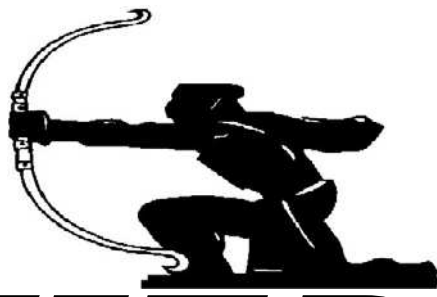


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Art for all at the EFO Artist's Open Houses. Photo Adam Justice-Mills

Artists lay wares on the table

Fifty artists exhibited their work in 14 houses opened to visitors on two weekend in July in East Finchley. The annual East Finchley Open weekends gave people the chance to get up close to photos, jewellery, glassware, ceramics, textiles and paintings.

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Could you foster a cat?

By Diana Cormack
The Animal Aid and Advice shop is appealing for people to be foster carers to their rescued cats. This local charity goes out to rescue sick and injured stray cats, which few animal charities do, and it is funded solely by the East Finchley charity shop, a bookshop in Highgate and donations. They receive no other funding for their work or for their volunteers.

Many of the rescued strays need temporary homes for a few weeks or months until they are permanently rehomed. The charity, which is often their last resort, says it can be very rewarding to help a neglected or abandoned animal on its way to a new life. They will provide support. If you can help with this, please pop into the shop at 48 High Road or call 07533 268 649 or 07859 880 221.

'Unsafe' day nursery closed down by Ofsted

By Janet Maitland

Mini Me's nursery, based in Tarling Road, has been closed down by Ofsted after 18 months of providing unsafe childcare. Complaints about the nursery started soon after it opened in December 2012.

"This was a nursery set up by individuals with little experience in running a business, let alone a business in childcare," said the judge at a tribunal which met in June to hear the nursery's appeal against the cancellation of its registration last September.

Appeal dismissed

The judge said that Sandip Basi, the nursery owner, and Caroline Casey, the facilities manager, "did not accept responsibility for the management issues, even those directly in their control". She dismissed their appeal.

Although Mini Me's is an independent company, it was subject to the governance of the trustees of the Old Barn Community Centre in Tarling Road where the nursery hired rooms. The trustees of the Old Barn are themselves under investigation by the Charity Commission.

Other classes close

The Saturday morning dance and martial arts classes at the Old Barn have had to end, even although they have no connection with Mini Me's nursery. "I felt sorry for the teacher," said Yasmin N'Jai, whose children attended the dance classes. "She felt she was letting the parents down. Now there's nothing at all for children."

The teachers told *THE ARCHER* that nursery staff had informed them that the Old Barn was closing down and they

had 24 hours notice to cancel all their classes. The teachers also said that they had not been informed by anyone that Ofsted was investigating the nursery or that the Charity Commission was investigating the trustees.

Campaigners ask questions

Until the current trustees took over the Old Barn in 2010, it had been running pioneering services for children and young people for over 25 years. These services were discontinued under the new management.

Local campaigners have been trying ever since the takeover to restore the community centre to local people, working alongside Barnet Council, Community Barnet, the Charity Commission and MP Mike Freer. The commission informed *THE ARCHER* in April that in their view the 'trustees' were not validly appointed in the first place.

Campaigners are asking why it is taking so long for the commission to act. "The failure of the commission to get to grips with its regulatory responsibilities soon enough in this case has clearly put children at risk," said Helen Drake. "I think questions should be asked at the highest levels."

The Charity Commission told *THE ARCHER* that it expects the Old Barn's trustees to have a policy for safeguarding children and that if concerns are raised they expect trustees to 'respond appropriately to protect beneficiaries'.

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East Finchley Newspapers

Copy Editor
John Lawrence

Production Editor
Alison Roberts

Picture Editor
Mike Coles

Editorial Team
Diana Cormack
Daphne Chamberlain

Sub Editors
Ann Bronkhorst
Jeff Robson

Finance & Advertising
John Dearing

Distribution
Toni Morgan
Rose Molloy

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address. Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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Former pupil David Bernstein opens the new Christ's College Sixth Form Centre. Photo Mike Coles

Sixth formers find a new home

Sixth formers at Christ's College Finchley now have a new block to call their own. Their centre was opened by old boy David Bernstein, chairman of the Football Association.

The block will be the home of post-16 education at the school. Sixth formers launched it by staging a balloon race in celebration.

Mr Bernstein was at Christ's College between 1954 and 1961, going on to a successful career in business, including French Connection and Manchester City FC.

Don't just dismiss a 'funny turn'

Since Stroke Month in May, GPs in Barnet have been promoting awareness of the signs of mini strokes and advising people not to dismiss them as just a funny turn.

Unlike a full stroke, mini-strokes (TIAs) can pass after a few minutes so it's easy to think they result from tiredness or migraine. However, they can be serious and, sometimes, an early warning sign of a more serious stroke to come.

It is vital people do a FAST check if a stroke strikes, because it is so important to get the right treatment quickly and in the right place.

Face: Your face may have dropped on one side, you may not be able to smile or your mouth or eye may have drooped.
Arms You may not be able to lift one or both arms and keep them there because of arm weakness or numbness.

Speech: Your speech may be slurred or garbled, or you may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake.

Time: It is time to dial 999 immediately if you see any of these signs or symptoms.

Locally, as in the rest of London, stroke services have been concentrated in eight hyper-acute stroke centres which offer expert care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For Barnet, the main stroke centre is run by University College London Hospitals (UCLH). It offers services for strokes and TIAs.

Local GPs can help too, offering an NHS Health Check

service which aims to prevent stroke along with other common illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease and heart disease.

Can you deliver?

THE ARCHER needs a volunteer to deliver papers to Ludlow Way, Maurice Walk and part of Ossulton Way (Brim Hill to Market Place), total 110 papers. Can you spare 20 minutes once a month? Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748.

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The Archer tea towel is now on sale at the Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road. Pop in and buy yours, and

you'll be helping to raise funds for three youth groups in East Finchley.

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Do you struggle to get to the library as often as you would like, or would you like to go but just can't get there? Barnet Council runs a free home library service for any older or disabled person who may enjoy reading, listening to audio books and music, or renting DVDs, but struggles to get out regularly.

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Mongolia, here we come!

As you read this, Lauren Joseph, who was born and grew up in Edmunds Walk, N2, and her friend Lucy Dalby will be driving a third of the way around the globe to Mongolia in an old banger called Mildred, bought for £700 on eBay.



Lauren and Lucy hit the road.

Their adventure is in memory of Lauren's brother Guy, who was tragically killed in a paragliding accident in 2011 at the age of 25. Guy was the ultimate adventurer and Lauren felt that this challenge would be a tribute to her brother's enormous zest for life, and would also raise lots of money for Guy's Trust, the charity set up in his memory.

