

Local News is our Aim



THE ARCHER



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20 YEARS AT THE HEART OF EAST FINCHLEY

A community newspaper
for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Twenty years on

This month, *THE ARCHER* celebrates 20 years of providing news and information to almost 10,000 homes in East Finchley.

To mark this special birthday, we commissioned illustrator Terry Mardell to record some of the best-known landmarks of East Finchley High Road, including the three pubs that have hosted *ARCHER* team meetings over the years. Here's to the next 20 years!

Turn to pages 6 and 7 for our look back at the early days of this newspaper.



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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 Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.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 – **March:** 15 February, **April:** 15 March, **May:** 12 April

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:

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

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

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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

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Emergency	999
Barnet Police	101
Mus. Hill Police Stn.	020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
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Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

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Rape & Sexual Abuse	020 8683 3300
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RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

Festival date in the diary

Organisers have announced that the 2013 East Finchley Festival will be held on Sunday 23 June in Cherry Tree Wood. As ever, there will be the usual mix of stalls, live entertainment and food and drink.

The festival will start at 12pm and finish at 6pm and the organisers are hoping for a massive turn out this year, with their fingers firmly crossed for fine weather after last year's washout.

East Finchley has talent

In the build-up to the festival, the organisers are holding a Battle of the Bands on 16 March at the East Finchley Constitutional Club from 2–8pm. They are looking for exceptional young local acts to come and perform their tunes with the chance of winning a coveted spot on the main stage of the

summer festival. If you are interested or know of an act that might be, please email details to eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Festival stalls and volunteers

Application forms for stallholders will go out via email. If you are not on the regular database but are interested in a stall, please email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com for information.

The organisers of the festival have managed to keep it a free event for over 35 years. In that time, it has never been

grant-aided by Barnet Council and is run entirely by local volunteers.

At the moment, they are actively recruiting people to help with publicity, press and marketing. On the day, at least 50 volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets, steward the event or help in the bar. If you can spare some time over the next few months or an hour on 23 June to make a contribution to the success of the festival, ring 07983 360 834 or email the same address: eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Library saga takes a twist

By Daphne Chamberlain

There has been one more twist in the tale of Friern Barnet Library, which has already had more plot surprises than a television soap. This continuing story, though, is too important for our neighbouring community to switch on and off. As a nationwide audience knows, the library closed by Barnet nearly a year ago has refused to stay shut. Here is what has happened since our last report.

On 1 February, Barnet Council obtained an order to evict squatters, who have restocked the shelves and run a regular library service, and has confirmed it will put the building on the market. The judge praised the squatters and Friern Barnet residents for running a "happy, pleasant place", telling them they still had a right to protest, as long as they were not occupying the premises.

Bidders encouraged

Then Cllr Robert Rams surprised everyone by making Community Barnet (the former Barnet Voluntary Services Council) the building's licensee, asking them to support community organisations who want to make "right to bid" proposals for the library. He cited

the success of the community-run HGS library, set up last year, when Friern Barnet's bid for a similar arrangement was refused. Saying that Barnet is now better off financially, Cllr Rams stated they had "the scope to look favourably on bids for the building from local residents".

Friern Barnet campaigner Keith Martin told *THE ARCHER*: "I imagine that we shall see if we have common ground with Community Barnet, and discuss the situation with them". He hopes that the books (donated by the public) will be left on the shelves, believing that "the occupation has increased the value of the building as a going concern to a potential user who wants it to continue to function as a library".

Donate a coat and spread the warmth

For the second year running Age UK is asking people to donate coats for their national Spread the Warmth campaign. With many old people dying from the effects of cold weather each winter, the campaign has three key aims: offering practical help during the colder months, campaigning to tackle cold-related ill-health and fundraising to help older people when they are particularly vulnerable.

Celebrities such as Spice Girl Geri Halliwell have given coats to be sold in Age UK charity shops, with the money raised being used to help the campaign. There are shops at 6 Western Parade, New Barnet, and 25 Vivian Way, Hendon, but Age UK in East Finchley will accept donated coats. They are based at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, London N2 8LT, and are open daily (except Wednesday) from 10am–3pm. For further details call 020 8432 1423.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

3 Brim Hill, N2

Replacement of all windows, including front door, garage door and side door. Insertion of door and windows to rear elevation to replace existing rear window. Insertion of roof light to rear. Alterations to front garden.

84 Huntingdon Road, N2

Retention of extension of existing rear decking, including new wooden railings and trellis with soft

landscaping.

64 Leopold Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Haringey Council

1-8 Buckden Close, N2

Replacement of existing timber windows and doors with new timber windows and doors.

1-20 Clissold Close, N2

Replacement of existing timber windows and doors with new timber windows and doors.

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Grandma and baby in jewellery heist drama

By Cathy Young

Imagine a James Bond film, or more accurately *The Italian Job*, set in Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley. An unlikely scenario? That was my first thought as I watched a beige Mini careering along the pavement directly towards my own beloved Mini.

Shoppers had to jump for safety as the car roared along the pedestrian arcade and then into the oncoming traffic at the one-way system at the top of Ballards Lane after a violent robbery on 3 December. The two men in the getaway car had driven through the arcade from North Finchley High Road, smashed their way into the shop using concrete paving slabs and grabbed all they could from Gold Leaf Jewellers, leaving a woman battered and bleeding on the floor.

With a contemptuous disregard for anyone who might be in their way, they returned to the Mini and sped up the rest of the arcade, across the pavement and straight at my car.

Instinct took over, which was fortunate as my mind refused to process what was happening, and I swerved sufficiently to avoid a head-on crash.

A braver, more alert driver might have attempted to stand her ground and foil their getaway. I was neither brave nor

alert, which is why neither Libby, my one-year-old granddaughter, who was in the back of the car, nor I was badly hurt.

Zealous traffic wardens

Passers-by were very kind to us and Libby enjoyed playing in the police car and flirting with the Flying Squad officer while forensics checked my car and took statements.

The local traffic wardens were less understanding. Three different wardens tried to stick penalty notices on my car although it was surrounded by three police cars, several police officers and two ambulances. I'm happy to say that the police officers gave them short shrift; clearly there was no love lost there.

It was the first time I had been entrusted with Libby's day-care. Most local grandmothers take their grandchildren to Cherry Tree Wood or Rhyme Time at the Children's Centre in Tarling Road.

Not many involve them in a dramatic jewellery heist in North Finchley.

Hoffman hot-foots it to the Phoenix

By Nick Young and Allison Goodings

It takes more than heavy snow to stop East Finchley's movie-watching community from attending a screening of Dustin Hoffman's film *Quartet*, especially when Dustin Hoffman himself is in attendance. Not surprisingly, tickets sold out in an hour and a half for this event on Friday 18 January, making it probably the Phoenix Cinema's fastest-selling screening ever.

In the post-movie Q&A, a visibly emotional Hoffman, himself in his seventies, spoke about how his film explores issues surrounding aging, and how elderly artists can struggle to find an audience in the later years of their career.

