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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.

Residents fight reservoir housing plans

By Mandy Rabin

Residents, Tetherdown School and the Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust are busy defending a plot of land from housing development.

The site, north of the allotments by the covered reservoir and behind 2-16 Lauradale Road, has been in dispute for many years, after being sold off by Thames Water to a property developer.

The current application to build two three-storey houses is the latest in a series of proposals which have been successfully defeated by the local community.

2011 rejection

Many feel the houses would harm the land's open nature, with the proposed buildings reaching over one metre higher than those already on the site, and would act as a precedent for additional building on reservoir land. In fact, the total building mass in the current proposal is little different from an application rejected in September 2011 by Planning Inspector Peter Willows. He reported then: "The dwellings would give the site a more built-up appearance. This would detract from the open character of the Significant Local Open Land and the area as a whole. Consequently, the proposal is at odds with the aims of policy... which requires proposals to complement the character of the local area and be of a nature and scale that is sensitive to the surrounding area."

Safety concerns

The site's access path, extensively used by pedestrians and cyclists, also contains the entrance to Tetherdown School, raising concerns about the safety of hundreds of children walking to this and other local schools, should there be an increase in traffic to the proposed

houses.

Almas Bavic, the project's architect, told me that the building work would take 14 months, which would mean a long period of noise, dust and plant traffic next to Tetherdown School.

The building application was submitted on 19 July, a day before the end of the school term, making it very awkward for Tetherdown School to respond.

Local residents are leafletting the community to post objections to the planning application and are developing their campaign.

Details of the application can be found, and comments posted, on Haringey Council's web site at www.tinyurl.com/85woodside

For further information about the campaign see <http://www.85woodside.com/>



Paprika. Photo by Tom Bowles

Paprika at EF Arts Festival

By Betti Blatman

On Thursday, 11 October at 7.30 pm, East Finchley Arts Festival is featuring "Paprika" in All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley. I've seen this band many times, always admiring their fabulous performances of traditional Gypsy music from the Balkans and Eastern Europe plus Classical and Jazz tunes.

"Paprika" is led by the brilliant violinist, Bogdan Vacarescu, whose passion and speed on the violin is unbelievable! The two accordionists, Milos Milivojevic and Zivorad Nikolic, also play solo and duet which is an added treat. Vladimir Strkalj on guitar, James Opstad on bass and Rastko Rasic on percussion complete the band who will ignite their fiery music and ensure an unforgettable experience for the audience.

Tickets available from 02084444717 or 02088835631
Further information: www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

and www.paprikamusic.com.
Turn to the back page for the full Arts Festival programme.

Party in the park

The Muswell Hill Festival takes place on Sunday 9 September from 12-6pm in Cherry Tree Wood, the eighth year the event has been in the park.

New this year will be Muswell Hill's Got Talent, a competition for local talent with the prize of a recording session or equivalent at BonaFideStudio in Muswell Hill, along with all the usual donkey rides, the popular monster veg competition, a dog show and live music.

As always there will be an eclectic mix of stalls from the local community, plus fun and games in the kids' zone. The popular miniature steam train ride, organised by the North London Society of Model Engineers, costs £1 for a return journey.

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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.

Copy deadlines – **October:** 14 September, **November:** 12 October, **December:**

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Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	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

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Friern Barnet Library Friends fight on

By Daphne Chamberlain

Friern Barnet is still without a library. It was closed by Barnet Council five months ago, but local people have not given up their fight to have that decision overturned.

Friends of the Library presented a petition with over 2,500 signatures to the Scrutiny Council last month. The Committee recommended that it should go back to Cabinet, but Councillor Robert Rams, who has overall responsibility for libraries, declared that there was no possibility of reopening the library building. That has stood empty, while the Friends have held community library sessions on the grass outside, but as

winter approaches it's clear that that situation can't continue.

Local people are supported by Councillors across the political board, and are furious that their proposals to set up a volunteer community service, working with Barnet, as the Residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb are doing, have been rejected as not 'robust' enough.

One of the Friends is now trying independently to form a consortium to buy the abandoned building, for which Barnet Council is asking only £430,000. He is Keith Martin, tel. 020 8445 7850, email keith.martin18@btinternet.com.

The season to be jolly

A Christmas festival for the High Road is being planned. Do you want to get involved? This is your chance.

The East Finchley Community Trust has decided to organise a Christmas Festival. To make this a success and to gauge if there is sufficient interest from both traders and residents, we are organising a public meeting. This will be held on Wednesday 19 September from 6.30pm-8pm at Barracuda café, 118 High Road, N2.

Roger Chapman, Chair of the Trust, said: "The Trust wants to support local businesses and give local residents a good time. We believe we can combine the two in a festival on the High Road. We are thinking of bringing in music and entertainments and linking it to the French

market. We are looking at dates in either late November or during December. Nothing is set in stone. We want and need people's ideas so do please come along on 19 September and together let's build a winter East Finchley festival to match our summer one in Cherry Tree Wood."

Send us your ideas and thoughts about a Christmas festival before the meeting at eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Any takers?

Could you spare 30 minutes once a month to deliver THE ARCHER? We have a number of roads where a delivery round is either coming free or where the newspaper doesn't currently reach.

We'll bring the papers to your door every month and you can deliver them in your own time. Please email us at the-archer@lineone.net or leave a message by calling 0844 579 6949 and entering mailbox number 63450. Thank you.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

37 Abbots Gardens, N2

Retention of conversion of garage into habitable room, removing existing garage door and low level mono-pitched roof, and forming new flat roof. Infilling of opening with brickwork up to cill level and insertion of new timber window.

77 Abbots Gardens, N2

Extension of existing side and rear dormers

231 East End Road, N2

Installation of a non illuminated fascia sign to the south west elevation.

First Floor Flat, 42 Fortis Green, N2

Single storey rear extension

98 Great North Road, N2

New third floor and partial fourth floor to existing building.

58-60 High Road, N2

Part ground and part first floor rear extension.

154 High Road, N2 (KFC Restaurant)

Retention of air conditioning units and fridge condensers at rear.

222 High Road, N2

Single storey side/rear extension, including extended shop front, following removal of existing side extension.

238 High Road, N2 (Joslin Memorials)

Submission of details of condition 15 and 16 (Noise Reports For Site Plant), 19 (Construction Management Plan), 22 (Bricking up first floor side windows), 19-23 (Sound Insulation from Commercial/Industrial), 24 (Noise of Traffic For Small Developments Under 10 Units), pursuant to planning permission (F/01624/11) dated 13 June 2011.

298 Long Lane, N2

Single storey rear extension, following partial demolition of existing rear projection.

15-39 Tarling Road, N2

Replacement of existing aluminium sliding sash windows with white UPVC casement windows.

