Shelter is offered by a synagogue or church for one evening a week on a rotational basis to rough sleepers in Barnet from 7pm to 8.30am the following morning, operating from October to March. Guests are referred by Homeless Action in Barnet Day Centre in North Finchley.

Each faith community provides an evening meal, a warm and safe living and sleeping area, and a breakfast in the morning. The bedding, consisting of a self-inflated mattress, sleeping bag and pillow, goes into a private, labelled bag and is transported by volunteers to the next night's venue. Accommodation is provided for a maximum of 15 guests (because of the size of the smallest hall) who move on when they can obtain accommodation either from the council or private rental.

What is striking about the winter shelter scheme is that different faith groups are working together. Members of other religious communities from Finchley are most welcome to join the scheme so that services can expand. For Stephen Hiscock, a volunteer from Holy Trinity Church, working with people from the synagogue on a local, shared project was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the scheme.

What does the Barnet shelter mean to the people that use it? This poem by James Lamb, one of the homeless guests, probably says it all.

### The Night Winter Shelter

They walk along the lonely street  
Every now and then stop to rest their feet  
Hair all matted and fingernails black  
And carrying their life upon their back  
That shop doorway looks good or that sheltered bench  
To get out of the rain before they get drenched  
God love them, these people have nowhere to go  
Hoping for help but no-one wants to know  
Poor rejects of life's rich tapestry  
Walk through life without hope, wearily  
What is the purpose, where will it end  
No home, no job, no family or friend  
Some of them beg for hot food and tea  
Others will beg for beer or whiskey  
A few of them won't 'cos they have too much pride  
And suffer in silence by the roadside  
They were in a dark tunnel, at the end was a light  
It wasn't easy to see 'cos it wasn't that bright  
But as they drew nearer the light became clearer  
The illumination was a place to stay for the night  
Greeted with a smile and a hot cup of tea  
Friendly people said, "Come with me"  
And led them to a place that they could rest  
Just like a bird keeping young warm in a nest  
Even though it seemed strange it was plain to see  
This was a place filled with harmony  
Generous, caring, considerate and kind  
A place they could leave their horrid day behind  
And when they finally rest their head  
A chance of comfort on an unconcrete bed  
Given time to reflect on the next coming day  
Secure in the knowledge they'll have somewhere to stay  
So thank you, Night Shelter, for the service you run  
Helping the homeless, all the good you have done  
Your pure human kindness is a joy to behold  
For taking less fortunates in from the cold.

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## Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. [www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk](http://www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk)
- ❖ **Tai Chi class** at EF Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or [james@taiji.co.uk](mailto:james@taiji.co.uk)
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).

## MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes**. F or info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz** on Mon 12 & 26 Mar at 7.45pm, Hall School Sports Ground, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Traditional music** at TOC, Highgate Hill on 1st & 3rd Tue each month from 8.30pm. Free. All musicians welcome. Info 07958 282898.

## CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

- ❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email [efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com](mailto:efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com)
- ❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.

# Prize-winning poet in print

By Laura Wheadon

There's good news for poetry fans this March as Picador is set to publish a debut collection by East Finchley poet Richard Meier. In 2011, Meier was awarded the first ever Picador Poetry Prize, a national award to recognise new poetic talent in the UK, and consequently was offered the coveted prize of the publication of his debut work.

Judging of the prize was chaired by Don Paterson, poet and editor of Picador's poetry imprint, who stated that "while there was much to admire in the work of everyone else on the shortlist, in the end it was Richard Meier's quiet strangeness, the uncanny precision of his ear, and the tenderness and clarity of his address that made us want to read his poems again and again..."

Born in 1970, Meier began writing poetry when he was a student, then stopped and began again in his late twenties, most recently perfecting his craft at a regular writers' workshop in Belsize Park. His poems



Prize-winning poet Richard Meier. Photo by John Nathan.

have been published in several leading poetry magazines, and have been selected for the 2002 Oxford Poet's Anthology. Picador also publishes the works of poets Carol Ann Duffy, Glyn Maxwell and Jackie Kay.

The following poem is taken from Richard Meier's debut collection *Misadventure*, published on 29 March.

