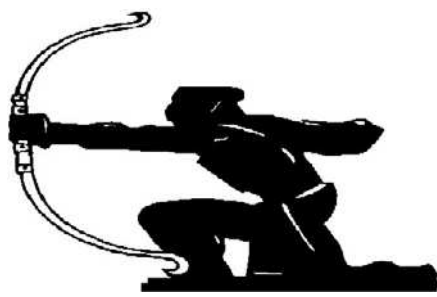


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

£500,000 boost for sport on Stanley Field

Stanley Field took another step closer to being a community sports facility again with the announcement in December that the Archer Academy's Stanley Road campus will be given £500,000 from the London Marathon Charitable Trust (LMCT).

It has also been confirmed that the Stanley Road facilities will be made available to everyone in the community outside of school hours in perpetuity, according to the terms of a deed of dedication.

The LMCT grant will allow the school to install a 3G artificial turf pitch at the site, which will be useable in all weather, instead of a grass one. The money will also fund an inclusive climbing wall, suitable for both disabled and able bodied users.

Sport East Finchley has been working closely with LMCT for many years to build a business plan and find funding for sports facilities on the field. The Archer Academy's own development plans for the field were seen as the best way to preserve the field for community use, while also providing much needed secondary school places.

Goal achieved

Roger Chapman of Sport East Finchley said: "The grant from the London Marathon Charitable Trust will enable this sports field to be brought back into active sports use for local people. Our community has campaigned for over 15 years to retain sports use on this field and with the backing of the London Marathon Charitable Trust that goal has now been achieved.

"We are still exploring other funding avenues for sport on the site. With the LMCT money now agreed we hope this will help us with other bids especially to bodies like Sport England.

"The grant from LMCT is subject to agreeing the Deed of Dedication which will be resolved when the site is purchased from Barnet Council in

the New Year. We are currently negotiating wording with Fields in Trust."

A Deed of Dedication generally ensures continuing community use, even if ownership of the facilities should change.

Roger Chapman told us that precise times of use will be negotiated over the coming months. He said that last month's planning permission set out a variety of conditions regarding times of use, plus the need for a community use agreement to be negotiated and agreed with Sport England for the all-weather pitch, hard courts and sports hall outside of school hours and during school holidays.

Avis Johns, the Archer Academy's chair of governors, said: "I would like to publicly thank the London Marathon Charitable Trust for this most generous grant, which will dramatically improve the facilities we can offer our children and our community."

Work at the Stanley Road site is due to begin early in 2014, with sports and teaching facilities scheduled to be ready for the school's third intake of pupils in September 2015.



A winter wonderland in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

Big Local is recruiting

The Grange Big Local project, which aims to improve life for residents on The Grange estate and surrounding roads, is looking for help.

Big Local rep Paul Bragman says he'd like to find an individual, consultant or organisation with a proven track record of community engagement and community development to work alongside the project's existing group of active volunteers.

The work will include assisting in managing and supporting local ambassadors, developing the partnership and coordinating the development of the project, starting in early February.

For a copy of the brief, visit the Grange Big Local website www.grangebiglocal.org or for further information contact Paul on 07887 721825.

In thy dark streets shineth...
Real reindeer, fake snow, brass band music and plenty of street entertainment were just some of the highlights of East Finchley's second winter festival, held all along the High Road early in December.
Turn to pages 6 and 7 to see our photo special.

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THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

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

Copy deadlines – **February:** 10 January, **March:** 14 February, **April:** 14 March

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:

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

Leisure

Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon	0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema	020 8446 9933

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950
City Airport	020 7646 0088
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

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

Beaumont Close, N2

New wooden gate to boundary between Beaumont Close and The Causeway.

76 Church Lane, N2

New single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing one.

"Dick Turpin", 383 Long Lane, N2

Minor amendments to planning permission for eight flats, following demolition of pub. Include alterations to proposed railings and screening to light wells and boundary.

10 Deansway, N2

Roof extension, including hip and gable two front and two rear dormers, to create rooms in roof for loft conversion.

12 Deansway, N2

As for no.10. Plus partial basement to rear, with new external staircase enclosure.

66B Durham Road, N2

Roof extension with rear dormer, to facilitate loft conversion.

37 Hertford Road, N2

New step lift, raised platform, steps and handrail to front elevation.

82 High Road, N2

Change of use from B1 Office (basement) to C3 Residential (one unit).

Land adjacent to 37 and 39 Leslie Road, N2

Demolition of garages. Construction of two-storey building with rooms in roof, to facilitate creation of 26 square metre ground-floor storage unit and one studio flat to upper floors.

2 Limerick Mews, N2

Change of use from B1 Office (ground floor) to C3 Residential (two units).

33 Ludlow Way, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Conversion of garage to habitable space. Roof extension, including rear dormer and one side roof light to facilitate loft conversion.

Part of former National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Great North Road, N2

Removal of Condition 2 (parking provision) pursuant to planning permission of 2005, for part one, part two, part three-storey building for educational purposes. Provi-

sion of 21 car parking spaces, associated hard and soft landscaping, and refuse storage.

