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THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Santa hats on for High Road festival

By Roger Chapman

East Finchley's very first Christmas festival on the High Road is shaping up to be a day to remember. The organising team, who run the hugely popular summer festival in Cherry Tree Wood, want to establish the event as north London's premier High Road winter festival, with festivities and activities for all ages on Saturday 8 December.

The fun starts on Friday 7 December with a Christmas-themed sing-along at the Windsor Castle pub from 9pm; then the festival proper gets under way from 10am on the Saturday.

Twenty community and local business stalls will line the pavement along the High Road from the Barracuda Café up to KFC, as well as stalls in the regular European market from the Bald Faced Stag down to the tube station.

A performance stage will host carol singers, a brass band and rock bands performing from 12 noon to 6pm, with two other performance spaces along the High Road featuring magicians, street performers and musicians throughout the afternoon and early evening. Coronation Street's Michelle Collins will be coming along at 5pm to switch on the Christmas lights.

A Tea Dance will be held between 2pm and 4pm at the East Finchley Methodist Church with tea, cakes, music and lots of dancing, and there will be children's storytelling in the library.

A choir from local churches will be roving the streets singing carols and a giant Christmas tree will be in place at the corner of Leicester Road, with East Finchley Open artists running a stall to make tree decorations. Santa will be available to have his photo taken throughout the afternoon.

Santas on the run

For those who fancy being active, there'll be a 5km Santa fun run starting at Bike and Run, for which the minimum qualification is to wear a Santa hat. The store will also be hosting a Santa turbo bike time trial.

In the evening, The Cabaret of Pottiness will be performing in Finchley Youth Theatre, and The Applelips Brothers and/or Those Naughty Lumps will be playing at the Windsor Castle pub from 9pm.

The festival promises to be a great chance to do your Christmas shopping locally and to try out the numerous excellent cafés and restaurants in the High Road.

The organisers are still looking for help from people who can deliver publicity materials, help set up on the day or act as stewards; and from anyone who wants to perform in one of the performance spaces. To offer help or find out more, email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com or telephone 07983 360 834.



Left to right: Gill Hayward, Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones and Kellie Forbes.

Enter the Dragons' Den

By Diana Cormack

An East Finchley resident and her business partner have achieved the rare success of having all five entrepreneurs on BBC TV's Dragons' Den desperate to invest in their product. The team was obviously as impressed by the product, a children's activity rucksack, as they were by the presentation.

Despite the pressure, Gill Hayward of Durham Road and Kellie Forbes from Essex remained calm, eventually persuading Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones to join forces in backing their YUUBag.

Three-minute pitch

Although they had prepared well for a grilling by the dragons, Gill told *THE ARCHER* that walking into the "den" was a frightening

experience. It was filmed in Manchester last March, following a long and vigorous selection process. She describes the filming session as being like a business meeting. There was a maximum of three minutes allowed for their sales pitch and, after one and a half hours of filming, the final televising on 23 September lasted just over 12 minutes.

Ergonomics with extras

The couple had the idea for an ergonomically designed bag in 2009 and asked the Backcare charity for advice to ensure the product was comfortable and

fitted well. They researched thoroughly, asking hundreds of parents and children, including their own, for suggestions.

When I looked into the backpack my first comment was: "It's like a Tardis!" Inside there is plenty of room for kids' clobber, along with a variety of useful net or see-through compartments, including a clear plastic bag for lunch remnants. There are useful bits and bobs, such as a colouring pad and pencils and a magnetic game pack. Visit www.yuubag.com to see what is available and to view customer comments.



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The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

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' within the text.

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Employment Service	020 8258 3900
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	020 8489 0000

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Name your civic heroes

Barnet Council is inviting you to nominate a person or group that you feel has made an outstanding contribution to borough life for its annual Civic Awards.

The awards, now in their 13th year, are an opportunity to recognise officially the commitment and hard work of those who strive to make a positive difference to the lives of others. It could be someone who deserves some recognition, works tirelessly for little or no reward or perhaps somebody who gives up their free time to volunteer for a good cause. Barnet Council is now asking residents to submit their nominations for the 2013 awards. The deadline for applications is 31 December. To be eligible nominees should live or work in Barnet. All nominees receive a certificate, with those deemed to have made the greatest contribution presented with a framed vellum by the Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet Councilor Brian Schama at an awards ceremony in March 2013. Nomination forms are available from Hendon Town Hall, any of the borough's libraries, North London Business Park reception, or by downloading a copy from www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

6 Aylmer Road, N2

Retention of rear side outbuilding.

43 Brim Hill, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

81-85 East End Road, N2

Installation of three air conditioning units to rear courtyard.

192 East End Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing garage. Alterations to front porch and rear patio.

15 Lincoln Road, N2

Erection of a single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing rear conservatory.

404A Long Lane, N2

Extension to roof including hip to gable, rear dormer and three front rooflights to facilitate a loft conversion.

56 Ossulton Way, N2

Non-material minor amendment pursuant to planning permission F/02069/12 for 'single-storey rear extension'. Amendments include removal of side lights and alterations to fenestration.

4 Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Extension to roof including L-shaped rear dormer and two front rooflights to facilitate a loft conversion.

2 Squires Lane, N3

Squires Lane Medical Practice: conversion of property into four

self-contained flats including single-storey rear extension.

Strawberry Vale Estate, N2

Refurbishment of existing play area and installation of new toddler/junior play area.

Haringey Council

22 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing lean-to and erection of single-storey extension including erection of side / rear dormers, replacement of existing rooflights with new rooflights to front / rear roofslope.

Woodside Cottages, Fortis Green, N2

Erection of single-storey side extension, infilling of existing entrance door and provision of new entrance via extension.

46 Aylmer Road, N2

Replacement of existing wooden fence and gates with a brick and railing wall / gates. Repositioning of pedestrian access along the wall and retention of vehicle access.

4 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Formation of rear and side dormers, insertion of two rooflights to side roofslope, alterations to rear fenestration and erection of rear ground-floor extension.

8 Fordington Road, N6

Erection of single-storey side porch extension and single-storey rear infill extension. Alterations to side and rear elevations.

Get social, get running

East Finchley's new running club launches on Tuesday 13 November with its inaugural evening run followed by drinks in the Bald Faced Stag.

Run Social has been set up in the wake of the London 2012 Olympic Games with the aim of getting people together for fitness and socialising. The club, free to join, is open to people of all ages

and all levels of fitness.

It will meet every Tuesday at 7pm outside the Old White Lion Pub and run a 5km route through Cherry Tree Wood, Muswell Hill and up to Alexandra Palace. Runners will return for drinks and snacks in the Bald Faced Stag pub. In order to cater for all abilities, routes will be added in due course with differing distances and paces.