## Winter morning

By Richard Meier

Shyly coated in greys, blacks, browns –  
to keep us out of sight of the cold –  
we weren't expecting *this* this morning: sun  
and shadows, like a summer's evening, like summer  
teasing. And not quite under the shelter on  
the northbound platform, an old man, the sun  
behind him, just his crown ablaze; and heading  
southbound, a woman inching ever nearer  
the platform edge, the light a tear  
across her midriff, ribcage, shoulders, closer  
and closer that dearest thing, completeness,  
all her darkness light at the one time.

# Poetry and music

Review by Ken Carter

This evening concert on 12 February came to life with a truly local event: four songs by poet Dennis Evans and highly respected pianist Caroline Soresby, both from East Finchley, receiving their first performance. Rose Stachniewska, soprano, sang with fresh, true distinction, a little anonymous in tone but with assured musicality. Her accompaniment was unusual: a piano quintet comprising Caroline Soresby, piano, Sanae Honda and Junko Ishigai, violins, Bryan Fairfax, viola, and Maryan Balkwill, cello. Dennis's poems were simple, homely and spare, lending themselves to Caroline's sober, no-nonsense musical evocations. Equally beguiling and thoroughly Viennese were Alban Berg's three songs for the same combination.

The Brahms *Trio for Piano, Viola & Cello* did not hang together so well. Three soloists each played in the style that suited them best. I particularly liked Maryan Balkwill's lyrical flow and strength. In the Mozart *Violin Sonata*, Saoko Blendis played the piano with spirit, crispness and style. The five Debussy preludes were shrewd choices, demonstrating the composer's breadth of creativeness. In performance, something was missing: magisterial aplomb, perhaps.

# Handel masterpiece

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus is preparing to perform *Israel in Egypt*, Handel's amazing depiction of scenes from Exodus, including the plight of the Hebrew slaves ("and the children of Israel sighed"), the ten plagues ("and there came all manner of flies and lice in all their quarters"), the flight through the Red Sea ("the blast of Thy nostrils has gathered the waters together"), the destruction of the Egyptian army ("the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea").

We are having a wonderful time getting our teeth into the vivid text, and our vocal chords around the endless succession of splendid choruses. We do hope you will come and enjoy it with us on 24 March at St James Church, Muswell Hill, at 7.30pm. Tickets available from 020 3468 1213, or St. James Bookshop, or Les Aldrich Music Shop, or at the door priced £18, £13 and £10 with £2 off for concessions.

As this is near Passover, we will have the privilege of performing it again on 25 March at the New North London Synagogue in East End Road, N3, at 7pm, raising funds for the NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop-in Centre and the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead. Tickets from office@nnls-masorti.org.uk or 020 8346 8560, priced £20, concessions £15, under-18s £10.

# What's On in and around East Finchley

E-mail your listings to:  
[the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

## Saturday 3 March

- **Vintage Tea Party and Gift Fair** in aid of The Eve Appeal, funding research into gynaecological cancers; The Boogaloo, 312 Archway Road, Highgate, N6, from 11am to 5pm. Stalls, cakes, vintage clothes and special gifts.

## Thursday 8 March

- **Cat expert Jane Ehrlich** addresses your cat's behaviour problems and speaks on 'Home Alone: How to enrich your cat's life while you're at work'; Black Gull Bookshop, High Road, N2, 7.30pm, with refreshments.
- **Friends of Avenue House quiz night**, 7.30pm, at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Open to all. Bar available. Tickets £12.50 each, including meal (vegetarian option if booked in advance). Contact [info@friendsofavenuehouse.org](mailto:info@friendsofavenuehouse.org).

## Thursday 8 to Saturday 10 March

- **Theatre in the Square** presents *Six Dogs and a Goldfish*, three one-act plays: *Doggies*, *A Dog's Life* and *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish*, at The United Reformed Church, Tetherdown, Muswell Hill, N10 1ND, 7.30pm. Adults £10, children/concessions £9. Box Office: 07522 791618 or [www.theatreinthesquare.org](http://www.theatreinthesquare.org)

## Saturday 10 March

- **Jack Liebeck** (violin) and the **Haydn Chamber Orchestra** play the **Mendelssohn Violin Concerto** at St Michael's Church, Highgate, N6 6BJ, 8pm. Tickets: £25, £20, £15 (reserved) and £10 (unreserved) in aid of North London Hospice. Contact: Pauline 020 8340 5643.

