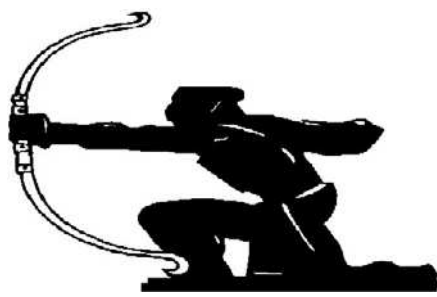


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Big crowds, big fun: East Finchley Festival 2014 in full swing. Turn to pages 6-7 for more photos. Photos above by Mike Coles.

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Pioneering time and skills scheme reaches N2

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley now has a Timebank. The Barnet Timebanking Network pioneering in N2, with the official slogan "Give an hour, take an hour".

For every hour a person spends helping someone, they get an hour of time in return in the form of a 'time credit'. Examples of helping someone include cooking, gardening, ironing, dog walking, language lessons, reading to children, shopping and DIY, but exactly what help people choose to give

and receive is up to them.

Intended for both individuals and organisations, the scheme is a partnership between Timebanking UK, Barnet Council and Community Barnet. They will be organising events and information sessions to tell us what it's all about and how we can get involved.

Timebanking UK say: "Given the current economic climate, we have seen a huge rise in the use of Timebanking across the UK in recent years as people look to trade skills and

time within a time bank setting. No money changes hands. The currency is time. The added bonus is the sense of community spirit that develops as people work together."

The scheme is also for organisations, who are encouraged to swap resources like meeting rooms and training places.

One of the first to sign up was the Richmond Fellowship, a charity supporting people with mental health problems. They say: "We see this network as a great asset to East Finchley and across Barnet with both organisations and residents swapping under-used resources and time to help each other. We will be offering training, and hope to exchange this for befriending for our residents."

For more information or to get involved, contact Lex Karlin on 07887 249 910, email barnet@timebanks.co.uk, pick up a leaflet from East Finchley Library, or visit www.barnet.timebanking.org.

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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 – **August:** 11 July, **September:** 15 August, **October:** 12 September

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Road, N2

Alterations to rear parking area. Includes reduction of parking spaces to facilitate new patio, new grassed area with feature planting bed, and bin store. Alterations to ground floor rear fenestration, including new entrance doors and steps and opening, bi-folding replacement windows. Blocking up one north-facing window. Glazed lantern to flat roof of dining-room.

12 Deansway, N2

Creation of basement level with terrace above. Changes to rear windows and doors. Roof extension, involving replacing rooflights with two rear dormer windows.

4 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear infill extension.

70 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension with associated roof over.

44 High Road, N2

One fascia sign and one projected sign, both internally illuminated.

35 Huntingdon Road, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats into one dwelling-house, including single-storey rear and garden terrace extension. Replacement of PVC rear windows with original sliding sash units.

340 Long Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Proposed depth 6m from original

rear wall. Eaves and maximum heights 10m.

62 Manor Park Road, N2

Roof extension, involving one front roof light, two side/rear roof lights, and one rear dormer window with roof light, to facilitate loft conversion. Changes to rear window.

68 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension. Roof extension, including rear dormer window, and second floor extension on existing flat roof to rear projection, to facilitate loft conversion.

Strawberry Vale, involving 1-27 Nursery Road, 1-29 Brook Walk and 1-42 Stable Walk, N2

Replacement of single-glazed windows and doors with new double-glazed ones.

Haringey Council

8 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Security gates and wall to front of property.

2 Church Vale, N2

Single-storey rear extension and rear dormer.

Muswell Hill Police Station, Fortis Green

Conversion of former police station to nine residential units.

The Alexandra, 98 Fortis Green, N2

Conversion of public house with ancillary accommodation above to 2 three-bedroom single family dwellings.

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

Adopt a place

Barnet Council is asking people to take responsibility for the place where they live or work, in a relaunch of its Adopt A Place scheme.