Organiser Nick Oleskiw says: "Running outdoors is a fantastic way to keep fit and is free of

charge. East Finchley and its surrounding areas offer opportunities for some great runs through parks and woods with some spectacular views over London. Running with a group is not only sociable but also boosts confidence and offers a safe environment for running on dark evenings."

If you would like to know more, email Nick Oleskiw at rumsocial@hotmail.co.uk or find the club on Facebook. Or just turn up at the Old White Lion on 13 November at 7pm.

Back to 1930s' glamour

String quartet Dirty Pretty Strings will be hosting an evening of modern voices and old-fashioned strings, gowns and candlelight, silent films and live music on Friday 23 November 2012 in aid of North London children's hospice Noah's Ark.

The charity, an expanding children's hospice service, is providing support for children and young people with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions and their families living in North London.

The glamorous evening, with special guests Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Ed Harcourt, Carl Barat and Brett Anderson, will recreate the look and resonate to the sounds of the 1930s. The singers will be performing mainly their own songs together with a few covers.

Tickets are priced at £25 and are available via www.unionchapel.org.uk/events.php

Advocate volunteer

The contact email in last month's Advocate Volunteer article was printed incorrectly. The correct address is heena@advocacyinbarnet.org.uk.

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Speed limit and road crossing victories

By Erini Rodis

Walksafe N2 road safety campaigners celebrated a major victory when Barnet Council backed three of their key demands. Plans for a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane, a zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue and a pedestrian island at the junction of Church Lane and East End Road will now move to the public consultation stage.

The victory represents a major step forward for the many parents, residents, schools, nurseries, businesses, churches and community organisations that have supported the Walksafe N2 campaign, which highlighted the danger faced by children and other vulnerable pedestrians using these busy routes on their way to several schools, churches and to the library.

The campaigns for the speed limit on Church Lane and the zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue have a long history. The East Finchley Village Residents Association and Martin Primary parents and governors have previously pressed the case with Barnet Council.



YES!! Road safety campaigners Walksafe N2 and their supporters celebrate victory after councillors give the go ahead for their key proposals.

However, two sticking points remain. The first is the potentially high speed of traffic entering Creighton Avenue from the High Road, although the proposed zebra crossing will be further down the avenue than the current pedestrian island. The second is pedestrian safety at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane. The Committee asked the Highways Department to consider alternatives at both locations and will review the situation in 12 months.

Overall, Emily Burnham from Walksafe was delighted with the outcome. She said: "The Committee's unanimous vote reflected the strength of our case and the degree of local concern. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this wonderful result, including local ward councillors and those who attended the committee meeting or emailed their support. The improvements will make a substantial difference to the daily lives of many families and other residents in our community."



Last of the summer wine in Cherry Tree Road. Photo by Ollie Mellman.

Cherry Tree Road street party

The sun shone down all afternoon on Cherry Tree Road's third annual street party, which was held on Saturday 15 September. Neighbours prepared delicious home-made food and drink that was sold for charity along with a raffle in support of the Bobath Centre, for which £100 was raised.

There were games and activities for the children, but most of the entertainment was supplied by residents who had been asked to display their talents. For such a small cul-de-sac there was a lot of talent.

Nine-year-old Clio played guitar, ten-year-old Rafael was on drums, the young-at-heart were entertained by Diana Cormack's rendition of *The Ugly Duckling* and Charles Lewis showed his talent on the trombone. David Quirke's guitar playing took things to another level, particularly when he was joined by his father who used to play with Eric Clapton. His subsequent blues and mouth organ numbers greatly

impressed the audience.

But everyone agreed that the hit of the afternoon was ten-year-old Evie who, backed by two friends from Tetherdown School,

performed songs with a confidence and ability beyond her years.

The organisers agreed that this was their best street party yet and are already talking about the next one.

Art gallery closes

On 6 October, after six years in East Finchley, the Noble Sage Art Gallery finally closed its doors. Director Jana Manuelpillai told *THE ARCHER* that it would be moving to new premises, as yet undecided. He is planning to create a new home/gallery space to which clients can come, relax and view art.

Jana travelled extensively to acquire the contemporary artwork from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in which the gallery specialises. He was particularly pleased that an artist with whom he shares a similar background

was the last to exhibit there. The new works by Reginald S Aloysius, entitled *Scaffolding Tradition*, seemed an appropriate way to say farewell to a distinctive feature of Fortis Green. For further details visit: www.thenoblesage.com

Fostering film

A partnership of five local authority fostering services, including Barnet's, is encouraging more people to come forward and offer to foster young people and teenagers.

Collaborating as the North London Fostering Consortium, they have made a short film featuring real-life foster carers explaining what looking after young people is like; and the

effect fostering has had on their lives and those of the teenagers.

To watch the film and to find out more about fostering go to www.fosteringnorthlondon.co.uk

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East Finchley Arts Festival 2012



Festival Mozart: The London Mozart Players. Photo by Marian Harris.

Mozart and a modern masterpiece

Review by Ken Carter

Once again - and why not? - the East Finchley Arts Festival kicked off on Saturday 6 October with the London Mozart Players and new music from Geoffrey Hanson, the festival's musical director. As conductor, he warmly and carefully eased Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* towards the young Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*, played lightly and sprightly, as it should be.

Then Sebastian Comberti introduced Boccherini's graphic depiction of 18th-century Madrid night sounds: the Ave Maria bell, soldiers' drums, street singers and the Night Watch; all this on the strings, making vivid, resonating and unexpected sounds.

Geoffrey Hanson's *Odyssey for 'Cello and Strings'* was larger and more driven, lyrical and accessible. Comberti was moving and authoritative on the cello. I should welcome a CD of Geoffrey Hanson's arts festival gifts over the years. His craftsmanship bears re-hearing.

Astonishing young talent

Review by Ken Carter

On Sunday 7 October at the Young Artists' Recital No. 1, soprano Eleanor Janes astonished us with the firmness of her technical skills: no fudging, no faltering, no winsome tremolandi. Each note, at whatever speed and however intricately she was singing, was a bull's eye. I felt strain, though - strain from achieving such ringing perfection ... a string of technical exercises. I especially enjoyed *On This Island* by Benjamin Britten. Here, both she and her exuberant accompanist, Rianka Bouwmeester, were focused and at home.

In the second half, Matthew Higham, principal flute with the Barbican Youth Orchestra, astounded me with his virtuosity. He flipped prestos of runs and arpeggios into the audience as if they were nothing. Breath was no problem, whether he was scampering puckishly or sustaining semibreves of sombre declaration. Matthew is to play next, we heard, at the Carnegie Hall. Lucky New Yorkers! He will be giving them a world of emotions, resonantly felt and ably played.

Pop-up perfection

Arts festival review by Ken Carter

Pop-Up Opera came to the Arts Festival on Tuesday 9 October in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. This was a riot and a triumph.