The stars of the film were Maggie Smith, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay and Billy Connolly and the cast, included background artists (Hoffman disliked the term 'extras') who themselves are retired singers and musicians from across Britain.

Having sat with the audience throughout the film, he was also effusive in his praise of the Phoenix, describing it as a "gorgeous cinema" and likening the shared emotional experience of sitting in a crowded cinema to going to church or synagogue. We hope he'll come again soon.



Big Local Rep Paul Bragman is looking for your ideas to improve the lives of residents.

Your ideas for £1 million spend

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we reported last month, the Big Lottery Fund's Big Local programme has given £1 million to The Grange estate and its surrounding area to spend on projects suggested by the residents. Along with the money comes the help and support of a Big Local rep: Paul Bragman, who is indeed a local, having lived in Muswell Hill for more than 10 years.

At the time of writing, Paul has already contacted several organisations as well as individuals, our local councillors and Barnet officers. Eventually, working partnerships of agencies and residents will develop, but it is vital that residents should be in the majority.

Do you have any suggestions or opinions about improving the lives of people living in this area? You can play a part in this project by giving your thoughts directly to Paul on 020 8442 2379 or 07887 721825, or by emailing paul@communityregen.net.

Our 'critical friend'

He explained his role as that of "a critical friend, who will comment, challenge, and make sure that diverse opinions are represented". At this stage, though, his priority is getting started. He says that he is familiar with East Finchley, and has friends and family here. At the moment he is walking around,

dropping in to places, leaving printed publicity, and generally raising awareness.

Being assigned so close to home is a bonus for Paul, as he is also working with communities in Luton and Greenwich. As he says, riding a scooter comes in useful! Luton has also only just received funding, while Greenwich, one of the first areas to benefit, is now in the third year of its programme. Paul told *THE ARCHER*: "It's very interesting working in different neighbourhoods. Though they are different, they have a lot in common as well."

There is interaction between area reps, who support and communicate with each other, mainly online. They are recruited for Big Local by RENAISSI, an organisation specialising in community regeneration. Paul is a freelance consultant in that field. Send him your ideas and *THE ARCHER* will report regularly as the project develops.

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New teaching blocks for three schools

Christ's College Finchley has unveiled plans for a new teaching block as part of Barnet Council's secondary school expansion scheme. The East End Road school was the first of three secondary schools across the borough to unveil their plans at a pre-planning consultation event.

The new teaching block will allow for one additional form of entry each year for five years from September 2013, plus an additional 21 students to the sixth form in 2013 and 2014. This would bring the school's total capacity up to 1,152 students by 2017.

Meanwhile, The Compton School will have a new teaching block containing classrooms for art, drama and music departments, space for student services and curriculum support, as well as related office and storage facilities.

Cophall School's plans will be shared with parents and residents in the next few months. All three Academy schools will provide an additional 30 permanent school places each per year from September 2013.

Expansion and choice

The total cost of the permanent expansions for the three

schools is expected to be £10.8 million, divided between the three schools.

Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families, said: "We have seen a huge number of families moving into the borough over recent years to take advantage of the first-class education we offer. This strategy allows us to expand our successful schools while giving parents more choice for their children."

The expansion plans come as work continues towards opening a completely new secondary school in East Finchley in September 2013. The Archer Academy, a mixed, non-denominational, non-selective free school specialising in maths and English, will be located at the Institute Arts Centre building behind the tube station.

Housing plan changes fail to ease concerns

By Mandy Rabin

In early January, developers submitted to Haringey Council minor changes to their plans to build two houses on a plot of land north of the allotments by Fortis Green's covered reservoir. The plot, reservoir and allotments are designated as Significant Local Open Land, and plans to build on it have provoked opposition from hundreds of local residents, Tetherdown School and Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust.

Campaigners say the latest changes to the plans address none of the concerns of the local community. "They do not even comply with the council's modest requests to lower the height of the houses slightly and move one of them further south. Yet again, the plans were submitted during school holidays, making it harder for the community to object," said a spokeswoman.

Furthermore, the architect of the planned buildings discovered that the new house adjacent to the plot is 40 cm higher

than in plans approved by the council, raising questions about the council's ability to compel developers to build according to approved measurements.

Local activists are asking residents to submit objections to these plans yet again, to retain the character of this precious open space and keep cars off the pedestrian path. Comments on the plans can be submitted on Haringey's planning page at www.tinyurl.com/85woodside. Updates on the residents' campaign can be found at www.85woodside.com



Archer Academy head Mick Quigley, chair of governors Avis Johns and Mike Freer MP at the House of Commons. Photo by Allison Goodings

MP backs new free school

By Nick Young

The Archer Academy has received the unequivocal backing of Mike Freer, MP for Finchley and Golders Green and, as he put it, "the MP for the Archer Academy".

Speaking at a reception at the House of Commons for supporters of East Finchley's new secondary school, Mr Freer praised the Academy team for the thoroughness of their free school proposal, which he said had particularly impressed Lord

Hill, the schools minister (who has since been promoted to the Cabinet as Leader of the House of Lords). "I will continue to support the Archer Academy, which I am sure will go from strength to strength," said Mr Freer.

Avis Johns, who started the campaign for a new school and is now its Chair of Governors, spoke of how the campaign began following the realisation that her daughter would not have a secondary school in East Finchley. "Our children deserve the very best," she said. "We will be opening doors that they may not know are there."

The Academy, which opens in September, is now advertising for teachers and has even taken out a front-page advertisement in the *Times Educational Supplement*. "Active and engaged staff will be a feature of the Academy," said headteacher Mick Quigley. "We are building a school that we can be proud of."

Curiouser and curiouser

The Garden Suburb Theatre is presenting an innovative and exciting version of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* at Henrietta Barnett School Theatre, in Central Square, NW11.

Join Alice on her whirlwind tour through the looking glass and in Wonderland as she meets the most amazing, amusing and bemusing creatures ever imagined. With puppets, projections, Mad Hatters, flamingos and mock turtles, it promises to be an exciting show, and you can participate in your own tea party in the interval. Tickets priced £12 (£9 concs) are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre or 020 7723 6609. The production runs from Friday 22 February to Saturday 2 March.

School close to selecting first intake


The Archer Academy, the new secondary school planned for the area, will shortly be determining who the first children to go to the school will be. Applications for the first year's intake of pupils will close as Valentine's Day arrives, and offers will be made soon after.

Chair of governors Avis Johns reported that applications had been strong and the school was on course to be substantially oversubscribed in its first year.

Parents who have applied for their children to attend will hear on 1 March, which is national offers day, whether or not they have been offered a place. Because the school's admissions are run separately to Barnet's admissions process for the first year only, parents may find they are offered two places, one from Barnet and one from the Archer Academy.

The school recently announced that its first home will be the Arts Institute Centre behind East Finchley station, after acquiring the building from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, which will remain in the building as part of the deal.


Applications for September 2013 places remain open until midnight on 13 February, at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/admissions



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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.
<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



Residents pay for illegally parked vehicle

By Kate Barnett

Given all the ongoing publicity regarding residents' parking, it is extraordinary that there was an apparently abandoned vehicle in a residents' parking bay in Baronsmere Road from August 2012 until the end of the year.