19 Vivian Way, N2

Roof extension involving side and rear dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion. Single-storey rear extension and conversion of exist-

ing garage into a habitable room. New timber shed in rear garden.

Haringey Council

17 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Ground floor rear single-storey extension.

191 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear/side extension.

2 Fortis Green Cottages, Fortis Green, N2

Rear dormer.

1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, N2

Ground and first floor rear extension, and rear dormer.

Land behind Lynton Grange, Fortis Green N2

Demolition of existing garage buildings, and construction of two-storey detached house with basement and single-storey garage.

Land Behind Priory Grange, Fortis Green, N2

Demolition of existing garage buildings, and construction of two two-storey semi-detached houses with basement and single-storey garages.

28 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Rear dormer windows.

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Cherry Tree Wood café closure

By Sally-Anne Wigfield

Five years ago, as an East Finchley resident, I took over the management and running of the Cherry Tree Wood kiosk café. Since then it has transformed into a vibrant successful hub, drawing customers from across the whole community and beyond: mums and babies; dog walkers; and school children (who are free to get creative with pavement chalks). Everyone enjoys our menu of affordable high quality, healthy fresh food and drinks.

Early this year, impressed by what they had seen here, two mothers who live next to Broomfield Park in Enfield asked me how they could set up a local Community Café there. I met with them and explained how to get started. They now have 295 supporters and 156 volunteers in place to run the café which they hope to open with an end-of-year launch. www.friendsofbroomfieldpark.org/friendsofbroomfieldpark/cafe_in_the_park.html

As a key part of our role as a community resource, we have established crucial links with Treehouse (a specialist school for children with autism in Muswell Hill). Each week a group of senior students comes along with their teacher and, under supervision, gains real-world work experience in customer liaison, food preparation, serving and clearing away. This has been an extremely successful partnership providing opportunities almost non-existent elsewhere.

A future for the kiosk

However, our lease has expired and I cannot agree on suitable renewal terms in light of the proposed development of the old Pavilion located within the park.

To continue to have a café here local residents need to get together to run a community based project similar to the one in Broomfield Park run by volunteers.

I would be happy to return to train volunteers who want to get involved and would be delighted to continue to support the pupils (from Treehouse and potentially, Oak Lodge school) to run the café on certain days. The Treehouse pupils are very comfortable working from the kiosk, and the benefit of the work experience has been tremendous.

All surplus revenue generated could be reinvested into preserving the Woods, holding local events and getting some decent toilets!

If we all want and value a community café in Cherry Tree Woods, we need local support!

Ancient earthwork damaged

By Ann Bronkhorst

The latest plan for improving access, paths and surfaces in Coldfall Wood, funded by a grant from Community Spaces, has met with a setback which halted work in the 'Lover's Lawn' area for a while.

The ancient ditch and bank, a historically and geologically significant feature at the western side of the wood, has been cut through, causing damage. This seems to have happened because of a misunderstanding between the firm of landscape architects in charge of implementing the improvements, and the workers on site that day who had not grasped the importance of this ancient earthwork.

After consultation with Haringey's Conservation Officer and the Friends of Coldfall Wood, it has been decided that the excavated soil and stones will be put back and compacted to achieve (as

nearly as possible) the bank's original strength and density. A short boardwalk will cross the ditch and bank nearby, protecting them from heavy usage by walkers and providing a dry, secure footway.

The Friends, and others who value Coldfall Wood, feel dismayed and angry about the damage, but are hoping that the rest of the planned work will proceed smoothly, bringing visible benefits. For more information go to www.coldfallwoods.co.uk or visit the Friends' stall at the Muswell Hill Festival and, on 7 October, their Woodland Event on Muswell Hill Playing Field.

Jamaican fun in the sun

By Diana Cormack

Maureen Clemetson couldn't have been more delighted with the weather on Saturday 11 August, when Martin School field was bathed in hot sunshine for a Jamaica Family Fun Day. Maureen had arranged the event to raise awareness of the Monday Club, a youth club she started six years ago, and to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaica's independence.

The mix of those enjoying the afternoon's activities reflected the Jamaican coat of arms motto: "Out of many, one people". A lot of participants came dressed in the Jamaican flag, its colours or their own national dress. There was something for everyone and a large cross-section of the East Finchley community enjoyed the live music, dancing, skate boarding, table tennis and bouncy castle along with tombola and a raffle. Authentic Caribbean cuisine was amongst the food and drink on sale – particularly delicious when consumed to a background of lots of reggae music.

Barnet's Deputy Mayor Kate Salinger opened the proceedings and joined in the dancing with enthusiasm. She told The

Archer of her admiration for the work Maureen Clemetson is doing, an opinion which many will share.



Deputy Mayoress Kate Salinger and Maureen Clemetson.
Photo by Diana Cormack.

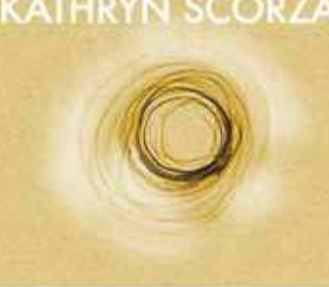
Pussy Galore

Animal Aid and Advice, the local East Finchley animal charity, would like to invite readers to their second cat-homing day after a very successful first earlier in the year.

The charity shop at 48 High Road N2, near the Phoenix cinema, will be open on Sunday 9 September between 12 and 6pm. Come and meet some of the rescued cats that are in need of good, kind, loving homes.

The charity will also have a stall at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on the same day, Sunday 9 September, where they will be selling many types of goods to raise money for the cats in their care. They hope to see some cat-loving ARCHER readers there on the day.

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Questionable questionnaire

By Daphne Chamberlain

The feedback we have had at *THE ARCHER* is that many older people had difficulty filling in the recent questionnaire on day opportunities. They found it complicated, too long, repetitive, and not always relevant. One visually impaired person was very frustrated at not having a Braille version.

Many were disturbed at being asked to make an either/or choice between models of service, when they thought all models were necessary, and they felt they could not comment on negative impacts on different groups.

A lot of older people said it was not worth filling in consultation forms, as the decisions were probably already made, and this was just a tick-box exercise. Conversely, all the Advance volunteer advocates, themselves older people, who were helping with the form-filling, were disappointed that senior citizens living in the community were not involved in the consultation. They had heard about it only through the Advance project.

A request to delay the deadline so that older people in the community could be involved was refused, even though those people may well be using the services under discussion before too long.

A Cabinet meeting on 27 September will decide how to go ahead with proposed changes. At the moment we know that the borough will be divided into seven (possibly eight) neighbourhoods, a number of services could be put out to tender, and that existing and potential service providers have made presentations to Barnet. Budget reductions will probably not come into force until next financial year.

