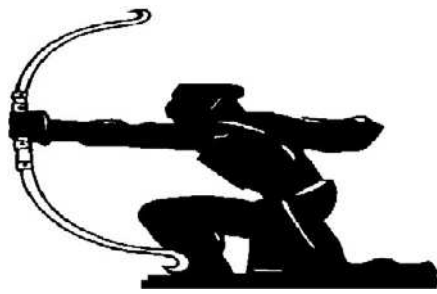


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

“Stop the library cuts”

say campaigners as day centre services face closure too, but Old Barn is SAVED



Parents and kids protest outside East Finchley Library.
Photo by Mike Coles

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council plans to cut the libraries budget by £2.8million over the next five years. The council is asking us to choose between three ways to achieve this, though it has stated that it will not necessarily be guided by the wishes of the majority.

For East Finchley, it is a choice between complete closure or a library reduced to about the size of the present reading room and quite likely to be relocated. Under one option, this tiny library would be unstaffed for most of the time. Under another it would be offered to the community, to be run by volunteers. We have until the middle of February to express an opinion.

The council's survey can be found online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/library-consultation-14>.

Note that you don't have to choose between the council's options, but can just enter your views in the comment box.

The full consultation document can be found at <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>. For paper copies, email libraryconsultation@barnet.gov.uk or phone 020 8359 7100.

Continued on page 2.

Old Barn is saved for the community

See page 4 for our coverage

Ann Owens closure date is confirmed

Turn to page 3 for the full story.

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Season's greetings

Everyone on *THE ARCHER* team sends their best wishes for the festive season to all our readers, deliverers and advertisers. Thank you for all your contributions and support over the last 12 months and we wish all of you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2015.



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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 Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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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
Transport for London	0843 222 1234
National Express	08705 808080
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General	0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood	020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial	020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic	020 8349 7000
Royal Free	020 7794 0500
St Luke's	020 8219 1800
Whittington	020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline	020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Barndoc	0300 033 3777
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

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

Crime

Emergency	999
Barnet Police	101
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer	
Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

Advice Barnet Project	0844 826 9336
CAB Money Advice	020 8201 7727
Carers' Line	020 8343 9698
Childline	0800 1111
Disability Info Service	020 8446 6935
Gingerbread	020 8445 4227
National Debt Line	0808 808 4000
NSPCC	0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse	020 8683 3300
Relate	020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
RSPCA animal clinic	020 8365 3910
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

Stop the library cuts

Continued from front page.

East Finchley Library Users Group (EFLUG) has responded immediately, saying that none of the council's three options is acceptable. More than 80 library users, ranging in age from 94 to young students, met at short notice in Martin School last month. They have now formed active working parties and staged a protest demo. Group membership is zooming upwards; Facebook and Twitter are buzzing with messages of support.

... and questions

All options involve unstaffed 'open' libraries, which open and close automatically and operate self-service. Campaigners are asking whether a library can be called 'open' when it can only be accessed by scanning a library card and entering a PIN code. Staff will be present in peak times (late afternoons and weekends), but outside those times it seems that the libraries will be effectively closed to non-members, or to people who want to drop in on impulse, or for use as community meeting-places.

Open libraries will stay open from 7am to 10pm. Will a CCTV camera be enough to reassure people nervous about safety? Edgware will run a pilot open project from mid-December.

How can Community Libraries run successfully without the secure lease and professional help for which the brilliant volunteers who took over Friern Barnet Library have been asking, without success?

Find EFLUG on Facebook and loveEFLibrary on Twitter. To join the campaign, contact Polly Napper at pollynapper@btinternet.com.

Footnote: An online petition against the cuts, not connected to EFLUG, can be found at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-to-closure-of-barnet-libraries>

Library service: the options

These are the options for the future of the library service put forward by Barnet Council:

- Four core libraries at Barnet, Church End, Colindale and Hendon. All others reduced to about 540 sq ft on average. Current opening hours extended by 50% across network, but libraries staffed for only half of current opening hours.
- East Finchley, Burnt Oak, Childs Hill, Mill Hill, Osidge and South Friern to close. Remaining libraries based around 'travel hubs' that at least 95% of population could access within 30 minutes travel time. Staffed for 60% of current opening hours. New opening hours 7am to 10pm.
- East Finchley, Mill Hill, South Friern and Edgware to be offered to local groups as community libraries. Space reduced to about 540 sq ft. Burnt Oak also reduced in size. Other libraries staffed for 50% of current opening hours with hours extended to 7am to 10pm.

Hospital bus latest

By Daphne Chamberlain

Provision of a bus to Finchley Memorial seems to depend on local GPs moving their surgeries into the hospital.

Transport for London will not divert any existing buses. The hospital stated that they had sought advice at the planning stage of building, but there had been no requirement to include a bus in their travel plan. All their planning conditions had been met and signed off.

However, Friends of Finchley Memorial and The Finchley Society have told Barnet that they support local people and organisations who are concerned about the lack of a bus to the hospital entrance.

Their joint survey, carried out last April, suggests that many patients who are currently driving or being driven to the hospital would switch to a bus that went up to the door. This would also help ensure that the car park remains adequate when the GPs' surgeries and clinics move in.

Barnet's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked the local Community Health Partnership to report back on a survey into an on-site bus service they propose to hold when the GPs move in.

Phoenix flies high

The Phoenix Cinema was recently ranked alongside the London Coliseum and Wilton's Music Hall as being one of the 10 best cinemas or theatres in London.

Find the full list at <http://tinyurl.com/momwkek>

Leisure passes for carers

Any registered carer, whether an adult or a child, now has free access to Barnet's GLL-operated leisure centres.

This includes free swimming at Cophall, Finchley Lido and Church Farm, as well as concessionary discounts on badminton, group exercise classes, and many more activities. To get a pass, just email the Prevention and Wellbeing Team at preventionandwellbeing@barnet.gov.uk.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

234 East End Road N2

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6 Hertford Road, N2

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18A Lewis Gardens, N2

Continued residential use.

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100 Ossulton Way, N2

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Ann Owens Centre: Three months left

By Daphne Chamberlain

Conventional day centre services at the Ann Owens Centre will definitely stop next March. Hopefully other activities will continue there, but *THE ARCHER* was told last year that the lease on the building runs out in March. We have asked AgeUK Barnet whether the lease is being renewed, but have not had an answer.