The vehicle had a valid road tax disc but no parking permit. Penalty notices were put on it in August and, in September, a notice stating that the vehicle was being investigated. A resident who raised the issue with Barnet Council's parking department was referred to the civil enforcement department, whose job it is to inspect the vehicle and decide whether it is abandoned. The parking department also advise that if a vehicle is not considered abandoned then it will be left in situ, regardless of the fact that it has no valid parking permit.

Coffers swell for Great Ormond St.

By Sheila Armstrong
Local fund raiser and quiz-master Brian Hooper was at it again over Christmas at The Old White Lion pub and this time all monies went to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The massive amount of £4,500 was raised at the pub in November and December thanks to the generosity of its patrons, local businesses and to all Brian's hard work.

He started the project in November, not long after Halloween, when he contacted over 200 local businesses and shops in the area and was given over 250 raffle prizes. Tickets were sold in the pub and at the East Finchley Christmas Festival in the High Street before Christmas.

In early January Brian visited Great Ormond Street Hospital to give the cheque to their senior fundraising executive Hayley Richardson.

Help wanted

Brian is interested in getting help with the fundraising, particularly with setting up a system so that money can be donated online or by text. He is also thinking about extending the area in which he fundraises to beyond the N2 borders. Anyone who would be interested in advising him on this and helping out with future charity fund raising please contact him on briansquiz@aol.com

Baby massage

By Cathy Young

"I looked around the room at the babies being massaged, making eye contact and clearly enjoying the special one to one time with their parents and thought – I'm so lucky that I get to do this. I love this job!" Ruth Kay, an experienced occupational therapist who retrained as a baby massage instructor, is passionate about the beneficial effects of massage on the development and well-being of young babies.

Ruth studied with the International Association for Infant Massage (IAIM) to add to her 11 years' experience at Hackney's Homerton hospital and London Borough of Camden, mainly in Paediatrics and Neurology. When several relatives and friends had babies last year she felt ready to put her skills to good use. Word soon spread both by word of mouth and through websites such as Facebook and she set up her regular Baby&U courses for young babies and their parents.

"The IAIM program was developed by Vimala McClure. In the Indian orphanage where she volunteered, the babies were slathered in oils and given daily massages. She became convinced that the development and happiness of those abandoned children were a direct result of this care," Ruth explained. "Here, when the babies first come in," she added, "the parents and babies are quiet but by the end of the sessions there is increasing eye contact and conversation between them and by the end of the course it can become quite noisy due to all the lovely baby chatter!"

Baby benefits

Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between the use of regular massage and a baby's weight gain, which is generally a marker for better health and a strong immune system, and that infant massage accelerates brain development.

"Also as a parent, you literally have the tools at your



Circle of life: Parents and babies can benefit from massage sessions.

fingertips to alleviate many of your baby's minor ailments that cause them discomfort such as teething, colic, trapped wind and constipation, as well as promoting sleep! This one to one bonding time can be uplifting and remind you that it is not all about the daily chores and sleep deprivation," Ruth, a mother of two young sons herself, added.

Ruth's courses are held locally in the relaxed setting of her own home. There are eight places on each course which runs for 5 weeks at a cost of £60, including a detailed booklet, a bottle of non allergenic baby oil, snacks, drinks and a "Graduation Certificate". Parents are encouraged to come early to change and feed their babies if necessary and to settle them. There is always time after the massage for questions and general chat. The next course

starts on 27th February.

Contact babymassage-withruth@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/babyandubabymassage or 07951741736.

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THE ARCHER

January 1993 Number 1 (Pilot)

Policing East Finchley

What a dangerous area we live in, no wonder the Insurance Companies treat East Finchley as a high risk area.

Toddy I attended a press briefing for the first time at Golders Green Police Station given by DO Ron Laveric and Sgt Bernard Forbes. And very hospitable they were too, gave each of us a cup of something hot from the canteen, there wasn't any string hanging out so I believe it was coffee.

Festival to go ahead Despite Funding Problems

East Finchley Community Festival could lose its grant in 1993 in line with Barnet Borough Council's newly adopted policy on the funding of carnivals and community events.

However the event is planned to go ahead on June 19 next year and, weather permitting, will be successful yet again.

The event was cancelled two years ago, blocked by the council, who claimed that it had become "political". After an initial court hearing, and subsequent appeal, the festival was cleared of the charges made and awarded costs. Last year the event went ahead on a fine day and many local residents thoroughly enjoyed the day.

If Barnet withdraws its support, organisers will have to make up the £400 awarded last year (of which the council effectively deducted £100 for "indemnity documents") from elsewhere. One potential problem could be the provision of marquees. Last year the festival acquired two such tents from Haringey and Hammer-smith & Fulham Councils at just £50 each, instead of the £1,800 that these would normally have cost.

It is a shame that such a popular event as this has to rely on the goodwill of council authorities outside our own borough. Is it too much to ask that our local council fund an event that it should be more than happy to be associated with?

We await Barnet's official policy regarding the festival, and hope that local companies and residents will offer help to the organisers.

For further information, or to offer help, please contact Jacqui Suffling on 444 4051. Their next meeting is on Tuesday January 5th 1993 at 8:00pm at the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2.

Bookies Pay Out As Crime Business Booms

Golders Green police warned residents to be extra-vigilant this Christmas as they told of how a branch of William Hill the bookmakers in East Finchley were unwitting hosts to unwelcome punters who had decided to have a gamble last month, and as a result paid out to the tune of £3,220 in cash.

One of an increasing number of local victims of crime, William Hill on the High Road, suffered a forced entry through their front door. Once inside, the perpetrators were able to place the firm's safe onto a trolley and simply wheel it out of the rear entrance, along with its contents.

In the same week, Walters the greengrocer in the High Road had a charity box stolen by "two

pimpily youths", who also matched the description of youths who attempted to steal a similar charity box from Finchley Wines opposite.

Police also warned the public to check the identity of officials who call at the door after confidence tricksters, posing as Water Board inspectors, gained entry into the home of a Kitchener Road pensioner and made off with £200 cash.

Other crimes in the same week include one rape, a serious assault that could result in death, two cases of indecent behaviour including one towards children, seven burglaries and numerous reports of vandalism, criminal damage, theft and other crimes.

A lot of the information was given as background and can't be printed because the people concerned have still to be tried. However I can give you some excerpts and, remember, all this was over one week, not an entire month.

Rape in East Finchley - Trial soon in Harrow
Domestic violence - death may occur - N2

Ossulton Way, two fifteen year olds were smiled at by a fat 60 year old man in a woolly cap who was holding himself with both hands.

Neil Close. Racist telephone calls, BT changed the number.
Charity Box stolen by two pimply faced youths from Walters the Green grocers in the High Road.

Angry drunk refused service by Shillilapi Indian Restaurant punched and shattered the plate glass window as a farewell gesture.

Sedgemere Avenue N2 - ground floor flat in broken into. TV, video, telephone answering machine, and microwave stolen. Sash window forced.