Current consultations

Running at the moment online are Barnet consultations on Council Tax Support, Sex Entertainment Venues and Gambling. Details on www.barnet.gov.uk.

Comments on the older people's questionnaire are often just as relevant to others. So, think carefully about how you answer, and make sure your views and opinions are known to the Council.



Sami pays tribute to Kay. Photo by Robin Dunn.

Pre-school group leader retires

By Diana Cormack

Kay Dunn of Springcroft Avenue recently retired after working with young children for 47 years. At her retirement party, one of those paying warm tributes to Kay and her achievements was a pupil from 44 years ago! Sami Moxon (the daughter of Cy Grant) spoke about Kay's exceptional work and commitment to the hundreds of children to whom she had given "the best and most loving initiation into education".

As a child Kay lived in Highgate and attended Highfield School, run by her Auntie Elsie, from whom she learned a lot. Kay knew from the age of eight that she wanted to work with children. When she was twelve, her family moved to Summerlee Avenue. She attended Clarks College School on Ballards Lane and at seventeen began training as a nursery nurse. Kay is still in touch with the first baby she looked after, now 47 and living in New Zealand.

Playgroup stalwart

After teaching a nursery

class at Highfield (where her mother taught for 38 years) Kay eventually became involved with play-groups (now known as pre-schools). One of her earliest jobs was from 1977-79 at the play-group held in the Elim Chapel behind Budgens.

In 1979 Kay moved on to Haringey, becoming a stalwart of the community playgroup run by parents, first at the Quaker Meeting House in Church Crescent, Muswell Hill and then at Springfield in The Grove, Alexandra Palace. Kay left for a while after having her first daughter Rebecca but subsequently became Leader

at Springfield in 1987. Ten years later it became the 345 Pre-School for which her late daughter Emma designed the logo still used today. Full circle was reached in 2001 when Sami Moxon's son joined the pre-school and became the first of Kay's second generation pupils.

Kay told *THE ARCHER* of the many changes she has seen over the years and how she will miss the children. However, she intends to carry on using her talent for story telling with youngsters. She also plans to travel with her husband Robin, outside the school holidays at last!

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Festival on the Grange Estate

By Nick Young

The East Finchley Festival may have been called off this year due to the weather, but residents of The Grange had better luck when the sun shone for their festival on Sunday 22 July. Over 300 residents of all ages got together to enjoy a sunny afternoon of music and entertainment at the Barnet Homes Festival on the estate. Among the attractions were face painting, a bouncy castle, a "beat the goalie" competition and DJ demonstrations.

The festival was organised by Barnet Homes with the help of Angela Purcell and the Grange Residents' Steering Group. The intention was to help foster community spirit on The Grange, and the feeling afterwards was that this goal was certainly achieved. "It was an exceptional event and people are still talking about it several days later," said Angela, who lives on the estate. "I don't think The Grange has had a unified feeling like that for many a year. People were incredibly sociable."

Looking at what it could mean for the future, Angela added: "We hope to set up a

residents' association on The Grange and we really feel we've now got something to work with and build on."

This positive feeling was echoed by Tracey Lees, the chief executive of Barnet Homes: "The fun day at The Grange enabled families to

enjoy themselves for an afternoon while also getting to know their neighbours," she said. "We hope that will generate a greater sense of community on the estate, so that more people will work to make the estate a place where they feel proud to live."

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Campaigners fear Newstead Centre closure

By Linda Sansom

Parents fighting to save a local children's centre from funding cuts fear it could still close, in spite of Barnet Council's assurances to the contrary.

Under the new funding proposals, Newstead Children's Centre, in Fallows Close, will open for only 38 weeks a year, instead of the current 48 weeks, forcing parents to find alternative childcare for the school holidays. And they are worried that lack of take-up would lead to a complete closure of the centre's childcare provision.

The council currently funds 13 children's centres and eight linked outreach venues with a £4.3m budget. The total sum will remain the same for the financial year 2012-13, but will be redistributed among the centres, all of which will remain open. The council claims this will target the needs of the most vulnerable families in the borough.

Holiday childcare

Newstead is one of only two centres proposing changes to their childcare delivery. Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet member for education,

children and families, says the centre has a significant drop in demand for places over the school holidays, and that any family affected by the changes will be helped to find alternative childcare arrangements during this time. But Councillor Alison Moore, who chairs the Newstead Advisory Board, says the effect would cause a disproportionate impact on low-income families, who would be forced to look for other childcare during the holidays.

And campaigners are worried that working parents will be unwilling to sign up to the new timetable arrangements, causing the centre to close its childcare provision entirely through lack of children.

Parent Cheryl Connell says: "I wouldn't want my children to be at Newstead in term time and be looked after by someone totally different during the holidays. That is just not normal."



Right, where's the fire?

Youngsters queued eagerly to sit behind the wheel of a real fire and rescue truck when Finchley Fire Station threw wide its doors for a public open day on Sunday 22 July. Alfie, four, and his two-year-old brother Sonny, pictured, were lifted into the cab by firefighter Ollie Ramsey. Hundreds turned out for the event at the Long Lane station, which featured rescue demonstrations and a chance to get hands-on with plenty of fire equipment. Photo by John Lawrence.

Your local Guides need you!

By Toni Dietmann, 4th East Finchley Guides Leader

Girl Guiding UK is the largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women in the UK. Guiding teaches girls new skills, gives them a safe place to have fun, helps them reach their full potential, and Guiding itself is a valuable part of the community.

A young girl's involvement with Girl Guiding starts at 5 years old with Rainbows. At 7 years they move to Brownies and on to Guides at 10 years.

Sadly, 4th East Finchley Rainbows closed in May, because the Leader could not continue for personal reasons. We desperately need adult volunteers to re-open it. Lisa, who runs 4th East Finchley Brownies on her own, also needs additional support.

Can you help?

Women of East Finchley, can you spare some time to get involved in East Finchley Guiding? Please don't leave it to someone else . . . Please don't risk these vital community groups closing forever. Training will be given. Lisa and I will personally mentor and support anyone who volunteers.

You will give young girls experiences that will stay with them their whole lives. As an

Adult Leader you will gain friends, skills, and experiences that will last your lifetime.

Interested volunteers can contact Toni at 4theastfinchleyguides@googlemail.com

4th East Finchley Guides also have 4 spaces available for 10 year olds. We meet on Thursdays 7.30 – 9pm. Both 4th East Finchley Rainbows (4 – 5pm) and Brownies (5.30 – 7pm) meet on Thursdays at Holy Trinity Church.

For general information on Guiding, go to <http://girlguiding.org.uk>

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Games Makers Peter Hale and Mary Hogben.