Closure of the day centre services was always on the cards. Originally scheduled for last March, they were given a year's reprieve, although at the same time funding was withdrawn for the ambulances which take elderly people there on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

'Neighbourhood services' instead

At AgeUK's AGM in October, it was confirmed that these services would close, both at Ann Owens and the Meritage Centre, Hendon. This is in line with Barnet's policy of neighbourhood services for over-50s which, in practice, means various service providers, including AgeUK, starting up classes and courses in many different subjects for anyone over 50.

Barnet and AgeUK report in glowing terms that these activities are reaching many more older people, and nobody would deny that that is excellent.

However, whether all the people are going to venues in their immediate neighbourhood (which is supposed to be the aim) is another matter. And why should they? People have a right to choose where they spend their time. The point is that they are able to get themselves there.

Ambulance transport axed

On the other hand, people who rely on ambulances to take them to the traditional day centre meetings are being excluded, even if they live in the next road. Those who come from some distance away are often people with conditions such as memory loss, and who enjoy the company and the outing.

THE ARCHER has asked AgeUK Barnet how many elderly people are going to lose their daytime services, and what alternative is being offered them. Again, we have had no reply, and their website gives only the most fleeting reference to day centre closure. If we hear more, we will tell you.

Ann Owens bring and buy

The Ann Owens Centre is holding a Christmas bring and buy sale. Cakes, mince pies, jewellery, good quality clothes and accessories, bric-a-brac, and unwanted gifts are welcome.

Proceeds go to Age UK Barnet. The fair is on Tuesday 9 December from 11am to 2pm at the Centre in Oak Lane, N2 8LT.



The new (small) house on King Street has a £600,000 price tag. Photo by Mike Coles

Is this East Finchley's diddiest dwelling?

As new-builds go, it's certainly bijou! This house in King Street is still under construction but it's already on the market for a whopping £600,000.

That's a price tag that would easily buy you a four or five-bedroom family house in some parts of the country but here in N2 you get a little less for your

money.

The whole house measures, approximately, just 10m (32ft) by 6m (19ft) and has been squeezed on to what was a

vacant back yard plot just off Church Lane.

So what's inside? Well, downstairs there are two bedrooms, each about 4m by 4m (13ft by 13ft), with a bathroom in between, just wide enough to accommodate a bath. The whole of the upstairs is the main living area with an integrated kitchen. There's a tiny balcony but no garden.

Of course, as estate agent Jeremy Leaf & Co says, buyers will be getting themselves a spanking new build which will be fitted out to a very high specification. But if your hobby happens to be swinging cats, perhaps best to look elsewhere.

Schools expand

The Wren Academy is to be one of two new 'all-through' schools in Barnet from September after planning permission was given to build a new primary school on its site in North Finchley.

The Wren will offer 60 reception places each year, enabling pupils to remain at the same school from the age of four through to 18. The London Academy in Edgware will offer a similar number of new primary places.

Development of the Wren site will provide new school buildings, enhanced playing fields and improved parking. On-site parking will be

increased and a drop-off / pick-up zone for parents will be introduced.

Separately, a planning application has been submitted for the expansion of Oak Lodge Special School, off East End Road. The secondary school, which specialises in teaching students with moderate or severe learning difficulties, would provide an extra 35 places taking student numbers to 200 in total.

Awards for making a difference

Do you know an individual or group living or working within Barnet who deserves recognition for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the borough? If you do, Barnet Council is seeking nominations for the 2015 Barnet Civic Awards.

The awards, now in their 15th year, are an opportunity for the borough to recognise officially the commitment and hard work of those who strive to make a positive difference to the lives of others.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in March 2015 hosted by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Hugh Rayner. Nomination forms are avail-

able from Hendon Town Hall, all of the borough's libraries, North London Business Park reception (building 3) or by downloading a form from the council's website www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards

All suggestions must be received no later than 31 December 2014. Nominees must be either residents or work in Barnet.

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At last! The Old Barn is reclaimed

By Janet Maitland

The Old Barn is back in safe hands at last. Staff from social and community group Mobilise, who've been appointed as interim trustees, cut through the padlocked gates and reclaimed the deserted building on 31 October. Security guards are now protecting the centre until it reopens. All the files found in the office have been sent to the Charity Commission as possible evidence of fraud.

Some of the local residents and councillors who've been campaigning for years to reclaim the Old Barn marched through the gates a few days later. "At last justice has been done," said Maureen Clemetson, who used to run the Monday Youth Club before the previous 'trustees' discontinued it, as they did all the Old Barn services, when they took over the centre in 2010.

The campaigners stood in the centre's brightly painted hall and talked to Mobilise staff about what happens next.

"Over the next few weeks we'll review the charity's assets and liabilities, trying to find people who believe they're current members, and making recommendations on the viability of the current organisation," said Micah Gold, from Mobilise. He explained it may be necessary to dissolve the charity and start a new one, as the old 'trustees' have tarnished the Old Barn's good name.

He assured campaigners that there would be a thorough consultation before any options for the centre's future were considered. *THE ARCHER* was told that Barnet Council plans to refurbish the centre and develop new facilities.

Until it fell into the wrong hands, the Old Barn was a thriving community centre for over 25 years. "Over the years volunteers have painted it inside and out, planted trees and run fund raisers," said Cllr Alison Moore. "It echoed to the laughter of a generation and more of young, and not so young, local people."

The only service the 'trustees' provided in four years of mismanagement was a nursery, which was closed by Ofsted in July after 18 months for failing to provide safe childcare.

The Mobilise team is keen to hear from anyone wishing to get involved in reviving the Old Barn. Contact_oldbarn@mobilise.org.



Campaigners and Mobilise staff walk through the Old Barn gates. Photo by Mike Coles



The first glimpse of the inside of the Old Barn centre in years.

Photo by Mike Coles

Old Barn campaigners speak out

By Janet Maitland

As the gates to the Old Barn were opened again, *THE ARCHER* spoke to some of the people who'd campaigned so hard over four years to return the venue to the community.

Roger Chapman, local resident: "I look forward to the Old Barn once again becoming a vibrant hub of local community life. It must be supported by Trustees dedicated to maintaining it for local community use. Safeguards are needed so that the Old Barn can never again be taken over by unrepresentative groups with no interest in the community."

