



Valerie Cowan and her work. Photo by Chris Hurwitz Bremner.

Local artists and affordable art

The Finchley Art Society was founded in 1949 to enable amateur and professional artists to meet and paint together in relaxed and friendly surroundings.

Valerie Cowan has been painting with the group for eight years and says she loves the discipline of a weekly painting session.

Valerie says: "Even though it is not tutored, like an art class, I have improved over the years and widened the scope of my styles and subjects. There are members who will give advice if needed.

"I would urge anyone who

enjoys dabbling with paints, or any other artistic medium, to give us a try. It helps me explore and express my own creativity and it is so therapeutic. The feeling when a painting turns out just the way you want is enormously satisfying."

Where and when

There are many levels of ability within the society and a wide diversity of artwork.

They meet twice a week and you can attend either or both sessions. Membership is £24 per year, plus a small fee for each session.

Sessions take place on Mondays at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, from 7.15pm to 9.15pm for £2 per session. Monday evenings have a new programme of themes, such as still life, life drawing or your own ideas.

Or you can go along on Wednesdays to St Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley Central, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm for £1.50 per session. Wednesday afternoons are less specific but occasionally there will be a demonstration/workshop.

The Society welcomes new members any time, whether you are a beginner or an established artist. All levels of ability are encouraged to come along.

For more details contact: Loretta on jonlor.delange@talktalk.net or Valerie on v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8458 4508.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

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Petition against Post Office move

A petition was handed over to the Post Office to express concern against the franchising of East Finchley's branch to the UOE store in the High Road in February.

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra and Huw Davies, of the Communication Workers' Union, handed 1,500 signatures to Post Office stakeholder manager Simon Burman at an open meeting on 13 December.

Make yourself heard

Customers had the chance to voice their own opinions at the meeting in East Finchley Methodist Church. There are concerns that the move is already set in stone and the consultation exercise relates

only to access and opening hours.

As we reported in last month's issue, Post Office services will be available at UOE from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and noon to 4pm on Sundays. The store will be redeveloped to provide ramped access, extra counters and more floor space.

The branch manager and seven staff members at the existing Post Office will either transfer to UOE or be offered positions at other branches.



Cllr Arjun Mittra (left) and Huw Davies of the CWU, centre, present the 1,500 signature petition opposing the franchising of East Finchley Post Office to Simon Burman, Post Office senior stakeholder manager.

Supermarket sweeps into the station

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley is one of six north London tube stations selected by Asda for its new "click and collect" service. This is a system allowing customers who place an order online before noon to pick it up after 4pm on the same day from an Asda van parked locally.

After trials in Nottingham and Reading, the supermarket chain has teamed up with Transport for London in a deal where London Underground allocates space to an Asda van at station car parks.



The Asda van parked at the tube station. Photo by Chris Price

Tube users may have first been made aware of the Asda connection when the ticket barriers at East Finchley were decorated with the store's logo. Packets of nibbles and ticket wallets advertising the service were handed out to travellers and a parking area painted onto the concourse.

An Asda van driver told *THE ARCHER* that the service was going really well and was much appreciated by custom-

ers. However, some locals are not pleased by the presence of the van in an often congested area (see Letters, page 11).

Asda is looking to boost sales in London and southeast England, where it has fewer stores than other leading supermarkets. So, should it be successful, this service is likely to be extended and become the norm. Let *THE ARCHER* know what you think about this. Our contact details are on page 2.