The light-hearted opera was treated as a farce, emphatically sung in the original Italian, with absolute command of the many tricky technical demands made of the singers. The plot, though involved, was absolutely clear, through actions, stage business, flicks of costume change, lyrical melody and, on a nearby screen, occasional fragments of English text. Warm credit to Darren Royston for directing such a fast-moving, hilarious and sunny entertainment. Continuous delight came from the assured, Italianate, flowing and warmly romantic singing of Cliff Zammit Stephens, Raúl Baglietto, Alexander Learmonth, Penelope Manser and Clementine Lovell. May the ensemble thrive - and return to East Finchley.



Festival Paprika - Paprika's infectious rhythms were a festival hit. Photo by Marian Harris.

Paprika are hot stuff

Review by Betti Blatman
East Finchley Arts Festival at All Saints' Church had a full house on 11 October to enjoy Paprika, who hail from Romania, Serbia and the UK. The evening was ignited by the violinist Bogdan Vacarescu, whose electrifying performance continued whilst his feet stomped rhythmically.

Throughout the evening, the audience enthusiastically expressed their delight by clapping and swaying to the infectious rhythms of the band's repertoire of traditional Eastern European, Balkan, Gypsy and classical music.

Once again, I was mesmerised by the violinist's tantalising performance of my favourite *Skylark* and it was quite breathtaking to watch his incredible speed and technical mastery.

The evening ended with an encore of *Czardas* by Vittorio Monti, which was greatly appreciated by the entire audience who will undoubtedly want to see Paprika again (check www.paprikamusic.com for future events).



Festival opera - Pop-Up Opera take their bows for performing Donizetti. Photo by Marian Harris.

Writers and their work

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Writers Group are now veterans of the Arts Festival. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work to all festival-goers, as well as to satisfy the curiosity of friends and relations.

As usual, this year's programme had something for everyone, including short stories, poems, extracts from novels, travel writing, and even a piece of bilingual flash fiction. What's that? A very, very short piece, read both in the author's native Spanish and in English.

It doesn't matter whether you are a published author or a complete beginner (and we heard some of each). When you are reading aloud, you must grab your listeners' attention,

and the group grabbed well. Some of the readings were very memorable. Who could forget the door-to-door salesman who sold misery? It was a nice selection too, with nothing too long.

I will be reviewing their latest anthology next month. East Finchley Writers meet on Wednesdays at the Old White Lion. For more details, contact Carola on 020 8883 5808.

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Clash over changes to Victorian house

By Nick Young

Aloft conversion to a Victorian house on Church Lane has angered local residents after revised plans were exempted from planning permission requirements following the rejection of the original plans.

The original planning application was submitted to and rejected by the East Area Planning Subcommittee in July. An amended application, which was submitted in August, did not have to go through the committee process as the (reduced) size of the proposed extension in the new plan means that it is exempt from planning permission requirements.

Letters of protest have been sent to Barnet Council urging them to reconsider, according to local resident Jael Reece. "After all, the Planning Committee was almost unanimous in insisting the roof should not be altered only on 4 July this year. What happened to democracy?"

Another neighbour, Jane Higgison, described the planned extension as a "carbuncle", adding: "They are ruining a beautiful 1880s house."

The owner, Guy Davis, informed THE ARCHER that he had had no idea that his application would raise such strong objections, and the original design had been altered accordingly for the amended application. "We have worked to enhance the character of the property," said Mr Davis. "We have done our level best to maintain the beauty of the building."

Locally listed

The house is a locally listed building, meaning that it is included in Barnet Council's schedule of buildings of local architectural interest, but such properties do not have any additional protection in planning law.

In a letter to the press, Mr Davis's solicitors emphasised that their client had not broken any planning rules. "We are concerned... that local residents believe that our client has exercised a loophole in the planning process," said the letter. "This would be untrue and grossly defamatory."

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Goodbye to a legend

By Sam Grove

Finchley united on Tuesday 9 October to bid a fond farewell to one of its most well-known and well-loved sons at the funeral of Stanley White, better known as Horace, held at Islington Cemetery Chapel. Horace passed away a fortnight earlier outside the Whittington Hospital, and in the wake of his death tributes flooded in for the man best known for wishing people "The best of luck".

Such was the impact Horace had on the community that as many as 600 people from all ages and backgrounds attended to pay their last respects. Among them were representatives of the London Fire Brigade, who brought a wreath, and of the Whittington Hospital, whose staff had cared for Horace over many years.

The private man

The service was delivered by the Reverend Michael Giles with a reading by Horace's best friend Leon. The highlight was his sister Selina's eulogy, read by the Reverend. Over the past 35 years we have all come to know the public Horace who roamed the streets with his suitcase, drew pictures and remembered everyone's names, but Selina gave us a glimpse of the private Horace whom she and a select group of others were privileged to know.

One story in particular drew a laugh from the crowd. She recounted how she had given him £4 for lunch every week when he attended the local day care centre, only to find out seven years later that the centre had been closed since 2005. When she asked him why he kept accepting the £4, even though the centre was closed, he replied that "because he had been forced to attend the centre against his will for so many years, he needed compensation".

The service concluded with a collective "Three cheers for Horace" followed by a more impromptu round of "The best of luck!"



Hundreds turned out to say a final goodbye to Horace White.

Photo by Sam Grove.

Finchley Jazz special

A very special Jazz Night is planned at the old Wilf Slack Cricket Club (now the Hall School Sports Ground) at 19 East End Road, N3, on Monday 19 November from 7.45-10.45pm.

As the former Finchley Jazz Club secretary and ARCHER team member, Pamela Kent, is now a cancer sufferer, all proceeds will go to Macmillan Nurses and Cancer Research UK.

There will be a seven-piece band, led by Peter Rudeforth, who is one of the lead trumpet players with Chris Barber, and all the musicians will be of the highest order.

The entrance fee will be only £8 per person and, as there is no bar, you can bring your own booze. There will also be a raffle and an auction of a top-class violin.

If you wish to donate a prize of books, CDs, DVDs, boxes of biscuits/sweets or bottles of wine etc they will be most welcome; just bring them along on the night. Please come along for a superb evening of top-quality jazz.



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Pasture friend Linda Dolata shows off some of the art work.

Photo by Diana Walsh.

Pasture's 100 years

To celebrate 100 years of the Long Lane Pasture, an exhibition of paintings, sketches and photographs ran at artsdepot, North Finchley, throughout the month of October, showing more than 100 views of the pasture, its wildlife, flowers and some quirky observations.

Titles such as Fox by Moonlight, Bee at Sunset, Chaffinch in Snowy Hawthorn, Contorted Hazel, Ladybird on Ropesnake and Pasture with Clouds give some indication of the variety on view.