Maureen Clemetson, Monday Club leader: "My concern is that there shouldn't be any little loophole to let these people get back into running the Old Barn. My dream is that the children of East Finchley will no longer be roaming the streets like Nomads, but will be restored to their rightful place and have somewhere they can go."

Helen Drake, local parent: "The

experience of the last few years has exposed poor practice at the Charity Commission, an organisation funded by the taxpayer to regulate charities. In the case of the Old Barn, they failed miserably. Something fundamental went wrong. I need to be reassured that the commission has taken steps to prevent a case like this ever happening again."

Michele Haniotis, founder member of the Old Barn Action Group: "There are still important issues to address, including more consultation with the local community and the terms of the new lease with Barnet Council. I call on the interim trustee, Mobilise, to arrange an AGM as soon as possible to elect a new, representative management to ensure

that the Old Barn's future is truly what the community wants."

Jon Woolfson, local resident: "I hope the Grange Big Local will play a central role in the future of the building. My one concern is about the existing charity, which has been in the hands of people who weren't interested in the community; it may need to be wound up so that future generations are not burdened by its failures."

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra: "It's been tough, but thanks to dedicated local residents we have a breakthrough. The key to making sure that the Old Barn is a success will be to retain community interest and involvement in its running. I hope the Charity Commission will up their game in future."

Old Barn: What happens next?

By Janet Maitland

THE ARCHER asked the Charity Commission how it will protect the Old Barn in the future. Here's what they told us.

THE ARCHER: What action is the Commission taking to ensure that the trustees are disqualified from setting up or becoming trustees of any other charity in the future?

The Charity Commission: The commission currently does not have the power that enables us to disqualify a trustee, or prevent a trustee from setting up, or becoming a trustee of, any other charity in the future. However, we welcome the publication of the Draft Protection of Charities Bill. This makes significant changes to the ways individuals can be disqualified from acting as charity trustees, including a new power to disqualify a person from being a charity trustee where the commission considers them unfit.

In this case the commission has noted for future reference the actions of certain individuals should there be registration applications in the future.

Are you planning to notify the police of possible fraud by the trustees?

I cannot comment on this at this time.

The commission announced in April that the trustees were 'not validly appointed in 2010'. However, your actions between February and October indicate that your approach to the trustees was that they were validly appointed but were simply mismanaging the Old Barn. Then in October, you issued an order

appointing Mobilise because you'd concluded that the charity had 'no properly appointed trustees'. Was it not possible to use your powers to remove the trustees several months ago, given that you'd already decided in April that the trustees weren't validly appointed?

Yes, our view was that in 2010 there were no valid appointments of trustees. However, we had to be assured – through further enquiries, including the use of our powers under s. 52 of the Charities Act – that the position had not been regularised since. This took a little time. In the end, we were fully satisfied that the legal position had never been regularised and therefore we were confident in stating that there were no properly appointed trustees at all, hence the appointment of Mobilise. In this process we also needed to be assured that the association had never been legally dissolved. Our conclusion was that it had never been legally dissolved, hence the Order making a trustee appointment.

What action is the Commission taking to ensure that Companies House is made aware of the recent developments at the Old Barn so that they can take appropriate action in relation to the Old Barn Youth and Community Association Company incorporated on 16 June 2014?

We are informing other regulators as appropriate.

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Pop writer: Clissold Arms landlord George Karageorgis, left, with Ray Davies, centre, and Mick Avory of The Kinks.

George wants your Kink-y stories

With the Kinks musical *Sunny Afternoon* running in the West End to rave reviews and a film about the band due to be released next year, the Sixties rockers can certainly be said to be enjoying a major revival.

Our own Clissold Arms on Fortis Green is well-known for being the venue where The Kinks performed their first and last official gigs, in 1960 and 1996. The pub and Muswell Hill are a big part of the history of the band.

The Davies brothers Ray and Dave were born and brought up right across the road in Denmark Terrace. Their dad Frank was a regular at the Clissold and many family parties were held there.

Now the pub's landlord, George Karageorgis, has decided to write his first book and he's making it one about The Kinks and their links to the Clissold. He's looking for help to fill it full of stories, photos and anecdotes about those heady days.

Can you help?

George says: "I'd be very grateful if anyone has any first-hand memories of knowing the Davies family or of seeing The Kinks in their early days and later years. I'd be happy to meet anyone who can help with my

research or, if you have pictures or sketches or memories, please send them my way."

George can be contacted by

phone on 020 8444 4224, by email at info@clissoldarms.co.uk or by popping in for a chat at the pub in Fortis Green.

Clissold wins national pub award

The Clissold Arms at 105, Fortis Green, is joint winner of the Best Family Pub of the Year for the London and the South East region in the Great British Pub Awards 2014.

The awards are organised by the leading pub industry magazine The Publican's Morning Advertiser and participants come from seventeen regions of the UK. The Clissold also reached the top six in the national Great British Pub of the Year 2014 category in the awards.

Burglary at the Pavilion

By Janet Maitland

There's been a setback to the renovation of the Pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. Work was underway to convert it into a café, but burglars broke in and stole power tools and building materials worth £10,000 overnight on 14 November.

They got inside by cutting a chain from a padlock that was secured to the metal hoarding that was protecting the Pavilion.

Police think that more than one burglar was responsible and that more than one vehicle was used to remove what was stolen.

If you saw anything, or have any other information that would help the police, please contact the Safer Neighbourhood team, quoting crime reference number 2425786/14. Call 020 7161 9014, or email East-finchley.snt@met.police.uk

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Six months after shutting its doors for the last time, our old Post Office on the High Road still stands unused and unloved. Many people are saying it's a shame to see such a prime site go to waste for so long.

So who or what would you like to see move into the old Post Office? Tell us by emailing the-archer@lineone.net or by post at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Thanks to everyone who's already shared their ideas with us on Facebook and Twitter @TheArcherN2 where another supermarket is a hot favourite. Aldi or Lidl, suggests Ian Tutton on Twitter. The Old White Lion team want a local Waitrose, whereas Richard Cayon pleads: "Anything but a Tesco..."

"How about Woolworths?" suggests Man in East Finchley, nostalgically. "A knocking

shop," says Tony Barrett (hmm, planning permission could be problematic).