The Games Makers

By Nick Young

Few East Finchley residents can have got closer to the Olympics than Mary Hogben and Peter Hales of Heath View, who were part of the 70,000-strong army of volunteers who did so much to make it a success. "It's not going to happen again in our lifetimes, so I thought I had to get involved," said Peter. When LOCOG asked for volunteers three years ago, he and Mary were quick to answer.

As Games Makers, they worked ten-hour shifts. Mary, who helped the Army with the airport-style security at the Olympic Park, did eleven days, while Peter did nine days during the Games as well as rehearsals for the opening ceremony, where he marshalled athletes towards the stadium.

A major highlight was walking through the Park after

their shifts. Mary and Peter are architects, and were impressed by the landscaping and buildings (both temporary and permanent) from a professional perspective, saying that the Park has an amazing "wow" factor.

The enthusiasm of the volunteers, who came from all over Britain, was infectious. "I felt that throughout the whole site, everybody was really in festive

mood," says Peter.

In the Park, they showed people the way to seats, toilets and water fountains and, wearing their uniforms on their journeys there, they were often asked for directions. Mary showed some people a quicker route than they were planning, but says, "A lot of people just wanted to say thank you."

Hosting an Olympic volunteer

By Diana Cormack

"You're not going to have a complete stranger staying with you for three weeks!" was one of the comments when we told friends of our Olympic plans. To be honest, our first thought had been to let the house and earn a lot of money. Then we wondered about letting out the loft extension and earning less money. But when we heard about the Herts 2012 scheme of hosting guests free of charge, we knew that was more in keeping with the Olympic spirit.

The idea was to host visitors connected to the Games (from the Commonwealth only) who would find the cost of staying here prohibitive. We were allocated Christine Spiliopoulos, an experienced volunteer who would be paying her own fare from Australia and taking time off work to come to London. Emails and photos were exchanged well beforehand so we could get to know something about each other. I was relieved to learn that Christine had helped at the Athens, Sydney and Beijing Olympics, so would be mature enough for me not to worry about her being alone in a strange city.

Fourteen-hour day

Christine was kept pretty busy, leaving here at 7.45am and returning around fourteen hours later, but managed to

pack in a lot of sight seeing in what little spare time she had. She worked from a hotel in Kensington for the Sydney-based Kingdom Sports Group, a ticketing agent for thirty-three countries mainly in Africa and Asia. As well as allocating tickets, she supplied outfits to athletes, uniforms to some Olympic committees and carried out a number of event management duties involving accommodation and hospitality packs. Christine also had to meet and greet VIPs, escort them to events, hospitality venues and even shopping.

Our knowledge of a variety of Olympic arrangements increased during the three weeks she was with us. The time flew by and we all enjoyed the experience. It is something we would definitely do again.

When the circus came to town

By Daphne Chamberlain

When the circus came to town, it must have been rather like the arrival of the Torch. That's not an original thought: I heard it on the radio, but isn't it true? There we were, crowding out North Finchley, all smiles and excitement, waiting for the procession. 100-odd years ago the elephants would have led it. Now it was the Coca Cola van and the trick cyclists (though maybe they were there 100-odd years ago as well).

Michael Johnson heard Ken Dodd's "Happiness" in the television studio, and asked where he could get it. I went to the USA/Argentina basketball semi-final, and I don't even like the game. The tickets were the only ones we could get, and I'm still not keen, but loved the experience.

Happiness and trying new things. That was what it was

about, but I do have two questions. Did any of you get goosebumps and/or feel the hairs

standing up on your neck? I didn't, but I am wondering about all those commentators who did.



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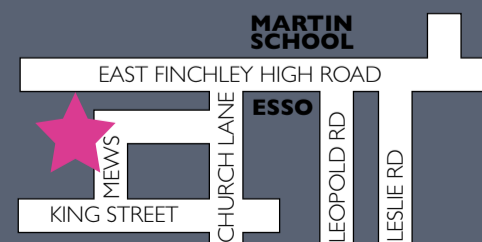
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Lina Gulhane and fellow-performers in Olympic opening ceremony

Being part of it

By Lina Gulhane

Lina Gulhane is an Information Scientist who helps develop NICE guidelines for the NHS. Here she describes her part in the Olympic opening ceremony representing the NHS.

An email asked if I would like to audition. 50th birthday loomed. Why not? Along I went in November to 2.5 hours of non-stop dancing with people of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities.

Acceptance email in January, along with caveat to commit. Rehearsals from April to July. 150 hours of devotion: after work, during weekends.

Rehearsal day 1. Danny Boyle introduced us to his vision. 'Swing out Sisters'!! Hospital beds, children, Lindy hop, 40s outfits, children's literature, overcoming dark forces, flying Mary Poppins... Oh, my!!!

The journey began, in studios at 3 Mills, then outdoors in Dagenham. We learned in stages: how to manoeuvre beds into position with children sitting on them, remembering (then forgetting) dance steps. Hard

work, yet satisfying.

Once in the stadium, it hit home. Aaarrgggrhh...!!

Then the intensity began. Positioning, standing around, knowing which gate (called VOM) you were in, running out with the bed, remembering your steps... Timing was essential. Music stuck in your head... with the words left, right, hop step turn, one, two, three, four. Everything, again and again.

In wind, rain and sun, the army of volunteers battled on. When we saw the Industrial Revolution rehearsal, we knew this was going to be amazing.

Dress rehearsal 1, 20 thousand in the stands. Outfits, false

eyelashes, 40s' victory rolls, hair spray, red lipstick, heels. Shared backstage space with steeple-jacks, dementors, muddy-faced working men and women. Suffragettes and military passed by.

Dress rehearsal 2, 40 thousand. Dress rehearsal 3, family, friends and other volunteers.

Show day!! Not thinking of spectators, just focusing on a flawless performance. And then it was over.

Without exaggeration, it was the most incredible experience of my life. Music, atmosphere, the roar of the crowd, the incredible show. Being part of it, being proud to be British, and that I undertook and completed the personal challenge to get there. Camaraderie, team work, new friends, seeing the athletes lined up. Fireworks, the post-party. The memories will always stay with me; along with my outfit, and ceremony programme with the names of all the volunteers, including mine, reminding me that 'I did it'.

Anum's Olympic glory

As the world watched, 15-year-old Anum Bandey produced the swim of her life to break a national record on the opening day of the Olympic Games. Anum, a former Holy Trinity School pupil, broke the Pakistan national record in the 400m individual medley with a time of 5:34.64.



It was an amazing achievement for the teenager, who lives in the High Road and trains at Barnet Copthall pool. Her Pakistani heritage makes her eligible to swim for the national team and she was one of only two swimmers representing the country at London 2012.

Her family cheered her on wildly as she lined up against the world's best swimmers in the Saturday morning heat and her record-breaking swim was covered widely in the Pakistani press.