This was added to by pupils from Year 5 at Tudor Primary School, who had visited the pasture during Environment Week. The lovely work produced by the nine- and ten-year-olds in Chestnut Class proved their interest in art, nature and the environment, for which they were awarded a special certificate.

If you missed the exhibition, selected entries will appear in

the Long Lane Pasture Calendar 2013, which will be available soon. Long Lane Pasture, which was originally used for grazing and to grow hay for horses, was purchased by the council in 1912 for public enjoyment and recreation. Local residents had a long struggle to make it what it is today. For further details visit: www.longlanepasture.org

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Finchley's secret spaces

By Daphne Chamberlain

In September, The Finchley Society held its annual East Finchley outreach meeting in Martin School, where Mike Gee told us tales of some lesser-known green spaces.

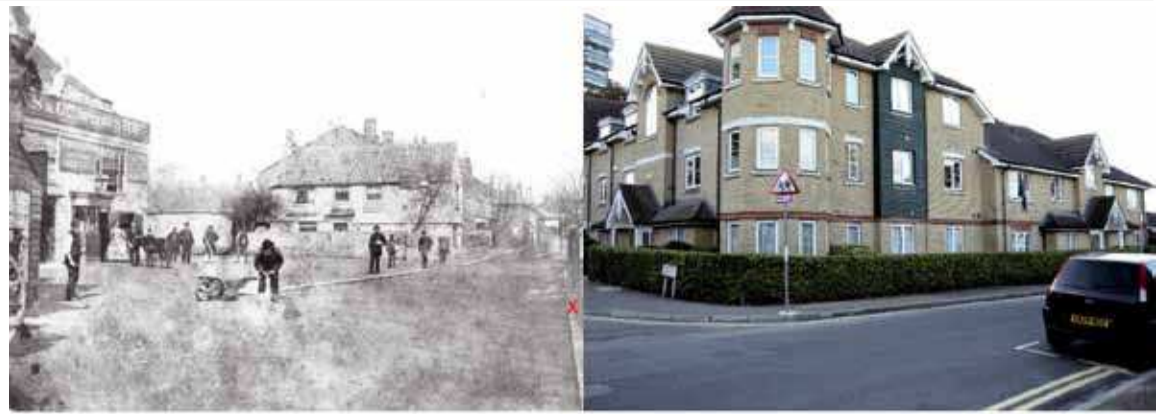
He started with the first of two intended Finchley sports centres. That was what the Glebelands, stretching between the High Road, the North Circular and Friern Barnet, were meant to be. Part of the 86 acres is now the Leisure Centre, with eight acres swallowed up into parking spaces. The original Lido has shrunk into a small indoor pool, but there are bona fide ponds in the big nature reserve beyond. Here you can also find the last remnant of an isolation hospital, which became a British Legion building, a Scout hut and a multi-model railway centre.

Regal Drive, N11, leads to 14 acres of the old Friern Barnet Hospital site, open to the public. Here, you might come across a fancy green bridge. It once spanned an ornamental lake in the hospital grounds. Not so secret is Bethune Park, a neighbour of better-known

Friary Park. This is a conservation area, open on three sides, where people live as well.

Nearer home, the Aquarius Archery grounds at the end of Southern Road are set over 10 million gallons of 17-foot deep water. There were tennis courts there until 1966, but records of the club and the existing archery centre were lost in the recent arson attack reported in this paper. Apparently, a sizeable section of the reservoir grounds is in danger of being sold to developers.

Other slides included the continuously pumping cascade of water in the St Marylebone Garden of Remembrance and the sound-blocking Garden of Hope built over the North Circular. The other intended Sports Centre? Stanley Road Playing Field, of course, and Sport East Finchley's Roger Chapman warned us not to expect an outcome there until next year.



Optician's warning on children's eye health

Optometrist David Hillel Burns is warning schools of the risks faced by children whose eye conditions are not picked up early enough.

David, who has 40 years of experience as an optician, says that one in ten children in the UK has an undetected vision problem but only 50% of children ever have an eye examination. This could have a serious impact on their success at school, he warns.

To increase awareness of eye health, David, an NHS specialist whose practice is on East Finchley High Road, is giving talks to local schools about vision and eye care.

He said: "Poor vision can make children frustrated or bored in school, because they can't see the board or read a book easily. All children should have their eyes tested from their second birthday onwards. They needn't be able to read. Many parents aren't aware they can protect their child's sight and that it is free."

Signs to watch for that might indicate your child has an eye condition include an eye turning inward, outward, upward or downward frequently; red eyes or eye lids; frequent rubbing of the eyes; and sitting very close to the television.

A vanished watering hole

The George Inn was once a busy pub at the centre of life in Market Place, the old pig-trading centre of East Finchley, as shown in Barnet Council's archive photo dating from the mid-Victorian years. Pig drovers would sell animals to London's butchers or to local farmers from here.

The George was rebuilt in the 1890s and survived until 2001 when it was demolished and replaced by the housing block that stands there now. These then-and-now shots come from the council's Past and Present project, which allows smartphone users to download images at the location in question, from QR codes posted on lampposts.



Closing time: the final days of the Dick Turpin in Long Lane.

Another pub bites the dust

So, farewell to the Dick Turpin. The Long Lane pub has finally succumbed to the demolition squad after standing empty for two years. Another name to add to the list of vanished East Finchley pubs, which includes The Red Lion on Red Lion Hill, The George in Market Place and the Duke of Cambridge in Park Road. The site of the Dick

Turpin is to be occupied by flats. Photo by Martin Addison.

Coffee and cake

A coffee morning and sale at an East Finchley home in October raised money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. The morning was hosted by Sarah Reavley, whose godson Jake has CF.

"This is a very exciting time for the Trust," Sarah said. "This year has seen the start of a trial of a gene therapy product that will hopefully provide an effective, life-saving treatment in years to come. Our sale helped to inform people and was great fun." As well as cakes, there was clothing by Captain Tortue, Their Nibs and Alison Dishington, relaxation products from Holistic Silk and crafts from Dandy Lion Days; all of whom made donations to the Trust. The sale was supported by lots of parents from Coldfall

Primary School and their friends. Cystic Fibrosis is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited diseases, affecting more than 9,000 people in the UK. It affects the internal organs, especially the lungs and digestive system, by clogging them with thick sticky mucus that can make it hard to breathe and digest food. The UK CF Gene Therapy Consortium is concentrating on replacing the faulty gene in a patient's lungs with a normal gene. For more information, see www.cftrust.org.uk

Carers can take a break

A new service has been set up allowing GPs to issue prescriptions to carers to help them take a short break.

The Carers Health Break Prescription service is being run by Barnet Carers Centre with financial support from Barnet Council and the NHS. The aim is to help people whose role in caring for a relative or friend is having a negative impact on their health or their ability to have a life outside of caring. People seeking support will need to visit their GP who can then issue them with a prescription for support. This can be redeemed at Barnet Carers Centre, where staff will discuss with the carer the kind of break which best suits their needs and situation.