Georgina North would like to see it become a health food shop or an artist's studio with craft activities for children. Maria Letizia likes the idea of a studio gallery too and Julia Zanghieri wants an indoor play area for toddlers.

Madeleine Oakley finds it difficult to decide, saying it was shameful that it stopped being a Post Office. But Diane Johnson and Annabella Shergold are quite clear, saying: "Anything but a café, estate agent or betting shop!"



What's next? The Post Office building still has a 'To Let' sign up.

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A sacrifice that mustn't be forgotten

By Barry Atkinson

The house now known as Beacon Lodge has stood in Eastern Road, N2, since the 19th century, and since 1928 it has welcomed and supported young women who have been struggling to make their way in the world.

Originally a home for 'fallen' women it later became a mother and baby home, and for the last 30 years it has been a residential unit where women with young children have been sent to learn parenting skills.

Sadly the cutbacks in local authorities' finances have meant that they have sought alternative ways to do this, and in July of this year the trustees of the Beacon Lodge Charitable Trust decided the centre must close. The building is to be sold, and the funds raised will be used to continue the objectives and work of the trust.

Son's death in WW1

Visitors to Beacon Lodge over the years will have seen the plaque commemorating a young man called James Bradley which hung in the entrance hall, together with his portrait.

James died at the age of 21 on 26 October 1918 in France, while serving with the Royal Sussex Fusiliers. His mother had been involved with the Hornsey Association for Rescue and Preventive Work (the original name for Beacon Lodge) since its inception, and after the death of their only child she and her husband dedicated themselves to the work of Beacon Lodge. It was



The James Bradley memorial presentation at All Saints'

their generosity which enabled the purchase of the building in Eastern Road.

Plaque finds new home

The trustees were anxious that this memorial should not be lost, and were delighted when All Saints' Church in nearby Durham Road offered to give it a permanent home.

On Sunday 26 October, 96

years to the day after James Bradley's death, Father Christopher received the memorial from Valerie Packer, chair of Beacon Lodge, in the presence of Martin Russell, chair of Barnet War Memorials Association and Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet.

The sacrifice made by James Bradley and the generosity of his parents will not be forgotten.



Beacon Lodge on Eastern Road. Photo Mike Coles

All Over By Christmas

Book review by Daphne Chamberlain

This fascinating book, packed with illustrations, letters and contemporary accounts, concentrates on life in Barnet during the First World War.

One advertisement, from Barker's of Kensington, spells out how the trenchcoat got its name: (weatherproof wear for officers.) Another advertises The Boy's Own magazine, which told children how to blow up railway lines if we were invaded.

Even before the war had started, a North Finchley shop owned by a German was vandalised, and a naturalised neighbour flew a Union Jack from his window for protection. In East Finchley, two German-sounding shops were renamed The East Finchley Hairdressing Salon and Market Parade Bakery.

Contrast this with the front line. Following the Christmas Day truce in 1914, when soldiers from both sides strolled around together, even exchanging addresses, a Bowes Park man wrote to his mother that they had sung the German national anthem as well as their own.

Mabel Holman, a Muswell Hill woman, and her fiancé,

Lionel Gray exchanged over 200 letters between 1914 and 1918. Through Mabel's eyes we follow changes on the home front.

Other letter-writers, newspapers and reported anecdotes add to the picture. They report the East Finchley man sentenced to two months in prison or a £50 fine for feeding stale bread to his pigs; and Finchleyans at the Tally Ho turning out to see flames if another Zeppelin were shot down after the one at "the sombre Middlesex hamlet" of Potters Bar.

This is a fluent and comprehensive narrative, covering the takeover of most jobs by women; food shortages and the growth of allotments; contact with returning wounded and the pension situation; and the mixed terror and excitement of air raids.

Local author David Berguer includes indexes and a historical introduction.

"All Over By Christmas" (ISBN 9 780956 934499) is published by the Chaville Press.

Trail of war graves

By Ann Bronkhorst

The display of thousands of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London aroused great emotion and interest, nationwide. Here in Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, after several years' work, the First World War is being commemorated by the creation of an imaginative 'trail' of war graves.

Each year wreaths are laid at the cemetery's civilian and military war memorials by representatives of Camden and Islington councils and Trades Unions, as well as by private individuals. This year, for the first time, a bugler played the

Last Post while the Colour Sergeant of the Islington Veterans Association lowered the flag.

Usually, those who died in battle were buried close to where they fell but more than 340 men (and one woman) who served in the forces in WW1 are buried in the cemetery. Most died of wounds or illness in hospitals, many in the 'Spanish flu' epidemic between 1918 and 1920.

How to find them

The new walks are designed to be more or less circular and of a manageable length. They cover four areas containing the most accessible of the 1914-1918 graves and memorials that are scattered throughout the cemetery.

Clear route maps, obtainable from the cemetery office, list each man's name, age and service or regiment. For example George Astley, 17, who served on HMS Powerful, lies not far from 19-year-old Flight Lieutenant Lea Wimbush of the Royal Naval Air Service. And, after finding the grave of Capt. A.B. Kynoch from North Finchley, if you Google him a touching story emerges.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which maintains all war graves from both World Wars and subsequent ones, has installed two information boards in the cemetery, one in the St Pancras section near the grouped war graves and the other near the Islington burial chapel and war memorial. Both carry interesting facts about WW1, with QR codes to scan for more information.

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Man jailed for violent burglary

By Janet Maitland

A 21-year-old man from Harrow has been sentenced to eight years in prison for a violent burglary in East Finchley.

At Patrick O'Leary's trial at Wood Green Crown Court in October, the court heard that on 20 February a 67-year-old woman was at her home in Huntingdon Road when she heard someone banging on the front door. As she went to the door it crashed open, three men barged in and two of them ran upstairs.

Fearing for her safety, the woman tried to escape through the front door, but the third man, O'Leary, grabbed her arm and slammed the door on it. He demanded to know where her valuables were kept and marched her upstairs where she was forced to hand over £600 in cash. O'Leary then stabbed her in the face with a screwdriver, very close to her eye, to get her to tell him where she kept her jewellery.

To the rescue

The doorbell then rang. This prompted the burglars to make a run for it through the front door. But waiting on the doorstep were two concerned workmen,

who'd seen the men force their way into the house.