Mum Nikki Bandey said words could not describe the experience of watching Anum smash the record in front of a global audience and she thanked all her family and friends for their support.

She said: "Anum has worked really hard to achieve this. I

remember all the days when she was a mere nine-year-old, waking up at the crack of dawn to be at the poolside during the freezing winter. Rain, sun or snow, whatever the weather she was ready for her training. She has showed determination and dedication throughout. She has made us so proud."

Golden future

Pakistan Swimming Federation secretary Major Majid Wasim told The International News that Anum's performance was the best of any Pakistani swimmer in Olympic history.

"The way Anum has performed in London, I can confidently say that she will win a gold medal in the South Asian Games, a feat that has never been achieved by any of our female swimmers," he said.

Any takers?

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

We are currently seeking a deliverer for Southern Road, Buckden Close and Greenfield Drive. We're also keen to reach readers on three other rounds: first, in Blandford Close, Cornwood Close, Greenhalgh Walk and Lytton 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. Please email us at the-archer@lineone.net or leave a message by calling 0844 579 6949 and entering mailbox number 63450. Thank you.

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YOUNG ARCHER

One year to go

And they're off! One year to go until the opening of the Archer Academy.

As children and teachers head back to school for the new academic year, the team behind the Archer Academy are stepping up to the challenge of getting their school ready for its September 2013 opening.

Instead of spending the summer relaxing by the pool, the team have been working away behind the scenes. They've met officials from the Department for Education and Barnet Council, worked alongside a specialist team to finalise their premises, put a process in place to recruit a headteacher and written and designed a prospectus.

Information for parents

The next few weeks will be really important for spreading the word about the new school, so the team are keen to meet local Year 6 parents to give them the chance to ask questions and get a sense of what life at the Archer Academy will be like. They plan to hold meetings in primary schools during September and October.

Project coordinator Toby

Blume says: "We've got a huge amount to do before next September but we've got a great team behind us who will do our community proud. The support we're getting from the DfE and Barnet Council is great; their expertise and experience is invaluable and it's also good to know they're with us every step of the way."

"Of course, our potential parents would like to know more about the school and where it's going to be. We'll share that information with you as soon as it is confirmed. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us by emailing info@thearcheracademy.org.uk, and we'll do our best to answer."

For more information visit www.thearcheracademy.org.uk



Did you know?

Did you know that Kristian Thomas, who won a bronze medal with Team GB's male gymnasts, is pictured on the January page of this year's ARCHER calendar?

The photo of Kristian was taken during a gymnastic display at Tudor Primary School, N3 when he performed a forward roll over seven children and a teacher. The gymnast was part of the Team Super Schools

project, which gave pupils the chance to meet and learn about the life and training of potential Olympic athletes.

The Wolverhampton lad had a lovely way with the children and he obviously has a lovely

way with royalty too; the Duchess of Cambridge sat next to him so he could explain things when Louis Smith and Max Whitlock performed their silver and bronze medal winning routines on the pommel horse.



Sam playing live. Picture by Miguel De Melo.

Get into the groove

A new and exciting percussion project is starting on 18 September in Finchley Youth Theatre, and will run for 10 weeks. The project is run by percussion education specialist Drum Unlimited and provides an opportunity for children aged between 8-12 to learn, compose and perform together as an ensemble. Students will learn correct technique, authentic patterns, composition and teamwork and will get to perform at the end of the course.

"Those who saw the opening ceremony for the Olympics will be aware of how powerful and exciting drums can be. This is the kind of experience and opportunity I am aiming to pass on to local young people. No musical experience is needed, just the enthusiasm to get involved," says organiser Sam White.

Drum Unlimited has been leading community music workshops since 2008, working with a variety of different council-run projects and events. For more information please visit www.drumunlimited.com or call Sam on 07782278622.

Climbing for a better education

By Diana Cormack

On 19 August Krishna and Hema Pattani are setting off for Africa with their two children, sixteen-year-old Priya and fourteen-year-old Premal. But they are not going on a relaxing family holiday, for a couple of days later they will begin a six-day climb of the 5895m Mount Kilimanjaro.

The idea for this potentially life-changing event came from the children who are aiming to raise funds for two charities in India. They want to support the Gnan Seva Trust in running a small school in the remote Dhang area. At present it is only for Year 8 and 9 girls and boys, but it hopes to expand and have classes from Year 6 through to Year 12. Some funding will also go to the Jaina-Anupam N Parmer Children's Trust which works for children and adults with diverse disabilities.

All the money raised will go to charity because the cost of the venture has been met by the Pattani parents (who run Pristine Dry Cleaning on Viceroy Parade), by private donations and by family and friends. School friends of Priya and of Premal at Merchant Taylor's have also helped by organising fundraising activities.

Year's training

They have been in training for the past year, with 6km walks every other day and daily sessions on an inclined treadmill. "We are totally vegetarian," Krishna told *THE ARCHER*. "Diet plays a really important part in our preparations."

Judging by the effort they have already put in for this physically demanding event, the family deserves to do well.

If you would like to help them pop into Pristine or visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving>

Designer stadium winners

Year 5 pupils at St Theresa's RC Primary School in East End Road have beaten more than two hundred other entrants in an Olympic themed competition. The object was to build a model of an Olympic stadium. Every school which entered was teamed up with an architect who visited them.

The youngsters began to build and paint their model after a meeting with their advisor, giving full rein to their imagination.

It obviously worked because they won the Class Award for 2012 in the competition run by Open City, an organisation which promotes architecture in education.

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Now you see it, now you don't

When Debbie Hoare received a reminder by post about renewing her parking permit, she immediately went on-line, paid for a new permit and printed it out, following the guidelines on the parking service website. She displayed this over her expired permit (see photo) but was amazed to find a Penalty Notice on her car no less than an hour later. Debbie, of Cherry Tree Road, appealed but this was rejected and she now faces a hefty fine.

The guidelines state that Civil Enforcement Officers should "be aware of the variation" between home-printed permits and those mailed out. She told the *ARCHER* she had inquired about but not received any photographic proof from Barnet to support their grounds for the fine. These were that "no permit was found on the vehicle" according to the Civil Enforcement Officer's report. This could imply that Debbie placed her expired and new permit on her windscreen after she had received the penalty notice.



The new permit clearly visible over the old one. Photo by Debbie Hoare.

It seems that it is Debbie's word against the Officer's report. How many other disgruntled motorists have found themselves forced into such a position when dealing with a service set up to safeguard residents in a CPZ?

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Gold rush

The fat lady has sung, the world has gone home with its medals, the Zil lanes are open, and normal chaos is resumed. And even in my weird, whacked-out corner of the world, I can't help feeling it was one hell of a party.