Barnet Carers Centre already provides peer support groups, training, a telephone helpline and outings. For more information, visit www.barnet-carers.org

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Bring this neglected corner back to life

A long-time resident has started a campaign to smarten up a neglected corner of the old village. Paula Goodchild says the open area at the junction of Long Lane and Church Lane is in a shameful state.

The brickwork on three circular planting areas has fallen apart, the soil is bare and the pavement is uneven. Paula says the condition of this busy corner reflects badly on the area as a whole.

"There are some lovely shops and houses around here but this spot looks a mess; it's such a shame," said Paula. "Schoolchildren and passers-by sit on the bench but it's not very pleasant for them. The loose brickwork and bumpy surface are dangerous. So many people come this way every day, it needs

to be tidied up."

As well as living near the junction for 33 years, Paula has a personal connection to the spot. Her architect husband Ray helped redesign the public area in conjunction with Barnet Council back in 1983. The planting areas he introduced then are the ones that are falling apart today.

Paula says she has been in touch with Barnet Council about the state of the corner for many months. Officers have been sympathetic but so far no action has been taken.



Crumbling corner: Paula Goodchild wants to see the public area near her home restored to its former smart appearance. Photo by John Lawrence.

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Beware bogus police officers

By Janet Maitland
Elderly people are being targeted in a telephone scam by fraudsters pretending to be police officers. A bogus officer rings the victim to inform them that their bank card has been used fraudulently and asks them to withdraw £5,000 from their bank so that an 'officer' can call round to take and mark the notes.

They are asked not to tell the bank why they are withdrawing the money as this might 'upset their investigation' to trap the thief.

If the victim is suspicious, the 'officer' tells them to call 999 for verification. By not hanging up, the fraudster keeps the line open and so the victim unknowingly reconnects with him when they dial 999 and then has all the details confirmed by an accomplice.

In some cases the 'officer' tells the victim to call their bank, and again keeps the line open. The accomplice then confirms the so-called fraud and convinces the victim to reveal their PIN number. In one recent case the fraudster got the PIN and then arranged for a courier to pick up the card 'for finger printing'. Fortunately, the courier company manager became suspicious and contacted the police.

How to spot a scam

"These con men practise at this day after day and can be very convincing," said Detective Chief Inspector Gary Randall. "But remember that a bank will never ask you for cash or for your PIN number over the phone."

Police have produced a free booklet with lots of helpful information about how to avoid fraud, called The Little Book of Big Scams. You can get a copy by calling 020 7230 1228 or downloading it at www.met.police.uk/fraudalert. The site also gives up to date information about the latest scams. Further information and advice is available at www.actionfraud.police.uk and www.elderabuse.org.uk

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Mitchell Tovee was runner-up in the national contest to find a cover model for Men's Health magazine.

Mitchell muscles his way to the top

Hard training and some scientific know-how helped fitness instructor Mitchell Tovee reach the finals of a national search to find a cover model for Men's Health magazine.

Mitchell, who works at the MighteeFit Health Studio in East End Road, made it to the final five of the competition in a field of 1,000 entries, and only came runner-up by the narrowest of margins.

The 23-year-old's physique was plastered all over the magazine's website for a month-long public vote, and he was thrilled to get as far as he did.

Science know-how

When Mitchell sent his photo for last year's competition, he didn't even get a reply, but this time round he focused strictly on his nutrition and food intake to make his body fat low and his build in the right shape to get noticed.

"I've always been interested in the science behind it: the proteins and the nutrients you need to get the right results," he said. "I'd fall asleep in French at school but in chemistry and physics I soaked everything up."

Mitchell started boxing at 14, went on to work as a lifeguard and then joined a

gym at 18 before becoming a full-time personal trainer. His national exposure has brought him plenty of respect from fellow gym-goers along with some unwanted attention from female fans of all ages.

"It's attention I could do without," laughed Mitchell, who is engaged to Rebecca, with whom he has a two-year-old daughter. "I could have done with it when I was single. Now I have to just politely say no."

Mitchell is one of a team of health coaches at MighteeFit. For more details, call the studio on 020 3224 3043 or visit www.mighteefit.com

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YOUNG ARCHER



A cheerful crowd celebrate protected status for Muswell Hill Playing Field at the Woodland Fun Day on 7 October. London Borough of Haringey.

Outdoor celebration for friends of wood and field

By Ann Bronkhorst

Advertised as a Woodland Fun Day, the event on Sunday 7 October was an afternoon's worth of free outdoor entertainment and activities in glorious sunshine. About 300 people, mostly from Muswell Hill and East Finchley, gathered on the Muswell Hill Playing Field to celebrate its new Queen Elizabeth protected status and to see the latest improvements in Coldfall Wood.

Many people were drawn to the field by the sound of the jazz quartet and the enticing smell of hot sausage rolls. Some had never explored the field or the wood before. A guided walk was laid on to explain the various projects recently completed in the wood, where a demonstration of the ancient craft of charcoal-burning gave a fascinating glimpse into Coldfall Wood's history. Homemade charcoal was available and hurdle-making (hand-cut hazel-wood fencing, another old woodland craft) was also demonstrated.

Teddy-bears' picnic

Children designed imaginary birds, did delicate leaf-rubbings and made 'wild-child' masks decorated with real autumn leaves, watched by a row of well-dressed Teddy-bears which were judged for their outfits by Haringey Councillor Nilgun Canver. A scavenger hunt sent children racing around the field and wood to collect natural things like moss and berries, while children and adults alike marvelled at the

birds' nests and other 'finds' discovered in the recently-inspected bat boxes.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood, supported by Haringey and by Community Spaces who also funded the access improvements in the wood, organised the Fun Day as a way of bringing together local people who value these precious green spaces and whose support helped to win protected status for the field. See more on the website at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk.



Proud of Pride the Lion. Photo by Ian Cormack.

A roaring success

When she was at the Olympic Park in July, *THE ARCHER's* Diana Cormack visited the BMW pavilion.

Inside was a recording booth where people were being encouraged to roar on Team GB as loudly and enthusiastically as they could. A few weeks later she was contacted by BMW with the news that her roaring display had won her a mascot prize. It arrived at the beginning of October. Not attached to a BMW Mini as she had hoped, but Diana is delighted with her Pride the Lion soft toy.

Aaron's an all-round athlete

We reported in last month's issue that Aaron Hammond from Bishop Douglass School had been named Young Sports Performer of the Year in Barnet. Here he is being presented with his award by GB Olympic fencer James Davis at the Barnet Partnership for School Sports Awards evening.

