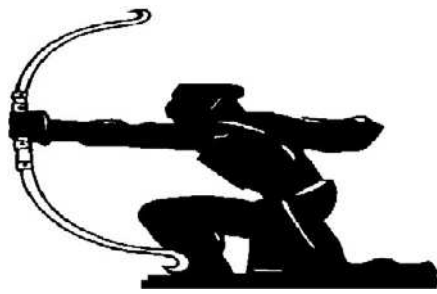


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# THE ARCHER



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

## Have your say on the future of East Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

The recent Localism Act has introduced a new right for communities to draw up their own neighbourhood plan. This will allow residents, employees and business people to come together through a neighbourhood forum, and say where they think new houses, businesses, community facilities and shops should go, and what they should look like.

Sport East Finchley, supported by the Community Trust, is leading the way in setting up

an East Finchley Neighbourhood Forum.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Horace the legend

As we went to press, it was confirmed that Horace, one of Finchley's best-known characters, had died. He collapsed outside the Whittington Hospital on his way to an appointment and doctors were unable to save him.

Horace was a familiar sight for around 30 years on the High Road in East Finchley and North Finchley and often travelled on the 263 bus. He remembered the names of hundreds of people he spoke to over the years and often fired off his high-volume catchphrase "Best of luck!"

The former Martin School pupil, who lived on the Grange estate, is thought to have been in his late 40s. Word of his death on 24 September spread quickly among the traders and residents who knew him and floral tributes were laid outside McDonalds in North Finchley. An online petition was started asking Barnet Council to lay a bench in his memory.

Social media sites were flooded with tributes. Jesta la Naghten wrote on Facebook: "Best of luck to you in your next life, mate. Touched so many people's lives and always made things a little brighter. Thanks for being a legend and a man we all knew growing up. RIP, Horace".

What are your memories of Horace? Write to us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London

N2 8JA, or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TheArcherN2](http://www.facebook.com/TheArcherN2)



Valerie Regnet makes friends with homeless cat Tabby Tom. Photo by John Lawrence

## Cuddlesome new home for Tabby Tom

There was a happy ending for at least one of the homeless cats brought along to the Animal Aid & Advice charity shop open day on Sunday 9 September.

Grizzled old gentleman Tabby Tom was rescued from the streets and looked after by the charity for several months before being picked out by cat lover Valerie Regnet and given a new home by her daughter Jennifer.

Valerie, of Talbot Avenue, said: "When Jennifer and Tabby Tom locked eyes, it was love at first sight. He has moved into her flat and is now enjoying a well-deserved, spoiled life."

The shop was busy on the open day with people coming in to see the line-up of kittens and cats looking for loving owners.

Founded in north London in 1971, Animal Aid & Advice is a voluntary group that raises all its own funds to support its animal welfare work. The charity always has animals in need of rehoming. If you can make

a donation or offer a home to a homeless cat, pop into the shop close to the Phoenix Cinema,

visit [www.animalaidandadvice.org](http://www.animalaidandadvice.org) or telephone 020 8444 6290.

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Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag for providing us with a meeting place.

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.

Copy deadlines – **November:** 12 October, **December:** 16 November, **January:** 14 December

## 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
<b>Haringey Council</b>	020 8489 0000

### 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	020 7222 1234
National Express	08705 808080
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123

### 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
Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

### OAPs' Advice

Age UK	020 820 35040
Contact (N2)	020 8432 1415

### Crime

Emergency	999
Barnet Police	101
Mus. Hill Police Stn.	020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer	
Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

### Help & Advice

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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
Relate	020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 93 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single-storey, part two-storey, rear extension including two roof lights and new pitched roof. Alterations to raised patio and boundary fence. Extension to roof, including rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

#### 48 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Extension to roof, including two side and one rear dormer windows, to facilitate loft conversion. First-floor front extension.

#### 42 Church Lane, N2

Change of use from Class A2 to Class A1 Retail Shop.

#### 90 Church Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 13A Elm Gardens, N2

Single-storey side extension.

#### Flat 4, 13 Fortis Green, N2

Creation of roof space above first floor, with pitched roof and three roof lights.

#### 78 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 80 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 55 Hertford Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension, following demolition of existing rear lean-to extension.

#### "Dick Turpin", 383 Long Lane, N2

Material minor amendment to previously approved application, reference F/03082/11, to include three first-floor windows, to be changed to Juliet balconies, and a front boundary wall replaced with railings and hedges.

#### Overbrook, 24 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Extension to time limit for implementing planning permission F/01666/09 for partial demolition of house with retention of facade and part of side elevation, and construction of house with accommodation in basement and roof space.

#### 40A The Bishops Avenue, N2

New brick front wall with metal railings and gates, including gate over entrance to driveway and separate gates to substation.

#### 1 Trinity Court, Trinity Road, N2

Conversion of existing garage into habitable space, retaining existing garage doors, and insertion of French doors to rear elevation.

## Keeping the Games-maker spirit alive

By Diana Cormack

**There can be little doubt that one of the greatest successes of our glorious London 2012 Games has been that of the Gamesmakers. They have brought volunteering to another level and may have persuaded people to participate in some form of volunteering themselves.**

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP) was set up in 1988 by Community Service Volunteers. Its aim was to enable older people to feel valued and to enjoy life by becoming active in their community. A wide range of activities is covered nationally, with the Barnet and Outer London group involved in the following:

- The Schools Programme, where help with reading is given to primary aged children or support in other school-based activities or class outings. Some schools welcome those with memories to share, such as experiences from WW2.
- The Barnet Knitting Club, where blankets and clothing are made for children in this country and abroad. These include jumpers, teddy bears and tiny items for premature babies. The club offers a chance to meet and chat in relaxed, friendly surroundings and a socially useful activity.
- Active Volunteering by Disabled People provides volunteering opportunities which are handpicked to suit the abilities

and interests of the disabled so they can enjoy using them and benefit the community.

- Keeping in Touch is a telephone befriending and book club scheme for the housebound, with whom volunteers are suitably matched. Each book club has seven members to whom the chosen book is delivered monthly. Group discussions by phone are arranged with the free calls lasting about an hour.
- Inspire is a project which runs in residential homes involving social activities for isolated older people, helping to keep them in touch with the outside world. Playing board and card games, helping with computer skills, talking and reminiscing are typical activities, with other skills such as art or music being very welcome.

RSVP Barnet has received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service. If you would like to join or to know more about their services visit [www.csvrsvpbar.net](http://www.csvrsvpbar.net) or call 020 3234 4082

## Have your say...

Continued from page 1

Roger Chapman, chair of Sport East Finchley, said: "This is a golden opportunity for the local community to create a vision for the future of East Finchley. No one knows East Finchley better than the people who live and work in it. We should be the ones to decide how it should develop."

Issues that will no doubt be high on the agenda for our area are the prosperity of our High Road and East End Road shops and businesses; the future of Stanley Road playing field; the thorny debate over parking charges and controlled parking zones; and community provision for local children and teenagers.

### Public meeting

Chris Hampson, local resident and architect, said: "We are bringing together representatives of existing community groups, local organisations, businesses and individuals who are interested in taking this idea forward."

"It is an exciting venture to embark upon and I'm sure will

lead to some innovative ideas to develop East Finchley. We will be holding a public meeting to discuss the ideas later in the autumn."

The Localism Act states that local people will be given the chance to vote on their neighbourhood plan provided it is in line with national planning policies and the local council's broader strategy.