Lauren and Lucy have said farewell to their NHS jobs as

a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist and hello to gaffer tape and superglue, gourmet cuisine (baked beans and fermented mare's milk) and luxury accommodation (back of a van with their legs sticking out of the window).

Welcoming the unexpected

After sticking a pin in a map and considering war, instability, and the fact that 40-degree heat requires knee expo-

sure, they chose a route from London to Ulan Bator through Lithuania, Latvia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and everything in-between.

They've got six weeks of off-road driving with battered suspension and no satnav, border control queues, digging the van out of the Gobi Desert and questionable bathroom facilities to look forward to, but they say that they "can't wait for the opportunity to confront the unexpected and hopefully survive it!"

Every penny counts

Lauren and Lucy are funding the trip entirely themselves so that every penny raised goes directly to Guy's Trust. The money they raise will help to build a school in an impoverished area of Cambodia where only 60% of children complete primary education.

Guy's Trust offers educational opportunities to disadvantaged young people in developing countries, particularly those with which Guy had a special connection. Since the charity was founded just two years ago, the charity has built two pre-schools in Nepal and has paid for a third that will be started shortly.

Find out more at www.guystrust.org. Follow Lauren and Lucy's blog as they travel from Battersea to Ulan Bator at www.nodirectionmongolia.wordpress.com. Sponsor Lauren and Lucy at www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/laurenandlucy.

Man faces sex assault trial

By Janet Maitland

A man has been charged with a series of linked sexual assaults. Jermaine Williams, 32, of Durham Road, N2, will be tried at Wood Green Court during the autumn on charges of sexually assaulting four different women in East Finchley between 1 and 27 March.

The first alleged assault was of a 79-year-old woman waiting for a 102 bus at the stop opposite Springcroft Avenue in Fortis Green at 10.30am on Saturday 1 March. Details of the other three alleged assaults have not been released.

At a directions hearing at Wood Green Crown Court the judge stated that the alleged victims were women in their 50s, 70s and 80s and asked for consideration be given to video evidence at the trial, given their age. He also asked if mental health issues in relation to the defendant were to

be part of the case and was informed by Mr Williams' barrister that these were being explored.

Mr Williams was initially arrested on 14 April and bailed pending further enquiries. These enquiries led to him being arrested and charged on 17 June. He appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court the following day to be formally charged.

The magistrate remanded him in custody until the directions hearing on 2 July at Wood Green Crown Court, where the judge also remanded him in custody until his trial.

Help stock our shelves

Staff at the RSPCA shop in the High Road are appealing urgently for donations of bric-a-brac, books, accessories and particularly clothing to help support the charity's work with animals.

Manager Gabriella and assistant manager Julie are thankful for the huge response they've had from the local community since the shop opened last year but there's always demand for new stock to put on the shelves.

Donations can be taken into the shop during opening hours, which are 10am-5pm from Monday to Saturday and 11am to 4pm on Sundays. For more information call 020 3719 2257.

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Rene Bell with some of her family and, top right, Rev. Michael Giles.

101 not out

By Daphne Chamberlain

Congratulations and best wishes from THE ARCHER to our oldest East Finchley-born reader. Mrs Irene Bell celebrated her 101st birthday on 2 July with about 30 friends and family members joining her for a tea party at The Meadows, the residential home in Muswell Hill where she has lived for the last couple of years.

Her son and his wife came up from Devon, and grandson Simon from America. Rene Bell is a lifelong member and former Brownie leader at East Finchley Methodist Church, and Michael Giles, the Minister, and other Church members were there to congratulate her. Staff at The Meadows made her birthday cake.

Fellow Methodist June James told THE ARCHER: "It was a really nice, pleasant afternoon. Rene still has an excellent memory and loves to see people."

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One of EFAB's sessions at East Finchley Library helping people learn about computers.

Computer skills, ping pong and running

Sessions on computer and internet skills, under the guidance of local volunteers, organised by EFAB (East Finchley Altogether Better), have been running throughout July at East Finchley Library.

Those attending the 'IT and Biscuits' project learn, among other things, how to get online, send attachments, and troubleshoot problems, followed by tea and biscuits. Anyone who would like to attend future sessions or volunteer their time to help those less confident, should call Lisa on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk

Table tennis

Another EFAB project is a regular Table Tennis club which meets between 2.30 and 4pm on Tuesdays at the Shree Aden Depala Mitra Mandal Community Centre on Church Lane. Additional sessions, including evenings, should be up and running soon. Get in touch if

you would like to be involved.

Mums who run

The Mums Who Run also meet weekly on Thursday mornings from 9.30am at Cherry Tree Woods. All women are welcome and runs can be tailored to suit different abilities. New runners are asked to check on Thursday mornings that the run is happening, on www.facebook.com/EastFinchleyAB or call Sue on 07970 641789 for an update.

Go to www.efab.org.uk for more information. Updates on EFAB can also be found on Twitter @eastfinchleyab or on the Facebook page: 'eastfinchleyab' or call Lisa on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk.

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Football academy kicks off

A new football academy has opened to give young men between the ages of 17 and 19 the chance to pursue a career in the sport.

The London Coaching School is a voluntary organisation set up by East Finchley resident Darren O'Connell to work with disadvantaged players.

It is based at Powerleague Finchley on Summers Lane and offers training at subsidised rates as well as the chance to obtain a football scholarship at a number of universities in the US.

More than 40 young men have signed up and there is room for more. Coaches from Crystal Palace are attending training sessions. Find out more from Darren at darren.connell@googlemail.com

Pop in with your ideas

East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB) is a volunteer-led community project seeking to empower local people and reduce isolation by helping residents start up and run projects which they feel would benefit the area.

The EFAB team would love to meet you and hear your ideas. What is needed in the area? Is there an activity/group you are keen to join? Could YOU help to make it happen?

The team will be holding 'pop up information shops' in early September at the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday 2 September from 11.30am to 2pm and Thursday 4 September from 1pm to 4pm, and at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road on Monday 8 September from 10am to 12pm and Thursday 11 September from 10am to 12pm. Go along and have a chat.

For more information or to ask any questions, please email us@efab.org.uk or call Lisa Smith on 07909 998453.

30,000 intruders in one room

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month an East Finchley resident had a day out by the sea. While she was away, an estimated 30,000 bees entered her flat. "I was scared stiff," she told us. "If my neighbour and some workmen hadn't seen them going in, I would have come home and walked right in among them."



A bee swarm on the move

Fortunately, neighbours and family had closed the door on the room where the swarm was gathering, blocked up the space under the door, and arranged an appointment with a beekeeper.