Dennison Close N2 - ground floor flat broken into, tv, silverware and jewellery stolen. Kitchen window smashed. Front door locked so thieves had to leave by the broken window.

Cornwall Close N2 - Window forced, cash, computer, video camera stolen, forced window for entry whilst owners slept.

Durham Road N2 - Top floor flat broken into, pushed in door, camera's lenses etc stolen to the value of nearly £3,000.

East End Road N2 - Sub PO broken into 5.10am, thieves took £100 cash, cigarettes and lighters to value of £1600 whilst owners in flat upstairs.

High Road N2 - Andrews the chemist, ground floor wooden panel below window smashed. Passer by saw pair of legs disappearing inside and called police who turned up within three minutes. Nothing stolen but £100 damage.

Kitchener Road, N2 - Bogus waterboard official stole £200 from unsuspecting pensioner. Home help called police, not caught.

Creighton Avenue N2 - Ashler Court, forced entry by using plas-

tic card to slip the door. Hi-Fi, cd's and jewellery totalling £1105 stolen.

High Road N2 - William Hill the bookmakers - thieves broke in through the front door, put the safe into a trolley and left via the back door, £3220 cash in the safe.

High Road, three juveniles stole a Vauxhall Cavalier and were chased around London, two of which had the thrill of being bitten by police dogs.

In addition to this there were other crimes including vehicles broken into, drunks etc but too numerous to list here.

There are many solutions, hire a policeman at a cost of £300 a day, another is to protect your house with alarms and good secure locks, yet another is to form a neighbourhood watch scheme in your street or if there is already one there, to call a meeting to discuss the lawlessness now happening in East Finchley. Yet another is to do nothing and pay increasingly higher insurance premiums each year or be happy to replace everything that may be stolen!

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THE ARCHER at 20

Twenty years ago, Andrew Taylor, Kevin Finn and Nick Lawrence led an army of volunteers who produced and distributed the first edition of *THE ARCHER*. The paper then came out as a four-page, black and white edition printed on A4 paper before going tabloid in time for issue three.

Forgive the indulgence if we use this page to celebrate our birthday and look back at the highlights of those early days.

THE ARCHER has changed in many ways since January 1993 but at its heart it is still the volunteer-led community newspaper it set out to be from the start.

Now we're running at 12 pages each month, printed in full colour, and we're also spreading news online on our own website and via Facebook and Twitter.

Memories

and suggestions

Do you have any memories of *THE ARCHER* over the years? Get in touch and we'll feature

your recollections in future issues.

And what do you think of *THE ARCHER* in 2013? Have you got any suggestions or new ideas for the paper in our anniversary year? We'd value your thoughts on new things we could be doing or stories we should be covering and, although we can't promise to put everything into action, we'll certainly consider all ideas to help make the newspaper the best it possibly can be for the next 20 years.

How to get in touch: Email us at the-archer@lineone.net, phone us on 0800 612 0748, find *TheArcherN2* on Facebook and Twitter, or write to us at *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

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THE ARCHER at 20: "Not just another freebie"

When *The Archer* was born, East Finchley and the country as a whole was in the thick of a recession, much like the one we've been battling through in the last few years. These extracts from an article in our second issue explain the thinking that brought the paper into life.

This copy of *THE ARCHER* comes to you as the result of one man's idea being bounced off a friend. The inspiration behind it was the feeling that although East Finchley is at present a friendly community with the atmosphere of a village, it seems to be in danger of slipping into the oblivion of a London suburb.

Perhaps, we thought, if we had our own *truly* local paper we could not only preserve but possibly enhance the community atmosphere that without a shadow of a doubt already exists.

Many of us, when we were younger, received copies of a parish magazine or similar publication. These were really enjoyable. People actually looked forward to receiving them. They are a condensed but important manifestation of the character of the people who make up the community, and are read as avidly by visitors as they are by residents.

The result was a pilot issue

in December 1992. Mistakes have been made (all the more since none of us on the team has any newspaper experience) but the reaction was positive from those that had seen it. Regular publications are planned and you are holding what is hoped to be among the first of many editions.

The name *THE ARCHER*, something we are often asked about, is taken from a sculpture designed by Eric Aumonier, which crouches on top of East Finchley tube station. The archer depicted in the sculpture seems to have the sense of purpose we are looking for, and East Finchley has traditionally been strongly associated with archery.

There are around 9,000 letter boxes in East Finchley, which represent a population of 27,000 adults (no figures are available for children). It is them (or should we say *you*) who will make or break the paper. It will only work if we publish the sort of material that

you want to read, and we can only do that if you tell us what you want to read.

One final word: the paper is free, but printers and paper merchants require payment. The staff on the team donate considerable amounts of time for no payment. *THE ARCHER* is funded by advertising paid for by our local businesses. They have not been immune to the recession, so please let them know if you have seen their advert or offer in *THE ARCHER* so that they will realise that it is being seen and advertise again. The publisher and editor wish to thank all advertisers for their support in making this paper possible.

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First with the news

Here are some of the stories, features and adverts that made those first two editions of *THE ARCHER* in January and February 1993.

On the front page of our four-page first edition was an article titled '**Policing East Finchley**'. The writer describes how he attended a press briefing at Golders Green police station and came away with the details of many local crimes.

A charity box was stolen from Walters the greengrocers in the High Road by two 'pimpily faced youths', and an angry drunk refused service by Shillilapi Indian Restaurant punched and shattered the plate glass window as a farewell gesture.

There were reports of burglaries at homes in Sedgemere Avenue, Dennison Close, Cornwall Close, Durham Road and Creighton Avenue, plus a 5am break-in at the East End Road sub-Post Office where thieves stole £100 in cash and cigarettes to the value of £1,600.

Also broken into were bookmakers William Hill and Andrews the chemist, both in the High Road. No wonder the article starts: "What a dangerous area we live in..."

Elsewhere in the first edition, it was reported that **East Finchley Community Festival** would go ahead on 19 June despite losing its Barnet Council grant. Two years earlier, the whole event had been cancelled when the council accused it of becoming 'political', although the accusation was subsequently rejected in a court hearing and the festival organisers were awarded costs.

Community spirit was strong right from the start. Issue number one carried appeals for residents to join Neighbourhood Watch schemes, help out at neighbourhood charity CONTACT and offer their skills to the free advice service run by East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre.

There was **news** of a toy exhibition at the Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon and the edition carried a short his-

tory of the East Finchley area, written by Alan Randle, who worked at the library.

Our **advertisers** in those days included some who are still with us: Stewart Duncan opticians, estate agents Jeremy Leaf, solicitors Cree Godfrey & Wood, CW Andrews pharmacy; and others who have vanished over the years, including Culture Vultures fancy dress, The Old Europeans Hungarian restaurant, A1 Motor Stores and The Bargain Centre for secondhand furniture and bric-a-brac.