Under the initiative, adopters can choose to look after a flower bed or brighten up a whole street. Residents who get involved will be provided with support, materials, tools and training. To sign up, visit www.barnet.gov.uk and search for Adopt A Place.

New homes on Fortis Green

Planning applications have been submitted to turn the former Muswell Hill police station and the former Alexandra pub, both on Fortis Green, into homes (see left).

The police station will be converted into nine residential units and the pub and its flat above will be turned into two three-bedroom family homes.

Handy-person service

Age UK Barnet's Handy-person Service can help with tasks like changing light bulbs, taking up and putting down curtains, fitting equipment such as grab rails, door chains and key safes, and making carpets and cables safe around the home.

These small jobs help older people live safely and independently. Just call the Handy-person Service on 020 8150 0963 or email handyperson@ageuk-barnet.org.uk.

Council election results

The Conservative Party has retained overall control of Barnet Council, but only just. In an evening of high drama as the results were announced on 23 May, the Conservatives were reduced to 32 councillors as Labour, despite making significant gains, fell short of gaining control. The Liberal Democrat presence on the council has been reduced to one.

In East Finchley, Labour councillors Allison Moore and Arjun Mittra were re-elected, with Alon Or-Bach becoming one of 18 new councillors in Barnet.

The full results for the East Finchley ward were as follows:

Alison Moore (Labour):	2,711 votes
Arjun Mittra (Labour):	2,565
Alon Or-Bach (Labour):	2,201
Stepan Stepanenko (Conservative):	1,013
Ansul Gupta (Conservative):	988
Alan Maund (Conservative):	988
Noel Lynch (Green):	640
Stephen Norman (Green):	606
David Mellows (Green):	602
Joyce Arram (Liberal Democrat):	410
Malcolm Davis (Liberal Democrat):	310
Millicent Watkins (Liberal Democrat):	248

In the elections to the European Parliament that were held on the same day, the London constituency returned eight MEPs: four Labour, two Conservatives, one Green and one UKIP.

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Nursery put children 'at potential risk of harm', says Ofsted

By Janet Maitland

Ofsted has cancelled its registration of the Mini Me's nursery based at the Old Barn community centre on Tarling Road for failing to provide safe childcare.

The nursery was first registered in December 2012 but complaints started a few weeks later. Ofsted made a number of inspection visits and suspended the nursery's registration when it found that the children were 'at potential risk of harm'.

The suspension was lifted in June 2013 after the nursery made some changes. Nevertheless, Ofsted continued to inspect the nursery and ultimately decided to cancel the registration last September in the light of issues relating to staff recruitment and management stability.

Nursery appeal ongoing

Although it has cancelled the registration, Ofsted still inspects the Mini Me's nursery on a regular basis and has identified further breaches. These include problems with supervision and attendance registers, 'failure to identify and minimise risks' and 'failure to meet the needs of children with special educational needs'.

The nursery objected to the cancellation. When Ofsted dismissed their objection the nursery appealed to an independent tribunal. The first hearing took place in May and was adjourned to a later date.

Relationship unclear

Until the current trustees took over the Old Barn in 2010,

the community centre had been running pioneering services for children and young people for over 25 years. These services were discontinued under the new management.

A spokesperson from the council, which owns the building, said that Mini Me's nursery was an independent provider that hired the Old Barn and was "subject to the governance of the Old Barn Youth and Community Association".

The Charity Commission said that "it appears that the nursery is private, but the trustees have not yet clearly explained the precise nature of the relationship between the nursery and the Old Barn".

The manager of the nursery declined to comment and asked for her name not to be used.

Appointments invalid

Local campaigners have been trying ever since the takeover to restore the centre to local people, working alongside Barnet Council, Community Barnet, the Charity Commission and MP Mike Freer. The Charity Commission announced in April that in their view the trustees were not validly appointed in the first place. The commission is now trying to establish a proper membership so that elections to replace the trustees can be organised.

Give way to low-flying herons

By Ruth Brown

One weekend in May, the Sunday morning quiet in Park Hall Road was suddenly broken at 8am by lots of cawing and commotion outside my house.