## Saturday 17 March

- **Battle of Barnet**: guided walk

with City of London guide Paul Baker; a tour of the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. Details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

## Thursday 22 March

- **Age UK Barnet quiz night**, 6.30pm at The Meritage Centre, Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT. Everyone welcome. Disabled access and facilities. Bar available. Tickets £10 each, including meal (three food choices). Max six per table, but can book more than one table. Booking deadline Friday 16 March. Please contact Loraine Simmons on 020 8150 0962 or [Loraine.Simmons@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:Loraine.Simmons@ageukbarnet.org.uk).

## Saturday 24 March

- **North London Chorus** perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, 7.30pm, St. James Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Ticketline 0203 468 1213 or at the door; prices £10-£18 with £2 reduction for concessions.
- **Finchley Choral Society spring concert**, Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, London NW11 7AG at 7.45pm. Programme includes Stanford's *The Blue Bird*, Parry's *I was Glad*, and works by Vaughan Williams, Elgar and Britten. Tickets £13/£7 students/£1 children, from the FCS box office on 020 7263 3358, on the door, or from Les Aldrich Music, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3HN. [www.finchleychoral.org.uk](http://www.finchleychoral.org.uk)

## Sunday 25 March

- **Jewish London at the Phoenix Cinema**, 2pm. The varied programme includes a Virtual Tour of Jewish London, the delightful short *The Tenth Man* which was filmed in the East End, Searle Kochberg's

introduction to Jewish London on film and one of the best, but often overlooked, films from the 1940s, *It Always Rains On Sunday*. Book via: [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/whatson/](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/whatson/) or 020 8444 6789.

- **North London Chorus** perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, 7pm, New North London Synagogue, 88 East End Road, N3 2SY, raising funds for NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop in Centre and the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead. Tickets £20, concessions £15, under-18s £10 from office@nnls-masorti.org.uk or 020 8346 8560.

## Monday 26 March

- **Give blood** at the mobile unit in the NCP car park at East Finchley tube station. Sessions from 12.20pm – 3.20 pm and 5pm – 7.20pm. For more information or to book an appointment call 0300 123 23 23 or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk).

## Thursday 29 March

- **The Finchley Society** hosts the first of three talks by corporate member **Albert Wright, Director of Small Business Solutions and Millionaire Coaching Academy**. Subject: selling, trading, and generally conducting business, with emphasis on Finchley and surrounding areas. Tea, coffee and cash bar. Free entry for all members and their families. Non-members £10 per person; 7.30pm for 8pm in Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Booking advisable. Please call 020 8883 4357.

## Saturday 31 March

- **Barnet Ghosts**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker; a spooky tour of High Barnet and Monken Hadley. Meet High Barnet

tube station, 7.30pm. Details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

- **London Ripieno Singers**, soloists and instruments, play **Haydn's Salve Regina and Little Organ Mass**, with **Carissimi's Jepthe**, All Saints', Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm. Concert followed by supper. Tickets: concert only £10 (concs: £8), supper £7 extra, from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 and online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/londonripieno](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/londonripieno)

## Whats On at artsdepot, North Finchley

Saturday 10 March, **John Peel's Shed** by John Osborne (theatre) and **Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, Midnight in Mayfair** (music); Sunday 11 March, **The Phoenix and the Carpet** (family) and **The Paul Malsom Trio** (free music); Friday 16 March, **Peatbog Faeries** (music); Saturday 17 March, **Victim Sidekick Boyfriend Me** (free theatre) and **Around the World** (theatre); Sunday 18 March, **The Three Billy Goats Gruff** (family); Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 March, **Annie** (theatre); Thursday 22 March, **Paglav Dance Double Bill** (dance); Friday 23 to Sunday 25 March, **Avon Calling** (theatre); Sunday 25 March, **Two Four Six Eight!** (family); Wednesday 28 March, **Stalin's Favourite** (theatre); Thursday 29 March, **Defying Hitler** (theatre); Friday 30 March, **The Alchemystorium** (theatre); Saturday 31 March, **Something in the Air** (family) and **Helena Blackman** (music); Sunday 1 April, **Travels with Granddad** (family) and **Nirakar** (free music); Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 April, **Sheer** (theatre). Box office: 020 8369 5454.