The workmen managed to grab hold of O'Leary and to keep holding on even though he stabbed one of them in the leg, shoulder and buttock with his screwdriver. The workmen only let go of him when the other two burglars came back also armed with screwdrivers.

Praise for courage

O'Leary was subsequently arrested and charged with aggravated burglary, grievous bodily harm with intent, actual bodily harm and possession of an offensive weapon. He pleaded not guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent, but the jury unanimously found him guilty of all four charges.

"I'm pleased that O'Leary has received a lengthy custodial sentence," said DC Yogini Patel. "This was a particularly violent burglary that could have been worse had it not been for the courageous efforts of the two workmen."

Become a winter friend

There are more than 3,000 people aged 60 and above living in East Finchley, a large proportion of whom will spend winter alone with only the television as their main form of company.

East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB) is working with local organisations which will open their doors to the community on the coldest days of winter to make sure everyone is safe and warm.

Hot drinks, soup, blankets and of course a friendly chat will be on offer. EFAB is looking for volunteers to help them telephone people to let them know a venue is going to open, help at venues by making hot drinks and enjoying a friendly chat, and provide transport or just the offer of an arm to help them walk there.

To become involved contact Lisa on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk. More information can be found at www.efab.org.uk



More than three bags full; The Green Party litter picking volunteers on the North Circular bridge.

Bin it or bag it

In a little over an hour on Sunday 16 November, five Green Party volunteers filled nine sacks with litter picked from the vegetation on the south side of the North Circular flyover by Strawberry Vale.

They found mostly cans, and snack wrappers. "Ashame about the cans, they are all recyclable," commented Adele Ward. "It's mostly snacks people eat around the bus stop. I found the whole area saturated with cans, bottles and food wrappings." "No wonder we saw rats right near the bus stop, where there is a bin. Are people so apathetic that they can't use it?" said Phil Fletcher, who organised the litter pick.

Weighty sum raised

By Diana Cormack



Brian Hooper presents the cheque to Carole Heffeman.

Photo Marc Furr

This year the Hallowe'en 2014 Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin competition held at The Old White Lion pub was in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Organiser Brian Hooper spent many hours cajoling customers into taking part, with guesses ranging from 7.3 kg / 16 lbs to 175 kg / 385 lbs. More than 40 people were within 0.5 kg / 1-2 lbs of the correct weight. However, one person guessed the exact weight of 38.4 kg / 84lbs 8oz to win a £50 voucher to spend in the pub.

After all his hard work Brian was able to hand over a cheque to Carole Heffeman, NW London fundraising manager, for the magnificently appropriate sum of £2,014.

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YOUNG ARCHER



All aboard: Coldfall Primary children on their maritime adventure week in Essex.

Ahoy, shipmates!

Year 6 children at Coldfall Primary School weighed anchor for a one-week adventure on a light ship called Trinity moored on marshland at Tollesbury in Essex.

Eve Macauley, aged 10, said: "We did loads of exciting activities such as taking turns at driving powerboats, capsizing from a kayak into a freezing lake, singing a One Direction song standing on top of a teetering see-saw 40 feet

up and eating a lot of delicious cake and frothy hot chocolate!"

Coldfall Primary School recently had an OFSTED inspection for the first time since 2007 and was awarded an 'Outstanding' ranking in every category.

Young readers get write on

Young readers at Holy Trinity Primary School were lucky enough to have a visit from children's author Archie Kimpton in early November. He came in for the day to talk to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Archie visited each class for fun, interactive writing workshops, as well as telling the children all about being a writer and his book *JumbleCat!*

Elke from year 4 says: "He read a bit of the book with us. It was so fun! We had to make a jumbled up animal of our own. We made up an animal called Mango Head. It had a duck body, a giraffe neck, a pig tail, an elephant head and human legs.

"Then we had to make our own baddies. Mine was called Horror Die. He makes the blue sky turn into a horrible thunder storm that rages around the villages but he is on his cloud cackling!"



Animal jumble: Archie Kimpton in the classroom at Holy Trinity

Jade steps up for England

Congratulations to 16-year-old Jade Doran who won gold and silver medals at the UK Open Tae Kwon-Do Championships in Guildford in early November.

Jade, who lives off East End Road and trains at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre also won two golds at the Welsh Open this year and an impressive bronze medal from the European Championships in Estonia.

Jade is building a strong name for herself and has earned a highly coveted place on the England National Squad. You can follow in Jade's footsteps and learn how to defend yourself by visiting United Kingdom Tae Kwon-Do Dojangs at www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk or contacting them on 07949 612706.



High-kicker: Jade Doran demonstrates a technique on her brother Daniel.

Everybody gets creative

Students at the Archer Academy got inspiration from the professionals when art and design experts helped them get hands-on with some new techniques at a Big Draw afternoon.

Fifty children from local primary schools also came along as the academy students learned skills like furniture design, cartoon portraiture and stop-frame animation.

Artist James Melloy led a disc painting workshop where pupils were given a handmade brush, made up of household brushes nailed together, to create paintings exploring abstract art and emotion.

The younger visitors helped to create an art installation at the school's Beaumont Close building with artist David Waller using toy cars. Photographs of its creation were taken at different stages and turned into a stop-frame animation.



Painter man: James Melloy leads a workshop

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followed by wine and mince pies

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**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Deja view

Sometimes everything seems like Groundhog Day. Another year, another X Factor, another Band Aid and another batch of suicidal turkeys getting flu. And we are only half way through the 60 days of Christmas.

Like anything that endlessly repeats itself, Band Aid is so far past its sell by date that someone has finally noticed that it is a load of patronising drivel wrapped up in One Direction's spare underwear. And, it still has Bono.

All right, it makes money for charity and stops people forgetting who Bob Geldof is, but the only really good thing about it is it stops Simon Cowell's latest victims topping the charts at Christmas.

When it comes to raising cash, let's have Bank Aid where for one year all London's bankers donate their annual bonus to charity. Last year the bonus pot was measured in billions, but even if kids will spend their pocket money on a download to stop Ebola, I won't hold my breath waiting for bankers to do the same. Generous bankers with a social conscience? That's about as likely as a turkey voting early for Christmas.

And now, just like a bad smell, bird flu is back, followed by panic buying as a terrified population fears it won't have anything completely tasteless to eat on Christmas Day.