I got to the window just in time to see a large heron fly by with its long neck extended and enormous wings beating. It was racing up the hill towards Fortis Green, so low that it was level with the parked cars.

This wasn't the usual slow graceful wing-flap of a heron. It was panic! It was being pursued and mobbed by a flock of cawing crows.

When the heron got to the top of the hill, still flying low between the houses, it turned sharp left into Fortis Green, as if it was part of everyday traffic. It zoomed off towards the High Road crossroads at high speed.

I didn't see whether it obeyed the 'no right turn' there but I guess it could always have gone further up the High Road and used the pelican crossing.



Old and new: Mick with two of his 1930s Ford V8's. Photos by John Lawrence



Before: Inside the cab of one of Mick's Fords.



After: How it will look after five years of hard work.

American classics keep on trucking 80 years later

By John Lawrence

Unroadworthy relics from the mean streets of 1930s America are finding a new lease of life at the back of a garage in King Street.

H&B Motors owner Mick Harle lavishes his spare time and cash on restoring original Ford V8 trucks that once might have motored round New York or Chicago, or trundled over farmland in the mid-West.

Mick finds the trucks for sale through his contacts and ships them to East Finchley for a restoration process that can take up to five years and cost £30,000.

Part of the challenge is finding parts. The internet helps, of course, and there are plenty of sellers in the States where the hot rod scene is alive and well. Mick also fashions bodywork

himself and uses family connections to make the immaculate leather seats.

"Custom cars were huge when I was young," says Mick. "I loved Ford Capris and Escorts. I watched *American Graffiti* and wanted to be in that world."

Mick is chairman of the National Street Rod Association, which has 1,500 members. He takes his lovingly restored vehicles to national meetings and often comes away with the Best in Show trophy.

"Hot rodding started with American soldiers coming back from the war in the 1940s with

nothing much to do so they did up cheap cars from the 1930s and raced them," he says. "It's still a big scene in the UK. When we're driving to and from meetings we get a lot of honks from other drivers, and people lean out of their car windows to take photos."

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Beware this building scam

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Boroughwatch has issued a warning about a scam that was attempted on a man living in Mill Hill at the end of May. It may be tried again here in N2.

A young man knocked at the victim's front door and said that his company was doing work on the loft next door. He asked for the victim's number so that his boss could ring him to explain the impact it might have on his roof. This didn't seem suspicious so the victim gave his number.

Shortly afterwards, a man who said he was from R and J Building Services rang. He explained that the work on his neighbour's roof could affect the joint chimney on the roof and that extra scaffolding would be needed on the victim's property.

He asked for a 'fully-refundable' deposit of £1,800 for the additional scaffolding, to be paid by transfer into his company's account that day. He said that the head office of his company was near Wembley Stadium.

The victim didn't fall for this story. While the man was talking, he'd found R and J Building Services' website which didn't mention an office in Wembley. When he told the caller this and asked him for the office number, the man realised his scam wasn't going to work and refused to provide the bank details. He hung up saying he didn't like being checked up on.

Little Book of Big Scams

If you want to know how to protect yourself from scams, go to <http://content.met.police.uk/Site/fraudalert> where you can get useful tips. You can also download the latest edition of the Little Book of Big Scams from the site, which is now available in both written and audio formats.

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A foggy day in Fortismere...

By Daphne Chamberlain



Winning photo 'Football in the fog', above, and runner up 'Reflections Fortismere School', below.



Earlier this year, the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association challenged local photographers to capture on camera anything "unusual, rarely seen, seen from an unusual angle, out of sight or out of the ordinary in Muswell Hill". We now know the winners.

First prize went to Cameron Wells, for *Football in the Fog at Fortismere*. The runner-up was Hannah Beskine, for *Reflections Fortismere School* (one of three images of reflections in water). Both entries were taken on iPhones.

MHFGA Chair John Hajdu pointed out that three of the four awards were won by teenagers. He said: "We had a large number of entries and the judges had a really difficult job choosing the winners. Our association has in the past organised many competitions, but this was certainly the most rewarding and satisfying. Our congratulations go to all the winners and commiserations to those who entered but did not win on this occasion."