More local input was first advocated in *THE ARCHER* in March 2010 by Stokes Court resident Harriet Copperman, who was frustrated by Barnet Council's policy of focusing resources on six town centres, which did not include East Finchley.

If you want to know more or discuss your ideas for improving East Finchley, contact Roger Chapman by email on [roger.chapman99@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.chapman99@btinternet.com) or telephone 07855 304488.

Roger Chapman and Harriet Copperman will be talking to The Finchley Society about local forums on Thursday 25 October. Full details in What's On, pg 10.



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# All hands on deck for East Finchley Christmas festival

By Chris Hampson

**The disappointment of cancelling this year's East Finchley Festival as a result of the wettest summer for 100 years has spurred the organising committee into thinking about things differently.**

The French Market will be visiting the High Road on 8 December and the East Finchley Festival committee thought that this would be a great opportunity to organise a winter Christmas festival. This could, of course become an annual event for East Finchley.

There are a few principles for a winter festival. Firstly, there should be something for everyone, of all ages and ethnic groups. Secondly, this is a chance for local Christmas shopping, so it helps local traders. Thirdly, this is an opportunity to showcase local groups and charities and, finally, it is the festive season and a time to enjoy life, particularly for the young ones.

## Making it happen

Time is tight and clearly we need all hands on deck. Everything's possible with a lot of help and support from the community, which has always worked for the summer

festival in Cherry Tree Wood.

Planning has already started. Ideas being worked on are: an East Finchley Christmas tree, a performance stage, better Christmas lights, street entertainers, Christmas films at the Phoenix, a choir, secret Santa, East Finchley Christmas puddings and stalls for local groups.

John at Barracuda on the High Road has generously provided the committee with an evening meeting space and a financial contribution to get things started. We have also already talked to Maddens, Tony's, Bike & Run, the Phoenix and, so far, it is all positive.

Now we need help and ideas from everyone in the community, particularly to make the current plans come true. New ideas will be welcome too. If you can help then please contact [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com)

# Time travel by phone

**From mid-October QR codes like the one pictured will be appearing on lampposts around East Finchley and Hendon. These QR codes offer a glimpse of the past: scanning the code with your smartphone will show you a photo of the same street corner as it appeared 50 or even 100 years ago. Time travel was never so easy!**

The Past Present installation is part of Barnet Libraries' celebration of the Family Learning Festival 2012 and will be disappearing again in November. If you haven't used a QR code before, now is the time to try. It's a chance to introduce your family to East Finchley's history and the QR codes link together to make two history trails for children.



David and Nicola Baldwin at the Pilates Nation studio in Church Lane.

# Pilates hope for David

By Julia Lawrence

**Pilates Nation will be opening its doors in Church Lane for a marathon 12 hours of physical fun this month to help a local headteacher in his fight against cancer. Staff at the studio have chosen to donate all money raised on the Pilates for Good Day on Sunday 14 October to send David Baldwin to Mexico for a course of alternative treatment not available in the UK.**

David, 54, who lives in Durham Road, is the headteacher at Clifton Lodge prep school in Ealing, and husband to Nicola, a pilates teacher at the studio, which is owned and run by Alison Goodman. David and Nicola are parents of three children: Eric, ten, Evangeline, 15, and George, 17, who are students at Fortismere School. David was diagnosed with breast cancer six years ago, a disease most people assume affects only women, but which afflicts more than 370 men each year. Recently, the family was devastated to learn that the cancer had returned,

this time to his lungs, chest and spine.

## Raising the money

They are hoping to raise £40,000 to send David to the Oasis of Hope hospital in Mexico, which offers hope to those fighting seemingly incurable cases using a combination of both conventional and alternative treatments. So far, the community, friends and family have thrown their support behind David, with a number of fundraising projects, and the appeal currently stands at £10,000. But more is desperately

needed if David is to have a chance of getting the treatment. Nicola says a number of Pilates classes will be available on the day, including tower classes for £15 per person (maximum eight people), semi-privates for £25 per person (three people) and one-to-ones for £50 per person, with all the money going directly to David's appeal. To book a session, call Pilates Nation on 020 8444 5244 and to learn more about David's story, visit his blog: [www.davidbaldwin.co.uk](http://www.davidbaldwin.co.uk)

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## Our oldest reader born in East Finchley?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Mrs Irene Bell, 99 last July, would like to know whether she is our oldest reader born in East Finchley. Born in Ingram Road, she has also lived in East End Road and, for almost 60 years, in Twyford Avenue. Her late husband was a native East Finchleyan too, born in Hertford Road and a pupil of the Great North Road School (known now as Martin). Mrs Bell went to Holy Trinity School, then on the site of the Bobath Centre, and they both attended Finchley County.



Mrs Irene Bell, 99 year-old ARCHER reader. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Since last year, she has been living in The Meadows, off Colney Hatch Lane. Almost next door are tennis courts where she used to play as a member of East Finchley Methodist Church tennis club. As a child, though, one of her favourite playgrounds was the park at Alexandra Palace, where a big attraction was a large communal boat on the lake, giving rides for one old penny.

She also played in Highgate Wood, Queen's Wood and, of course, Cherry Tree Wood. In those days, Brompton Grove was called "the lane", and included a cottage with a pony and trap outside. Just up the road was a cinema nicknamed "the fleapit", which had a lady pianist. Officially it was the

Picturedrome, now reborn as the Phoenix.

If you wanted a go on a bike, Janes and Adams hired them out for about four old pence an hour. Mrs Bell used to practise riding one in Huntindon Road.

She has many more memories, which we plan to bring you in the next few months. Meanwhile, who else remembers the East Finchley village pump and pond, Waitrose in the High Road, or East Finchley Grammar School? Please tell us if you do. *THE ARCHER* and Mrs Bell would love to know, too, if she is indeed our oldest native East Finchleyan. Email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or write to us at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

## Gina's century of memories

By Daphne Chamberlain

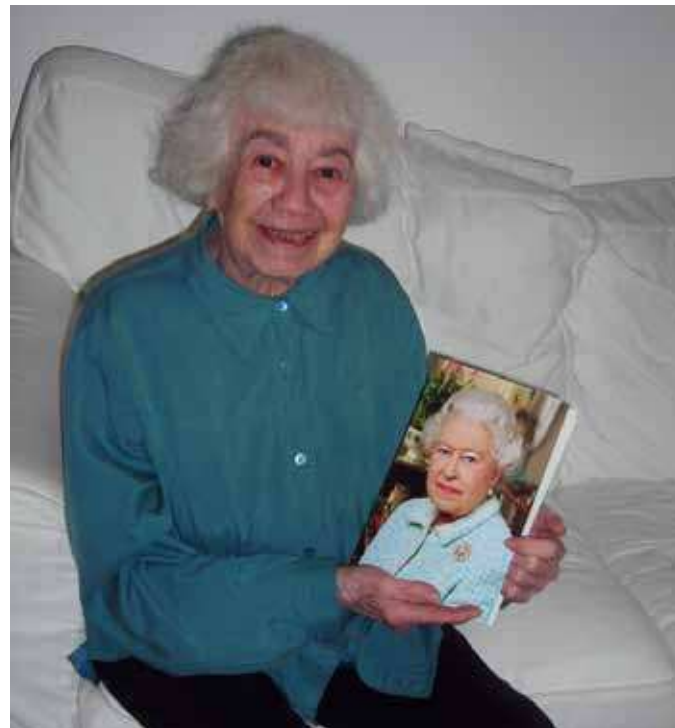
Regina ("Gina") Allen, who has lived in Neale Close for 45 years, reached her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August. She was delighted with her card from the Queen, particularly as what Her Majesty probably didn't know was that Gina had once seen her "scampering along with her sister behind their mother".