In the face of a turkey shortage the only thing to do is find some other poor unsuspecting bird to stuff in the oven. According to the Dutch it's all the fault of migrating swans. So, that settles it, let's eat swan.

According to tradition only royalty are allowed to eat swan, but there are too many out there for the Queen to eat them all so it's our job to help. The problem is the cooking, not the eating, as swans weigh in at up to 30 pounds and are too big for the suburban oven. I thought Delia could help, but there's no recipe in any of her books and you can't buy swan in Waitrose.

I'll just have to annoy the squirrels and do a nut roast. It's either that or pigeon.

St Mary's Catholic Church

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website: <http://www.stmarys-eastfinchley.co.uk>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysN2>**Christmas Services****Sunday 21st December**

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Wednesday 24th December

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10 pm 'Midnight' Mass

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

10 am Family Mass

12 noon Mass partly in Latin

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Minister: Simon Dyke

Visitors Always Welcome**Harvest between two nations**

By Rev Michael Giles

This year's harvest festival at East Finchley Methodist Church was celebrated for the first time using material from the newly launched fundraising and awareness initiative All We Can. This year the focus was on Burundi, the small landlocked country in the heart of central Africa, known as a "Land of Potential".



Harvest time: Burundian ambassador Deo Sindayihebura, centre, visits East Finchley Methodist Church.

Philomene, one of our church members, works for the Burundian Embassy, which led to a meeting between her, me and Ambassador Deo Sindayihebura at the end of September to talk about the work of All We Can and to swap tales about living and working in central Africa, a place close to both their hearts. This in turn led to an invite to our harvest supper.

Flag know-how

It took place amid a rich and varied display of African pots and printed fabrics and alongside the usual harvest of fruit and flowers from East Finchley allotments there were crops from Burundi such as coffee, maize, sweet potato and cassava.

The Embassy lent us a huge Burundian flag, which after some discussion was hung correctly; the stars that form a triangle in the centre symbolise the tribes of Burundi and must point upwards. Everyone at East Finchley Methodist Church knows this now.

Burundi rebuilds

The Ambassador gave a stimulating talk on life in Burundi. He spoke about 12 years of civil war, the impact of hunger and poverty, the move to peace and now a massive, entirely self-funded rebuilding programme of schools and health centres. He talked about the inspirational leadership and dedication of the First Lady of Burundi, herself a Reverend, who was passionate about the poor of her country rather than "shopping trips and shoes".

Mr Sindayihebura explained that our two countries are linked not only by people but also by weather, as in Burundi "we also have the raining of cats and dogs".

Our church has set itself a target of £500 towards the All We Can Harvest Appeal and £245 was given at the Harvest Service alone.

Soulful singing at St Mary's

Punchy rhythms, the sound of the drum and young voices in harmony came soaring from Soul Sanctuary, a London-based gospel choir that visited St Mary's Catholic Church in the High Road for its Family Mass at the end of October.

Helen Doran, representative of the parish council, added: "Variety is the spice of life, and the gospel choir created a wonderfully exuberant atmosphere."



Sweet sounds: Soul Sanctuary sing at St Mary's Church

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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
- **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



In memory of Mary

Staff at the RSPCA shop in the High Road have said a big thank you to the Rotary Club Mill Hill for handing over a cheque for £100. The donation was in fond memory of Mary Powell, the late wife of Rotary Club member Ron Powell, left, who volunteered for the charity for more than 20 years. Also pictured from left to right are East Finchley shop manager Gabby, local RSPCA chairman Anne Lewis and Rotary Club member George Mason.

Next up for the RSPCA shop is a fashion show and late-night shopping event to celebrate its one-year anniversary in East Finchley. Tickets for the show are available in store. The event will run from 6pm to 6.45pm with shopping open to the public from 7pm until 8.30pm.



Santa's here: Happy faces from last year's Martin Primary fair. Photo Emily Hands

Winter wonderland

On Saturday 13 December from 12pm to 3pm, Martin Primary School will become a winter wonderland with fun for all ages.

There will be all sorts of delicious homemade treats to feast on including mulled wine and mince pies. Pupils will be spreading their festive cheer singing for visitors and Santa will be welcoming families into his gorgeous grotto. The Martin Home School Association has had a very successful fundraising year. Much of the

money raised has been used to enhance outdoor play areas in the expanding school. Money raised from the Christmas Fair will buy more equipment for these spaces.

Martin School has thanked local businesses for their support and says it is appreciative of help from The Exchange and sponsors Budgens, Martyn Gerard and GLH.

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

Saturday 6 December

• **East Finchley Christmas Festival**, High Road, 10am to 5pm. Stalls and activities plus live entertainment: **10am**: Dog show, with categories for general dogs, dogs who look like their owners and festive dogs.

11.30am: The Archer Academy choir, **12noon**: East Finchley Bake Off. Bring your home-made cakes and mince pies, **12.30pm**: Popchoir, **1.15pm**: Young Ukulele group

1.30pm: Rob Thom with Christmas folk music, **1.45pm**: EFYT Dance Group, **2.15pm**: Sound of the Suburb, **3.15pm**: Mightee Fit Christmas Challenge, **3.30pm**: Disco time, **4.15pm**: Brass band with Martin Primary School

Tuesday 9 December

• **Christmas Fair at Ann Owen Centre**, Oak Lane, N2, 11am-2pm, in aid of Age UK Barnet.

Saturday 13 December

• **Martin Primary School Christmas Fair**, Plane Tree Walk, 12noon to 3pm; lots of lovely food on offer as well as Santa's Grotto and all sorts of fun for the whole family.

Wednesday 17 December

• **A Merry Little Christmas at Stephens House**, East End Road, N3, 2.30pm; afternoon tea with musical accompaniment. A festive Victorian-themed entertainment exploring the origins of favourite Christmas customs and most-loved Yuletide melodies. Tickets £9.50 via www.stephenshouseandgardens.com, at the House or by phone on 020 8346 7812.

Wednesday 17 December to Sunday 25 January 2015

• **Singin' in the Rain**, based on one of the world's best-loved movies, Upstairs at The Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6 4BD. Tickets £14/£12 concs. Box Office: 020 8340 3488.