Winning entries are displayed on the association's new website mhfga.org, which includes a membership page.

Sent to Coventry: your parking queries

By Peter Cox

Calls to Barnet Council's parking service are now being answered by a call centre in Coventry. After several residents experienced long delays in getting refunds for their permits following the council's defeat at the High Court a year ago, some are now suffering similar delays with their renewals.

One, whose permits expired on April 30, ordered and paid for replacements online on 22 April. Three weeks later they hadn't arrived, so he phoned, and was assured that they would be sent out that week. They weren't, so on 2 June he phoned again; they eventually arrived on 11 June. Other residents have reported similar holdups.

Three months ago the performance of the council's parking service, contracted out to NSL, was criticised in an audit report. It said 'controls were not

in place' to monitor and manage the planned benefits, and there was no way of monitoring issues that arose.

Costs still not settled

Meanwhile, resolution of the legal costs of East Finchley resident David Attfield's successful court action against the Council, in which controversial price hikes for residents' parking were ruled unlawful, seems as far away as ever.

As part of that court victory a year ago on 22 July, Barnet was ordered to pay the legal costs but the amount that they should pay still hasn't been agreed. This is likely now to need a further hearing, which will probably not take place until December.

The delay means that the Barnet CPZ Action Group, which supported the claim, still doesn't know how much of the money donated to the fighting fund by concerned Barnet residents will eventually be refunded.

Break out on your bike

By Nick Bloom

It's time once more for East Finchley's annual cycling challenge, the 100km Sub-urban Breakout on Sunday 20 July, brought to you by Central London CTC with help from Barracuda Cafe and Bike & Run.

We've got a new route for you this year, still a fairly easy spin into Hertfordshire. Your speed overall must be above 15km/h, no more than 30km/h. It's an ideal 'first event' and a good 'first on fixed'.

And they're off

The start is at Barracuda Café, 118 High Road. Advance entry is £7, on the day £10, starting at 9.30am but please turn up in good time, especially if you have not entered.

For more information, routesheet, map and entry form, visit www.centrallondonctc.org.uk/audax. You can also contact organiser Nick Bloom on nick@centrallondonctc.org.uk or 07768 354010 or pop in to Bike & Run on the High Road.





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Working it out together. Photo by Diana Cormack

How to put more get-up-and-go into the classroom

By Diana Cormack

Year 5 pupils at Holy Trinity were recently given a taster lesson in aball1, an idea invented by Norwegian social enterprise Gladiator Education, which aims to make learning less sedentary.

The session was taken by the group's co-owner Kieran Noakes, who lives in East Finchley. He believes in the power of sport for good and spent five years working in England Team Operations before joining the England 2018 World Cup Bid Team where he was involved with the bid's legacy proposal.

Now he hopes to spread this education concept which uses

lettered and numbered balls to combine physical activity with academic and social learning. Basically, children participate in team games using the balls to complete various tasks which are linked to their classwork.

Physical and fun

So what do the youngsters think of it? Thea, Danny and Mathios of Year 5 tell us:

"Holy Trinity Y5s met Kieran, who showed us a new inspiring way of learning to help us with our education.

We used footballs with letters and numbers on them, to help us with literacy, numeracy and physical health.

"One of our favourite games we played was called berry picker. We made a basket from our hands and two people had to pick balls from the floor and put them in the basket. The team with the most balls (berries) won.

"We also played a game where we had to collect different numbered balls in response to Kieran's maths questions. We all enjoyed it very much and are looking forward to using this method of learning in the future. We recommend it to all schools whose pupils find learning dull."

Mathios, age 10, added: "Aball1 is a very fun way of learning and also a physical way." Danny, age nine, said: "It helped to learn about King Arthur as well as keeping healthy and fit."