1-169 Old Farm Road, Strawberry Vale, N2

Double-glazed windows and doors with aluminium frames, to replace existing single-glazed steel-framed windows and doors. Raised roof parapet wall, with roof edge protection guardrail behind parapet.

15 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing house, bar road-facing facades, followed by two-storey rear extension, rooms in roof, and basement accommodation. Rebuilding of swimming-pool / garage block.

Haringey Council

24 Lynmouth Road, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for roof extension with rear dormers, and single-storey side extension to back addition.

Physical activity grants

Barnet Council is offering charities and not-for-profit community groups the chance to bid for small grants aimed at getting older people more physically active.

The initiative will see grants of between £250 and £750 awarded to get a new project off the ground or to help existing ones expand. Examples include Tai-Chi sessions, swimming and walking groups, and bowling, dancing or gardening clubs.

For further information and details of how to apply visit www.barnet.gov.uk/physical-activity-grants

Planning permission granted for pavilion

Barnet Borough Council has granted the following planning permission regarding the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood:

Change of use from existing Pavilion to A3 (Café) including new glazed windows and doors and incorporation of landscaped area for tables and chairs. This is subject to conditions which can be viewed at www.barnet.gov.uk, planning reference F/02410/13.

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Business support for the over-50s

A national enterprise charity is planning to host a series of workshops and courses in East Finchley to help aspiring mature entrepreneurs set up their own businesses.

The Prince's Initiative for Mature Enterprise (PRIME) received funding from Barnet Council in 2013 as part of £220,000 worth of finance across 13 local projects to improve the skills of local residents over 50 in financial matters.

A workshop will be held at East Finchley Library on Friday 24 January, covering self-employment, enterprise techniques and how to develop a business idea.

For those seeking further training and who want to start 2014 embarking on a new direction in life or a change in career, PRIME will be holding a more comprehensive business training course on 7 February,

also at the library.

The training course includes three classroom days, spread over six weeks, covering the building blocks essential to any start-up business, including marketing, accounting and how to write a business plan.

Jennie Burraway, London development manager for PRIME, said: "A lot of the focus on unemployment and enterprise tends to concentrate on young people but older people are also struggling and are more likely to find it difficult to find a new job once they are unemployed."

Further details can be found at www.prime.org.uk/courses or by telephoning 0845 862 2023.

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Other classes : www.taiji.co.uk

email: james@taiji.co.uk phone: 020-8883 3308



Michelle gets paws on for shop opening

By Daphne Chamberlain

Actress Michelle Collins opened the RSPCA charity shop in the High Road at the end of November. Several other humans in the crowd brought their dogs as well, and local RSPCA Chair Ann Lewis told *THE ARCHER* that this is exactly what's wanted. She said that the shop is intended to be a community centre, where animal-lovers, with or without dogs, can drop in and have a chat, find out what's going on, and (weather permitting) enjoy the garden at the back.



Michelle Collins opens the new RSPCA charity shop.

Photo by Caron Westbrook

Ann has personally worked very hard there, waging war on above-head-height nettles, starting new planting, and installing bird feeders. She told us: "We're not setting up as a cafe. We can't sell refreshments, but we can always offer a cup of tea".

The aim for the shop itself is to keep it elegant and to sell good quality stock. There is also, of course, a real need to raise money. The RSPCA is actually a collection of like-minded charities. Three North London branches (Finchley,

Golders Green and Hendon) are renting a re-homing centre for cats, which costs over £2,000 per month.

The growth of the feral cat population is disturbing. The RSPCA are reminding people that they run a free neutering service for cats from the age of four months, and are repeating the message that pets are not just for Christmas. Neither are they there to be abandoned when their owners move house.

Meanwhile, our newest charity shop needs volunteers and stock.



Pizza Hatch with Brian Zlotnick, Michael Moody, Rawji Chauhan, Karen Williamson and Ian Cormack.

Photo by Diana Cormack

Silver foxes in the kitchen

By Karen Williamson

Older men have been putting on their chefs' hats to get creative in the kitchen in Age UK's first beginner's cookery course for men. At the Ann Owens Centre in East Finchley, would-be Jamie Olivers have been brushing up their culinary skills and making friends as well as casseroles, soups and bakes.

Chicken casserole with herb dumplings followed by raspberry trifle was a winner for Rawji Chauhan, 67, who said: "The sessions have been great. I've cooked most of the recipes at home in the week afterwards."

Another cook, Brian Zlotnick, 59, said: "The course has helped broaden my understanding, knowledge and curiosity about cooking. I'll definitely be cooking more at home now."

Syd McGowan, 70, added: "My wife really likes the idea of me having a repertoire of meals I can put together."

Cooking with confidence

The next beginner's course is in January and there will be others later in 2014 as well as one-off workshops on pizza making, baking and vegetarian Indian cooking. There are plans to run more specialised workshops in future on cooking for a healthy heart and diabetes.

Lynn Anderson, who guided the men through the recipes on the five week course, said: "They were a lovely bunch of men who grew in confidence as the course progressed. They'll now be able to build on these skills and get into the habit of cooking for themselves, friends and family at home."