Home, sweet home

Why did so many bees invade her home, and how did they get in? Entry was through a ventilator grille, and they were just looking for a nice cosy home.

The British Beekeepers Association explains that bee colonies can grow to a great size, sometimes as many as 50,000. When a colony gets as big as this, not all the bees can receive vital pheromone signals from the queen, so they divide. Some remain with a new queen, while the rest leave with the old queen to find a new home.

Usually, they don't go very far, and thanks to a large honey meal before leaving, they are generally quite docile. Unless they are attacked, they are not

likely to sting. All the same, removal of a swarm should be left to someone who knows what they are doing.

Beekeeper numbers grow

Threatened by pesticides, honey bees are on the verge of becoming an endangered species. However, the fight back has started. A few years ago, we had only 10,000 registered beekeepers. Now there are about 24,000. It is important for anyone keeping bees to be properly trained, and/or monitored.

It's also important for the public to distinguish between honeybees, bumblebees and wasps. The British Beekeepers Association has pictures of all these similar insects, advice on what to do if encountering a swarm, and lists of beekeepers willing to collect them. The trick is to lure the queen into a collecting box and wait for the rest of the swarm to join her. See www.bbka.org.uk for more details.

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A missing dog's tale

Nick Morris, who lives in Muswell Hill, tells how his family dog went missing and what they learned from the sad experience.

We adopted a rescue dog, Juno, just before Christmas 2011 and she very quickly became an integral part of our family. She is adored by our children and by many other local kids who have come to know her outside Fortismere school gates.

When we went on holiday in May, Juno stayed with a dog walker but two days in we heard that she had been frightened by something in the grounds of Alexandra Palace and run away.

Despite many people rallying to help find her and a couple of possible sightings, Juno was nowhere to be found. While we are still desperate to be reunited with Juno, I hope what we've learned might help others in a similar position to us.

The Bad

There are some amazing services which are caring and keen to help but the systems are useless because no-one talks to anyone else. A lot of the services (like doglost.co.uk) have been

and no way of coordinating efforts. It's like sending messages out in a hundred different directions without having any way of matching clues or leads.

The Good

The power of Twitter and Facebook is truly amazing and we have been blown away by the kindness and support of people in the local community and online. There are groups on Facebook to join and so many people willing to offer advice and walk the streets and parks looking out for our missing Juno.

On Twitter I asked people to retweet my messages and, in one week, I'd had more than 200,000 views. I messaged a number of celebrities on Twitter too and asked them to retweet to their thousands of followers, which also helped.

The latest

Juno is still missing but we remain hopeful that she will be found and have heard many stories of dogs being reunited



Have you seen her? Missing dog Juno.

brilliant and put posters up on our behalf but with no coordination between them, there seems to be a massive hole in the system.

We registered Juno missing on a number of different sites and contacted local dog wardens. We produced posters for the local parks and contacted vets, groomers, rescue centres, the RSPCA, Battersea and many, many others. The problem is that there is no communication, no central database

with their owners after many weeks and even months.

Nick can be contacted at nickjamesmorris@gmail.com



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One to watch: Rapper Jones 2.0

Not your average rapper

By Tarkan Tuncer

Sean Jones, otherwise known as Jones 2.0, was a stand-out performer at the East Finchley Festival, captivating spectators with his spirited performance.

The charismatic Jones, who lives locally, sang his new single *Out of My League*, which tells of the internal conflict

facing an ardent man trying to win the affection of a woman he believes has no time for an "average Joe" rapper.

Produced by Funkii Papa, the song can best be described as a fusion of pop, dance, and hip-hop. The infectious melodies provided by singer J Sol are complemented by Jones's honest, yet confident lyrics, and collaboratively the pair have created what could easily develop into a summer hit.

Unconventional

What separates Jones 2.0 from other rap artists is his

ability to experiment and to grapple with unique subject matter in his songs. Because of this, Jones's new single defies the conventionality that many rappers stick to and provides a breath of fresh air for the UK rap scene.

Jones says music allows for "self-expression" and he stresses the importance of revealing one's genuine thoughts and feelings in music, irrespective of whether they are "good or bad".

Out of My League is now available for download on iTunes.

Hospital bus survey

A survey report on the need for a bus service to the doors of Finchley Memorial Hospital has been presented to Barnet Council. The Finchley Society's Robert Newton and Mike Gee and statistician Gill Green took it to Barnet Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee last month. There will be a full report in next month's *ARCHER*.

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Perfect fit: The East Finchley Allotments mosaic team with their creation.

Unveiled: art work created one piece at a time

Many hands made light work for a beautiful mosaic put together by the community of plot holders at East Finchley Allotments.

The colourful scene was designed through the winter and spring and installed in time for summer on the main shed at the site, which has broken free from Barnet Council to become self-managed.

Plot holders brought along photos and ideas to express the spirit of the allotments and these all fed into the final design. The mosaic team was led by local artist Leona, from www.artistsresource.co.uk

www.artistsresource.co.uk

The design includes one of the paths leading up to the woods, a row of sheds, a fox with a glove in his mouth, a robin on a spade, vegetables, fruit, a pond with a lily pad and rows of purple cabbages, all set within the undulating landscape of the site.

The tiles used were glass and ceramic stoneware mosaic tiles and all were hand cut in

preparation by Leona. She said: "East Finchley Allotments is a large site with over 200 plots and the people that use it speak many languages and are from many different cultures. We thought it would be a good idea to arrange to make a community mosaic to bring people together who might not necessarily meet otherwise, in an informal, creative and fun way."

Titchmarsh drops by

Gardening guru Alan Titchmarsh spent time in Summerlee Avenue recently filming at the home of garden designer Ana Sanchez-Martin for his TV series *Love Your Garden*. Cameras filmed him walking up and down the road looking into front gardens before he explored Ana's plants and shrubs in more depth. Programme makers chose Ana's garden to exemplify how to make the best of a long narrow plot. The show was broadcast by ITV on 22 July.

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Allotments open day

Gordon Road Allotments will be open under the auspices of the National Garden Scheme early in September. Founded in 1940 to promote the interests of gardeners throughout Finchley, Gordon Road comprises a mixture of more than 70 traditional plots and raised beds for those with physical disabilities and for children from local schools. There's also a wildlife area with slow-worms and an area set aside for bee hives.

During the open day, seasonal vegetables, perennial flowers, jams and pickles will be on sale, and prizes will be presented to local children for the tallest sunflower. There will also be a raffle.

Since its foundation, the National Gardens Scheme has donated over £42.5million to nominated beneficiaries, of which nearly £23million has been donated within the last ten years. Amongst the charities supported are Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care and Help the Hospices. The allotments are in Gordon Road, N3, near Dollis Brook, and the open day runs from 1.30pm to 5.30pm on Sunday 7 September. Find out more at www.finchleyhorticulturalalso-ciety.org.uk.