That was at a reception hosted by the Queen Mother at Holyrood House. Gina was then a district nurse in Greenock and Renfrewshire, but spent her own childhood in her native Germany, arriving here in 1939 as one of the last refugees from Nazism. Apart from one sister who survived in Belgium, all her relatives died under Hitler's regime.

Gina remembers Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, seen by many as the onset of the Holocaust. Jewish shops and businesses were vandalised throughout Germany, with "windows being broken all round".

The following year, she managed to catch the last boat from Ostend to Dover. "I don't know how I got on that boat. Maybe it was because I was small and nondescript. Some men gave me tickets. During the crossing I just felt numb. My books were really important to me, but I could take only four or five of them."

Sent to Scotland to train as a nurse, she met a couple on the journey who became like second parents to her. She is still in touch with their family. After moving back to England, Gina



Mrs Gina Allen with 100th birthday card from Queen. Photo by Stroma Leith.

specialised in caring for people with infectious diseases, particularly

TB, working as a ward sister in Leeds and then in Devon. She also had spells as medical assistant to a London doctor, and as a bilingual secretary, translating medical documents from Germany.

It was in Devon she met her husband. Though divorced, they are still good friends. Another friend is Eleanor Bron, who keeps in close touch with her. Gina remembers with particular fondness being a member of Hampstead Theatregoers' Club. She says, "I am so grateful to this country", but this country should be just as grateful to her.

## Comedy line-up for children's hospice

An eclectic mix of the UK's most accomplished comedians will be taking to the stage when Festival of Theatre presents *The Comedy Night 2012* in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice on Saturday 20 October.

This unique stand-up show at artsdepot, North Finchley, will be hosted by actor and Noah's Ark Ambassador Shane Richie. The star-studded line-up includes Charlie Baker, Miles Jupp, Peter Serafinowicz and Rob Deering.

Priya Singh, Noah's Ark Community Fundraiser, says: "Being able to enjoy fun times and share a laugh is really important for all families but particularly families struggling to support a child who is undergoing stressful treatment or suffering from a life-limiting condition.

"At Noah's Ark we aim to

offer families support where it is most needed through initiatives like our Play Scheme, Siblings Support Programme, Family Support Volunteer Service, Family Days and Specialist Carers. The money raised from this event will go towards these services."

Suitable for age 16+, The Comedy Night 2012 starts at 8pm, with tickets priced £25 available via [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk), by phoning 020 8369 5454 or in person at the artsdepot box office.

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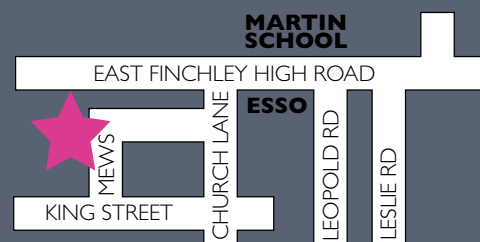


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# Stand up for our young people

The popular Monday Club has had a difficult time after losing its home when new trustees kicked community groups out of the Old Barn in Tarling Road. Here, the youth club's leader Maureen Clemetson issues a heartfelt plea to the people of East Finchley.

I have lived in East Finchley for 24 years. Seven years ago I founded the Monday Youth Club at the Methodist Church, on the High Road. Six children registered for an hour and a half on a Monday night and that soon grew to 80. After 18 months we moved to St Mary's RC Church, with more space for doing activities such as music mixing, healthy eating, art and craft and football, (borrowing Martin School's field).

The club grew to over 300 on register. We were getting up to 50 children in the hall and another 40 on the field doing football. They were well catered for with a band of qualified volunteers helping, not forgetting my main right-hand lady Maureen Antoinette. The club became a hub for youngsters from the Grange, Strawberry Vale and beyond, a meeting point they could rely on, no matter what.

## Old Barn found and lost

Needing more space, we moved to the Old Barn in April 2010 but had to move out after a few months for health and safety reasons. Disappointingly, we have been unable to be re-instated there. Since March 2011, Martin School has helped enormously by letting us use their infant hall and playing

field. For this we are eternally grateful but need more space for the teenagers to do the various activities we offer.

Attendance numbers have dropped dramatically. The children are unsure of where they stand and are losing the stability they need in their teenage years. Sometimes I just want to sit back and forget about it all, but when I get a thank you from a parent on the street and actually see a young person's life being transformed, it makes me feel what I am doing is worthwhile.

## A place of their own

I am asking YOU, THE PEOPLE OF EAST FINCHLEY, the mums and dads and carers, to make a stand and come together for the good of our community and for the young people of East Finchley. They need somewhere to go, somewhere they can call their own, not roaming the streets and getting into all kinds of trouble, feeling worthless and that no-one can be bothered with them.

So I am calling on you today to come together as one people, come alongside with me to find somewhere permanent for our young people. I know I can count on you. If you would like to contact me my number is 07931 586740.

# Green drinks

Are you interested in environmental issues and do you fancy learning more from like-minded individuals over a drink or two? Barnet Green Drinks is a monthly social occasion for people interested or involved in green activities and a chance to find out about new projects.

Organiser Luke Berman said there was no set agenda but things likely to be discussed were upcoming green events, local food growing, and local environmental issues like the Pinkham Way waste plant plan.

Luke said: "There are many good small projects happening in Barnet to increase our sustainability, decrease our impact upon the planet and strengthen our community."

"However, what I found lacking was a place for people to get together and talk to others doing similar things to increase awareness and forge friendships. My intention is to make Barnet Green Drinks the monthly must-attend green social occasion across the borough."

Barnet Green Drinks happens on the last Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm till late at the Bald Faced Stag on the High Road. Find out more from the website at [www.greendrinks.org/](http://www.greendrinks.org/)

london/barnet or email [barnet-greendrinks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barnet-greendrinks@hotmail.co.uk)

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Sally at the café with her late beloved pet Charlie.

# Cherry Tree Wood café still open

By Diana Cormack

In last month's *ARCHER* Sally-Anne Wigfield explained why she had taken the decision to close the café in Cherry Tree Wood. Briefly, failure to reach satisfactory terms of agreement with Barnet for the renewal of the lease on the kiosk coupled with the Council's intention to grant a 25-year lease for the proposed redevelopment of the pavilion forced the issue.

However, after comments from customers prompted her to seek legal advice, Sally learned of a way to keep the café open which she is now doing under a Tenancy of Will Agreement, whereby either party can give one week's notice. How long this will go on for could depend on the verdict reached by the cabinet resources committee which is due to meet on 27 September.

There will be a limited service at the kiosk but it will be an exciting one, for Sally's Japanese friend Yuriko will be there making sushi rolls. Sally is in discussion with a catering colleague from Eco-Cuisine

who may manage the kiosk over the winter when Yuriko has returned home.

The kiosk was always a temporary measure dependent on the outcome of the letting of the pavilion for which Barnet Council accepted the highest bid, as is their legal obligation. However, should the proposed plan fall through, Sally would

wish the kiosk to be converted to a community café and a training facility for autistic pupils from the nearby Treehouse Centre.

East Finchley's ward councillors have raised serious concerns about the way the lease decision on the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion has been handled. See the letter from Colin Rogers on page 11.

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# Sunshine festival packs out park

Exciting young bands and excited dogs were among the highlights of the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. The event was blessed by sunshine on Sunday 9 September, three months after East Finchley's own festival there had to be called off due to heavy rain and flooding.