The camaraderie between the men has been a huge part of

the success of the course. "I've certainly had a lot of interesting conversations while chopping up vegetables!" says 68-year-old Ian Cormack.

Anyone interested in cookery courses or who wants to put their name down for future courses, please contact Karen Williamson on eatwell@ageuk-barnet.org.uk or phone 020 8150 0967 or 07789 994298.

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Fallen tree

Many fences, gardens and roofs took a battering in the howling gales that hit us overnight on 23 December. This tree came down at the entrance to Cherry Tree Wood and safety crews worked quickly to clear the fallen trunk and scattered branches on Christmas Eve. Photo by Mike Coles.

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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.

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.

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

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Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

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Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

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Generous gift for charity shop

By Diana Cormack

When the North London Hospice charity shop was broken into for the second time in a year, manageress Eugenia von Piccardio was devastated (*THE ARCHER*, November 2013). "They took everything of value", she said sadly.

The thieves gained entry by smashing through the front door glass and ransacked the premises looking for things to steal, eventually taking so much that they had to make their getaway via the back door.

After reading about this several people came into the High Road shop to make special donations, for which Eugenia was extremely grateful. But one act of kindness has left her "grateful beyond belief".

Good deed

It all came about thanks to Dariush Hemkat of Securebase, the family security business which has been at 112 High Road since 1988. Local resident Dariush, who attended Martin

Primary School and Christ's College, offered to supply and fit the charity shop with an intruder alarm, all free of charge.

So, just a short time after the report about the break-in was published, work on installing the modern alarm system was completed. The bell box can be seen on the front of the shop.

Eugenia told *THE ARCHER*, "People in East Finchley are so kind. It really is a special place. I feel much safer now with this sophisticated alarm system which will deter burglars from the outside. The North London Hospice shop owes a really big thank you to Securebase!"

Soup kitchen

The Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen at Muswell Hill Church, Dukes Avenue, was in dire need recently of a restock of the food and dry goods they need to help the hungry and homeless from all round the area. Sainsbury's Muswell Hill asked customers for any spare cans of food or whatever could be spared to help and eight large boxes were filled with food, along with £245 in cash donations, all presented to the soup kitchen.

Lido closure

Finchley Lido was temporarily closed after the high winds on 23 December. Repairs were carried out and it reopened soon after Christmas.

Dementia cafe

Finchley Memorial Hospital in Granville Road, N12, runs a café for people with dementia and their carers every second Wednesday of the month from 2pm - 4pm. It's a relaxed social setting and there is free parking for three hours. Find out more at Barnet@alzheimers.org.uk or 020 8937 7171.

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Stan Wolfe of All Saints Church retires after 30 years of organising the Christmas carols.

Photo Mike Coles

Stan's farewell Christmas carols

By Stuart Allen

Picture the scene. It is cold and dark at 7.30pm and also Friday 13th! However, the residents of All Saints Parish in East Finchley are lucky, for a group of singers accompanied by a band will walk around the county roads stopping to perform a carol or two whilst rattling tins and collecting for the Children's Society.

Everything has been painstakingly planned, and for the past 30 years, this event has taken place annually, whatever the weather. Sadly this is the last time, owing to the age and infirmity of the man who has done the planning, made telephone calls and asked his friends from five different bands to take part. Who is this man? Step forward Stan Wolfe, of Woodhouse Road, N12.

Stan was 86 on Christmas Eve and sadly is suffering from

macular degeneration, which means that he sees very little, and he is also profoundly deaf, but his spirit is unbreakable and he is as enthusiastic about bands as anyone can be.

A band from scratch

It all started 35 years ago, when a new choirmaster was appointed, one John Kingston, whose idea it was to sing in the streets. Stan, keen choir member, Scout leader and PCC member, had the idea that a band was needed, so he gathered together a quintet without a bass instrument.

He decided to learn the euphonium for the occa-

sion: it took him a week! He enjoyed it so much that he joined Barnet band (from which he proudly accepted life membership recently) on tuba. He also joined Paddington Great Western Military Band, which still performs on the station concourse on Friday evenings.

The East Finchley players, 11 of them last year, were local and from as far away as Knebworth and Sutton. They all came in admiration and loyalty to the remarkable Stan Wolfe. Let us salute Stan and wish him a long, happy retirement.



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Winter wonderland at second High Road festival

By Diana Cormack

For the second year running, crowds thronged the High Road enjoying the Christmas Festival organised by East Finchley Community Trust and local volunteers. As well as the (separate) French Market, there were over 40 stalls offering an amazing range of things to buy or displaying a variety of activities and interests.



Co-host Pat Leacock gets the kids to join in with the carols.
All photographs on this page by Mike Coles



Kids make their own decorations at the East Finchley Open tent.

Surprise Santa

Two live reindeer corralled next to Budgens attracted admirers for the whole day. Over the road was a surprise Santa in the form of local MP Mike Freer, who made an engaging Father Christmas beside the festival tree outside Barracuda Café. Nearby, East Finchley Open's decoration-making stall proved as popular as ever, as did the entertainment on and around the stage, this year set to great advantage in Lincoln Road.