To find out more about aball1, contact kieran.nokes@aball1.com, mob: 07500 870 019 or visit www.aball1.com

Play the generation game

By John Lawrence

Among the side-effects of today's rushed and youth-focused world is that older people can fall into isolation and the older and younger generations rarely get a chance to mix. A new charity is hoping to change all that.

From Generation to Generation has been set up by Professor Norma Raynes, who lives in Creighton Court on the High Road and was inspired by seeing how her father and her younger daughter benefited from their relationship.

The charity finds older people with time and skills to share and sends them into schools. They can read with children, paint, play music, do gardening and sew costumes for plays. In fact, they become an active part of the school community.

Skills to share

"There is some kind of magic in the interaction between generations," said Professor Raynes. "They get to know each other and have fun. Some young people just don't know anything about older folk if they don't have their grandparents around, and the attitude of society generally seems to be that old people are a burden.

"That does not need to be the case. The older people who get involved in our work have amazing skills and, most importantly, the time to share them. We watch them grow

in confidence and we see the youngsters begin to realise that older people are just people, like them."

Wren Academy involved

This is a national project aiming to involve 100 schools by the end of the year. Locally the first schools to sign up include the Wren Academy in North Finchley.

There are also plans for a film festival at the Phoenix Cinema next year, featuring movies that explore relationships between the generations.

Professor Raynes explains why she thinks it's important. "I met a care home resident who had previously been a photographer. He showed me his wonderful black and white photos and as we put them away I realised no one would probably ever see them again, let alone give him the chance to share his knowledge with younger people."

From Generation to Generation hopes to make life different for people like him. To find out more or to get involved, visit www.intergen.org.uk. You can also phone 020 8980 0693.



Click and collect food

By Sheila Armstrong

A sunny evening in June saw the first Muswell Hill FarmDrop at the Clissold Arms on Fortis Green giving customers a chance to collect food they'd ordered online from local producers.

Several foodmakers were at the pub on the opening night. Wildes the urban cheesemakers from Tottenham were there, www.wildescheese.co.uk, and the Flour Station, www.the-flourstation.com, had a good selection of bread. Lots of very fresh and green vegetables were on view, too.

FarmDrop organiser Tara Griffin told *THE ARCHER* that The Clissold was a great venue for the event and that they were grateful for the pub's support.

Ordering produce and payment are done online at www.farmdrop.co.uk. Collection is on Wednesdays between 6 – 8pm at the pub. There is no joining fee, no minimum order and no commitment to order each week.

More information on the website, or email muswellfarmdrop@gmail.com or phone Tara on 07833 306 473.

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Festival 2014: A day full of magic moments

Sunshine all day and a sensational atmosphere... East Finchley's Festival 2014 was one to remember! Thousands enjoyed the socialising, the stalls and the entertainment in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June.

Thanks to everyone who dropped by the Archer stall to buy our tea towels or give us stories. The winner of our Archie's Arrow treasure hunt was Maddie, of Baronsmere Road.

Congratulations to all the organisers and volunteers who made this year's event such a massive success. Our photographer Mike Coles was there to capture the fun. We hope you enjoy his photos.



Time to cool down with a lolly



Fortitude Dance Company wow the crowd



Festival regulars, Sound of the Suburb



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New for 2014... The Archer tea towel

Possibly the must-have item for any kitchen in 2014, don't miss out on The Archer tea towel. They were a big hit at the East Finchley Festival and they're still on sale.

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How to order: Send a cheque made payable to The Archer for £5 per 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. We also hope to have them on sale in the High Road soon. Watch this space!

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Spring Park Motel dedicated their set to the Herts Air Ambulance, which saved the life of their drummer, Les Churchill, after a recent accident.



Host Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock



Fun in the sun



Ukulele band SOUP delighted the audience with their rendition of the Kinks' 'Sunny Afternoon'



Trying out a new instrument at London Metropolitan Brass



Martin School drummers lead the procession into Cherry Tree Wood

All photographs
by Mike Coles

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YOUNG ARCHER



Sisters Orli, seven, and Maya Bagilhole Josephs, five, spent four hours one Saturday morning creating this two-metre loom band necklace. Well done, girls. Could it be a world record-breaker?