Large crowds chilled out in front of the dance and music entertainment on the main stage, and there were queues for the donkey rides and steam train rides, as well as an appreciative audience for the doggy assault course.

Community groups and craft stalls kept everyone busy for the afternoon, with funds going to the North London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, based in Muswell Hill.



The festival's dog show had faithful friends jumping through hoops.



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# Calling all fruit lovers

East Finchley's first Apple Day is just around the corner. Free fruit and juice will be on offer to everyone to take advantage of this season's fruit crop.

A group of residents calling themselves East Finchley Abundance want to make the best use of any unpicked and unused locally grown tree fruit rather than seeing it go to waste.

They will gladly come to your garden, at your request, to harvest any fruit you can't reach. And if you have a surplus crop, they're asking if you'd be willing to share it with others in the community.

The Apple Day takes place outside Budgens in the High Road on Saturday 20 October from 10am to 2pm. Surplus fruit will be distributed and fresh juice made for everyone to take home, all for free.

In the meantime, new members are always welcome to join the group. Email [efabundance@btinternet.com](mailto:efabundance@btinternet.com) or write to EF Abundance, c/o 32 Park Hall Road, London, N2 9PU.

# Well-versed magazine

By Pam Kent

**N2 Poetry magazine, issue 2, was launched on Saturday 1 September in East Finchley Methodist Church. An audience of around 60 people attended the successful occasion.**

Editor Shereen Abdallah introduced each poet who read during the evening. Some of the contributors, including local poets, London poets and a bilingual Swedish poet, read a selection of their work featured in the magazine.

Publisher and founder Dennis Evans, who welcomed everyone and thanked Mr and Mrs Abdallah for their sponsorship, said: "N2 Poetry was founded in the hope that it will continue as a poetry magazine, based in East Finchley. Its aim is to publish interesting, thought-provoking and accessible poetry."

The third issue is well under way so if you are interested in contributing or purchasing a copy of any of the issues, contact Peter Phillips, c/o 58 Helen Close, London N2 0UU. The price is £4.50 and cheques should be made payable to N2 Poetry.

# Carnegie to the rescue?

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Friern Barnet Library was closed by Barnet in March, but could it be restored by the spirit of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie?**

Friends of the valued local library have been running what they hope will not be a skeleton service on the green outside. Last month, however, squatters opened up the building again. People can now borrow books and use computers (all mainly donated) inside the purpose-built library. Barnet County Court has given permission for the squatters to stay until 9 October, when they must present their case against eviction.

Friends of the library say that more people are using their replacement service than Barnet's embryo 'landmark' library in the artsdepot. In fact, it has been suggested that the artsdepot library will be abandoned. Meanwhile, Barnet Council is now offering Friary House, in Friary Park, as a site for a Friern Barnet community library. Some Friends of Friern Barnet point out that this is not

a local site. It's a considerable hike up Friern Barnet Lane and through the park.

## Library champion

Barnet Council intends to sell the purpose-built Friern Barnet library to developers, but now the New Carnegie Foundation has entered the frame. Like many older libraries, Friern Barnet's building was partly financed by the Foundation set up by the great Scottish/American philanthropist. We understand that representatives of the Foundation are definitely taking an interest and were scheduled to meet council officers on 25 September. The Foundation "works to improve the lives of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work".

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# Small businesses question council's stance

By Nick Young

The leader of Barnet Council, Richard Cornelius, has signed up as a 'Real Life Entrepreneur Champion' as part of a campaign being run by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) to represent the interests of entrepreneurs at a national and local level.

The FSB is a non-profit organisation that has around 200,000 members nationwide. It is a well-known lobbying organisation which represents small businesses to national and local government. In the London area, it represents and promotes 7,000 small businesses.

"I strongly support the FSB's efforts in voicing the views of local businesses. Small businesses are vital for our local economy," said Councillor Cornelius (Conservative, Totteridge), who took over as leader of Barnet Council last year.

## Parking rules harm business

However, his involvement with the FSB has been greeted with scepticism among business owners in East Finchley, many of whom have been badly affected by the council's decision to replace pay-and-display machines in favour of a cashless payment system.

"The Federation of Small Businesses lobbies on behalf of small businesses, so it's a very important voice for us," said Sue Tollerfield, co-owner of the Cherry Tree Gift Shop at 172 High Road. In contrast, "the

Council has done nothing for us ... all they've done is change the parking rules, which really killed business around here."

Her views were echoed by Nick Pearce, co-owner of Bike & Run at 128 and 134 High Road. "I cannot think of anything that the council has done that would help small businesses," he said. Speaking about the new parking regulations, under which traffic wardens and vehicle owners are informed at the same time by text message when a ticket is due to expire, he added: "If that's not just a recipe for making money out of people, I don't know what is."

## Start-up support

Recently released figures show that a record 285 new companies were formed in the London Borough of Barnet between May and August 2012, higher than any other second quarter on record for the borough. Commenting on this, Cllr Cornelius said: "These figures show that the Council's policy of helping businesses wherever we can, and not getting in the way of business start-ups, is working."



Dozens of people in the High Road signed the petition to save Stanley Field.

# "Inspire a generation, keep our playing field"

By Ruth Brown

On the last hot Saturday of the Paralympics, Friends of Stanley Field set up a stall under the "Inspire a Generation" banner outside Budgens. They pointed out to shoppers that Inspiring a Generation won't work if our only playing field is sold off.

In just over an hour, 105 people added their signature to the petition calling on Barnet to accept the Sport EF bid. Sport EF is a Community Trust with a plan to keep Stanley Field for sport, and the plan is fully funded by the London Marathon Trust. The plan can be seen on [www.stanleyroadsports.org](http://www.stanleyroadsports.org), where the petition can also be signed.

## Finders keepers

The support from shoppers was overwhelming, although

some were curious to know where East Finchley's three acres of playing field was hiding! Stanley Field isn't visible from any road, making it a peaceful, fume-free space for sport.

For those still discovering the old paths of East Finchley, take a small detour to find our only playing field, now left by the Council to become our only wildflower meadow. Children play there, and it's a jogger's and dog-walker's paradise.

It's two minutes from the High Road: walk down Market Place behind Budgens and take the footpath just to the right of Holy Trinity School.

If you're inspired to keep your local playing field, then help out with the new monthly community litterpicking at 2pm on the second Sunday of every month (equipment provided). The next two litterpicks are 14 October and 11 November.

## New home for hospice

The North London Hospice has officially opened its new state-of-the-art home in Barrowell Green, Winchmore Hill.

For almost 20 years, the hospice has provided care and support services for outpatients from Barnet, Haringey and Enfield from its base in Whetstone. The new Enfield facility will offer an enhanced range of services and allow the hospice to reach three times as many members of the community who have a life-limited or terminal illness and their carers.

Visitors were able to explore the building, which has a number of treatment rooms to provide specialist procedures, counselling and spiritual care. In addition, massage, reflexology and creative and complementary therapies will be available to reduce anxiety, assist in pain relief and control other symptoms. For more information, visit [www.northlondonhospice.org](http://www.northlondonhospice.org)

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## Sporting talent

A pupil from Bishop Douglass School has been named as one of Barnet's best sporting talents in the 2012 Barnet School Sport Awards. Aaron Hammond won the title of Young Performer of the Year.

Other awards went to young volunteers, school games teams, primary team of the year and secondary team of the year. Rohan Plunkett, from Akiva School in East End Road, was named Teacher/Coach of the Year.