## Letters to the Editor

### Tidy up our rubbish system

Dear Editor,

I write in relation to the article 'What a load of rubbish!' in your February issue. The design of both the current bins is poor and impractical, particularly the blue bin. Do those who impose such things on us ever really consider the practicalities or even recycle themselves?

The Council may say that it doesn't matter if the blue bins fill with water when it rains, but this is clearly ridiculous as even cardboard disintegrates over the course of several days and the binmen would quite reasonably object to carrying bins half full of water.

The elasticated covering nets perish, letting items fall out if the bin is stored upside down to keep out rain, and would probably do so even if it is stored right-way-up.

Most of the houses in East Finchley (and probably other areas in the borough) do not have indoor storage space for the bins and many houses (such as mine) have only a small amount of space at the front. The result is that quite decent roads now look like slum areas, with at least three bins in front of each house. Even if back gardens are bigger, in terraced houses bins would have to be carried through the house.

Personally I refused to have either bin for these exact reasons, but would be happy to use a communal wheelie bin as they do on the continent. There should also be a communal green waste bin (again I refused one for lack of space). There used to be communal bins for a variety of recyclable materials on East Finchley High Road, near Martin Primary School, which I used for years until they suddenly disappeared last year.

Another more practical method would be to use hessian (or woven plastic) sacks as I believe is done in Haringey, at least for green waste. When there is no waste these fold up quite small and can more easily be stored.

Finally, at a time when we are being encouraged to reduce all household waste, why is it impossible to obtain replacement small-size domestic waste wheelie bins? If the council wishes to economise by providing only one size, then it should be the smaller one, which is quite adequate for small households and, if the rubbish were disposed of properly (e.g. flattening cardboard boxes and tins) should also be big enough for the average family. The large wheelie bins are far bigger than the standard metal bins we used to use.

Yours faithfully,  
Valerie Teague,  
Leopold Road, N2.

### Why the Stanley Road sports bid failed

Dear Editor,

The decision of Barnet Council to reject the SportEF proposal for the Stanley Road Playing Field is the result of poor organisation.

(1) Democracy deficit: there were only two large public meetings in six years.

(2) Inconsistent activity: there were long periods when nothing was being done.

(3) Field unused: for several years the legal status of the field was in limbo, giving many opportunities for events on the field, few taken. Once boarded up, the opportunities became very restricted. For example, activities of the Community Festival could have spilled over into the field.

(4) Elections: politicians in the last general election were

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not forced into taking a stand on the field.

(5) Publicity: little effort was made toward a nationwide publicity campaign. Given the local political calculus, that was necessary to save the field.

(6) Youth: the people who would have benefitted the most from the field, the poorer youth in the surrounding area, were not involved. There were some children's events, but very few teenage activists.

Playing fields are disappearing all over London. We did nothing to show the council, nor the rest of the country, that this field was something special. At most we filled only a small corner of the field in protest, and correspondingly we will get at most only a similarly small corner.

Yours faithfully,  
Dr Robert Simon,  
By email

## December daffodil

The Finchley Society has heard that a daffodil was seen in flower in a garden near Henly's Corner in early December. We would all like to know if anyone can beat that. A dated photo would be brilliant, but not compulsory!

## Giveacar for charity

In "Unwanted cars raise cash" on page 8 of our February edition, we reported on Noah's Ark Children's Hospice being involved in a novel fundraising scheme. Unwanted cars are collected free of charge by Giveacar, with proceeds from their sale being donated to a chosen charity.

Sarah Austin, Noah's Ark Community Fundraiser, called it a win-win situation. For further information about Noah's Ark Children's Hospice please visit [www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk](http://www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk) and for information about how old, unwanted and unused cars can benefit the charity email [support@giveacar.co.uk](mailto:support@giveacar.co.uk)

## Find out when your bus is really due

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Infuriating, isn't it, when your bus stop doesn't have an arrivals board, and nobody in the queue knows when the last bus came along or when to expect the next one? Next time you're pacing around in a tizzy, remember your mobile phone could have the answer. Or, better still, ask your computer or smartphone before leaving home.**

Transport for London has urged us to do this for ages, but a lot of us still don't know about it, haven't tried, or have been put off by someone complaining that it doesn't work. Of course the information you get isn't going to be 100% accurate every time, because nothing ever is, but for a regular bus-user an occasional blip is surely better than hours of frustration, irritation and second-guessing.