Football and fun day on the Grange

Sign up now to enter a team for a football tournament on the Grange. Or go along to get your nails done for free, help design some graffiti and listen to music from local DJs.

The activities are part of a free fun day on Saturday 12 July from noon to 4pm on the green at the junction of Brownswell Road and Oak Lane.

Youth charity Art Against Knives is teaming up with Grange Big Local to host the event, following on from the success of the Grange Big Local festival in the same community space last September.

Younger children are also welcome and can get their face painted, have a go on the bouncy castle and join in creative activities.

Grange resident and Big

Local steering group member Aisha Kene Lawrence says: "We are really excited about this event, working with Art Against Knives and looking forward to a fun day for all. We definitely need more youth and children's activities in the area."

Text your team

To register a football team, text 'I've got a team' to 07581 070717. Maximum of five players in a team and players must be in the same age group (7 - 11) (12 - 15) (16 - 25). To find out more email hello@artagainstknaves.com

These races are strictly for the birds

By Diana Cormack

Two years ago I discovered a sporting event I dearly wanted to attend. Only the London Olympics prevented me going. Last summer, however, I determined to travel to Derbyshire, specifically to the little village of Bonsall, along with many other like-minded people.

What did we have in common? Hens. I have loved hens since I was a child, when helping to look after my grandparents' chickens gave me a lifelong interest in these birds. There's more to them than is generally recognised, but I have to admit they are particularly bird-brained when it comes to racing. However, hen racing was a fun activity enjoyed by locals in the county over 100 years ago. It has survived in its present form for nearly 25 years at the Barley Mow public house, which hosts The Official World Hen Racing Championships on the first Saturday in August.



International event

Entries do come from parts of the world other than Britain, with a variety of hens on display along with a range of training techniques. There are also hens for hire if you fancy getting involved in the races. Unsurprisingly, the hens don't look as if they want to.

After being let loose at the start of the 15m track, most of them just peck about the place, ignoring the quiet encouragement of their owners. Loud noise is banned during the races, as is pecking or fighting with

fellow contestants, for which our feathered friends are disqualified. After three minutes the bird closest to the finishing line goes through to the next round, with six eventually fighting it out in the final.

The final I saw was well worth waiting for because, amazingly, two hens crossed the line and a third was pretty close. As usual it was filmed for international TV stations. It has also featured on Sky. Have a look at it on YouTube or be there on 2 August and you'll have one of the most unbelievably fun afternoons ever!

Summer musical

Full Circle Theatre Company is running a one-week summer workshop working towards a performance of a musical on the last day. If you love to act, dance or entertain you can join the fun.

The sessions run from Monday 28 July to Friday 1 August at Martin Primary School from 10am to 3pm each day. The cost is £75.

Full Circle is a well-established theatre company run by three qualified and highly experienced teachers. For further details or to book a place, please contact: Anne-Marie Conway 07958 409863.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

① **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage

② **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.

③ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at east-finchleynct@googlegmail.com

④ **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com

⑤ **Musical Tots:** Wednesdays 11am at the Old White Lion and Fridays 11am at The Five Bells N2. Katemusicaltots.on.facebook

⑥ **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Sajni 8359 3460/Julia 8444 2276

⑦ **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.

⑧ **Stepping Stones,** interactive play for under 3s. Tues 10am, East Finchley Baptist Church. Liz 07836 284538.

⑨ **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thurs 9.45am & 10.45am. Camilla 07900 988149.

Spare Change: soup kitchen drama

Fixation Theatre will stage their first charity performance event to raise awareness about homelessness in London and in aid of local charity Homeless Action Barnet (HAB) at 7.30pm on Thursday 10 July at Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road.

Spare Change is a multi-accessible performance event, with the audience being greeted in a soup kitchen. Tickets are £8 each (includes a £3 donation).