Weird only starts to describe the experience as Team Brit counts its medals and Boris counts his luck. Why? Because nothing went seriously wrong, the Tubes didn't crash, no one died, and Team Brit got more medals than the Aussies, French and Germans. And even when Team Brit lost on penalties to the South Koreans it didn't matter. Not when we'd won medals in running, jumping and standing still.

The big shock came at Wimbledon. For the first time since television was invented, a Brit won the men's singles. At that moment even Londoners could forgive Andy Murray for being Scottish.

I stopped counting medals at 50. And look at some we won. The first women's boxing gold medal won anywhere other than outside a nightclub on a Saturday night. The first time we've won one for kicking people in the head. And, last but not least, two golds for horse-dancing. What more could a bankrupt country with an economy dead in the water want?

Boys and girls in boats, a man with a gun and the cyclopaths all won. So what if our swimmers didn't manage a single gold? The Brownlee Brothers combined swimming, cycling, running and winning medals. So that was all right then.

It was the best Olympics for Team Brit since the map of the world was mostly red, and the King collected two kinds of stamps; British filed at the front of the album and foreign all jumbled up at the rear. And even if we can't claim that wars are won on the playing fields of Eton, a hatful of medals was won on its boating lake. Now we wait for Rio, to see if we get it right next time.

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North London Lettering Association

North London Lettering Association (NLLA) was founded in 2001 to bring together people interested in, and those practising, the craft of calligraphy/lettering in all its forms, living north of the Thames. Among our members we have a number of very supportive professional calligraphers but most of us are amateurs and part-time students who are enthusiastic about the way letters and words look. We work with a vast number and variety of scripts (like computer fonts) from copperplate to gothic, italic to foundational. It's also possible to design your own alphabet from scratch and further personalise your work.

A calligrapher makes choices of how to transfer words onto paper, vellum, wood, fabric, glass and stone, using a metal nib, quill, brush, chisel or engraving tool. He can select ink, gouache, charcoal, acrylic paint, pastels, gold leaf, coloured pencils and embroidery silks, to name a few!

Meetings and workshops

At NLLA's monthly meetings we often invite well-known craftsmen to talk about and show their work, including commissions. Subjects range from brush lettering to papermaking, letter carving on stone and wood, heraldry, book binding, quill preparation and using gold leaf. Some speakers demonstrate a particular skill and allow us to practise afterwards.

NLLA's own members may offer to lead a meeting, giving us a personal view of their ongoing commissions, finished work or sphere of interest.

Workshops are organised at intervals to offer a range of skills related to calligraphy, lettering and allied crafts. Our next workshop is on 29 September: 'Brush Writing on Paper & Fabric'.

At our meetings there is something for everyone. Calligraphy is not a cure for bad handwriting but you can be creative with the simplest script and materials. Who knows where it may lead you!



A selection of members' work. Photo courtesy of NLLA.

Our meetings are held at The CUFOS Centre, at the top of The Avenue, London N10 2QE (behind Alexandra Palace), 7.30 to 9.30pm, on the third Tuesday of each month except

August and December.

Further information is on NLLA's website: www.nlla.org.uk. We invite anyone with an interest in lettering, regardless of ability, to join us.

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Intro Ceramics: Tuesdays 7 - 9pm, 5 weeks, price £50, starting 25th Sept & 6th Nov

Life Drawing: Wednesday 7 - 9pm, 5 weeks, price £50, starting 26th Sept & 7th Nov

Creative Writing: Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30pm, 12 weeks, price £145, starting 20th Sept

Drawing: Thursdays 10.30 - 12.30pm, 5 weeks, price £50, starting 20th Sept

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- **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
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- **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.
- **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 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 Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390

Underground artist's show

By Sheila Armstrong

ARCHER readers and tube travellers may have noticed two pictures by local artist Michael Haynes in East Finchley station and read the article about him in *The Archer* November 2011. Michael had a show in the Highgate gallery Artway in August which included very reasonably priced prints of these two works.

Born in East Finchley and living in Muswell Hill, Michael showed a variety of other prints as well as his more abstract paintings which capture his changing moods in both organic and geometric forms. He works mostly in oils or acrylics with some mixed media; typical titles are *Speed of Sound* and *Across the Universe*. These show another side to this artist who can do more than just represent our locality, who has other preoccupations and concerns. Contact Michael on

www.michaelhaynesart.com

For readers who don't know the Artway Gallery it is accessed through the Artway Emporium, 273 Archway Road, a two-minute walk downhill from Highgate underground station. Artway is a vintage shop and is almost opposite the Boogaloo pub which holds the vintage fairs on the first Sunday of the month. Other local vintage shops featured in previous editions of *THE ARCHER* are in Muswell Hill and East Finchley.



Among the exhibits there will be photomontages by Adam Justice Mills, photographs by Karen Fraser (above) and paintings by Sheila Seepersaud-Jones and Christine Watson

New writers' and readers' club

An Authors', Aspirant Writers' and Readers' (AWR) club will be launched at Amici Delicatessen on Tuesday 11 September. Journalist Neil Behrmann, who is setting up the club, says it will have three aims. "First, in today's tough publishing environment, East Finchley and Muswell Hill authors can meet and help each other; second, they can encourage aspirant writers; and third, it will be a book club with a difference."

Authors will take turns to talk about the background of their books, and read excerpts. The books will then be up for discussion and criticism.

"AWR will start with adult fiction, and move on to children's fiction and nonfiction," says Behrmann, author of financial thriller *Trader Jack: The Story of Jack Miner* and children's anti-war fantasy, *Butterfly Battle: The Story of The Great Insect War*.

He will open the club with a discussion of the background for *Trader Jack*, provided by his investigative reporting for the Wall Street Journal on Russian mafia mining scams, coffee dealings, and rogue trader fraud.

Meetings will be at 7pm every second Tuesday each month, with no entry charge. Amici Delicatessen is about 100 metres north of the Phoenix.

For more information, email Neil@traderjackminer@gmail.com

The little book of big scams

By Janet Maitland

The Metropolitan Police have launched 'The Little Book of Big Scams', a comprehensive guide to avoiding fraud.

Every year billions of pounds are lost to 'scammers'. Anyone with a computer, telephone, or even just a front door, is potentially at risk of falling for a scam. Vulnerable and older people are particularly at risk, but anyone can be a victim.

This guide explains some of the most common scams, ranging from the sophisticated to the simple, and provides essential advice on how to protect yourself from being conned.

Don't be a walking wallet

"Conmen and women are ruthless," said Esther Rantzen, who has welcomed the launch of the police guide. "They see honest people as 'walking wal-

lets', to be squeezed, emptied and discarded. This guide could save you a great deal of money and heartache."

The Archer was impressed by how well written and thorough the booklet is. It would be worth getting a copy for a friend or relative if you are worried that they may be particularly at risk.