Things began with a dog show during which the hilarious commentary by joint Masters of Ceremony Chris Hampson and Pat Leacock set the scene for this day of festive fun. Story tellers, singers, musicians and dancers entertained throughout the day there and at other venues, with plenty of audience participation.

For the energetic there was a Santa Fun Run and Turbo Cycling. During the afternoon, the Phoenix had a special screening of Polar Express for youngsters and at East Finchley Methodist Church entertainment was on hand for babies and toddlers. At the Bobath Centre in East End Road, East Finchley Altogether Better provided a range of fun activities along with free health and wellbeing advice.

Children's charities

The festival took place on 7 December, suitably coinciding with Britain's first Small Business Saturday, with local businesses benefiting from the influx of visitors. Many traders contributed to the collection being made for three children's charities: Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, the Children's Air Ambulance and Hearts of Oak, and street collections were made on the day. At the time of writing over £500 had been raised for each charity.

Christmas songs and a snow machine provided an effective finale, with this brilliant day being brought to a close with a moving tribute to Nelson Mandela.



The reindeer await Santa Claus.



The Air Cadets Wing Singers.



Break Dancing from Innovation Dance.



Santa Claus, aka Mike Freer MP, prepares himself to be introduced by East Finchley Community Trust chairman, Roger Chapman, left.

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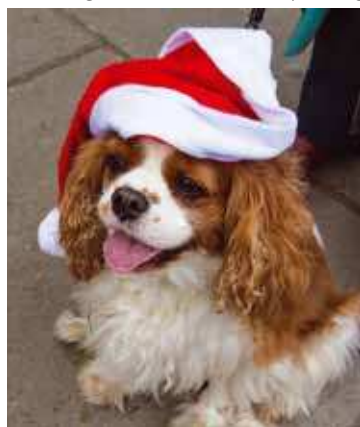
Michelle Hebbbron with 'Truly Scrumptious', winner of the best small dog award.



The Percussion Duo take the stage.



Dancing in the street. All photographs on this page by Mike Coles



Waiting for the show.



The London Metropolitan Brass Band on stage.



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Paul Cooper from the Baptist Church dispenses mulled wine and mince pies on a cold day.

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Gathering of the Soil

As we enter 2014, the year that marks a century since the outbreak of the First World War, there will be many local, national and international events commemorating the anniversary.



Nathan Mann, right, with the Duke of Edinburgh.

One of the largest and most symbolic took place on 11 November when 62 schoolchildren from Britain joined 62 pupils from Belgium in a ceremony called The Gathering of the Soil.

This was the first stage in creating a Flanders Fields Memorial Garden in London to honour those who fought and died during the First World War and provide

a lasting symbol of hope and peace. The garden will be located alongside The Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks, adjacent to Buckingham Palace.

The Belgian schoolchildren collected soil from 70 military cemeteries across Flanders and put it into sandbags, which were loaded onto a gun carriage and brought back to London where the soil

was scattered on the site of the garden. Whitefield School, NW2, was one of the British schools invited to send a pupil to both events. Nathan Mann, and his mother Nicola Mann, represented the schools and Nathan was one of a small number of students chosen to meet the Duke of Edinburgh on the day.



Margie on the ukulele.

Fancy picking up the ukulele?

There's a chance for children to learn an infectiously enjoyable musical instrument with the arrival of an after-school ukulele club.

Musician Margie Jammy is hoping to run the club for two terms, resulting in a performance at a local summer festival.

Margie is a ukulele fan and an established children's activities leader. Find out more about the classes at www.margiegianni.wix.com/ukeclub

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Regular events at the Ann Owens centre

The Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane runs a wide variety of regular events for older people. Here are some of them:

1. Arts and crafts for all abilities, 10am to 12 noon, Thursdays.
2. Computer suite at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2: free to use every weekday except Wednesday afternoon. Booking essential, and at least 24 hours in advance. Call 020 8432 1418.
3. Hear to Help Hearing Aid Clinic: last Thursday of every month. To book, call 020 8369 5325 or 07423 430 383.
4. Nail cutting: for older people having difficulty in cutting toe or fingernails. Every Wednesday at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. Call 020 8432 1423 for booking and details.



This poster welcomed crowds to the Brookland winter fair.

Excitement at school fair

On Saturday 7 December Brookland Junior School hosted their Winter Fair. This annual fundraising event has been organised for over 35 years by the Parent Association and is a firm fixture on the school's calendar.

Much to the delight of the children this year's fair was brimming with excitement. A wide variety of entertainment was on offer including outdoor water balls, a fabulous magician, Santa's grotto, delicious culinary dishes from around the globe, a fun photo booth, plenty of artisan stalls, chess competitions and an online auction.

Funding cut

This year's fundraising was particularly dedicated to the PA's attempt to maintain the

treasured school swimming pool and to prevent its closure since Barnet Council has now cut all funding.

Twelve months of the glorious pasture

It's not too late to find a beautiful calendar for 2014. Volunteers at Long Lane Pasture have their own again this year, packed full of photos of the pasture in all its glory throughout the seasons.