We also carried **classified ads**. On offer in the first edition was a drum kit with "symbols" for £40, a solid pine double wardrobe said to be a real bargain at £100 (buyer collects), and a collapsible Scandinavian-style office table for £25. Also advertised was a car share for anyone travelling daily to the Moorgate area between 7.45 and 8am, the opportunity to sample Greek Cypriot home cooking in your own home "at very reasonable prices", plus a new Art for Adults course starting up in Durham Road on a weekly basis.

Finally, back to **crime news**. Our second edition carried another round-up of local incidents but this time they were a bit more weird and wonderful. Over the Christmas holidays, it was reported, villains broke into Bishop Douglass School and defecated on the floor before making off with eight bottles of Tippex. As our writer commented: "There must be an easier way of having a white Christmas".

And then there was the burglary at a home in Long Lane early on a February morning when the only items stolen were £30 worth of magazines. Among the titles taken were *Playboy: Best of the Big Uns* and *Big Ones Over 40 Inches* plus "probably for the thief's mother" a copy of *Woman* magazine and *TV Guide*.

THE ARCHER at 20: Archie the icon

By Nick Young

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, the London Underground celebrates 150 years. For more than 70 of those years, the iconic archer statue has dominated the station and the suburb, becoming the symbol of East Finchley.

'Archie' inspired the name of this newspaper and that of N2's new free school to open in September; he features on the benches on the High Road and even represented the London Borough of Barnet on the 2012

Olympic badge.

"Brilliantly sited, fantastically realised, impishly styled and enduringly relevant, the archer sums up pretty much everything worth celebrating about the Underground," says blogger



'Archie' photo by David Tupman

Ian Jones, whose study of the Tube's "finest features, sensations and oddities" (150greatthingsabouttheunderground.com) has become an online hit.

Although there has been a station at East Finchley since 1867, the current building dates from the late 1930s and was designed by the architect Charles Holden (1875-1960), who was responsible for many Tube stations during the inter-war period.

Symbolic statue

He wanted several stations to have statues, and the sculptor Eric Aumonier (1899-1974) was commissioned in June 1939 to produce the East Finchley archer which, due to the war, was the only one to be completed. The decision to have him in a kneeling position, looking as though he has just fired an arrow down the line to what was then the longest railway tunnel in the world, was deliberate. As a London Transport staff publication noted at the time: "It is more than a decorative device - it is powerful symbolism."

Archie commemorates the fact that this area was once part of the Bishop of London's hunting ground. Further evidence of this can be seen locally in various street and pub names, and on the old Finchley Council coat of arms which is visible on the façade of East Finchley Library.

Unveiled on July 22 1940, Archie is almost twice natural size and was made from six hundredweight (just over 300kg) of beech timber round a steel armature, covered by five hundredweight of sheet lead.

It is said that there was originally an arrow at Morden which was stolen, although as Morden station (another Holden design) predated East Finchley station by over a decade this may be an urban myth.

Around and About

Sadly, we haven't got room to print all the stories *THE ARCHER* ran in its first edition but this 'Around and About' column by Chinwag gives a flavour of some of the coverage in our early days.

A lot of ladies are more than a little upset about the closure of the toilet in East End Road, opposite Budgens. Barnet is doing nothing about fixing it, and this just isn't good enough. Local councillors had better watch out: Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned!

More and more houses seem to have a sign on their doors saying "No free papers". During November, we knocked on several doors and asked if this also applied to our community newspaper. Everyone agreed that this was an exception and that they would like to receive it. Because it is impossible to

know which houses to avoid and which ones to deliver to, we hope you will bear with us until we get better organised.

Our very own Kevin Finn found something odd one November evening. Delivering leaflets about *THE ARCHER*, he discovered that the only building in the High Road without a letterbox was the Post Office itself! Could it be that the Post Office has found a way to increase profits? If you want to deliver a letter, you have to post it as normal mail. One wonders whether they would have to pay double postage if you forgot to put a stamp on it.

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YOUNG ARCHER

To the 'Roof of Africa'

Last summer, Priya Pattani, 16, her brother Premal, 14, and their parents Hema and Krishna, who run Pristine Dry Cleaners in the High Road, took on a once-in-a-lifetime challenge. Here, Priya recalls their adventure.

Our challenge was to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, known as the 'Roof of Africa' and at 5,895m the highest freestanding mountain in the world.

The purpose was to raise funds for a school in India for boys and girls. At present, schooling is provided for years 8 and 9 but the school aims to expand classes from year 6 through to year 12.

The seven-day climb was gruelling and we were filled with fluctuating emotions. Our cousin Krupa, 21, who had climbed this mountain previously, joined us, and our group of five climbers was assisted by two guides, one chef and 17 porters. Each porter was only allowed to carry 20kg, under park regulations.

The crew assisting us were very experienced, caring, helpful and above all men of honesty and integrity. The hospitality was five-star: every meal was a delight. In fact, as our family are all vegetarians, the crew decided to live on the same diet for the climb period.

Spectacular route

Climbers choose from several routes; we selected the Machame Route, which is very popular with everyone. Beginning on the south-western side of Kilimanjaro, the trail passes through some of the mountain's finest features, including the cloud forest of the southern slopes, the dry and dusty Shira Plateau and the delightful senecio-clad Barranco campsite.

To reach the summit we headed for the lengthy, long-winded climb up the Barafu trail, with the Rebmann Glacier edging into our field of vision before we pushed up the crater's southern rim to Uhuru peak, the highest point.

The summit night was particularly memorable. This demanding and exhausting section of the climb began at 10pm and average temperatures were around

-10 degrees. Our penultimate base camp, before the summit of the Uhuru peak, was 4,600m. The altitude contributed to low levels of oxygen so we could only walk 'Pola Pola', African for 'slowly, slowly'.

Sunrise at the summit

The night was pitch-dark and all that was visible were the perky head lamps, illuminating the corkscrew path ahead of us. The sound of the porters' melodic vocals was motivating and interesting, keeping us awake on a night when there was no coffee.

Actually reaching the summit, encompassing an early morning sunrise, was the most emotional moment for all of us. Tears, hugs and fist-clenching gestures were not uncommon. We celebrated with our crew and were most pleased that we all touched the summit as

a united family. United we reached; divided, God knows what would have happened.

For more information and our fundraising web page, please visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/pattani4



The Pattani family on the 'Roof of Africa'.

Little Jack sees a whole new world

In October, David Hillel Optometrists in the High Road held Children's Vision Day to highlight the dangers of children not having their eyes examined at a young age.

Jack, pictured, received glasses to correct his squint. Jack's mother, an East Finchley resident, said: "I hadn't realised the importance of getting Jack's eyes examined so early. Apparently Jack is one of many babies born with a squint, and even more develop one before they are five years old."

David said all children should have their eyes examined from their second birthday onwards. They needn't be able to read, and the service is free.



Dodgy builders are back

By Janet Maitland

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is warning residents about a pair of bogus builders who trick people out of thousands of pounds by claiming they have a water leak. *THE ARCHER* reported on this scam last October after several elderly residents were targeted over the summer. Another incident has been reported.