As captain of the U15 basketball team, Aaron led his team to victory in the Barnet Basketball League and Barnet Basketball Cup with an undefeated track record. He demonstrated his prowess by being the top points scorer, averaging 26 points a game.

His relentless passion to be the best that he can be also saw him gain a silver medal as a new competitor in the Barnet Trampoline Competition. Additionally, he has achieved success in football, athletics, badminton and table tennis.

His teachers at Bishop Dou-



Sports champ Aaron Hammond, of Bishop Douglass School, receives his award from GB Olympic fencer James Davis.

glass say Aaron encompasses the Olympic and Paralympics values, inspiring others as an active sports leader.



Soaring sunflowers

Forty children lovingly tended sunflowers for a competition run by the Finchley Horticultural Society back in the summer. Eight reached the final and the tallest sunflower was grown by eight-year-old Clarice Hitner. Her sunflower reached the grand height of 228cm. Clarice was presented with a prize by Ann Brown, chair of the society, during the Gordon Road Autumn Fair in September.

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❖ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com

❖ Newstead Parent & Toddler Group, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.

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Velvety voices

Review by Ken Carter

Barnet Voices is essentially a madrigal group comprising three men and seven women. They sang unaccompanied in mellifluous voice in one of East Finchley Methodist Church's regular free concerts on 14 October.

The group sang four groups of melody: European airs of a spiritual nature from the likes of Monteverdi and Bruckner; English secular airs from the Elizabethan era; soft-centred romantic melodies; and finally American songs from the last century, robust and syncopated. Throughout, the singing was pleasing and disciplined.



Nature reserve in memory of John Scott

By Diana Cormack

In late September, members of Greater London Hire (GLH) staff and their families attended the opening of the John Scott Nature Reserve at Totteridge Academy, formally Ravenscroft School. As managing director of GLH until his death last year, John had been a huge supporter of the school's Eco-Mission Education Programme.

Working along with C-Change (Changing Climate, Changing Lives: www.cchangeproject.org) over the last three years, GLH support has enabled students from every year group to learn about the importance of sustainability. The school now boasts a full environmental system and bio-diversity area for which it has received both Bronze and Silver Flag status.



Robert Scott and Eco-Mission Coordinator Mrs Christodoulou.
Photo by Diana Cormack.

Outdoor learning

Much work has been done to create an outdoor classroom in the form of a nature reserve with plenty of trees, bushes, a vegetable growing area and pond. Here pupils can be involved in completely new activities and interact with others with whom they would not normally work. This includes members of the GLH staff who have participated in sessions such as making bird boxes and feeders, which everyone enjoyed. Students have the opportunity to work in an interactive, focused environment where they can develop their team-working and listening skills, their empathy and resilience. They can now do so in more comfort using the outdoor seating and tables recently funded by GLH, fulfilling the Eco-Mission Action Team's joint vision with the company to have an outdoor classroom area for all students to learn.

Robert Scott of GLH unveiled a wooden plaque commemorating his father. Zoe Powers, sales and environmental director, said: "It is not only the students who have benefited but the staff here at GLH who have engaged in the project and learned first-hand how GLH contributes to the community through its sustainability programme. John was a huge supporter of the project and we are very touched that the nature reserve has been aptly named in his memory."



High Road shop stays in the family

By Diana Cormack

After 43 years of trading at 174 High Road, Plummer's is no more. In a way, it never was, for since July 1969 the former newsagent shop has been run by John Crivellari. At that time, John and his late wife were living in the flat upstairs and he used to help out the shop owners occasionally. They were called Plummer and eventually offered John the business, which he happily took on, along with the name.

John told *THE ARCHER* that this all happened by chance and believes that being street-wise has helped him a lot. He left school in Ireland at the age of 14, later coming to London and working in the paper industry. After taking over Plummer's, he bought a house in the county roads where he and his family lived for several years. Now his daughter Laurretta Caulfield, who spent much of her childhood in the shop, has taken it

over with a new name and a new angle.

Party-time

Her own 13-year-old daughter designed the shop sign with its new name, The Heart of N2. It will still sell greetings cards and sweets, concentrating on traditional sweets from old fashioned jars, but there will be an emphasis on goods specifically for parties and celebrations. So a range of partyware will be on sale, including helium balloons and

themed products. Laurretta, who previously worked in property with her husband at Caulfield Estates, hopes her business will link in well with the Cherry Tree Gift shop next door.

John has plenty of plans for his retirement and wonders if he is the longest serving shop-keeper in East Finchley. If you know of anyone with a longer claim to fame, please let us know (our contact details are on page 2).

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Shaken not stirred

He's back: the man who stopped the man with the golden gun, broke Casino Royale and took the gold out of Goldfinger has returned with all the gadgets, guns and girls you'd expect. Yes folks, welcome to 'Skyfall', welcome to Bond 23, welcome to the weird world of fantasy Britain where western culture can only be saved by a suave old Etonian.

The last 50 years have been one hell of a journey for 007. He's regenerated almost as many times as Doctor Who, worked his way through 15 dry Martinis, a couple of dozen women, a dozen cars and endless weird gadgets. Q has given him everything from magnetic watches to flying cars and left you wondering if the next one will be a thermonuclear bouncy castle. And then there's the body count.

In the first 22 films Bond has exercised his licence to kill at the expense of 220 bad guys, their henchmen and family pets, if you can call sharks family pets. That's an average of ten corpses per movie. George Lazenby let the side down by only disposing of six, but never mind, Pierce Brosnan made up for lost time with a spectacular average of 19. Sean Connery did it with a smirk, Daniel Craig with malice and Roger Moore with second hand puns.

The other thing about the fantasy world where GB PLC still waives the rules is that the Americans are incompetent, the Russians are red and Blofeld always ends up dead.

Once you'd got beyond the guns, the gadgets and the guts you got the girls. Whether it's Pussy Galore or Jinx you just know they're going to end up seeing Bond's point of view in a very real sense of the word. Never mind the reality, in the fantasy created by Ian Fleming the sun never set on James Bond unless he was in bed with a woman and opening champagne.

Fleming invented James Bond in the 1950s, offering a bit of glamour to go with austerity and the declining power of a toothless empire. Guess it's only right he's back as another bunch of clowns preside over chaos and austerity.

And don't forget that the first Bond movie came out the same week as the first Beatles single and just before Alf Ramsey took over as England manager. One looking back at Britain in aspic, the other two forward to the future. And yes, guess what, in the real world the future wasn't Bond shaped.

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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.
- **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Lane N2. Contact: Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. 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
- **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.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. For 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.
- **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 8.30 pm. Free. All musicians welcome. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** 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
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 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

Theatre friends relaunch

The Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre group is to be relaunched on Tuesday 6 November from 7.30-9pm at its High Road building. The Friends are an independent charity formed to raise the profile of FYT, apply for grants to supplement equipment and support the service.