Money raised from sales goes to support the upkeep of the wildlife area alongside the North Circular Road. The calendar costs £5 and is available to buy on Saturday mornings between 10am and noon at the pasture opposite the fire station in Long Lane.

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Barry Jackson, 1938 - 2013: One man, many roles

By Ian Clarke

If you've watched TV or been to the cinema or theatre in the last 50 years you will doubtless recognise Barry Jackson; a glance at his CV reveals over 200 parts across a varied career. But his friends and family knew Barry best for his many roles away from acting: Barry the gardener, the beekeeper and the wood turner, to name only a few.

Barry was extremely popular, easily recognisable driving his old red van. A favourite destination was his allotment near Queen's Wood where he spent many happy hours growing a fine crop of fruit and vegetables. Often neighbours would come home at harvest time to a wonderful bag of freshly picked veg on the doorstep.

The allotment was also home to Barry's "girls", as he referred to his bees. Barry was a passionate natural beekeeper and made his hives by hand in the garden of the Park Hall Road home he shared with his wife Denise and son Aubrey for 18 years. He would gladly introduce you to his bees but never wore protective clothing, preferring to listen carefully to the bees' buzz to decide when it was time to leave.



Barry Jackson and his bees.

Woodworking was another passion, with many a piece of salvaged wood being hand turned in Barry's shed into a beautiful bowl, pen or garden tool. Indeed lots of friends use a wooden 'Barry dibber' each year to plant seedlings.

Barry gave much to East Finchley. For many years he delivered *The Archer* and enthusiastically organised the local Neighbourhood Watch. He was also a big supporter of the Phoenix, which he discovered whilst filming the title role of the 1985 film *Mr Love*. Barry became a friend and sponsor and even introduced a special screening of *Mr Love* in 2001.

Barry passed away on 5 December and was buried in the Chiltern woodlands, a man of nature returned to nature. Perhaps next time you spot Barry in an old film or TV episode you might think of him in his other roles and do something good for the environment and the bees. That would make Barry very happy.



Big and busy fundraiser

Dozens of artists and craftspeople put their work on show and on sale at the East Finchley Open winter fair back at the end of November. The busy event was hosted at the Treetops School in Muswell Hill and sales of handmade jewellery, fabrics, artworks, photos and seasonal items raised hundreds of pounds for the school itself.

A school with no barriers

When the death of Nelson Mandela was announced in December, it brought back memories to Father Gray Featherstone, vicar at Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, of his years teaching in Swaziland. Here he explains why.

From 1970 to 1972 I was on the staff of Waterford Kamhlaba School in Swaziland where I taught Afrikaans, Latin, English and General Studies.

Waterford was started by a visionary English teacher Michael Stern. His previous school was an all-African school which the Nationalist Government soon closed. In reaction to South Africa's segregated education policies, he founded Waterford as a non-racial secondary school just outside Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland.

It very quickly attracted a multi-racial body of pupils from all over Southern Africa. Walter Sisulu, a founder member of the ANC, enrolled his daughter Lindiwe. Lindiwe was my son John's babysitter, allowing him to claim that he has had his nappies changed by someone who is currently a Minister of Justice in South Africa.

Famous students

Desmond Tutu and Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana, sent their children (Ian Khama is now President of Botswana). Richard E Grant, the actor, and Matthew Parris, the columnist, were also students at Waterford.

Nelson Mandela's daughters Zenani and Zindzi came to Waterford to do their O and A levels while their father was incarcerated on Robben Island. Neither saw their father for 12 years but their mother Winnie was able to pass on drawings and letters to their father. Winnie herself was never able to see her children at school as the South African Government would

not issue her with a passport to cross the border.

I had been a curate in Cape Town but left South Africa to marry Yasuko Nomura in Swaziland. Our first son John was born in Swaziland where we gave him an African second name, Thandeka (it means "one who is loved"), to commemorate the continent in which he was born.

Waterford Kamhlaba continues to thrive. It is now one of six United World Colleges.

Do you have a story for us?

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Oh, what a lovely anniversary

Here we go again, another year and another batch of historical events to celebrate and after two years of rampant royalty this year we get a bit of a break. Instead it's welcome to the first of four years of talking about the war. No, not that one, but the one where Blackadder goes over the top.

This year will see the build-up, complete with the chance for the people of Sarajevo to stage a re-enactment on 28 June before the Germans invade Belgium a month later. Which will make a change from them invading the hotel swimming pools of southern Europe.

In the world of books it's already started with the first few forests sacrificed on the barbed wire of publishing. There are books about the year before the war, why we went to war, why the Germans went to war, why the French went to war and why the Belgians didn't want to go to war but got invaded anyway.

For us Brits I just know that the whole 'Keep Calm and Don't Panic' thing is going to be replaced by 'Your Country Needs You' reimagined to suit the modern iPod generation. So watch out for the mugs, tea towels, mobile phone covers and especially the whole new campaign for Facebook, although an advertising campaign encouraging you to increase your number of friends isn't quite the same thing as one asking you to join the army, travel to a foreign country and kill people.

When it comes to the armed forces there is the outside chance that people might stop and think about the mass slaughter and the reasons why it all happened.