December at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, Phoenix Cinema executive director

We're all on journeys of one kind or another and this month we run the gamut. *Homesman*, starring Tommy Lee Jones and Hilary Swank, tells a pioneer tale of wilderness, wildness and meeting your match. *Kon-Tiki* carries us on an epic raft crossing of the Pacific, based on the best-selling book. *Manakamana* is an intimate documentary shot in a cable car in Nepal as we meet unforgettable people en route. In *Open Bethlehem* a filmmaker goes back to her village to discover herself and her purpose.

Bill Murray plays a curmudgeonly and misunderstood man with a good heart in *St Vincent*. Then Christopher Waltz and Amy Adams play husband and wife in the surprising story of *Big Eyes*, about the artist Walter Keane who created a series of popular paintings in the 1960s.

Phoenix Nights invites guest curators to host our monthly Friday late-night slot. Join us at 11.30 pm on 5 December when writer/director and Python member *Terry Jones* selects and presents one of his personal favourites, the classic comedy *Groundhog Day*.

Feel the need to work off the effects of those early Christmas parties? Start by exercising your brain at our *Use It or Lose It Film Quiz* at 11am on Sunday 7 December and the interactive *Phoenix Film Salon* on Mondays 8 and 22 December. Nick Walker provides the cerebral aerobics.

Get your inner princess on with our *Frozen Singalong*. Not in the mood for a tiara? Then sharpen up with *Edward Scissorhands* if you dare. We also go to France for the WW1 story *Joyeux Noel* and to the North Pole for cult comedy *Elf*.

Check show times on our website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or visit our foyer, where you can also buy Phoenix Friends gift cards.

Speaking up for older people in hospital

By Daphne Chamberlain

Being in hospital can be a lonely and worrying time, especially for an older person who may not have effective support from family and friends. Any number of problems may be troubling them, and this is where Advocacy in Barnet (AIB) can help.

AIB, a registered charity, has been running for over 17 years, operating with a team of knowledgeable and skilled staff and volunteers and has now expanded its 50 Plus Matters services into hospitals, visiting older patients in the Royal Free at Hampstead, and in Edgware Community and Finchley Memorial Hospitals. All advocates speak up for people, and these advocates speak up for people of 50-plus, living in Barnet and neighbouring boroughs.

Advocates visit Marjorie Warren ward in Finchley Memorial once a week. As always, they start by listening. They go in as potential friends, and once they know what the patients need they can help them. Sometimes patients are worried about care and health issues or personal problems, sometimes about finance, Lasting Powers of Attorney and wills, or moving into care homes. Sometimes they need help with getting letters written or phone calls made.

Advocates are there with the consent of the hospital authorities, and accept referrals from professionals and agencies including Barnet Carers Centre, social workers, ward managers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, GPs and dentists, not forgetting families and friends of patients, and patients themselves.

Contact 020 8201 3415 or

020 8201 3148 to make a referral. Advocacy in Barnet's 50 Plus Matters offers free, confidential and independent services.

Grants available for Strawberry Vale

A new fund has been set up by the Peabody Housing Trust to help their residents improve community life, health and leisure.

Various ideas are possible, such as social and keep-fit activities, gardening and schemes to promote well-being, but the beneficiaries must be Peabody residents. Youth-led projects will be encouraged.

Residents on the Strawberry Vale Estate can suggest ideas and a grant-making panel will consider the proposals. Up to £75,000 a year for three years will be available, with £500-£5,000 possible for each project. The cut-off date for the first round of grants is very soon, 12 December, but the next round will continue until 6 March, 2015.

The scheme is managed by the London Community Foundation. To find out how to apply, visit www.londoncf.org.uk or email info@londoncf.org.uk or phone 020 7582 5117.



Letters

Don't let our library disappear

Dear Editor,

I understand that Barnet Council must continue to make budget savings in these straitened times but to take an axe to the borough's entire library service seems completely out of proportion.

Our excellent library in the High Road and its excellent staff, along with others in Barnet, will be decimated if the council's proposals are allowed to go ahead.

To give the council credit, they are running a full public consultation exercise on the library cuts. But it's always difficult not to believe that their minds have been made up long before the results of that consultation are known.

So do we want a library for readers of all ages in East Finchley? Now is the time we must decide. Once it's gone, it will never return.

The move to a library service run by volunteers is happening all over the country. It may work here too, but what happens when the volunteers stop turning up?

I believe the only answer is to fight as hard as we can to keep the library open in its current form. The council needs to know that we will not stand back and watch such a well-established and much-loved community facility vanish forever.

Yours faithfully,
David Melsome,
Richmond Road, N2

We get letters on all topics in our mail bag but the one below arrived in late October and was clearly meant for a different group of Archers. We couldn't resist printing it...

Knock twice for no

Dear Editor,

I have been listening to *The Archers* for years and loved it. I now don't enjoy it as much as I used to. I especially don't like the story line at the moment about Jennifer Aldridge having a seance.

It is not innocent fun. The Bible tells us not to try and get in touch with the dead. Why? Because it is dangerous to mess about with the occult as many people who have done it will testify. Many people have been terrified and have sought help from Christians who can truly help them.

Please be sensible because a lot of vulnerable people may copy.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs T Peake,
By email

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"

**The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 2DE or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.**

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

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Back in the old school yard



Class act: Holy Trinity pupils perform their nativity play in 1962.

The year class at Holy Trinity School that left in 1966 to embark on secondary education is holding a reunion and needs help in locating classmates from years 1960 through to 1966.

The wonderful photo from Friends Reunited shows the children in 1962 at their Christmas carol service held in the old Congregational Church hall that used to stand on the site that is now Budgens.

Mark Littlefield, who's helping to organise the reunion, says teachers who spring to mind (with apologies for any misremembered spellings) are Mr Wenman, Mr James, Mrs Fuller, Mrs Thompson, Miss Nichols, Miss Owen, Mrs Ferraday, Miss Jenkins, Mr Christmas (deputy headteacher), Miss Gillett (headteacher), Mr Davies (headteacher) and Mrs Johnson the welfare officer.

Is your name here?