Organised by the Barnet Partnership for School Sport (BPSS) Team and supported by Pro-Active North London and the Barnet Youth Support Service, the award event was held on 14 September at the

Hendon Campus Forum, Middlesex University and attended by the winners.

Also highlighting Barnet athletes' Olympic and Paralympic achievements, the evening saw guest appearances from Taekwondo bronze medalist Lutalo Muhammad, GB Olympic fencer James Davis and former Olympian Julian Golding.

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# Salmon days are here again

By Allison Goodings

**This recipe is a favourite of mine for entertaining because of the fresh herbs and interesting spices. It's also an impressive dish to make for a tasty brunch.**

A. Scott & Sons at 94 High Road regularly has whole salmon on special offer, and they'll even fillet and pin-bone the sides for you. Any extra uncooked fillets can be frozen for a later date. This recipe first appeared on RecipeRelay.com.

## Savoury Leek Pancakes with Spiced Fillet of Salmon & Creamy Herb Garlic Sauce (Serves 4)

Sauté 3 sliced leeks, 4 sliced green onions and 2 cloves chopped garlic in 5 tbsp. olive oil, along with ½ tsp. salt which will stop leeks from burning. Sauté 15 minutes over medium heat until soft, transfer to bowl and cool.

In a bowl, whisk together 2 eggs and 250ml milk, then gradually add 130g plain flour and ½ tsp. baking powder until it forms thick batter. Add 125ml melted butter and stir.

Finely chop 50g of fresh herbs (parsley, coriander, dill or your favourites). Take half herbs and stir into leek mixture, with 2 tsp. minced red chilli. Combine mixture with batter and rest for 10 minutes.

Combine 200g crème fraîche with 1 clove crushed garlic, the rest of the chopped herbs, 2 tbsp. olive oil, juice of half a lemon, and ½ tsp. salt. Set aside.

Crush 1 tsp. each of fennel seed, coriander seed and cumin seed in mortar & pestle. Sprinkle spices on flesh of 4 salmon fillets (125-150g each).

Heat large skillet with little olive oil and add spoonful of batter mixture. Cook pancakes until golden, approx. 2-3 minutes per side. Keep warm in low oven until ready to serve.

In a non-stick frying pan, heat a drizzle of olive oil to medium and place the salmon fillets seed-side down. Cook 3-4 minutes per side, or until cooked to your liking.

Serve pancakes with salmon on top and generous dollop of sauce.



# Recycle your tools!

**Your unwanted tools or sewing machine can be recycled to provide a living for families in Africa.**

Two groups involved in this are Tools for Self Reliance ([www.tsfr.org](http://www.tsfr.org)) based at Netley in Hampshire and WorkAid ([www.workaid.org](http://www.workaid.org)) based at Chesham. After collection, tools are refurbished and made up into kits that are sent to equip small workshops (carpentry, engineering, bicycle maintenance etc.) for partner agencies in East and West Africa.

Sewing machines, manual or electric, are the most useful. With a sewing machine a woman can support her entire family. The websites indicate which tools are most useful. Some, such as garden tools, are not needed in Africa but can be sold to cover the cost of transport.

"I collected a Singer machine from a lady in Bethnal Green a few months ago. She said that she had used it to support her family for thirty years. She wept when I told her it could now provide for a family in Africa for another generation," said Charles O'Toole, who is the local collector for both these charities. You can contact him on 020 8444 8461.

## PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

❖ **Coffee & Kids**, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.

❖ **Dads' Club**: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.

❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at [eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com](mailto:eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com)

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

❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276

❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.



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Sitting volleyball. Photo by Miranda Chamberlain.

# Paralympic postscript

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Our last issue showed how much most of us loved the Olympics, and I guess we felt the same about the Paralympics. I was lucky enough to go four times, and – shall I actually say it? – it was AMAZING. We really enjoyed it. The Olympic Park, with its beautiful wild flowers and different views round every corner. Lovely games-makers. Exciting sports. I'm a signed-up fan of wheelchair basketball and rugby, and there was a Danish table-tennis player with the most fantastic reflexes we cheered on in his semi-final.**

Nothing prepared us for the noise in the stadium for the Friday athletics, with everyone cheering everyone. And then I saw Oscar win his 400m semi-final, and my night was complete.

After dark, those sometimes brutal-looking buildings were transformed into palaces of light. So, all right, bring on the clichés (because sometimes they still ring true), let's hope that light stays burning.

If the Olympics/Paralympics have changed anything for you, or for any person or organisation you know, please tell us about it.

# New-look hospital

**Finchley Memorial Hospital has opened its doors to patients after a £28 million refurbishment project. The old building on Granville Road will be demolished after being replaced by a brand new centre on adjacent land. The new hospital will carry on offering walk-in services, as well as housing a GP surgery and chemotherapy suites.**

# Olympic decorations up for grabs

**Barnet residents are being asked for suggestions on what to do with the borough's Olympic decorations. More than 50 colourful lamp-post banners celebrating the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic torch relays and Games were put on display across the borough.**

The council has already received a number of enquiries and requests regarding the banners, but would like to give anyone interested an opportunity to provide suggestions for venues where the decorations could be displayed in the future. Email your ideas to: [Barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk)

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# Dodgy builders target elderly residents

By Janet Maitland

**Police have issued a warning about a pair of dodgy builders who are targeting elderly residents living alone in East Finchley, Muswell Hill and further afield.**

On 18 July, an 84-year-old resident in Fortis Green answered her door to two men who entered the house to show her water running down an internal wall. They said they had spotted that the wall was damp while working on her next door neighbour's house.

The men are believed to have lifted tiles on her roof and then poured water through the hole. The resident was so alarmed she went straight to the bank to get the £4,600 cash deposit the men demanded for doing the work.

An hour earlier, the same trick was tried on a 90-year-old resident in Barnet, but he checked with his neighbour, who confirmed that no work was being done.

The scam was also tried on an 87-year-old woman in Muswell Hill on 16 August, but staff at her bank became suspicious and called the police when she asked to withdraw £4,200. The scam also failed to work on an elderly resident in Crouch End on 21 August, who shut the front door on the man and called the police.

The latest report at the time of going to press is of an elderly resident in Highgate who answered the door on 22 August to a man claiming that a leak from her roof was damaging the party wall and asking for a £1,800 deposit to fix it.

## Don't be intimidated

The men are described as white, one aged in his 50s and the other in his 30s. The younger man is described as tall, heavily built, dark-haired and eloquently spoken. They drive a small white van with a ladder on the roof.

"I am determined to do all I can to catch these unscrupulous offenders," said DC Jo Ravenhill. "Don't let anyone intimidate you into taking them on for work at the door: you just don't know who you're letting into your home. If you're concerned about anyone at your door, call police on 999."

Anyone with any information about the fraudsters is asked to contact DC Jo Ravenhill on 020 8345 0838 or to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Reputable workmen and utility companies will be happy to make appointments for work or checks to be carried out, greatly reducing concerns over false identity cards.

The bottom line is: if you don't know the person at the door, don't open it.

Police community support officer Jan Lovell has run the

Shield Project over the last three years, working alongside the elderly and their families, and would be happy to visit, or give further advice regarding these issues or any other concerns you may have.