And as governments find themselves torn between honouring the dead and encouraging enlistment will anyone notice that February 1914 marked another significant event? On 7 February the first Charlie Chaplin film came out and by the time the shooting stopped he was probably the most famous man in the world. And if you don't understand why then you haven't got a sense of humour and, as soldiers everywhere know, if you can't laugh you may as well give up.



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- **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07593 367134.
- **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
- **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk
- **Tai Chi** class at EF Methodist Ch, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **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.
- **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706

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.



Sallie (left) and Sunnah Rose

Mother and daughter mindfulness

By Sheila Armstrong

Sallie and Sunnah Rose are a mother and daughter from East Finchley who have a very successful working partnership. Sallie teaches meditation and Sunnah yoga, their regular workshops in both disciplines complementing each other. Both have trained at ashrams in India.

Sallie ...teaches mindfulness meditation which focuses on the breath and trains the mind to reduce stress. She has lived in Greece and India practising as a meditation teacher for 30 years. She trained in secular mindfulness and wants to bring meditation into busy urban lives.

A typical meditation session involves a body scan concentrating on all parts of the body in turn, and then meditation based on attention to breathing.

Her next four-week Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation course starts on 13 February. She offers group, corporate or individual lessons and can do a combination of yoga poses with meditation in lessons if requested. More information about Sallie's courses at www.meditationnow.co.uk, or email her at sallie@meditationnow.co.uk

Sunnah ...runs the Rose School of Transformational Yoga, based for the most part in Holy Trinity Church, East Finchley, and has taught yoga for over 10 years. She teaches hatha yoga and describes herself as a pregnancy yoga teacher and a childbirth educator. She also teaches post-natal yoga and general yoga classes from beginners upwards.

Her emphasis is on connecting to and having an awareness of the body, giving attention also to the breath and mind. Lessons are on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Further details at www.stretchingpeople.co.uk. Details of her yoga retreats in the UK and abroad are on the website.

The next joint workshop on yoga and meditation run by both Sallie and Sunnah is on 15 February at Holy Trinity, Church Lane. Book a place on the websites or at sunnahrose@hotmail.com.

The Clocks Go Back

By Carola Groom

published in *Showtime 2012*, by East Finchley Writers

The citadels are trembling
At the time of plenty's ending.
Roof slates skitter to the ground, and crack.
The fox trots: stop, reverse, and go:
The hand unwinds to status quo.
A fine adjustment of the zodiac –
The clocks go back.

There's no watchmaker in the sky,
The Cosmos ticks and tocks all by,
Turns gold to silver, blue to grey to black.
With misted windows, buses glow.
Compacted in the earth below,
Rattled sleepers cough, consult the almanac.
The clocks go back.

The songs of spring? Ay, where are they?
We lie awake long before day.
Heartbeats skip in darkness, out of whack.
The days are shrinking, and stooped flowers
presage frost. Paint autumn hours
in sulphur, mustard, embers, Armagnac.
The clocks go back.

The year is older,
Turns a cold shoulder.
Hits the tiller, makes a tack.
Pulls in the slack.
The clocks go back.

The Slopes of Olympus

ARCHER reporter Janet Maitland has had a story published in a book called *From the Slopes of Olympus to the Banks of the Lea*.

"The book's about the Olympics, but it's got nothing to do with sport," said Janet. "It's a collection of words and images about how Londoners reacted to the whole thing."

Janet's piece is called *Waiting for the Apocalypse on the Isle of Dogs E14*. It's set by the tea hut in Island Gardens just by the foot tunnel to Greenwich on the day before the Olympics. Two old men sip their tea while military helicopters circle overhead. One of the men thinks he might as well be in Vietnam. The other is determined to be upbeat about the Olympics; after all, the disused toilets round the corner have been done up and reopened especially...

The book is published by Smoke: A London Peculiar, who used to produce a monthly magazine of the same name,

now only available online, given the scarcity of the kind of independent bookshop that used to sell it. Editor Matt Haynes describes what he publishes as "a love letter to London, to the wet neon flicker of late-night pavements, electric with endless possibility, to the overheard stories and unexplored histories, the facts and the fictions."

From the Slopes of Olympus to the Banks of the Lea is available from the website <http://smokealondonpeculiar.co.uk>. There's even the odd independent bookshop stocking it, such as The Brick Lane Book Shop.



Panto time: The Guild Players on stage in *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

The Guild Players' pantomime last month was Jack and the Beanstalk. They usually put on a good show, and this one was excellent. It was a genuine family production, with a script to engage everyone. As usual, costumes, make-up, scenery and props evoked "Ooh"s and "Ahh"s. The music was lively and the direction fast and inventive.

Waiting for Jack and his friends at the top of the beanstalk were the Giant's wife (magnificently over-the-top herself) and fleshcreeping Henchman. The Dreaded Dragon was there too, but he was just a cute little toy, and the baddies met their match in a Vegetable Fairy. (Fairy Godmothers were never like this.) Jack duly killed the Giant who, with overtones of the Wizard of Oz, we never saw. His gigantic voice roared through the hall, though.