On 9 January, a man was walking to his home in Park Hall Road when he was approached by two men in a white van who followed him to his front door. One of the men claimed that they were fixing a water leak at

his neighbour's house and needed access to the man's property to check he wasn't having similar problems. The potential victim didn't let him in but went to find his landlord's details to give him. When he returned to the door, the men had disappeared.

The main suspect is described as a tall white man of about 40 with curly fair hair, wearing a high visibility yellow jacket with 'Balfour' written on it.

Previous form

In one case last summer, fake builders entered the house of an 84-year-old resident and showed her water running down an internal

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

In another case the men tricked an 87-year-old woman, but staff at her bank became suspicious and called the police when she asked to withdraw £4,200. Several people avoided becoming victims by checking with neighbours or shutting the front door on the men and calling the police.

Police advise you never to let 'tradesmen' who cold-call at your door enter your home. If they persist, close the door and inform them that you are calling the police, then call 101 and inform them what has happened. The SNT would also like to hear about it if these men try this trick on you. Call them on 020 7161 9014. In an emergency, always dial 999.

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By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Between the Chatterley trial and the Beatles' first LP

In the weird world of anniversaries, 1963 is a year to remember. Why? Because it marked the birth of the permissive society and was the time when the sixties really started swinging.

The fifties were grey, stodgy and run by the kind of people who 'hadn't fought in the war so that teenagers could listen to rock'n'roll'. They continued beyond their sell-by date and you were expected to know your place, mow the lawn and not frighten the horses. Never mind the decaying empire or rising unemployment, in 1962 the Tory government of Old Etonians looked as smugly complacent as Old Etonians always do. And then came 1963.

The signs of change were there; in 1960 the Government prosecuted Penguin for publishing *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and lost. Satire was booming. *Private Eye* started in 1962 and put the boot into the establishment for being out of touch, boring and old. Meanwhile, in Liverpool, Brian Epstein had stumbled across four blokes in a cellar who were about to change music for ever.

Now was the time to light the blue touch paper and watch the sparks fly. And the man who did it was an Oxford-educated former Bullingdon Club member and government minister called John Profumo. The last thing Profumo meant to do when he fell in lust with a naked Christine Keeler next to a swimming pool on Lord Astor's estate in 1961 was change society. And anyway, the affair only lasted a few weeks.

But 18 months later things went out of control. There was the small matter of two of Keeler's later boyfriends having a fight over her, guns being fired in a West London mews and rumours about the minister and the good-time girl starting to circulate. So what? Well, this was the age of the Cold War and Keeler had also been involved with a KGB officer. Just to add to the fun and games, Labour leader Hugh Gaitskell died and was replaced by clever grammar school boy Harold Wilson, who saw the chance to make his mark.

When Profumo lied to Parliament about his affair and had to resign it became open season; Keeler sold her story, the sleaze oozed out and *Private Eye* made its name. It may have been a minor tornado in a private swimming pool, but the Tories lost the next election, the sixties started to swing and deference was never the same again.

And the four blokes from the Liverpool cellar released their first LP.

From preloved to reloved

By Cathy Young

Remember the garden pots shop on the corner of Aylmer Parade? For years it advertised its half-price sale and became a local landmark. Well, now Juliet Waldren (known as Jules to her friends) has taken over the premises and reopened it as a retail outlet for local craftspeople and for her internet business, forgetmenots-vintage.co.uk, restoring once-loved pieces of furniture and selling vintage crockery and handmade goods.

Jules grew up in Church Lane, N2, and has fond memories of her mother's hairdressers shop, Joan Carole, also in Church Lane. Jules now lives with her two student daughters near the shop and not far from her grandparents' home in Highgate. With all these generations together, you could say she is of a truly local vintage. She certainly has a strong love of all things vintage and is committed to supporting the local community and doing her bit for the wider environment.

"Upcycling or restoring once-loved furniture not only gives it a new lease of life but also addresses the landfill issue," she told me. "I started creating from my kitchen table and over time my home became a workshop so a showroom or shop was the next step. I needed somewhere close to home so



Local vintage: Jules Waldren in her shop in Aylmer Parade. Photo by John Lawrence

new customers and those who already knew the website could see the items in real life, not just from photos."

The shop is beautifully set out,

with restored furniture showcasing the vintage china and collectables and walls covered in mirrors, photographs and other wall art. There is a selection of handmade jewellery crafted by local artists, fascinators which can be made to order and a variety of handmade soft furnishings, cards, candles and soaps. For those with a quirkier taste, there are large mirrors featuring Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe and cufflinks and brooches made of tiny Lego people.

And the pots? Don't worry; they will return in the spring when Jules and the shop's leaseholder join forces to extend their premises and sell not only forget-me-nots vintage wares but also garden pots and garden furniture made from reclaimed wood from around the world.

The shop is open Monday to Saturday 10am-6pm and on Sundays 10am-5pm.



Jack Murphy, left, and Oscar Davidson volunteered to help brighten up the Church Lane and Long Lane junction. Photo by John Lawrence

Neglected corner shown some love

By John Lawrence

Back in November, we carried an appeal from Long Lane resident Paula Goodchild for Barnet Council to do something about tidying up the neglected seating and flowerbed area near her home at the junction with Church Lane.

The council has done nothing, despite direct requests from Paula. Unsurprisingly, however, a number of local volunteers were in touch almost immediately offering their help.

Two of them were former Fortismere students Oscar Davidson and Jack Murphy, who recently left university and set up a gardening company called Green Parakeets (www.greenparakeets.co.uk).

With Paula's help, they dug the beds at the corner and put in winter bedding plants, bulbs for the spring and some shrubs. The transformation was noticed immediately.

Oscar said: "In the space of 20 minutes we had comments from three passers-by saying thank you for brightening up the place. There's a lot of

community spirit round here and hopefully people will keep looking after the beds."

Paula said the pair couldn't have been more enthusiastic. Now she's just waiting for someone at Barnet Council to get back to her about repairing the broken brick work.

Can you deliver?

We're looking for volunteers to distribute bundles of *THE ARCHER* to our deliverers. Each round comprises about 8 drops and should take about 30 minutes by car once a month and can be done in your own time.

If you can help, please leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748 or email us at the-archer@lineone.net. Thanks.

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Sport & Fitness

- **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07795 503752.
- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Lane N2. Contact: Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk
- **Tai Chi** class at EF Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

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

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390



Mary Poulter's Willow and Sari Silk will be one of the works on show at the Cycles exhibition.

Art in the round

By Adam Justice-Mills

Artworks inspired by cycles, circles, seasons and rotations will feature in an exhibition by more than 20 members of the East Finchley Open (EFO) at The Highgate Gallery next month.

Among the more literal interpretations of the theme, abstract painter Penny Elder's screenprints are inspired by the bicycles that featured so prominently in last summer's London Olympics, as well as her son-in-law's recent cycle ride from London to Edinburgh.

Among more unusual interpretations, basket maker Mary Poulter's *Willow Cycle* interprets the lifecycle of her raw material. "In one year," she says, "a coppiced stump can produce shoots from four to 15ft in length. As well as enhancing the landscape, offering a home for wildlife and materials for basketry, willow can be used as a renewable biomass to produce energy."