The Trustees have decided to re-launch the Friends and are seeking people who would be interested in getting involved and people who are able to take a leading role in the new group. All are welcome and urged to come along to show their support.

The relaunch will be part of an extraordinary general meeting led by the outgoing

chair Ruth Mulandi and Roger Chapman, of the East Finchley Development Trust.

Rogersaid: "Finchley Youth Theatre is at the heart of our community. It offers an inclusive range of services to local young people. Turbulent times are ahead for all council services and we need an active Friends group to ensure we retain the excellent work it does."



Instructors and fitness fans exercised and danced their way through the Fortismere fundraising day.

Fundraising fitness marathon

Fit fundraisers danced their way through Zumba routines and toned their muscles in yoga sessions as part of a fitness marathon session at Fortismere School that raised more than £3,000 for North London Hospice.

Around 100 people took part in the masterclass, organised by JCW Fitness on Sunday 30 September.

North London Hospice volunteer Joe Attridge opened the event. Joe's wife Anna died at the hospice in February 2006, aged 48. Joe said: "I would like to say a huge thank you from everybody

at North London Hospice for the tremendous effort JCW Fitness have put into raising lots of money so that patients, their families and friends will benefit from the love, care and support the hospice provides."

For more information on the hospice, visit www.northlondonhospice.org.

What's On...

Saturday 3 November

• **Winter Fair**, 11am-3pm, Main Hall, Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11 6PB in aid of Combat Stress (Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society).

Monday 5 to Sunday 11 November

• **Real Ale Festival** at the Bald Faced Stag, High Road; 10% discount for CAMRA members.

Thursday 8 November

• **Free, live rock 'n' roll**. East Finchley band **Sound of the Suburb** will bring their high energy sounds to O'Neill's pub, 87 Muswell Hill, Broadway, N10 3HA, from 9pm, playing favourites from the 1950s to the present for your listening and dancing pleasure. Free entry. Their self-entitled debut album is available at Alan's Record Shop on the High Road.

Saturday 10 November

• **Fabulous Finchley**, a guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Explore 1,000 years of history in Finchley Central

and East Finchley. Meet at Finchley Central tube station, Ballards Lane exit, 11am.

Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 10 to Sunday 25 November

• **Finchley Art Society Autumn Exhibition**, Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street, Finchley N12 7NN, Monday to Saturday 9am-10pm, Sunday 2-6pm. Over 100 paintings in oil, acrylic, water colour and pastel covering a wide range of subjects by local artists at affordable prices and also some ceramics.

Sunday 11 November

• **Monthly litter pick at Stanley Playing Field**. Meet 2pm, equipment provided.

Saturday 17 November

• Children's bookshop, 29 Fortis Green Road, 2-3pm: **meet James Mayhew**, author of *Ella Bella Ballerina*, who will sign his books.

• **Festive Craft Fair** in aid of the Family Holiday Association, 11am to 5pm,



Sippy (left) and friends. Photo by Diana Cormack.

Bunjie's and beyond

By Diana Cormack

Sippy Azizollah is a well-known resident of East Finchley, particularly for her fund-raising activities. Despite being wheelchair-bound, Sippy manages to hold several of these events throughout the year, often with the help of Budgens store. Her latest took place on 30 September, this time in the Finchley Youth Theatre.

In her youth Sippy was a singer, having hits of her own in the pop world and providing backing for others. To raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, Sippy decided to get some of her old friends together from Bunjie's, a club near Leicester Square where they all used to perform many years ago.

Musicians and singers came bringing their families, their instruments and their memories to share a moving and nostalgic afternoon. Much of the appreciative audience harked back to those times and joined in the performances accordingly. The event raised £363 for Sippy's chosen charity.

Hat trick for Harriet

You wait for a chance to exhibit your paintings and then, like buses, three come along at once, as East Finchley artist Harriet Connides has just discovered.

Not only is Harriet showing her watercolours until the end of November at Alexandra Park Library, but she also has a picture on display at the artsdepot in North Finchley, and is a contributor to the MS Trusts Secret Art Show, in aid of people with multiple sclerosis, online at <http://sas.mstrust.org.uk/artshop/shop>.

Harriet graduated with a BA Hons in Fine Art (painting), and her work is held in the archives of the Kent Institute as a marker of student excellence. She has exhibited widely, including shows in the Friends Room



'Spirit of the Woods' by Harriet Copperman, whose work is on show at Alexandra Park Library

at the V&A Museum, Canterbury Cathedral, The Phoenix Cinema and Burgh House.

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

in aid of North London children's hospice Noah's Ark, with special guests Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Ed Harcourt, Carl Barat and Brett Anderson. Tickets are priced at £25 and are available via www.unionchapel.org.uk/events.php

Until Sunday 25 November

• **Take Six art exhibition** at artisan, 80 Harlesden Road, London NW10 2BE. Six artists from the East Finchley Open group display their work: photography by Mike Coles, textiles by Ann Froemberg, jewellery by Monica Peiser, stoneware sculpture by Sheila Seepersaud-Jones, glass sculptures by Philip Vallentin and paintings by Christine Watson. Tuesday to Saturday, 11-5; Sunday, 12-4. www.artisan80.com

Thursday 29 November

• The Finchley Society hosts **Dickens in the Outer Suburbs**, a talk by Andrew Sanders, for the Jean Scott Memorial Lecture; 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Non-members very welcome. Admission £2.



Letters to the Editor

**Parking –
where's your proof?**

Dear Editor,

Debbie Hoare's parking permit ordeal (*THE ARCHER*, September 2012) brought to mind my own dealings with Barnet Council over my parking permit earlier this year.

I had renewed my permit in good time but I did not receive it in the post before the old one expired. As directed by Barnet Parking Services, I printed out a copy of the permit from an email attachment and placed it on the dashboard of my car. This copy was clearly displayed, although I was still calling the council over a week later asking when I was going to receive the real permit.

One Saturday morning, I found a penalty charge notice stuck on my car, informing me that I had infringed parking regulations by not displaying a valid permit (despite the fact that a print-out of said permit was clearly visible). I removed this, only to find that when I returned to my car an hour later another penalty had been issued.

I emailed Barnet Parking Services to protest against both charges, attaching a photograph I had taken of the print-out permit showing it clearly displayed on the dashboard. In the event, the charges were overturned.

My conclusion from this experience is that it always helps to have photographic evidence.

**Yours faithfully,
Nick Young,
High Road, N2.**

**Barnet's
parking shambles**

Dear Editor,

Debbie Hoare (*THE ARCHER*, September 2012) is not the only resident of the Summerlee Estate to suffer from over-zealous operation of CPZ rules.

Knowing that I was going to be away on business when my permit expired, I renewed online, and paid by credit card. However, the system malfunctioned, and I was unable to print out the temporary parking permit.