You can get a free copy of the booklet by calling 020 7230 1228 or downloading it at www.met.police.uk/fraudalert This site also gives up-to-date information about the latest scams. You can get further information and advice at www.actionfraud.police.uk and www.elderabuse.org.uk.

which promises to be an exciting new venue for the group. Each of the 55 members has been invited to submit work to fill the light airy space ranging from traditional painting and photography to glassware, quilting and ceramics. You can find the complete range of work on the EFO website to get a preview of the sort of art that will be on show. All work will be for sale and available for collection at the end of the exhibition.

The EFO is fast approaching its 10th year and with the Open House event in July and the Winter Fair in November it is firmly established on the N2 cultural calendar. Local support from East Finchley residents and businesses is highly valued. EFO will also be having one of their regular exhibitions at the Phoenix Cinema throughout September, teasingly entitled 'Guess where I have been'.

For further information see www.eastfinchleyopen.org.

What's On...

Sunday 2 September

- **Barnet Ghosts**: guided walk and spooky history tour of Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most-haunted village in England, with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube station, 7.30pm. For details, contact Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Sunday 9 September

- **Muswell Hill Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12 noon to 6pm. Come and enjoy the eighth year of this free event. The fun includes a Muswell Hill's Got Talent competition, donkey rides, a dog show and live music, as well as a miniature steam train ride. There will be food and drink stalls, and a Pimms tent. All proceeds go to the London Centre

for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

- **Rescue cats available**, noon-6.0 pm, at Animal Aid and Advice, 48 High Road (near Phoenix cinema).

Monday 10 September

- **Exhibition of artwork by EFO** at Lyttleton House Gallery, 2 Lyttleton Way, N2, until 4 October.

Saturday 15 September

- Dance theatre **Sweetshop Revolution's Tree** at artsdepot, North Finchley. Information/booking: 0208 369 5454 or www.artsdepot.co.uk

Sunday 16 September

- **Battle of Barnet**: guided walk and tour of the famous battlefield of 1471 with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction

of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. For details, contact Paul on 020 8440 5805.

Tuesday 18 September

- UK premiere of **Not Until We Are Lost** by aerial theatre company Ockham's Razor, at artsdepot. For information/booking see 15 September.

Wednesday 19 September

- **Meeting to discuss a High Road Christmas Festival**, at the Barracuda Café, 6.30-8.30 pm. Come along with your ideas and suggestions.

Thursday 27 September

- **The Finchley Society** will concentrate on East Finchley at 8.00 pm, Martin School, High Road, N2. Everyone welcome. Non-

members: £2 admission.

Saturday 29 September

- **Standup comedy with Robert Rouse** at artsdepot. For information/booking see 15 September.

Sunday 30 September

- Family theatre show **Bert's Magical Mystery Kitchen** at artsdepot. For information/booking see 15 September.

Saturday 6 October

- Enjoy an evening of music and laughter with **The Confections** at 7.45 p.m. in St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road, N2. Tickets (including refreshments) £8 and £7 (concessions) from 020 8440 2817 or at the door on the night. All proceeds going to St. Mary's Church.

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



Letters to the Editor

Old friends from N2

Dear Editor,

Greetings via *THE ARCHER* to all the community of East Finchley that I know so well. I grew up there during my secondary school years and, after the millennium, completed three marathons in London and New York City.

I also delivered papers on The Grange and if I see people from the area anywhere in London I realise I am still remembered so running was a good thing. The children seem so well behaved and grown up and I know that that is not so easy these days.

Please send my regards to all the readers of the publication who sent their cheques to my flat on The Grange for my charity Get Kids Going. I've never experienced such a mega amount of support as I got from the N2 community. Life goes on: I'm now an advertising sales manager in Borough, SE1. Have a nice year!

Yours faithfully,
Martin Sutherland,
Formerly Sycamore House,
The Grange, N2.

Weather-wise

Dear Editor

A dignitary from one of the third world countries visiting Britain remarked to his British host, "In my country it very rarely rains. So we never have enough food or water, and my people suffer. Here in Britain it never stops raining. You are so lucky".

The Briton responded, "It's not a matter of luck. It's due to a sacred ritual that we practise. First we take a field, and at its edge we drive wooden posts into the ground. At the other end of the field we drive more posts into the ground. We then encourage one of our young men to hurl a ball at one of the cluster of posts that we call a wicket. And it then pours with rain".

Yours faithfully
Harold Karton.
Creswick Walk, NW11.

Editorial footnote:
So that's why cricket isn't in the Olympics!

Abbots Gardens

Dear Editor,

My brother (74) and I (69) were reminiscing over Sunday lunch this afternoon when he mentioned he had been surfing the web for information about V-bombs falling on East Finchley. I got the laptop out and we surfed some more and came across your January 2009 edition containing a report on the V2 which hit Abbots Gardens in November 1944.

Our parents lived at 65 Abbots Gardens during the war, moving to Surrey in about 1946. My brother recalled the Abbots Gardens V2; I was too young to remember it myself. Our mother told the story that she was going into the living room when the fire flew out of the grate towards her, then rushed back whence it had come. Only then did she hear the explosion which shattered all the windows in the house. Things having settled, she started to clear up the house. Later that afternoon a nun came round, looked at the house, and remarked on what a mess it looked. Our mother was not amused! Our father worked at a bank in Picca-

dilly. I don't dare to think what he was thinking as he came home on the Tube knowing that East Finchley had been hit.

My brother also recalled the Widecombe Road V1, and our father recalled pushing me down a road while trying to keep a tree between us and a passing doodlebug. Our father played cricket for North Middlesex where play was occasionally interrupted by doodlebugs, players rapidly hitting the deck if the pulse-jet engine cut out. (I have a photograph of a barrage balloon on the outfield.) I am also told that my brother and I slept in the Anderson Shelter (where he once tried to incinerate us). The accommodation being generally unpleasant, our parents tended to sleep in their bed. I was most fascinated by your article, as it will be a proof to my grandchildren that their grandfather had a respectable war record, even if he was only two at the time!

Yours faithfully
Robin I Morgan
Broadwater Close, Woking.

Trot back in time

Dear Editor,

I wonder if you are able to help me?

I am trying to find any news items about a Musical Ride on horses, performed in the early 1960s at Parliament Hill Fields by Tessa Evans, who was proprietor of Strawberry Vale Riding Stables, and a group of riders. The stables were located just off the North Circular junction with High Road East Finchley, by The Green Man pub.