That brings me to one tiny quibble. Acoustics in that hall are not first-rate, and occasionally some of the actors' words were lost to the back of the audience. The acting was good, however. We had a stage-commanding Dame, a Silly Billy who really com-

municated with his audience, two very unlikely Guardsmen with a talent for leading the singalong, a resonant-voiced Town Cryer, a hard-working multi-character, a King trying not to be Satupon (*sic*), a cheery Principal Boy, a Princess who definitely had a mind of her own, and a Cow who walked on two legs. Plus a very enthusiastic audience.

The Guild Players, who stage several productions through the year, rehearse and perform at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, but are drawn from the whole community. They welcome new members, whether interested in acting or backstage: contact membership secretary Anja Blank on 077909 45422, or visit www.guildplayers.org.uk.

What's On...

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

Friday 24 January

• **Business support workshop for over 50s** with business ideas, run by the Prince's Initiative for Mature Enterprise (PRIME), East Finchley Library. Details from www.prime.org.uk/courses or by phoning 0845 862 2023.

Thursday 30 January

• **The Finchley Society hosts History of Highgate Gatehouse** and its Theatre, a talk by John Plews, 2.30pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Everyone welcome, £2 admission for non-members.



Letters

No fan of van man

Dear Editor,

I wondered if anyone else is annoyed by the Asda van parked continuously outside the tube station? Not only is it parked across the yellow hatched area blocking any access for emergency vehicles, it also leaves its engine running for large parts of the day. The driver told me this was to cool down the shopping. So not only is it blocking access, it's also polluting the environment too.

Strangely, it never seems to park in the space allocated to it either. Apparently it leaves this free for customers who want to collect their groceries by car which surely defeats the objective and only increases congestion in an area which is already very congested.

I appreciate this area is owned by TfL and Asda have probably paid a lot of money for this new Click and Collect service but surely there should have been some consultation with customers? Getting out of the tube station as a pedestrian is now very difficult. Why could they not site the van in the car park as Asda have done at other tube stations? At least this way it wouldn't block access.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Price

Address supplied.

Give a New Year lift

Dear Editor,

Water aerobics is a great way to start the New Year. As a regular exercise in a gently heated pool, it tones and strengthens the muscles and, partnered with a healthy diet, helps to lose weight.

I try to get to the Cophall Leisure Centre from East Finchley regularly on a Friday for the 12.30pm session, but the journey by public transport is long.

Would any of your readers who drive be interested in accompanying me? I think I could provide the incentive if he or she supplied the wheels.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Huggan,

Name and address supplied.

Please contact us at THE ARCHER (details on page 2) if you can help Barbara and we will pass your message on.

Bins are better

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your article in the December edition entitled "Residents trash new rubbish and recycling system". Whilst I have every sympathy with people who are struggling with limited storage space for their new bins and I share the concerns of others who are deploring the untidy way in which the bins are littering our streets, I think it is also necessary to say how much better the new system is than the old one.

The blue and black box scheme was so difficult to manage and so cumbersome in practice that I felt tempted every now and again just to throw away an item rather than work out where I should put it.

The new system is simple and straight forward and will, I feel sure, result in much more effective recycling. Certainly our blue bin is satisfyingly full each week whilst the black one is almost empty.

We are privileged to live in a street where the houses have plenty of room to store the bins and for us the new system is a great improvement.

Yours faithfully,

Agnes Segal

Abbots Gardens, N2.

Bins are brilliant

Dear Editor,

Regarding Barnet's new rubbish recycling programme. You asked for comments. In contrast to some of the comments you have received, I find the new scheme a great improvement.

The single blue bin with wheels is much more convenient. The brown bin makes it much easier for me to recycle more. The whole introduction of the new system worked exactly as Barnet said it would. And Barnet have even sent someone round door to door to ask for our feedback. So only praise from here.

Yours faithfully,

Joan Jasper

Address supplied

Bins: Poor communication

Dear Editor,

In Bedford Road the rubbish and recycling scheme works well, now that the collection schedule is established. Communication of that schedule was poor. You had to have access to the internet, or be determined enough to ring Barnet Council.

The Barnet website had no facility for inputting your postcode to find your collection days. I had to scroll down scores of postcodes to find mine. They could easily have added the collection day on the sticky address label on the blue and brown bins. Some people are still confused about when to put out bins, leaving them out all week on the pavement. And I appreciate that some homes may find it hard to store two or more bins at the front. I've recycled my old small black collection box as the recycling box in our kitchen, complete with a handle on the lid. I'm wondering whether it's time to change to fortnightly collection of general waste, or at least make it optional. As a couple household we put out at most two carrier-bags' worth of rubbish a week. Most weeks I don't bother to put the general waste bin out for collection, but they come in and get it anyway.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Beeson,

Bedford Road, N2.

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.

Grit

So far we've escaped the ice but the worst of winter could still be to come.