**For advice or help, contact the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood team on 020 7161 9014 or email [eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk)**

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Tune in and zone out

**In the weird and wonderful world of music it's time to celebrate 20 years of Mogadon for the mind as Britain's favourite aural sleeping tablet holds its birthday party. They could have commissioned a new and challenging work by Marc Anthony Turnage or Philip Glass, but this is Classic FM and they don't do difficult.**

Right from the start on 7 September 1992 Classic FM has played it safe, played it easy and kept it light. This is the place for a nice chunk of Mozart followed by a pleasant little tune from Brahms before keeping calm with the theme from *Downton Abbey*. This is not the place for anything too serious, it's the place for easy listening. What do you expect from a late night show called 'Smooth Classics'? Sponsorship by Horlicks?

If you can tell a book by its cover you sure as hell can tell a radio station by its presenters and Classic FM takes us to a whole new low. There's gardening guru Alan Titchmarsh and pop-of-the-week Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen. There's failed MP David Mellor, ex-newsreader John Suchet and people so blandly appealing to nice people that they must have been specially invented. With nice people playing nice music there has to be a special slot for mummy drivers taking children to expensive schools and, guess what, there is.

Classic FM's big thing is the Hall of Fame, four days of predictability every Easter. In 16 years of the favourite pieces of classical music voted for by you, but not by me, there have only been four winners. Bruch's *1st Violin Concerto* topped the charts five times, Vaughan William's *The Lark Ascending* did it four years in a row. This year the top 20 tunes included some schmaltzy setting of letters home from the troops and music from a video game. You can't get more lightweight than that, trust me.

In the end it all comes down to what you want from music. Do you want music from the adverts, themes from soporific TV programmes, very incidental music from Disney movies? Do you want to be lulled into a false sense of insecurity as you read the Morning Mule? If that's your dream then rejoice; Classic FM is the station for you. But if you think music should be challenging, sometimes difficult and say something about the human condition then look elsewhere. After all, overdosing on sedatives isn't good for you.

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Meena (left) with friend Sybil at Hammerson House.

Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

## Advocate volunteer

By Daphne Chamberlain

**The quality of life for older people in care homes is concerning more and more of us, including Meena Nair, who lives in Deansway. Just over a year ago, Meena began work as a volunteer with Advance Advocacy in Barnet, the organisation which speaks up for older people. She told us, "I would love to encourage others to volunteer. I was panicky at first, but just relax and be friends with the people you meet."**

Recently I accompanied Meena on one of her weekly visits to Hammerson House, in The Bishop's Avenue. We stayed for a couple of hours, while residents greeted her over tea and biscuits. In one flat, a resident told me how Meena had intervened when there was a delay in getting a chair essential for his comfort.

Furniture, Blue Badges, Taxicards, emotional matters.... residents come to Advocates for help with all these things. Meena told me, "Because we are independent, we can help with issues that have been overlooked, even in a good care home. Elderly people don't want to cause trouble, but we can be their voice. We want to help, but without offending. That's why it's so important to have the support of the home."

### Backing advocacy

Hammerson House, which runs integration courses for all

volunteers, does offer support. A manager told me, "We can all contribute, and that benefits the client, ourselves and Meena. I'm an advocate for advocacy."

More homes across the borough are beginning to feel the same, and Meena and her fellow advocates have constant help and support from Advance, who give them ongoing training. Advance's Heena Cornwell accompanied Meena on her first visit to Hammerson, to explain advocacy to the residents.

Meena has the last word. "I really enjoy my visits. Some of the residents have so much to tell. They have seen and done so much. Making things happier and more comfortable for them is good for me too. You grow stronger when you are advocating on behalf of someone else."

For more information, contact [meena@advocacyinbarnet.org.uk](mailto:meena@advocacyinbarnet.org.uk).

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## EAST FINCHLEY ARTS FESTIVAL

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London Mozart Players - Collegium Regale - Pop-Up Opera-Paprika - BBC Elstree Concert Band - Finchley's Children's Music Group - Art Exhibition in aid of Noah's Ark Hospice - Young Artists Winners

For information and prices

[www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk)





## 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](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**. 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.
- **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 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



Susanna and Cristina with Benjamin Jensen's art work at their studio off King Street.

## Vintage in the old village

By Sheila Armstrong

Cristina and Susanna Guidone hosted an open day in their shop *A Room in My House* in August, a chance to see the interesting and varied things they sell, from vintage clothing and furniture to jewellery, cards and textiles. Not the same as antique: Cristina told *THE ARCHER* that the term vintage covers things made between 1950 and 1970.

Trained as a graphic designer, Cristina set up in business seven years ago and all the cards and textiles in the shop are made by her. Susanna's brief is the vintage clothing and jewellery. Although they have a web site, their late father's carpentry workshop in King Street Mews became vacant two years ago enabling them to open their shop. It's well worth a visit if you like retro. For virtual contact go to [www.roominmyhouse.co.uk](http://www.roominmyhouse.co.uk) or visit in person any Friday or Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

On the open day the painter Benjamin Jensen was also there to talk about his work, which he describes as Surrealist with a Pop Art edge; he mixes traditional art and images of super-

heroes. From a commercial art background he designs record covers and magazine illustrations amongst other things.

### Old water pump

King Street Mews is in the old part of East Finchley just off Church Lane, on land that was once part of Joyce's saw mill. Evidence of this can be seen in the huge water pump that belonged to Joyce's and which is still a feature in the shop.

Susanna and Cristina also organise the Vintage Tea Party and Gift Fair on the first Saturday of the month at the Boogaloo Pub in Archway Road with up to 25 vintage stalls including jewellery and high quality crafts. More information on that at [www.theboogaloo.co.uk](http://www.theboogaloo.co.uk)

## Take your seats for the East Finchley Arts Festival

Tickets are still available for this month's rich programme of events at the East Finchley Arts Festival. There's an exciting selection of recitals, readings, music and art, all taking place at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, which has disabled access and facilities. Young people aged 18 and under can get tickets for just £1.

Box offices are at Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 8AG (Tel: 020 8444 4717), Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3HN (Tel: 020 8883 5631) or online at: [www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk) (10% surcharge on each ticket). The festival website can be found at [www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk) and here's a reminder of the programme:

### • Friday 5 October 6.30-8.30pm Art Exhibition Preview

Free admission to an exhibition of works by local and national artists. Those sold will be in aid of the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

### • Saturday 6 October 7.30pm London Mozart Players

Premiere of Geoffrey Hanson's *Odyssey for Cello and Orchestra*; soloist Sebastian Comberti. Other works by Elgar, Britten & Boccherini. Tickets: £20, £15, £9, £1 (18 and under).

### • Sunday 7 October 7.30pm Young Artists' Recital

North London Festival prizewinners Eleanor Janes (soprano) and Matthew Higham (flute). Mozart, Strauss, Brahms, Britten, Nicolai. Donizetti, Handel, Moquet, Heath, Burton. Tickets: £10, £8, £1 (18 and under).

### • Monday 8 October 7.30pm Collegium Regale, Choral Scholars of King's College Cambridge

The men's voices of one of the most famous choirs in the UK in a concert of secular and sacred music. Tickets: £20, £15, £9, £1 (18 and under).

### • Tuesday 9 October 7.30pm Pop-Up Opera.

The young Pop-Up Opera company give a spirited staged performance of Donizetti's opera *L'Elisir d'Amore*, which includes audience participation. Tickets: £20, £15, £9, £1 (18 and under).

### • Wednesday 10 October 7.30pm East Finchley Writers

Local writers present a selection of their work to move, amuse and surprise you. Free

admission with a collection for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

### • Thursday 11 October 7.30pm Paprika.

Traditional Eastern European, Balkan, Gypsy and classical music. Tickets: £16, £12, £9, £1 (18 and under).