Dina Katz brings an organic approach to the theme and will exhibit textured stoneware using a leaf impression with glaze and natural oxides. An organic approach is also suggested by textile artists Clara Hancock and Ann Froomberg, who will be showing silk paintings.

Jewellery makers, photographers, glassmakers and other artists will all offer individual approaches to the challenge.

Cycles runs from 8-21 March at the Highgate Gallery, Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, London N6 6BS, open Tuesday to Friday 1-5pm, Saturday, 11am-4pm and Sunday 11am-5pm. More details at www.hlsi.net and www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

What's On... E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Sunday 3 February

• **Barnet ghosts**: a ghoulish guided walk through High 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. More details from 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Sunday 10 February, and weekly

• **Cabaret** at Lauderdale House, Highgate. Sunday 10 February, Jane Milligan (Return To The Forbidden Planet, Spend, Spend, Spend) supported by Stuart MacIver; Sunday 17 February, Miles Western (Pageant, Star Quality, Doctors) supported by Emma Clare; Sunday 24 February, Jeremy Legat (Wicked, Oliver!, Curtains) supported by Amy Coombes. All shows 4.30pm. Tickets priced £13 (£11 concs) from 020 8348 8716 (£2 admin fee) and online at www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk (£2 admin fee).

Tuesday 12 February

• **Hendon and District Archaeological Society**. From Longboat to Warrior: the evolution of the wooden ship, a talk by Elliott Wragg from the Thames Discovery programme. 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Welcome to all.

Friday 22 February to Saturday 2 March

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents an innovative and exciting version of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, with puppets, projections, flamingos and mock turtles; Henrietta Barnett School Theatre, Central Square, NW11 7BN.

Tickets £12 (£9 concessions) from 020 7723 6609 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre

Saturday 23 February

• **Tree walk** in Coldfall Wood led by Ian Loasby; suggested donation £3. Booking essential. Details: www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Sunday 24 February

• **The Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Tour the famous 1471 battlefield from the Wars of the Roses. Meet at junction of Great North Rd and Hadley Green Road, 11am. More details from 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Thursday 28 February

• **The Finchley Society** hosts a preview of digitised Finchley photographs from the Barnet Archives Picture Collection. Barnet Heritage Officer Hugh Petrie will demonstrate how digitised pictures can be accessed via any internet connection. 2.30pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Non-members welcome. Admission £2.

Friday 8 to Thursday 21 March

• **"Cycles"**, a show by **East Finchley Open artists**, at the Highgate Gallery, Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, London N6 6BS, Tuesday to Friday 1-5pm, Saturday 11am-4pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Details from 020 8340 3343 or www.hlsi.net. Information on the EFO and individual artists from www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Love and loss at the Phoenix

By Carina Volkes, Phoenix operations manager
Fans of *The King's Speech* will love *Hyde Park on Hudson*, starting on 1 February at the Phoenix Cinema. Bill Murray plays Roosevelt, President when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (Olivia Coleman) become the first British monarchs to visit New York.

From 15 February, find out the story behind the making of *Psycho* with Anthony Hopkins as the eponymous director and Helen Mirren as his long-suffering wife.

Famous reclusive director Terrence Malick returns from 22 February with only his sixth film in 40 years. *To The Wonder* is a beautifully filmed meditation on love, the power of faith and dealing with their loss.

Visually spectacular time-lapse environmental documentary *Chasing Ice* gets a one-off show on 12 February, and French coming-of-age drama *Sister*, about a young boy who steals from the rich guests at the nearby Swiss ski resort, plays on 19 February only.

For families, our usual great Kids Club programme is every Saturday at 12. Also look out for additional family screenings during half-term to get the kids out of the house! On 5 February we launch Toddler Time, a weekly event specifically for children aged 2-4. Featuring short programmes of cartoons such as *Peppa Pig*, *Toddler Time* is a chance to let your child experience the magic of cinema for the first time.

Every Wednesday at 11am we give Mums (and Dads) a chance to come to the cinema with their baby to relax and see a new release. Look out for Oscar nominated *The Impossible* in February's line-up.

And if you're looking for something to do on Valentine's Day, check our listings and make a night of it with delicious food from our menu, and a glass of wine (which can be enjoyed in our fully-licensed historic auditorium)!

For more information on our programme, check our website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or call the box office on 020 8444 6789.



The Creative Writes group get creative.

I plucked up the confidence to write

By Matthew Hall

Like so many other people I had thought about joining a creative writing course but never had the courage to do so. This was mainly because I lacked self-confidence; I always felt that anything I wrote would be torn apart by the tutor and others on the course, who I thought would be better educated and more gifted than me.

Creative Writes is different. It meets at the Clissold Arms pub, Fortis Green, on Tuesday mornings and, under the tutelage of Nichola, we are encouraged to develop our own style at our own pace.

There is no feedback from either Nichola or the other attendees. It is up to us whether we read out what we have written, so it can be as personal as we wish it to be. The workshops consist of ten-minute exercises over two hours on topics provided by Nichola and this can range from writing about objects, to quotes or abstract ideas.

Then it is for us to decide which direction we take our writing in. We can develop the themes or discard them and start again. All the exercises create building blocks that can be used to create and develop all types of writing. I use some of the exercises for work to improve my report writing so they are very flexible.

Creative Writes has a new programme of Jan-March 2013 workshops, including blogs and Tuesday morning workshops at the Clissold Arms. For information and booking, go to: www.creative-writes.co.uk

**Letters****Fortismere places policy**

Dear Editor,

I attended the Fortismere consultation on their musical ability school places policy on 14 January (thanks to *THE ARCHER* for publishing the details). This policy currently gives places for up to 24 children (plus their siblings) each year from outside the area.

This has effectively substantially reduced the number of places offered by distance: in 2009 there were 132 offers by distance compared to 108 in 2012. It also creates a kind of social selection as benefiting the children of those who can afford private music lessons.

Anyone concerned about this can email nmoore@fortismere.org.uk by Friday 15 February and a form for this is available on the Fortismere website at www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/page/default.asp?title=Home&pid=1

Yours faithfully,
Paul McLean-Thorne,
Lincoln Road, N2.

Daphne Bauer, 1925–2012

Many readers of this newspaper will remember Daphne Bauer, a resident in Church Lane, N2, from 1980 to 1995. Daphne Bauer, nee Hall, and later Mills, was born in South Wales, of Irish parents, and was proud of her Irish heritage throughout her adventurous life.

Daphne grew up in Kensington and later went on to complete a degree in sociology at the London School of Economics. In the austerity of late 1940s' Britain, she took the opportunity of a post as a research assistant in a sociological survey in rural Jamaica, where she stayed for two years and learned to understand the local dialect. After a year or so back in Britain, Daphne went abroad again, this time to Toronto, Canada, where her brother George had already moved. She married there in 1952 and had two sons, Peter and David.

In the late 1950s, the family moved back to Britain and Daphne embarked on a career as a social worker, first with the London County Council as a school care committee organiser in Islington and later for the London Borough of Camden.