Classmates from those days include: Andrew Smith, Angela Nisi, Brent Hayhoe, Bronwyn Hogan, Chris Bradley, Chris Hands, Chris Harding, Christine Penn, Christine Smith, Dave Baker, Dora Brown, Eileen Miall, Elizabeth Wilson, Emily Petrou, Fiona Preston, Gabriel Sheard, Gary Andress, Gordon Crawford, Howard Collins, Ian Collett, Ian Read, Ilsa Hahn, Jane Aldridge, Jane Greenwood, Jane Thorne, Janet Field, Janice Howkins, Jennifer George, John Davey, John Mann, Judy Clarke, Kathy Nemes, Keith Waller, Lesley Cullender, Linda Endacott, Maria Velasco, Mark Littlefield, Maureen Grant, Paul Shearing, Peter Edwards, Peter Gulliver, Phil Djemal, Philip Horner, Robert Sullivan, Sandra Holmes, Sean Potter, Steve Hancock, Steve Harris, Steve Jayes, Steve Milburn, Steve Wilson, Susan Manning and Tina Nicholls.

Were you there yourself or do you know anyone who was? To find out more about the reunion, contact Mark on 020 8441 0970 or marklittlefield@btinternet.com

Quiz-tastic!

Well done to *THE ARCHER* quiz team who claimed victory at Deborah Granville's lively new quiz night at The Clissold Arms on 11 November.

On this occasion the glory was shared by Sheila Armstrong, Ken Carter, Jan Davies, John Dearing and Diana and Ian Cormack.

More Quizzeramas from 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Clissold Arms hosted by Deborah of DesEvents.com, East Finchley's answer to Alexander Armstrong! Entry is £2 per person with teams of up to six. Winners take the pot and runners-up win a round of drinks.

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.



Goodbye 134

By Tony Lee

No, not the opening line to another reworking of Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* but a paean to a temporary pleasure and transport practicality that we have just lost.

In November I chose to ride the diverted 134 bus back from Tottenham Court Road rather than the tube, knowing it was the last day the service would deliver me directly to East Finchley and not take its usual turn past Highgate Wood to Muswell Hill.

Sitting on the upper deck and peering through the misted windows, I was conscious of the pleasures of travelling above ground as opposed to the slightly speedier but geographically oblivious underground alternative. The BT Tower, the feline statuettes that guard Greater London House, the comedically immortalized Mornington Crescent station, the many period house fronts lining the way... our route home is not without its visual joys.

This temporary diversion has highlighted the fact that East Finchley sorely lacks a direct bus route to central London (apart from the N20 at night). And when a single bus journey costs around half of the same distance by underground (two buses being required to reach the West End anyway) it's hard not to feel financially penalized for living here when so many neighbouring areas have direct services.

As mentioned in the November issue of *THE ARCHER*, commuters who agree should inform TfL of the popularity of the diverted 134 and the need for a direct daytime bus route from our High Road to central London, in the hope that one day we will acquire such a service permanently.

Until then we can only lament the loss, so altogether then:

"Goodbye 134,
Though I only knew you for a trice,
You had the grace to bus me home,
And for only half the price..."

Editor's note: Night bus N20 follows the Tube line, turning left at the Bald Faced Stag to go on to Finchley Central, which already has its own night bus. So it doesn't help the large and increasing numbers of people who live on the long one-bus stretch of the High Road up to North Finchley. TfL are aware of this but anyone who wants a better service should keep contacting them.

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Andrew makes light work of new career

By Nick Young

Mezem, the Mediterranean restaurant located at 111 High Road, is under new management but the new owner doesn't have the background you'd necessarily expect of a restaurateur.

Andrew Theodorou, who took over in September, is an electrical engineer by trade and has previously delivered power for large-scale exhibitions, the BBC Sports Personality of the Year and for the Excel Centre during the 2012 Olympics. That last one involved 10 million watts. "I didn't sleep for months," he recalls.

He and his wife Aisling both gave up their high-powered jobs to look after their two boys Harvey and James. This gave Andrew, who lives in Palmers Green, the chance to follow a long-held ambition to enter the restaurant trade.

"I've always wanted to run a restaurant," he told *THE ARCHER*. "I looked at places between Angel and Cockfosters before choosing this one." His vision for Mezem is of a restaurant "using only the freshest and most authentic ingredients to ensure a wonderful fusion of flavours". This extends to the coffee as well as the food!

Running the restaurant allows Andrew to be with the boys first thing in the morning and during the afternoon, after which he returns to work for the evening.

Mezem, which has 65 covers and a staff of eight, is open seven days a week and now offers online booking and a home delivery service, as well as allowing customers to bring their own wine at lunchtime. Andrew, who is looking at bringing in more child-friendly menu options, has worked with other local businesses, including providing finger-food for Black Gull Books at a recent evening event.



Andrew Theodorou, who has taken over Mezem on the High Road.
Photo Mike Coles

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Sue Tollerfield (left) and Haylee Millar display The Archer tea towels at the Cherry Tree gift shop.
Photo Mike Coles

The Archer tea towel: buy yours now for Christmas

The Archer tea towel makes the perfect Christmas gift for family and friends. The Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road is kindly stocking it for us and handing over all the money to support three local youth charities.

How you can help Noah's Ark

By Diana Cormack

On Friday 19 December ITV's annual charity appeal Text Santa will be bringing an evening of non-stop entertainment to our screens. The leading UK charity for children's hospices, Together for Short Lives, has been chosen as one of the six beneficiary charities this year. Funds raised for this charity will support the fifty three children's hospice services across the country which include Noah's Ark Children's Hospice in North London.

Presenters Alesha Dixon, Ant and Dec, Paddy McGuinness, Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley will introduce a Text Santa that's bigger than ever. Along with the chart-topping live music performances there will be stars from Coronation Street, The Cube and even George Clooney in a specially written scene from Downton Abbey!

Since the appeal launched in 2011, Text Santa has raised £15 million for charities. All funds raised will be distributed equally between the six charities. Viewers can donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/textsanta

Giving time helps too

Part of strategic planning for Noah's Ark includes significant investment in training and upskilling of volunteers. To find out more about volunteering with Noah's Ark Children's Hospice please contact Amy Walker on 020 8449 8877 or email awalker@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

They are the Monday Youth Club, the Finchley Youth Theatre and a reading project for youngsters at Strawberry Vale.

Pop in and buy yours today. And you can still order your tea towel by post. Send a cheque made payable to The Archer for £5 per tea towel to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Include your name and address and we will deliver to your door free of charge.

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