### • Friday 12 October 7.30pm Young Artists' Recital.

North London Festival prizewinners Timothy Ridout (viola) and Agnieszka Pluta (piano). J S Bach's *Da Gamba Sonata* no 1, York Bowen, Scarlatti, Paderewski, Tchaikovsky, Ginastera. Tickets: £10, £8, £1 (18 and under).

### • Saturday 13 October 12.30pm Lunch Hour Organ Music

David Aprahamian Liddle, concert organist. Programme of organ music, including some of his own compositions. Tickets: £5, £1 (18 and under). Snack lunch available.

### • 7.30pm BBC Elstree Concert Band

An evening of lighter music from this long-established and renowned 48-piece Band. Selections from *Les Misérables*, *Pineapple Poll*, *My Fair Lady*; Mike Crisp's *Horn Concerto*; Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*; James Bond 007 selection. Tickets: £16, £12, £9, £1 (18 and under).

### • Sunday 14 October 7.30pm Finchley Children's Music Group

Barnet's Mayor will be attending the performance by this nationally famous group, which originated in East Finchley.

Tickets: Unreserved £10, £8 (concessions), £1 (18 and under).

## What's On...

### Wednesdays from October to December

• **North London Film Group**: informal, friendly film studies group meets at the Phoenix Cinema, Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm, to watch film clips and discuss the medium, led by Ruth Tosha Mulandi, general manager of the cinema for seven years. Term fee £140. For details on autumn term programme, contact [ruthtosha@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ruthtosha@hotmail.co.uk)

### Friday 5 – Sunday 14 October

• **East Finchley Arts Festival**, All Saints' Church, Durham Road, with disabled access and facilities. See full programme above. Box offices at Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 8AG Tel: 020 8444 4717; Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3HN Tel: 020 8883 5631, or online at [www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk) (10% surcharge on each ticket). Website: [www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk)

### Saturday 6 October

• **Open Church event** at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, from 11am to 1pm. Come along for tours of the church, music, refreshments and children's activities; a chance to share in the history of a building that many people pass without setting foot

inside.

### Sunday 7 October

• **Free Woodland Fun Day**, 2 – 4.30pm on the meadow next to Coldfall Wood. Charcoal burning, guided walk, children's activities, refreshments. Bring picnic and well-dressed teddy bear.

### Tuesday 9 October

• Hendon and District Archaeological Society present *The Life and legacy of George Peabody*, a talk by Christine Wagg; 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. All welcome.

### Thursday 11 October

• **Friends of Avenue House** host their first **autumn quiz night**. Everyone welcome. 7.30 pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Cash bar, and fish and chips supper included in £12.50 entrance. Tickets from Avenue House, tel 020 8346 7812 (working hours) or [info@avenuehouse.org.uk](mailto:info@avenuehouse.org.uk).

### Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 October

• **The Knitting and Stitching Show** for lovers of knitting and embroidery, and much more. Alexandra Palace. Call 020 8365 2121 or visit [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

### Sunday 14 October

• **Jim Carter** (Downton Abbey butler Charles

Carson) hosts champagne tea and talks about Downton Abbey, cricket and life, in a Q&A session. Tickets £30. Proceeds to upkeep of Avenue House Estate. Tickets from Avenue House, tel. 020 8346 7812 (working hours) or [info@avenuehouse.org.uk](mailto:info@avenuehouse.org.uk).

• **Litter pick at Stanley Field**. Inspired to keep your local playing field in Stanley Road? Then help with the new monthly community litter picking. 2pm on second Sunday of every month (equipment provided). Next litter pick 14 Oct & 11 Nov.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 7.30pm; Barnet Voices with Robert Puzey (viola) and Millie Pollicek (piano); "From the sublime to the ridiculous", an evening of many styles from the classics to today. Free admission with collection in aid of Marie Curie Cancer care. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

### Wednesday 17 October

**Muswell and Fortis Green Association** presents an evening with *Exposure*. Speakers from this multi-award winning charity, located in the Muswell Hill Centre, show how 250 local teenagers have created an award-winning film, magazine and website; 8pm, North Bank, 28 Pages Lane, N10.

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

### Sunday 21 October

**Dolls House and Miniatures Show**, Alexandra Palace, with over 200 exhibits. Call 020 8365 2121 or visit [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

### Thursday 25 October

**The Finchley Society** hosts a debate on **Localism**. Do you want some control over what happens in your area? East Finchley's Roger Chapman and Harriet Copperman will lead the discussion.

7.30 for 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Refreshments available. Everyone welcome, but admission for non-members is £2.

### Saturday 27 October – Wed 31 October

**Barnet Hallowe'en Ghost Walk** led by City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet High Barnet tube station 7.30pm for ghoulish tour through Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Prize for spookiest costume! Details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Saturday 27 October

**Spike Milligan Statue Fund quiz**; 7.30 for 8pm. £5 per head. For venue and other details, please call 020 8346 5258.





## Letters to the Editor



### Open and shut case for pavilion

Dear Editor

I think many people will be happy that someone is again showing interest in having a café in Cherry Tree Wood, especially after we have lost Sally Ann and her popular refreshment kiosk. I am concerned, however, that short cuts in Barnet Council's appraisal of the venture have been taken which leave several unanswered questions about the look and impact of the new application.

The only public consultation taken by the council was the placement of a notice about the new café proposals in the back pages of some of the local press on 25 June and 2 July.

Sixteen sharp-eyed locals wrote to Barnet Council, and despite at least 11 of them raising queries or expressing concerns, the Cabinet decided to grant a lease for the old pavilion without any further public consultation, or even a planning application, to progress the disposal expeditiously.

Ward councillors' requests to have the application for a café in the wood referred to the local Environment Committee and the Cabinet Resources Committee were rejected by Barnet's Cabinet member for the Environment, Cllr Dean Cohen, and he promptly authorised the letting of the old pavilion for a 25-year period under the council's Delegated Powers.

I think this is nothing less than an attempt by the council to prevent local residents from making representations on matters that concern Cherry Tree Wood. When one considers the co-operative and consultative nature of the last serious proposal for the old pavilion, and the public debate that ensued, I am concerned that although the new applicant is well intended, the choice of who runs a café in Cherry Tree Wood is now being made by edict rather than by public committee.

Yours faithfully,  
Colin Rogers,  
Ward councillor, East Finchley.

### Don't forget our pharmacies

Dear Editor,

Local pharmacies serve many functions. A significant part of their income is generated by making up NHS prescriptions and performing NHS functions, such as giving free flu jabs to the over-65s. East Finchley Medical Practice has leafleted its patients urging them to have their prescriptions made up and delivered by a pharmacy in Leeds, called pharmacy2U, and demanding that if they go to a pharmacy for their flu jabs they must opt out

of the GP provision. They say that using the pharmacist is a "wastage of valuable NHS resources". This commercial war between a GP practice and local pharmacies is unlikely to benefit the rest of us much. Surely, it would be better for local pharmacies to provide the online service if they can?

Yours faithfully,  
Alan Ereira,  
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

### Help for South African babies

Dear Editor,

We would like your help. Patients at state hospitals and clinics in South Africa are typically destitute and malnourished, as well as being very sick or injured. Many are jobless, many are homeless, and many have no loved ones to provide the basic needs for them in hospital. The Ruth Mailbag Group strives to provide for the needs of destitute mums and babies in the maternity ward and neonatal intensive care unit of our local state hospital and several other hospitals in our country who have asked for our help by providing them with a basic baby pack for their new and or sick babies. If you can assist please get in touch with us through [joy.coetzee@gmail.com](mailto:joy.coetzee@gmail.com) or visit our blog at <http://theruth-mailbaggroup.blogspot.com/>

Yours faithfully,  
Joy Coetzee  
Founder, The Ruth Mailbag Group

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## International Older Persons' Day

Did you know that 1 October was the International Day of Older Persons? It was created by the United Nations in 1991 as an annual event to celebrate the contributions and achievements of people in later life and to examine issues which affect their lives.