Growing stronger and stronger

By Sheila Armstrong

Strawberry Vale was the last real farm in Finchley, still working into the 1960s and owned by Evan Evans, a horse breeder with an international reputation. It is our local allotments that carry on the tradition of cultivation of the land in N2.

Among them, Vale Farm Allotments were looking their best at their Open Day in June. Amongst the new greenhouses and sheds, raised beds and pergolas, the individual allotments were abundant with vines, fruit trees, banks of flowers, and impressive displays of vegetables.

Many local authorities now encourage allotments to be self managing, with their own organising committees, and Vale Farm has embraced this opportunity to organise themselves.

There is a fairly short waiting list for plots – from 12 to 18 months – and it is not limited to residents of Barnet. Vale Farm wants to create a robust community of allotmenters who attend regularly and cultivate at least 70% of their plots. There is flexibility about plot size.

Within the site there is a community run project, the Vale Farm Food Growing Project, which provides a starter experience for younger, less experienced gardeners. Go to www.valefarm.org.uk for more information.



Young gardeners at Tarling Road allotments. Photo by Mike Coles

Bee-friendly verges

The land outside Vale Farm Allotments is being "greened" thanks to the planting of lavender and pansies on roadside verges to encourage bees, started by some children including Alice Huntley and Felix Chen.

Michaelmas daisies are in place for autumn flowering. The Community Pay Back project has helped with some of the heavy work including maintenance, mulching, weeding and feeding.

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Changes afoot to education service

Barnet Council is proposing wholesale changes to the way it runs schools in the borough. However, parents and governors are concerned that the consultation process is being rushed and is happening over the summer when schools are shut and families on holiday.

The council says changes are necessary because it faces financial problems, school performance challenges and a new education landscape. For instance, many secondary schools and an increasing number of primary schools are now academies, taking them out of council control and leaving less money in the education pot.

Barnet is proposing six models for the way it runs education services in the future. The first option is to remain the same with all services run in-house by the council. A second option would put education into the hands of a local authority trading company, and a third would outsource it to an unnamed supplier.

The fourth option is to give the schools themselves the lead through an enterprise organisation. Finally options five and six propose two different types of joint venture between the council and schools.

The consultation appears to be a part of a phased process with only headteachers, chairs of governors and parent governors engaged at this stage. Martin Primary School governor Roger Chapman said: "This first stage of consultation which ran until the 15 July is just the beginning. My concern is that this phased consultation process may reduce the number of options available without the full consideration of all the implications for each model and with only minimal input from schools and the wider community."

"The options constitute major changes to the way education is delivered in Barnet. This change needs to be thought through carefully, be evidence-based and seek consensus from schools and the wider community. This rushed, information and evidence-lite approach is not a good way to start such a process."



On the ball: The Grange gets its own World Cup.

World Cup comes to the Grange

Young people got together for a day of football and fun activities on the Grange. Sixteen super-fit teams entered the soccer tournament and battled it out on the open space along Oak Lane as spectators watched sitting on hay bales bordering the pitch.

Youth charity Art Against Knives joined with the Grange Big Local project to host the event on Saturday 12 July, which also had nail painting, graffiti art and a bouncy castle.

The Archer online

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Children's adventure begins in Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack

A story involving three children who undertake an adventurous journey from Cherry Tree Wood to The Wishing World "where dreams and desires can come true" has recently been published. In fact, *Jake Jagger and The Wishing World* is actually two stories, cleverly fashioned to run together by new local author Charlie Lucas.

Survival guide

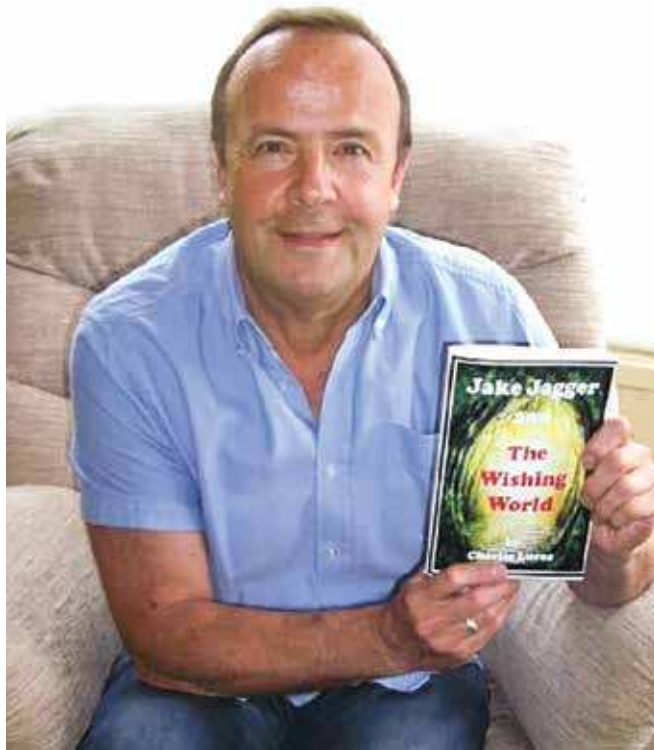
In one, primary school pupil Jake is compiling a book to help fellow pupils survive the school years, along with advice on how to manipulate teachers and other grown-ups to get just what you want from them.

He needs to keep this a secret from his parents, so whenever they are near his computer Jake switches to writing another story called *The Wishing World*. In this he tells how Danielle and her younger brothers Jake and JJ travel to this world using some strange methods of transport. They survive a variety of threats en route with the help of well-known sweets which contain magical properties and a number of fantasy character guides, along with a mysterious instructional rhyme.

Humour and intrigue

Children will relate to the sensible big sister trying to steady her younger brothers, the middle child who feels he should be looking after the others and the youngest who toughens up along the way. They will also enjoy Jake's *Just William*-type attitude in his secret story. He talks to himself and to his readers in an amusing way with very funny comments about grown-ups, school and fellow pupils. Switching between the two stories poses no problems and the humour of one is a match for the intrigue of the other. The ending is great!

Charlie, a long-term resident of Cherry Tree Road, also did the illustrations. He told *THE ARCHER* that he has always enjoyed writing but



Charlie Lucas with his book. Photo by Diana Cormack

this is the first book he has had published. Despite the proofreading leaving something to be desired, it would make a good summer holiday read for junior school children and is available on Amazon Kindle.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Groak and guligumpus

Children's author Safia Shah dropped in to Holy Trinity Primary School to show pupils how to 'bring words back to life'.

Safia told classes about the rise and fall of words and how some have disappeared from the English language altogether. There were exciting words to learn like 'groak' and 'snogly gear'.