I realise that this information is not much to go on, but I would dearly like to know if you, or anyone you know, has any information, articles or photographs about this? Perhaps you could print my email address for any possible response, and mention my maiden name, which was Finch, in case anyone remembers me from those far off days

Thank you.
Jill Gilbert.
Email: jilliegilbert@msn.com

Frozen in time

By Diana Cormack

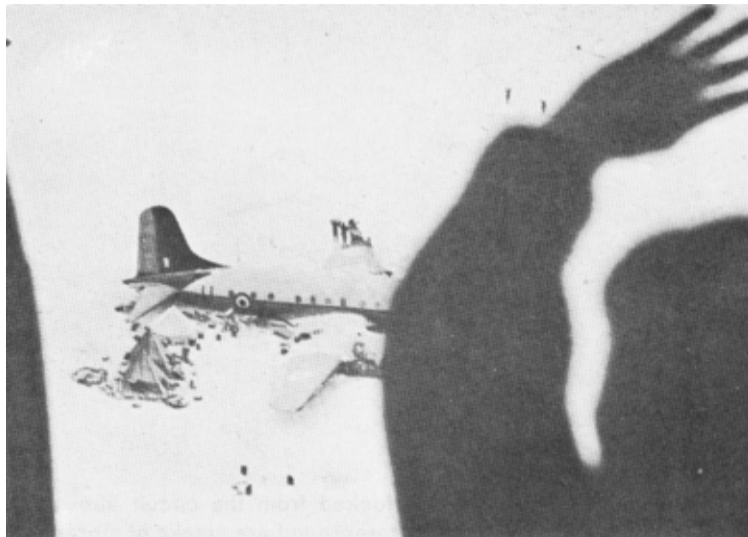
My outstanding memory from sixty years ago is not the Queen's coronation but of something which happened three months later. In 1952 we were living at RAF Topcliffe in Yorkshire and were used to our dad disappearing on flights to different parts of the world.

On 16 September we learned that his plane had crashed 8000 feet up on the Greenland ice-cap, seven hundred miles from the North Pole. Two RAF Hastings had been dropping supplies to scientists on the British North Greenland Expedition which entailed flying at very low levels. The crash came during a "white-out" with the pilot unable to differentiate between swirling snowflakes and the glaring icy surface below. After careering over one and a half miles across treacherous ice at 120 knots, the Hastings my father was in screeched to a halt and, fearing a fire, twelve men leapt out into one of the coldest places on earth. Fortunately only three were injured, none seriously.

The crash-landing hit the headlines all over the world and we were besieged by the press. Pictures and stories of the plane, its crew and their families appeared every day, along with the belief that no rescue could be attempted until the spring. The men lived in the plane's fuselage lined with parachutes and my father took on the role of cook, using supplies dropped from their sister plane.

Secret base

Gradually people began to realise that the Hastings lacked the capacity for such a long flight. This was in the middle of the Cold War and the Americans were not best pleased when it was revealed that the RAF had used the secret American base built at Thule, five hundred miles from the crash site. However, the American ingenuity of fitting two planes with skis and using Jet Assisted Take Off provided a speedier-than-expected rescue for the Brits. After ten days they were on



A colleague waves to the marooned airmen from their sister plane. Air Ministry photograph.

their way home.

Their story was told in the cinema, on the radio, in a book called *Rescue Below Zero* by

Ian Mackersey and by my dad, whose frost-bitten fingers were a lifelong reminder of the chilling event.

Two men arrested for park assaults

By Janet Maitland

Two men have been arrested and bailed, following a series of random attacks in Queens Wood, Alexandra Palace Park and Highgate Wood during May and June.

All of the attacks were carried out by a lone man who approached his victims and then assaulted them with no apparent motive. Police think the incidents, each of which happened during the afternoon, may be linked. The victims described the man as white, aged 20 to 35 years old, 5ft 7in to 5ft 11in tall, with short dark hair, wearing casual clothing.

A 33 year old man was arrested in July and bailed to return to the police on 30 August, pending further enquiries. A few days later, a 27 year old man was also arrested. He has been bailed to return to the police on 17

October. Police are carrying out additional patrols in Haringey parks and woods.

"Our enquiries are still ongoing, and we appeal to the public to get in touch if they have any information," said the investigating officer, DC Kay Sekyere, who can be contacted on 07899 967 616. "If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Earlier this year, a man was sentenced to life imprisonment for another series of assaults in Haringey parks, which took place in January 2011. Two of his victims died of their injuries after being attacked in Queens Wood and Alexandra Palace.

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Pick and mix at the East Finchley Arts Festival

Director Geoffrey Hanson introduces this year's programme, which has something for most people. So read right through, select your favourites, and maybe stay in the Olympic spirit by also sampling something new to you.

All events are at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, which has disabled access and facilities.

Box Offices: Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 8AG Tel: 020 8444 4717

Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3HN Tel: 020 8883 5631

Online at: Ticket Source www.eastfinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk (10% surcharge on each ticket).

Visit our website: www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

The Programme

Friday 5 October 6.30-8.30pm

Art Exhibition Preview

Admission Free

This exhibition of works by local and national artists will be open on evenings when concerts and events are held, and from 12 noon at weekends during the Festival. Works 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. Matthew Parris recently wrote "If Pop-Up Opera pop up anywhere near you, pop in. You'll stay to cheer." 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. Admission free. Bucket collection for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Thursday 11 October 7.30pm

Paprika

Violin, Accordions, Guitar, Bass and Percussion hailing from Romania, Serbia and the UK. 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

Conductor: Andrew Morley
An evening of lighter music from this long-established and renowned 48 piece Band. Selections from Les Miserables, 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

Musical Director: Grace Rossiter
Barnet's Mayor will be attending the concert from this nationally famous group, which originated in East Finchley.

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



Waiting for East Finchley's Olympic Legacy. Picture is by Colin Casimir

The flame burns for Stanley Field

Inspired by a love for sport, Friends of Stanley Field greeted the Olympic Flame as it passed the Town Hall in Hendon on 25 July. They demanded that Councillors save the field and give East Finchley an Olympic Legacy.

An added bonus for the younger ones was seeing the torch carried by flame-haired Rupert Grint from the Harry Potter films.

A banner outside Budgens reads "Inspire a Generation". But the Friends were asking where the inspired generation would play sport, if East Finchley's playing field were to be sold off to a housing developer? They say that if demand for sport increases, this may just increase frustration in East Finchley.

Ruth Brown from the Friends says, "We've taken our two teenagers to the Olympic gymnastics

and judo, and they've also been yelling their support at the TV! I think they really have been inspired, it's not just hype. At the moment my daughter goes all the way to Crouch End or Finsbury Park to do sport. The lack of facilities in East Finchley is a massive obstacle, especially for the younger ones who can't navigate two buses each way.

Barnet's own official report shows East Finchley lacks sports facilities. We hope it's not just a generation that's inspired by the Olympics, but the Council, too – perhaps they'll re-think their plans to develop Stanley Field.

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