An extremely dedicated social worker assigned to what in the 1960s were known as 'problem families', colleagues said of her that "Daphne never lost a baby".

While a resident in East Finchley for 15 years, Daphne took an active interest in local issues. She was a founding member of the East Finchley Village Society and was involved in the controversy over the widening of the North Circular Road. She was also a director of the Phoenix Cinema Trust and enjoyed art classes at the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, as well as a spot of gardening.

Daphne moved to Bexhill in 1995 and until the end of her life kept up close friendships and contact with the community in East Finchley, visiting regularly and maintaining a keen interest in N2 issues. She was always a delighted recipient of *THE ARCHER*. Daphne will be remembered by many in N2 for her warmth, intelligence and keen sense of humour.

Carpet shop rolls out new look

Few East Finchley firms can boast a longer history than S & M Myers Carpet Showroom. First established in 1819 to supply local factories with rags for cleaning their machines, the business moved into government surplus before concentrating on carpet sales from the 1970s onwards.

Still in the family, the firm is run by brothers Richard and Alan Myers, along with Naveed Iqbal. As it approaches its 200th anniversary, it has totally refitted its showroom on East End Road, creating a bright and spacious new shop for customers and a much larger warehouse for holding stock.

The transformation took 16 months in all but Myers is now firmly back in business. Richard said: "It's nice to be back. We've got plenty of carpets in stock, and the same wide range and good service we've always had. And our prices haven't gone up."



Magic carpets: from left, Naveed Iqbal, Alan and Richard Myers in their new showroom. Photo by John Lawrence

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.

**Drivers, beware. Runners, be aware-r!**

By Victoria Davenport

This time of the year, more runners are on the roads, what with New Year's resolutions and training for the upcoming London and other marathons. A friend was hit by a car driving out of a petrol station. She was running fast, didn't see the car, and the driver didn't see her. Six weeks in hospital, a metal rod in her leg, one year later with endless physio and retraining and she is (very slowly) working towards a bit of light jogging. She was a near-elite athlete aiming for the British athletics team and her career is over.

Drive, cycle, run...with care

Runners know the risks of wearing earphones when they're outside running, but everyone seems to do it. We're told to watch out for cars, but no one does. Even the most well-intentioned, careful driver might not see you, not be looking at all, or think "I can turn that corner before that runner, easy." Always, always, they'll assume they can get there faster than you.

Running's like driving. Be alert, be careful and watchful, and don't assume anyone will stop for you. This applies to cyclists as well (one actually killed a pedestrian on Parliament Hill).

Drivers: don't assume you can move faster than that runner. Be courteous if you can: the runner is probably exhausted, fed up and just wants to keep moving. They could be distracted and not looking around them or not hear you, especially with their earphones in. Don't assume they see you or will stop.

Runners: be cautious and, especially when running in traffic, assume that drivers aren't going to see you or think you are at risk. Ditto cyclists; they're the runner's friends and equal in many ways, but they too are moving fast and can be dangerous.

Visibility

The obvious stuff about clothing applies too but I still see runners out at night wearing dark clothing (and I'm guilty too). It's not just the cars that are a problem; you could easily plough right into another runner, and that hurts! White is better than orange. Get used to wearing it in daylight too. Everyone needs to be aware of you, including dog-walkers, people with baby buggies and so on.

In turn, runners need to be courteous to pedestrians. Some runners are irritating and obnoxious when they plough ahead forcing pedestrians to the side so they can keep up the pace. I remember being told when I was learning to drive, 'Courtesy is contagious', and it's still good advice for runners, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

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Did you know you can catch up with past issues of *THE ARCHER* online?

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Sugar skills are icing on the cake

With the growth in home cooking and the runaway success of the BBC's *Great British Bake-Off*, cake-making is the new rock 'n' roll. And one of its local stars is expert cake decorator Adam Cox.

Adam has spent six years mastering the art of sugarcraft and cake-making, producing incredible edible creations and bespoke celebration cakes for any occasion.

Now Adam is passing on his skills by offering private tuition to all levels of cake decorators in their own kitchens. His classes will teach many different techniques for cakes and cupcakes, including how to cover a cake, how to carve shapes and how to model sugar paste figures.

And for those who want to decorate a cake themselves for a loved one's birthday or wedding, Adam will customise the class to help beginners to produce the cake of their dreams.

Adam said: "All lessons will be held at a location of your choice, as long as there is a table available for us to sit at, running water close by and an enthusiastic student. I will supply everything else."

Adam can be contacted on 07891 830664 or via www.topmycake.com.



Cake sculpture: Adam Cox with one of his party creations.



Server Edie Boon behind the counter at the new Boyden's Pantry in Church Lane. Photo by John Lawrence

Cosy café opens for business

By Betti Blatman

East Finchley has a new café. Boyden's Pantry has been opened by local residents Ben Harrison and Anna Boyden. The pair had been driving down Church Lane daily and noticed the vacant property on the corner of King Street, once occupied by the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, and thought it would be the perfect place to start a new café to complement their existing business in New Southgate, called Boyden's Kitchen (www.boydenskitchen.com).

The refurbishment of the glass-fronted corner location resembles a cosy living room with comfortable furniture and there was a 'buzzy' atmosphere amongst the customers when I visited. Ben said they were aiming for residents to have a local meeting point while enjoying tea and coffee, snacks or a light lunch. And besides opening their second cafe, Anna and Ben are also celebrating the birth of their second child. Charlie was born on 14 January. Congratulations to them.

Dark days and a new life

By Harry the cat

I was alone and it was dark. Despite my fur coat, I was freezing cold. I was also hungry, but the foxes were already ransacking the bins, feasting on stale chicken bones.

Concealed in the shadows, I watched and waited for the foxes to leave. When they did, I ate what little remained. I couldn't hunt because I'd lost the use of one eye, so my attempts at turning those pesky rodents into dinner were easily foiled.

I used to have a home. I used to be given food whenever I meowed (to alert the humans to feeding time) or by simply looking cute. Alas, those were distant memories.

But today, food, warmth and love are plentiful again, thanks to the charity Animal Aid & Advice North London who rescued me. They also provided the surgery I needed to repair my eye.

Following my spell with the V-E-T, I was taken to a place with lots of other felines. Humans came to visit, peering at us through our cages, and the lucky ones were fostered or adopted. Nine months passed, but no one came for me.

I'm not conventionally handsome. I bear scars from those wild days of fending for



Harry's found a new home with Jen.

myself, and my post-operative eye is a bit on the droopy side. But I'm me, and I have feelings.

Then, on the day of the Muswell Hill Festival, I found my forever home with Jen. The minute we locked eyes it was love at first sight, although I have to say she's no oil painting either!

Today, life's good. No, actually it's great! These days I'm called Harry. I can't remember my old name, but let's hope it wasn't Fluffy Wuffy! Thanks to Jen, and the efforts of the Animal Aid & Advice North London charity shop on the High Road, I have all the cuddles and tuna a happy kitty could need.

Please contact info@animalaidandadvice.org, or call Marilyn on 07533 268 649 should you find a place in your heart to help homeless cats.

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