Then the youngsters had a go themselves at creating some poetry with words you may never have heard of.

Here's one of them from Sam Ford in Year 4:



New words: Safia Shah at Holy Trinity Primary.



Oh, guligumpus
Oh, guligumpus
Why are you a ninny hammer?

Oh, guligumpus
Oh, guligumpus
Why do you groak?

Oh, guligumpus
Oh, guligumpus
You look like a magie-minifeet.



Rob Scott of GLH with members of the book club launching the larger library at the Archer Academy.

Library's new leaf

Friday 11 July saw the launch of the expanded library at the Archer Academy made possible by a donation from local car hire and transport company GLH. Robert Scott, the company's managing director, is pictured here with students from the school's book club, in front of the plaque commemorating the event.

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Come on in: Martin Primary children walk into a Spanish school room.

A Spanish spectacular we'll never forget

Early this summer, 12 children from Martin Primary School got the chance to experience life with their counterparts in Spain as part of the Comenius Project, bringing together schools across Europe. Here they remember the highlights of their trip.

We arrived in Barcelona very tired after getting up early that morning and we still had a three-hour car journey ahead of us. Our final destination was Campo, a tiny but beautiful village in the mountains of northern Spain.

Although we were looking forward to the trip, some of us were very nervous about spending a whole week without our families. However, it turned out to be an exhilarating experience in a new environment where we discovered many things about Spanish traditions and cultures.

White water rafting

Over the three days that we

were in Campo we visited the local school, CIEP Cerbin, took beautiful walks with breathtaking views of the Pyrenees Mountains, went white water rafting and were taken on visits to nearby villages.

We will always remember the visits to the local school, where we were able to sit in on Spanish school life. We were all surprised that the school only had 75 pupils, but many of the playground games were similar to ours. We talked with the Spanish children in English,

but throughout the week our Spanish definitely improved.

Although we thoroughly enjoyed the school experience, most of us agree that our favourite activity was the white water rafting.

We highly recommend making visits to schools abroad. It takes some courage to fly across seas to a different country without your parents but how often do you get a completely free opportunity to visit another country and stay in style?

Shine on, harvest moon

Thank you to Donald Lyven for this stunning photo of a honey-coloured moon rising high over Long Lane Pasture in June.



Farmers say that a honey moon, also known as a strawberry moon, heralds a fruitful summer and a plentiful harvest.

Donald tells us: "As the sun rises highest in June, the moon correspondingly keeps low. With a thicker atmosphere

for its light to pass through, coupled with airborne pollutants, the moon takes on an amber hue.

"June's full moon also coincided, within a few hours, with its closest approach to earth during its orbit, or perigee, making the moon seem bigger than usual."

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

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- ⊙ **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ⊙ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ⊙ **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com
- ⊙ **Musical Tots:** Wednesdays 11am at the Old White Lion and Fridays 11am at The Five Bells N2. [katemusicaltots](https://www.facebook.com/katemusicaltots) on facebook.
- ⊙ **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Sajni 8359 3460/Julia 8444 2276
- ⊙ **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- ⊙ **Stepping Stones,** interactive play for under 3s. Tues 10am, East Finchley Baptist Church. Liz 07836 284538.
- ⊙ **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thurs 9.45am & 10.45am. Camilla 07900 988149.



The story I had to tell

Peter Herman spent years in a job he calls 'boring' but the fascinating stories he heard along the way have led him to write a rollicking yarn of murder and international intrigue.

Peter ran his own pharmacy in Marylebone and in the process met a lot of famous people, including politicians and globetrotting business people who fuelled the plot for his novel *Operation Ivy, A Marylebone Tale*.

His story begins 70 years ago as the Allies are pushing Hitler's forces into retreat across Europe, then moves into the 1970s and 1980s to trace the adventures of three main characters and their parts in the international trades in oil, gold and blood.

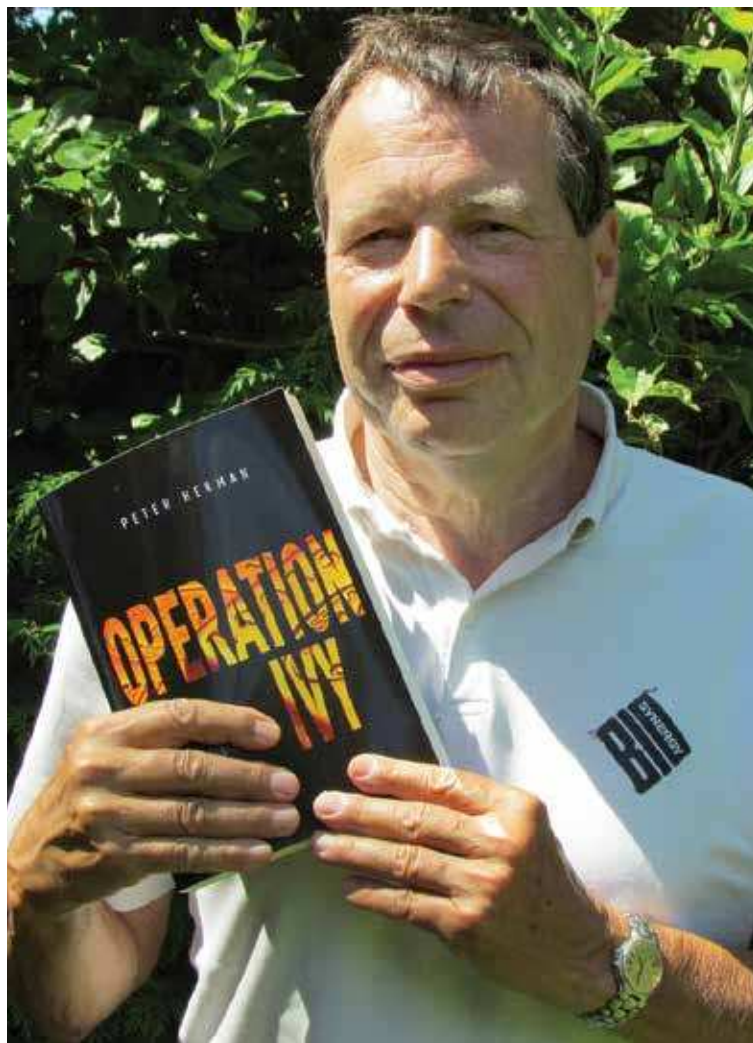
A long process

"I met a lot of people in Marylebone and they told me a lot of stories," says Peter, who lives in Brim Hill. "Ninety per cent of what is in the book is true and it's a very moral book. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty."