On contacting the Parking team, I was told that a dispensation would be given, and a full permit mailed out to me immediately. Needless to say, I departed on my business trip a few days later, without receiving the permit. On my return, I found a parking ticket on my car.

I informed the Parking team that I had renewed the permit online, and, after some delay, was informed that my informal challenge was not accepted. I have now formally challenged the ticket. Residents should be aware that there is a further stage of challenge, whereby the case is referred to an independent adjudicator, who will decide the merits of the case. I have used this service successfully in the past.

The operation of the CPZ scheme has been a total shambles right from the start, including the imposition of swingeing price increases and unreasonable hours of operation. Residents should complain to their councillor about the scheme. I certainly will!

**Yours faithfully,
John McMillan
Summerlee Gardens, N2.**

**Happy memories of
Horace**

Dear Editor,

I have happy memories of the man called Horace. I remember him from the time when I first moved to

East Finchley more than 25 years ago, with my rescued Alsatian dog Sylvie. He greeted us with "The best of luck!" every time he saw us, even when on the 234 bus going to Muswell Hill.

He loved my dogs, always remembering their names. Sylvie was joined by two more dogs in need of a caring owner. Horace told me "Jesus made them".

When he saw me without a dog he used to ask where they were and "How many dogs do you have now?" I shall miss him.

**Yours faithfully,
Margo Mattinson,
Fortis Green, N2.**

**Six months as
councillor**

Dear Editor,

Today I celebrate six months as ward councillor for East Finchley, and I wanted to report back on some of the things that I have been doing. In East Finchley there are some important issues such as pedestrian safety and school places which have active community groups campaigning on them. In general, I have tried to support these groups, and we have had some success, such as when the Council tried to remove the railings outside Martin School.

I have been working with my ward colleagues Alison Moore and Colin Rogers on some of the other issues that people are concerned about, such as parking and crime. In my first week as a councillor I spoke in the Council chamber about the parking situation, and we are continuing to press the Council for more concessions. There are a number of important issues affecting the borough, not the least the One Barnet Programme. I have been campaigning against it, and trying to raise awareness amongst residents of what the effects will be.

However, I think my most important role is in helping people with casework. I find it very rewarding to help people, and I have found my training at the former East Finchley Advice Service has been helpful. I see some very difficult cases, and it gives a real buzz to get a successful resolution to a case. In all this though, I have had phenomenal support from my colleagues, and I want to take the opportunity to thank Alison and Colin for their support over these six months. I enjoy the role, and I still can't quite believe it when I walk down the High Street and think to myself "I represent this!"

**Cllr Arjun Kumar Mittra,
East Finchley Ward.**

**My plans for
the pavilion**

Dear Editor,

I would like to let people know that Barnet Council has all the plans of what I'm planning to do with the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. It is just going to be a normal café serving the usual food and drink along with some healthy options and seasonal food where possible. Opening hours will match those of the park.

I want to preserve the shape of the pavilion building and realise there will be particular problems with the roof. The refurbishment will not mean the removal or damage of any trees.

**Yours faithfully,
Pepe Dostizad.**

The added dimension

By Daphne Chamberlain

Have you seen the advertisement in *THE ARCHER* for a Soul Therapy Diploma Course? If so, are you intrigued or sceptical? The Soul Therapy Centre's co-director, Ingrid Collins, will settle for either reaction. She says, "Sceptics I love. Not cynics. They're on a different path. But it's good to be sceptical."

Ingrid herself is registered with the Science Council and a member of the Parliamentary group looking into integrated and complementary health care. She worked as an educational psychologist with the ILEA, and then continued in private practice.

**Many ways to the
mountain top**

When her cat, Amber, was dying from kidney failure, it was one of Ingrid's clients who cured her with spiritual healing. "Amber was there, waiting, before every visit. They both knew far more than I did." Told that she, too, could be a channel for healing, she put out her hands to a neighbour with back-ache. They both experienced the sensation of positive energy. From then on, she combined scientific training with the world of spirituality. She told us, "It is essential that people realise there are many ways to the mountain top. Professionals in each camp do harm by not understanding each other."

It was because clients asked her to train them that Ingrid set up the Centre in her home in Fortismere Avenue, Muswell Hill, in 1996. The Centre is registered with the British Alliance of Healing Associations, and the two-year diploma course, including an external oral and practical examination, leads to a nationally accredited spiritual healing qualification. Students can then set up their



Ingrid Collins in her garden. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

own practice, as members of the Soul Therapy Association of Spiritual Healers. Drawn from all ages and backgrounds, they have learned basic counselling skills as well as allowing themselves to channel the added dimension of healing energy.

Ingrid and co-directors, Kathryn Scorza and Adriana

Penalosa-Clarke, believe that working with spiritual energy is effective and practical. Ingrid says, "We are not referring to the soul in a religious sense. Soul therapy is a way of addressing healing at every level."

For more information, see www.soul-therapy.co.uk or call 020 8883 8562.

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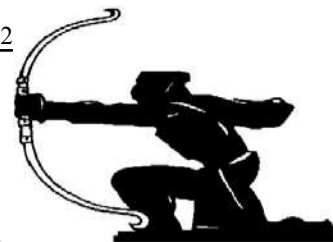
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THE ARCHER



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Once upon a time in East Finchley

By Ann Bronkhorst and Tony Roberts

The English Heritage website houses a fascinating archive of aerial photographs and the organisation has allowed *THE ARCHER* to reproduce this view of East Finchley on a summer day in 1926. It's recognisable, but there have been many changes.


East is at the top of the picture. Top left and bottom right are lost green spaces: Coldfall Wood massed behind Durham Road, embracing All Saints' Church and reaching almost to Fortis Green; and a triangle of allotments above the railway (not tube) sidings and Gray's coal yard. East of the allotments is a section of the ancient path called The Walks, now mostly untrace-

able beneath buildings.

There's little moving traffic and the streets look oddly wide and bare without parked cars. A tram heads down the High Road near Baronsmere Road and horses, out of sight, are stabled in the large United Dairies complex opposite the Coliseum cinema, now the Phoenix. Many shops have awnings and, of course, there's no supermarket.

Two streets, Aveton Road (near the sorting office, lower left corner) and Chapel Street (lower left edge of map), have gone; the chapel itself and its little school, too. The tall Congregational church dominating the centre of the picture was demolished in the mid-1960s, but the far older Bald Faced Stag and the National School (later to become Holy Trinity School and now the Bobath Centre) remain.

Britain from Above (www.britainfromabove.org.uk) features some of the oldest and most valuable images of the Aerofilms Collection, a unique and important archive of aerial photographs. You can download images, share memories and add information. By the end of the project in 2014, 95,000 images taken between 1919 and 1953 will be available online.



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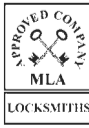
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