Here's how it works. If

you're already at the stop, look for its special code. That's the number on the plate above the timetable. Text that number to 87287. A return text will list expected actual arrival times of the next few buses. To be really organised, check before leaving home. Go to [www.countdown.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.countdown.tfl.gov.uk), and click on "live bus arrivals". You can find your bus stop code there, plus codes of other stops you use regularly, as well as bus routes and maps. Give it a go. I have.

## Get ahead of the Games

With the Olympic Games fast approaching, London will inevitably be much busier than usual this summer. With this in mind, the Government, the Mayor of London, the London 2012 organisers and the UK's transport networks (including Transport for London) have launched a new campaign to enable people to 'Get Ahead of the Games'.

The aim is to show people exactly when and where London's roads and public transport networks will be busier than usual. By logging onto the website [www.getaheadofthegames.com](http://www.getaheadofthegames.com) or following @GAOTG on Twitter, you will be able to get the latest updates, travel information and advice on how to plan ahead and avoid 'travel hotspots'.

According to the website: "The campaign will span online, radio, outdoor and national and regional newspapers, urging those in affected areas to reduce, reroute, retime or remode their journeys to avoid the hotspots at the busiest times."

It is estimated that Get Ahead of the Games adverts will be seen and heard "over a billion times" by the public.

## Appreciate good music

Age UK Barnet's Music Appreciation Group brings together volunteers with a love of music, and older or disabled musicians and music lovers. The group meets once a month to listen to and talk about music.

Many members are partially sighted and/or mobility impaired. More able-bodied members provide transport and a helping arm so all can meet and attend music events.

If you would like to join or help the group, contact Sian Jones on 020 8432 1416. They would especially like to hear from anyone who can offer to host a meeting in their home, play for the group, suggest suitable concerts or offer help with transport and organisation.

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Young stars: the cast of the Create Theatre Company production of Peter Pan. Photo by Kate Roscoe.

## Peter Pan

Review by Tash Knight

Members of the Create Theatre Company once again worked their magic with a production of *Peter Pan* at the Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road for three shows in early February. The annual production raised a fantastic £320 for Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Prostate Cancer Charity.

From the minute the stage lights dimmed, the audience was captivated by the beautiful costumes and set designs and the dedication and enthusiasm of the cast. The performance was personal and every character shone in their individual scenes.

The Lost Boys, led by Peter Pan (Georgia Hennessy), were

hilarious to watch as they fought against the group of Pirates, led by Captain Hook (Grace Milner). The dynamic between these rivals led to some outrageous fighting scenes and several broken swords. Underterred by unreliable props, all the children stayed focused, and continued to uphold the enchanting atmosphere.

A highlight was watching the Mini Lost Boys teeter onto the stage, played by the Create-eenies, some of them performing for the first time, aged as young as three.

The production was brilliantly staged and it was easy to forget that over 30 children effortlessly held up the show. The latest from The Create Company has proved once again how talented our local community is in East Finchley.

To get involved or to find out more about the Create Theatre Company, contact Caroline Lau on 020 8882 9009 or visit [www.createtheatreschool.co.uk](http://www.createtheatreschool.co.uk)

## Pasture's centenary competition

To celebrate the centenary of Long Lane Pasture in 2012, friends of the nature reserve have launched an art and photo competition.

It is open to everyone who would like to photograph or make a painting or drawing of the pasture in 2012, until 15 September when the competition closes.

Long Lane Pasture is a fragment of ancient hay meadow which is rich in wildflowers and wildlife and is sited opposite Long Lane Fire Station.

There will be an exhibition of competition entries at artsdepot in North Finchley during October and artworks will be judged by local artists and art companies.

There will be prizes, and the winning entry will be included in the pasture calendar for 2013. School groups are welcome by arrangement (telephone 020

8346 9894). For more information, come to the pasture on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. A list of pasture events can be found at [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org)

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If you can help, or would like to know more, please email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or call *THE ARCHER* on 020 8883 0433.

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