Peter, now semi-retired, is not a professional writer and admits the process of getting *Operation Ivy* down on paper was not an easy one: "I had lots of stories buzzing around in my head and knew what I wanted to say but I don't type and my longhand is atrocious. In the end I did it a page at a time and a friend typed it up as I went."

Competition

As a new writer it's hard to get publishers and book shops to take you seriously. Peter is



Peter Herman with his first novel 'Operation Ivy'.

trying to get around this by publicising his novel with his own competition. He's set up a website where readers can answer three questions about the plot and be in with a chance

of winning £50,000.

Operation Ivy, A Marylebone Tale is available from Joseph's Bookstore in Temple Fortune, from Daunts Bookshop in Marylebone High Street and from Amazon and Kindle. For more details on Peter's competition, go to www.bes-tauthor.co.uk

Woman at the heart of the fight for wildlife

By Sheila Armstrong

Film star turned wildlife campaigner Virginia McKenna came to Stephens House, East End Road, in July, captivating a packed audience as she talked about her career as an actress, the film that changed her life, and her organisations Zoo Check and Born Free.

Effect of elephant's death

Miss McKenna started as an actress in the 1950s; her work includes the memorable film *Carve Her Name With Pride*. In 1964 she went to Kenya with her husband Bill Travers to make the classic wildlife film *Born Free* about George and Joy Adamson and their work with lions. She described George as a person with a deep understanding of lions and all animals, a natural teacher whose heart was in the bush.

Working on the film gave her a new direction. The Born Free organisation was set up in 1984, its catalyst being the death of a young elephant they had filmed with.

Working for wildlife

Born Free now works worldwide to save the lives of animals, stop suffering, protect species and rescue vulnerable and often captive beasts. Their aim is to keep wildlife in the wild, which is increasingly difficult as wild places in the world are diminishing. Their latest initiative, called The Global Friends Project, works closely with children and schools.

In her wide-ranging talk



Talk: Virginia McKenna.

Photo copyright Andy Gott

Miss McKenna spoke passionately about the plight of endangered species, the cheetah pet trade in Ethiopia, the captive animal industry, the trade in ivory and rhino horn, and Born Free's work to eliminate the use of wild animals in circuses in the UK.

Held as a fundraiser for the North London Hospice, this fascinating afternoon ended with an informal tea party and a book signing. Find out more about Born Free at www.bornfree.org

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Light up for a long hot summer

Ah, summer, the beating heat of the sun, the taste of an ice cold beer and the smell of burning flesh that tells you that the flat boy at number 23 is sunbathing. What joys, what delights as the road melts, dogs pant listlessly and lose all interest in walkies while cats avoid tin roofs. What could be better?

Well, lots of things, mostly involving silver sand on foreign beaches, half naked members of the opposite sex, rum punch and industrial quantities of recreational narcotics. But this is London and all we've got is homo stupido deciding it's time to light the barbecue.

Australians know how to do barbies. They have the climate and inclination to chuck raw prawns and wallaby steaks onto smouldering charcoal while basting themselves in ice cold lager. The Brits? They might think they know what they are doing, but then so did England last winter before the Aussies trashed them at cricket.

The British barbecue is proof that most men should not be let anywhere near sharp knives, petrol, matches or meat. It is a form of madness that starts the moment some grinning oaf says the sun might shine and Tesco's announces a special offer on wombat burgers. It continues with the 'man' of the house putting on his cooking shorts, opening a beer and trying to work out how to light a fire without rubbing two boy scouts together. This all takes time, often from midday until long after the rest of the family have phoned for a takeaway pizza.

Once the barbie is burning, homo stupido starts chucking meat on it. This can be anything from bargain burgers to the kind of steaks that ended their connection with life when the pony club had a bring and buy sale. The more adventurous will probably chuck on the odd chicken wing and open yet another beer. And, this being Britain, it will probably have started raining.

In the end, as homo stupido slumps on the ground and the rest of the family fill a couple of bin bags with his culinary efforts before ordering another takeaway, no one is happy. Except, that is, for the local cat population who've been looking forward to feasting on undercooked chicken and burnt horsemeat ever since he lit the first match.

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- **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. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 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 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464.
- **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.
- **Ladies Keep Fit** Class for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional music at TOC**, Highgate Hill, on 1st & 3rd Tues each month from 8.30pm. Free. 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.
- **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
- **Bridge Club**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.
- **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
- **Youth Club** at Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale every Tues in termtime. Ages 8-13, £1 entry.



Sharon Lawrence and Christie-Luke Jones in a scene from crowd-funded film B4.

Movie makers make their own luck

A crowd-funded film starring a local actor is getting off the ground and hoping to make a splash in movie circles.

B4 stars Christie-Luke Jones, of King Street, N2, and follows the character of Rupert Shaw, a man who has recently lost his wife. One day he receives a call from a mysteri-

ous stranger who offers him a chance to relive past moments with the chance that he might be able to save his wife before the fateful events occur.

The movie makers behind

B4 have raised funds through PayPal donations, helping them to make a professional soundtrack for the film with a live orchestra.

The finished film, directed by Harrow-based Patrick Ryder, will be entered into film festivals across the globe. Find out more at www.facebook.com/patrickmichaelryder and www.facebook.com/groups/25765284968/

Hero of the siege of Homs

By Ann Bronkhorst



Life in Syria: A scene from Return to Homs.

Outside it was a relaxed Sunday afternoon in safe, familiar East Finchley; inside The Phoenix cinema we were immersed in street-fighting, destruction and loss in a distant land.

The award-winning documentary being screened was *Return to Homs*. It follows Basset, a charismatic 19-year-old Syrian, as he develops from a laughing, singing protester (and talented footballer) into a leader of armed men struggling against Syrian government forces. Two years later, exhausted and fatalistic, he heads back to what's left of the city with a rag-tag band of brothers, expecting martyrdom.

Ruined city

Certainly many of the young men seen in the film will be dead by now, or will have become refugees. Comfortable flats in which friends made music, argued and laughed are now devastated ruins. In a memorable sequence the camera follows a fighter moving through a neighbourhood house by house, stepping through the gutted rooms and broken walls. A makeshift field hospital once was a shop; if you leave the city it's through the sewers or by tunnelling.

I thought of the Warsaw ghetto and the siege of Sarajevo. I wondered if young Londoners

could muster a similar defiance and resolve if they were under siege in a civil war.

Director's choices

In the Q and A after the screening, director Talal Derki and Kristyan Benedict, Amnesty's Syrian campaign manager, stressed the importance of the cameramen (one of whom is now missing) who were trusted, up close and filming in real time. They pointed out that the film could not show everything about Syria; its focus is on one person, with his machismo and vulnerabilities. And the all-male "cast"? Simply: "There are no women because there are no women."