Well, nobody told me and I'm getting older all the time. Here's what I'm missing, according to the UN's on-line information: "In many countries, politicians make speeches, particularly those responsible for government departments that focus on senior citizens, at this time of the year. Some radios, televisions or newspapers publish interviews with senior citizens on various issues such as achievements they made to create a better society."

"The World Health Organization (WHO) and other groups have been actively involved in promoting public awareness and attention on the International Day of Older Persons. Discussions are centred on topics such as: ageing populations and the provision of adequate healthcare for aged persons; volunteer work; social care; and ways to be more inclusive of older persons in the workforce."

I Googled and found three events taking place in London, nowhere near East Finchley. So this day probably passed many of us by again, but why should I care? Two weeks later I'll be celebrating being another year older!

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



## What future our pavilion?

By Mike Gee

The Cherry Tree Wood pavilion was built in 1926 as an electricity sub-station. Finchley Council was responsible for electricity generation in the area right up to nationalisation in 1948 and there was a working power station in Squires Lane where the Pentland Centre now stands.

In the late 1950s a new sub-station was built adjacent to Brompton Grove and the old, rather grand pavilion with its covered shelters on three sides of the building was decommissioned. It then became changing rooms for sports activities but over the years fell into a state of disrepair, dereliction and disuse.

What happens next? There are several contentious issues here, including the fact that this part of the wood is designated Metropolitan Open Land and as such is protected from development in exactly the same way as Green Belt land.

### MOL protection

The Barnet Unitary Plan is quite clear: Policy 01 -Green Belt/Metropolitan Open Land states: "Except in very special circumstances, the council will refuse any development in the Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land which is not compatible with their purposes and objectives, does not maintain their openness and would harm their visual amenity".

It goes on to say that development will only be allowed in very special circumstances and that any change of use of existing land or buildings in MOL is not acceptable except for: agriculture, horticulture, woodland, nature conservation and wildlife use, or essential facilities for outdoor sport and recreation or cemeteries.

However, most people are unaware of the protected status of this piece of ancient woodland and council officers are apparently not broadcasting it. Metropolitan Open Land and Planning Policy is quite clear, however: commercial activity is not acceptable.

I understand from LBB Property Services that the developer wishes to retain the pavilion substantially as it is, repairing the roof and adding new windows and doors, but issues such as felling of trees, parking within the wood and café opening hours have not been clarified. Nor has the future of the kiosk café in the park.



This year Stewart Duncan Opticians are very proud to celebrate 50 years in East Finchley. We would like to thank all our customers for the support they have been showing us and we hope to keep providing friendly service for many more years. **THANK YOU!**







## Take a walk through history

Paul Baker, a City of London guide, has been leading guided tours around the Barnet area since 2004. The walks have elicited a lot of interest from residents of Barnet and Finchley and beyond the borough.

Paul says: "I love doing local tours. A particular pleasure is that many of those attending the walks have a deep, often life-long knowledge of the area. They give me insights and anecdotes, which I can then feed into future walks. When you can personalise it, people will prick up their ears."

There are seven walks in Paul's repertoire, including historical walks through the old heart of High Barnet and the unspoilt Georgian village of Monken Hadley. There is also a tour of Mill Hill and, of course, one entitled 'Fabulous Finchley'.

### Laughter, love and death

This tour explores 1,000 years of the history of Finchley Central and East Finchley. Along the way, Paul explores lands once owned by the Knights Templar, and a former manor house which is haunted by a suspected lover of Anne Boleyn. He also talks about two famous murderers, and three world-famous comedians who lived in the area. The next Finchley walk will be on Saturday 10 November at 11am.

Two other popular tours are the Battle of Barnet and Barnet ghosts. The Battle of Barnet, mentioned by Shakespeare, took place on Easter Sunday 1471. Paul says: "It's important to make the walks informative but fun. Battlefield tours don't have



City of London guide Paul Baker gives fascinating insights into local history.

to be stuffy and full of names and dates."

The ghost walk is subtitled Things That Go Bump in High Barnet. It embraces Monken Hadley too, England's second most haunted village. The tour is extremely popular with children, especially at Hallowe'en, when there is a prize for the spookiest costume!

Paul also does tours further afield, including Covent Garden, Spitalfields and Jack the Ripper. Keep an eye on our What's On column for future dates. For more information, contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

## Just the ticket for a special day

By Diana Cormack

This former London Transport Routemaster brought a touch of colour to the High Road one Saturday afternoon. It was parked near East Finchley Library, en route for a late summer wedding in Muswell Hill.

The 1961 bus was suitably decorated, with traditional white ribbons on the front and lovely bouquets and other wedding paraphernalia throughout the lower and upper decks.

Clippie Paula Paskell who, like the driver, was smartly turned out in uniform, welcomed me on board to inspect the impressive display. Paula told *THE ARCHER* that her role is to ensure all passengers are safe and comfortable as well as to serve drinks and foodstuffs appropriate to the occasion.

People hire this 64-seater London icon for a variety of events such as birthday and anniversary celebrations, days out and proms nights – the choice is yours! It is certainly an exceptional and memorable means of transport for a special day. To find out more call 0800 1185 848 or 07984 902527 or visit [www.davesbuses.co.uk](http://www.davesbuses.co.uk)



Paula waits on the platform. Photo by Diana Cormack.

## Volunteers for dementia research

By Diana Cormack

Seven years ago I answered an appeal for volunteers to help with research into new tests being developed to determine dementia. The purpose of these was to gather information from healthy individuals aged over 50 to establish how they perform in these tests and to examine the influences of things like age and years of education upon their scores.

Understanding how they manage will help to evaluate whether the performance of those who suffer from neurological disease (such as dementia or stroke victims) in such tests is normal or below what might be expected for someone of their age.

Any information collected about volunteers is kept strictly confidential and will be held for at least five years so that further research may be conducted, if appropriate. The results will be used to improve further medical and scientific research.

Sessions are held at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queens Square, near Russell Square or

Holborn tube stations. They usually take place on a one-to-one basis in a small office.

### What's involved?

Most tests have included word retrieval, conceptual knowledge and perception. They involve answering simple spoken questions and completing paper and pencil tests. These increase in difficulty and some are timed.

Recently, I have participated in some new tests being developed to help better inform the understanding of different types of dementia. These involved the ability to process complex auditory stimuli and the capacity for cognitive estimates, mental imagery and memory, using a

variety of sounds, music and speech. I found them interesting and thought-provoking.

If you want to be considered as a volunteer for these please email [p.fletcher@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.fletcher@ucl.ac.uk)

## Any takers?

Could you spare 30 minutes once a month to deliver *THE ARCHER*?

We're keen to reach readers on three rounds: first, in Blandford Close, Cornwood Close, Greenhalgh Walk and Lyttleton Road; secondly in Widdecombe Court and Widdecombe Way; and finally in the newly-built apartments in Lancaster Gardens.

Could you volunteer to help us with any of these rounds? We'll bring the papers to your door every month and you can deliver them in your own time. We also require drivers to deliver bundles of papers to our distributors. Please email us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or leave a message by calling 0844 579 6949 and entering mailbox number 63450. Thank you.

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