Once again, Barnet Council is encouraging residents and schools to sign up for its Grit My Street initiative. The council says it will support volunteers who pledge to grit the public highway and footpaths in winter weather. Find out more at www.barnet.gov.uk/street-gritting-application

Parking changes are a step in the right direction

By Diana Cormack

Early last year a meeting was arranged between Cllr Dean Cohen, Cabinet Minister for the Environment and local traders to air problems caused by parking restrictions. This resulted in proposals for possible changes (THE ARCHER, July 2013).

One of these was installing credit and debit card Pay and Display machines as an alternative to Pay by Phone. (Cllr Cohen ruled out cash machines, which are difficult to maintain and need staff to empty them). "Before Christmas" was mentioned and this proved to be true.

In December credit and debit card Pay and Display machines were sited on the High Road outside the Animal Aid and Advice charity shop (no.48), Finchley Youth Theatre (no.142), Amy's General Store (no.79) and near Cooperative Funeralcare (no.133).

In addition, tariffs have been lowered in East Finchley and the loading bay outside 130-134 High Road (near Madden's) now has free parking for 15 minutes maximum stay between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday. South of Fortis Green short-term stay parking places have been extended to medium term (4 hours maximum stay) which serves the Phoenix area.

Peter Barnett of A. Scott and Son Fishmongers, who organised the meeting, has been communicating with Barnet Council over these and other possible measures ever since. One thing he would like to see is more free parking, which would certainly make this new year a happier one for local shops and businesses.

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.

Post Office downgrade

By Malcolm Griffiths

The consequences of the closure of East Finchley Post Office became more apparent yesterday, when my early-morning post 'plopped' through the letterbox at 2 o'clock in the afternoon (as usual), and inspection of said delivery revealed a utility bill and four items of junk mail (as usual). If the Post Office is re-located to the UOE shop, even with extension to premises, will there still be enough space to accommodate the customer queues?

Currently, there are usually two, or three (if you're lucky), out of six screened service counters open at any given time, yet just one such counter will be installed at UOE, plus a few open-plan counters (fully manned or otherwise?). But aren't open-plan counters designed more for soliciting customers to switch their bank account, isa, energy supplier or telephone provider? And possibly to sell some over-priced stationery? I fear the situation will become similar to Muswell Hill Post Office, where the queue to get served often extends outside into the street. I cannot see how the existing bad level of service can be maintained with fewer serving counters; it is likely to become worse (as usual).

Why would it not be better and more economical to incorporate a suitable franchised business within the existing Post Office building?



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To Auschwitz on two wheels

Robert Desmond, of Hampstead Garden Suburb, recently spent 25 days completing a 2,222 km (1,350 mile) cycle trip from London to Auschwitz, Poland. Travelling alone, with two large panniers full of warm clothes and his laptop, he spent 22 days on the bike. Here he describes his journey.

I devised a route which would follow the Path of Liberation taken by soldiers during World War II, stopping at places of interest along the way. My journey began at Westminster and I crossed the Channel by ferry from Poole to Cherbourg. I followed the Normandy beaches, then pushed through to Paris.



Robert Desmond standing at the entrance to Auschwitz after his 2,222km ride.

After cycling on to Luxembourg, a country invaded by the Germans despite being neutral, I crossed into Germany where I met a friend who lives in Frankfurt. I visited the trial rooms at Nuremberg where Nazi war criminals were tried after the war and, moving through Bavaria, visited the first concentration camp of my trip, Flossenberg.

Reaching Prague, I spent a day off the bike and reached Poland a few days later, visiting the largest concentration camp the Nazis built, Auschwitz. Approximately 1.5 million people were brutally murdered here and it was an emotional and poignant place to complete my journey.

Unforgettable experiences

Starting in October, I expected it to be cold and wet and it was, but despite some bad weather I had some incredible experiences. From extreme pride at being British when travelling along the Normandy beaches to immense sadness at the concentration camps, I experienced a whole range of emotions throughout the trip,

feelings I will never forget.

I met some very friendly people throughout France: some American and Canadian travellers at the Normandy memorials who were very generous, buying me lunch and museum tickets, and several fairly old (70+) cyclists who were still hitting the road, a great inspiration for me.

I was pulled over by police and beeped at by many drivers, especially when I accidentally joined a motorway in the dark in the pouring rain! I fixed two punctures and had to buy new tyres halfway through. I sent around 60 postcards and managed to solve most language issues with hand gestures and pointing.

I wanted to



The tokens Robert laid on a memorial at Auschwitz.



Adam is a star baker

Crouch End cake maker Adam Cox appeared alongside Great British Bake Off judge Paul Hollywood on his television series Pies and Puds. The episode, broadcast in November, had Adam demonstrating his cake decorating skills and showing Paul how to make a sugar model of himself. Adam's website is www.adamscakes.co.uk

quit at several points, or at least cheat by taking a train for a short part, but I pushed on through the rain, cold and hills to cycle the whole distance.

Cycling in

commemoration

I realised that if a person had been standing at every metre on my two-million metre journey, I would have to return home to England and complete the journey from scratch again in order to

pass six million people lining my travels. This was the number of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. This doesn't include the soldiers or civilians who also perished.

I made this journey to commemorate the fallen; to try and understand something that is so close to home and so recent in history. Read more at <http://dezco.co.uk/auschwitz-cycle/>

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