The TV news regularly shows the horrors of Syria, edited but still shocking, so why watch a whole film that shocks and disturbs? Partly it's because the film engages with one vivid personality and partly because the sense of place and community is so strong. Some images are indelible.

For information about future screenings go to www.ourscreen.com/returntohoms

Published poet

Dennis Evans, who launched his fifth collection of poetry this year, has had three of his poems published in an world anthology of contemporary verse called *The Second Genesis*.

Dennis, who is of Welsh parentage, lives in East Finchley, where he publishes the N2 Poetry Magazine and is a tutor for East Finchley poetry writing workshops.

Cash boost for artsdepot

Artsdepot in North Finchley has been awarded a £900,000 grant to help keep its events and activities running for three years from 2015.

The funding from Arts Council England will enable artsdepot to continue to deliver its programme of performing and visual arts.

The venue at Tally Ho currently welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year to watch shows in its theatres, see its arts exhibitions or take part in community art projects.

Chief executive Tracy Cooper said: "We're delighted to receive a further three years of support from Arts Council England. As we approach our 10th anniversary this autumn we look towards an exciting future, with a number of ambitious projects in the pipeline."

August at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, executive director of the Phoenix Cinema
Hot, hot, hot! That's what you expect outdoors at the end of the summer and that's a good description of the offerings inside the Phoenix now too. Throughout August we're bringing you great variety in our onscreen entertainment, starting with our feature runs.

A Promise is a romantic story set in Germany before WW1, starring Rebecca Hall and Alan Rickman. *Mood Indigo* has Audrey Tautou going floral in a fable by Michel Gondry while *Lilting* is a small gem featuring Ben Whishaw.

The German Doctor in the film *Wakolda* is none other than Joseph Mengele; it's a film based on a true story of his time with a family in Argentina. *Waltz With Bashir*'s director Ari Folman gives us something extraordinary in *The Congress*: a hybrid Robin Wright as an aging actress who preserves her digital image for a future Hollywood.

Young actress Shailene Woodley's career is on the rise with *The Fault In Our Stars*, a film that wins our tears and our laughter in equal measure, and best of all, without sentimentality. What if you only had *Two Days, One Night* to save your job by persuading your co-workers to give up their bonuses? That's the challenge Marion Cotillard faces in this deeply engaging, and thought-provoking film by the Dardenne Brothers.

Our welcoming café is under new management. We're offering themed and seasonal fresh food and drinks. See you at the movies!

School staff race for life

Members of Holy Trinity School staff took part in the Cancer Research 5k Race for Life on Hampstead Heath. They all managed to complete this female-only fundraiser in less than an hour and would like to thank those who donated to the cause. At the time of writing they had raised £420 on-line. Visit www.justgiving.com/holytrinity10 if you would like to contribute.



Letters

Bag up someone else's mess

Dear Editor,

I think we are so lucky in East Finchley, with proximity to so many open spaces: Coldfall Wood, Long Lane Pasture, Cherry Tree Wood, Victoria Park, the Glebelands, Hampstead Heath, fields behind Totteridge and Mill Hill, and so on. Yet all of these beautiful places are frequently marred by litter (and dog-poo bags), even when there are bins provided.

I was muttering away to myself about the unnecessary mess, when it occurred to me that if each person like myself who is irritated by the litter collected a carrier bag full and put it in the bins then the problem would be alleviated.

Of course, ideally, the people who leave the mess should be responsible enough to take it away with them. I have never understood why if cans and wrappers can be carried to a site, they cannot also be carried from it, but it is no easy task to educate the irresponsible.

So, although I don't particularly want to collect other people's litter, I shall in future carry a suitable bag with me when I go for a walk... and perhaps others could do likewise. It is a fact that when litter is already present, it feels less of a misdeed to add to it.

Yours faithfully,
Linda A. Dolata
Leopold Road, N2.

Refuse truck refusal

Dear Editor,

I wish to draw your attention to the despicable behaviour of one of Barnet Council's refuse vehicle drivers. The driver repeatedly stopped directly opposite parked vehicles, thus blocking the entire road in both directions, when it was entirely possible to park only a few feet away and leave room for traffic to pass.

At one point a lady travelling in the opposite direction pulled over into a large space and flashed the refuse truck through. Once again he seemingly deliberately stopped opposite a parked car, preventing anyone from passing and also completely blocking the lady that had pulled over for him.

I was behind the refuse truck and could clearly see the lady motioning for the driver to move forward. Even the bin men were signalling for the driver to move forward, as they had finished emptying bins, but the driver continued to hang out of his window leering and laughing at the lady, who was by now sounding her horn.

Had he moved forward 10 feet as requested, not only would the oncoming traffic have had a clear path, but many of us behind him would have been able to overtake. By the time I managed to pass the refuse truck, there must have been approximately 30 vehicles, including two buses, queuing behind me. My 10-minute journey between offices took 35 minutes, resulting in my missing a client entirely.

Whilst I accept that refuse collection must take place in a timely fashion, I believe that council drivers should be encouraged to be considerate to residents and other road users at all times. There is enough congestion on our roads without one a council employee deliberately setting out to cause havoc. Knowing that his wage is being paid by tax payers only adds insult to injury.

Yours faithfully,
David Evans-Smith
Twyford Avenue, N2

Arts festival comes of age

By Geoffrey Hanson, festival director

We come of age this year and proudly present this year's programme, with all events taking place between Saturday 13 September and Sunday 21 September at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, or the Phoenix Cinema in the High Road.

Our 18th birthday coincides with the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. We have marked this by including a programme of poetry and music written by some of those who fought in that war and a commemoration of Jack Parr, a 17-year-old from Finchley who was the first British soldier to be killed in combat.

George Butterworth was killed at The Somme in 1916 and the Haydn Chamber Orchestra include his evocative work *The Banks of Green Willow* in their programme. Pop Up Opera's updated performance of *Così fan tutte* takes place in an English country house during the First World War, and the Phoenix Cinema will screen *Oh! What a Lovely War*. You will see, too, other things to enjoy and we look forward to meeting you at the festival.

Festival art exhibition

Enjoy our art exhibition every evening from 6pm during the festival and at weekends from 12 noon until 10pm. Art of every kind is for sale and 40% of the selling price of each work sold will be donated to the two charities we are supporting this year. Further information from Pauline Treen 020 8340 5643

Saturday 13 September

12pm: Punch & Judy for the children, All Saints' Church. Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch & Judy Show in the church garden, or inside if it's wet. Admission Free: Bucket collection

7.30pm: BBC Elstree Concert Band, All Saints' Church. An exciting programme of music from the movies. Tickets: £16, front centre reserved/£12, rear centre reserved/sides unreserved £9 / £1*

Sunday 14 September

7.30pm: Organist Jennifer Bate & the Choir of All Saints', All Saints' Church. A concert marking the 70th birthday year of international concert organist and local resident Jennifer Bate, who will play on the Hunter/Bishop organ: including a new three movement work by festival director Geoffrey Hanson together with works by Durufle, Bach and two fragments of music by Mendelssohn, completed by Jennifer. The All Saints' Choir sing music drawn from their repertoire, from Viadana to Elgar and beyond. Tickets: £10 all seats unreserved (18 and under £1).

Monday 15 September

7.30pm: East Finchley Writers at All Saints' Church. For many years a group of local writers has met weekly to read and share thoughts on their work. They present a selection across many

styles and genres to move, amuse and surprise you. Admission Free. Bucket collection.

Tuesday 16 September



Regular favourites, Paprika

7.30pm: Pop Up Opera at All Saints' Church. An absorbing staged performance of Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte*. Mozart's tale of love and intrigue is cleverly set in a country house during the Great War. Tickets: £20, front centre reserved/£15, rear centre reserved/£10, sides unreserved/£1*

Wednesday 17 September

7.30pm: Paprika, All Saints' Church. The third festival appearance of this Balkan Band, they will no doubt give another of their show stopping performances uniting traditional Eastern European, Balkan, Gypsy and classical music with foot stomping rhythms. Tickets: £20, front centre reserved/£15, rear centre reserved/£10 sides unreserved/£1*

Thursday 18 September

7.30pm: In Voice & Verse, All Saints' Church. Actor Lance Pierson, soprano Belinda Yates and pianist Heather Chamberlain present Shakespeare's Greatest Hits. The best speeches and sonnets will feature but alongside them come the great songs. From classical compositions to West End hits you can hear how the Bard inspired generations of composers. Tickets: £15, front centre reserved/£10 rear centre reserved/£5 sides unreserved/£1*

Friday 19 September

7.30pm: Poetry and music marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, All Saints' Church. John Parr, the first British soldier to die in the Great War, was born, educated and worked in Finchley. He was killed at the beginning of the war in Mons, Belgium, aged 17. The first half of the programme will be readings of poetry by war poets and material relating to John Parr and his bereaved family. The second half will consist of Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, a setting of Walt Whitman's war poetry, performed by the London Ripieno Singers, conducted by Geoffrey Hanson. Tickets: £16, front centre reserved/£12, rear

centre reserved/£9 sides unreserved/£1 for 18s and under.

Saturday 20 September

7.30pm: Haydn Chamber Orchestra at All Saints' Church. Works by Bartok, Butterworth, Mozart and Mendelssohn. Tickets: £20, front centre reserved/£15, rear centre reserved/£10 sides unreserved/£1*

Sunday 21 September

2pm: Screening of Oh! What a Lovely War at the Phoenix Cinema. A significant but controversial film from 1969, with a star studded cast directed by Richard Attenborough, based on the 1963 stage musical. Tickets: £7 (Friends of Phoenix £5) from Phoenix Box Office 020 8444 6789.

7.30pm: The King's Men at All Saints' Church. The close harmony group formed from the choral Scholars of King's College Cambridge make a welcome return to the festival. Their programme ranges from the serious to the light hearted, all done with impeccable style, and superb musicianship. Tickets: £20 front centre reserved/£15 rear centre reserved/£10 sides unreserved/£1*

Booking opens Monday 18 August. Tickets for all concerts can be booked online via Ticket Source at www.eastfinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk (10% surcharge on each ticket); in person at Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 8AG (020 8444 4717); at the door, according to availability. Credit cards will not be accepted at the Ticket Desk on the night of the event.

*There is a special rate of £1 for those of 18 years and under. These tickets cannot be prebooked but are available at the ticket desk immediately prior to the event. Disabled access and facilities are available at both venues.

Tuesday 30th September | 10.00am until 6.00pm

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So...

After a slightly heavy night out in Bank, I arose intact but minus one purse. After frantically turning the contents of my bedroom upside down I rushed to work, already late, accepting the fact that my purse was lost forever.

On my Tube journey, I stood feeling sorry for myself, calculating all of the items that would need replacing: bank cards (£0), new monthly oyster card (£140), new passport (£85), new gym locker key (£12). Needless to say, for a 20-something girl who has just moved to London, this was an expensive accident. Friday ruined. But wait! As I hurried into the office, I had a quick check of my Twitter feed (priorities!) and found I had a new notification. Someone I did not know had written to me. "Hi Felicity, did you lose a purse last night?" Hallelujah!! After speaking to the mystery good deed-doer, it became apparent that he had picked up my purse on his walk home from the station. But the kindness doesn't stop there. The Good Samaritan created a Twitter account, searched for my name, and messaged me to let me know my beautiful Thai purse and its contents were safe! What an absolute star. To summarise, this episode has taught me two lessons: 1) Social media is fantastic for stalking your neighbours (maybe need to think about changing my privacy settings) but more importantly 2) There are kind people out there. Kind, generous, lovely people who have totally saved my life. Kind people are saving lives and making people's days all over the world. So I am definitely going to learn from this next time I have the chance, and pass the kindness on.

Felicity Dudley

Have you got a tale to tell about everyday life? Send it to the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE



Lying down on the job. The Fit Perfect runners.

Perfect young runners

The young team from Fit Perfect children's fitness club ran the Race for Life 5k run in early July and raised hundreds of pounds for Cancer Research.

All young members in the club, aged 10-13, ran the course, finishing in 34 to 36mins. Afterwards, they tucked into a huge family picnic.

Make a donation

There's still time to add to their fundraising total by making a donation at www.just-giving.com/team-fit-perfect/



Headteacher Tim Bowden and school keeper Stuart Ritson with gymnasts at the London Youth Games. Photo by Vanessa Pender

Youth Games triumph for Holy Trinity

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity headteacher Tim Bowden said he was "brimming with pride" after the London Youth Games in July, and he had good reason to be. As winners of the Barnet Key Steps Gymnastics Competition, Holy Trinity went on to represent the borough at the Crystal Palace games for the second year in succession.

Throughout the year the children have been coached by Mr Bowden with strong support from school keeper Stuart Ritson, assisted by Helen from Jet Gym and with advice from the Barnet Partnership for School Sport. All have shown great drive and dedication which has obviously paid off as the results on the day proved.

The school's Years 3 and

4 team were placed 8th out of 30 London Borough teams, with Natalie achieving the second highest score of all 120 competitors. The Years 5 and 6 team were placed 4th out of 29 borough teams. They won the silver medal in the body man-

agement discipline and the gold in the floor discipline.

This is a tremendous achievement for the small one-form entry school in Eagans Close and proves yet again that the Olympic legacy lives on in East Finchley.

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