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Joe Syme (left) and Andy Prosser testing their new coffee roasting machine. Photo Mike Coles

Mine's a latte

By Sheila Armstrong

East Finchley has got its very own micro-roastery where you can drink a cup of coffee blended especially for you. Campbell and Syme on Fortis Green should be open regularly from Monday to Saturday from the start of July.

Proprietors Joe Syme and Andy Prosser learned to love coffee in the States. Now they brew their own coffee here in N2, grind and roast it for customers and also sell the beans from their premises. They want to introduce local people to

speciality grade coffee and to show them the secrets of home brewing.

Getting it just right

Making a good cup of coffee doesn't just involve careful roasting to preserve the natural flavours of the single estate beans, but also

getting right the water temperature and the length of time the water is in contact with the beans.

Andy Prosser is a trainer for the Specialist Coffee Association of Europe and hopes to run home brewing SCAE courses in the cafe. Tony's Continental on the High Road stocks their coffee and the Phoenix Cinema now serves Campbell and Syme's coffee.

Return match for choirs

By Marian Bunzl, of North London Chorus

Following our successful collaboration in Berlin last November, North London Chorus will be joined by Cantus Domus Choir in a 'return match' at the Barbican this month.

Last year we performed Benjamin Britten's War Requiem at the Berlin Konzerthaus, as part of the city's celebration of his centenary year. This Anglo/German concert was sold out; it was a deeply moving occasion and received excellent reviews.

This year, 100 years after the outbreak of the First World War, we will give a joint concert of German music, chosen in a spirit of reconciliation and remembrance; themes which were also central to Britten's pacific masterpiece.

The programme will include Mendelssohn's Grant us Peace, and the main work will be Brahms' great humanist piece A German Requiem.

The concert will take place on Monday 14 July at Milton Court Concert Hall, the elegant new concert venue at the Barbican, and will be one of the first large choral events to be held there.

We are delighted to be performing with Cantus Domus again so soon. Although we have again forsaken our home at St. James in Muswell Hill, we are within reach of North London, and we hope you will come and hear the beautiful and moving music we are performing in the spirit of this year's anniversary.

For tickets, contact the Box Office on 020 7638 8891 or barbican.org.uk

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Dream on, England

Here we go, here we go, here we go! England's finest tried to fuel the fantasies of glory and the fantasists fuelled up on cheap lager in the name of sport. The cross of St George flew from car windows and was draped across perfidious Albion like a skin disease. You couldn't switch on the TV without hearing some former player pretending that he was not just a has-been but a contender. Yes, folks, welcome to the fear and loathing that was England at the World Cup.

It's the same every time they qualify, the usual round of 'this time we can win it', 'football's coming home' and buy-one-get-one-half-price offers on Wayne Rooney. The usual politicians tried to put a spin on another humiliation while claiming that they had always loved the game even though they think the offside rule is Gordon Ramsay's new restaurant.

In the weird world of reality, the only thing England were ever likely to win was a plane ticket home in time to watch the semi-finals on TV. Success was about as likely as the Pope announcing he's a secret atheist.

Just look at the record: England normally crash out in the quarter finals, usually on penalties, usually to the Germans. The only times they didn't were in 1966 when a Russian linesman remembered the siege of Leningrad and said the ball had crossed the line and some of England's finest supporters celebrated by beating up German tourists. In 1990 they lost on penalties in the semi-finals, to, guess who, that's right, the Germans.

This time they did worse than usual and although someone with the intelligence of a waste paper



Spotted on the High Road

basket will claim that Spain did no better, England's young guns proved they just weren't good enough.

So, as the footballers licked their wounds, the rest of us could either tune into any channel that wasn't showing the World Cup or join the Scots, Welsh and Irish by supporting someone else. Me, I took my car's advice and supported Italy. That said, my masterpiece of Italian engineering celebrated Italy's victory over Rooney and Co by pretending that the North Circular was really Monza and blowing up spectacularly halfway round the Hanger Lane gyratory. Typical Ferrari, but I've still got the flag...

Fascinating finds

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society is hosting an event called Getting to Grips with Pots & Pipes, which will explore the archaeology of everyday artefacts from Saxon times to Queen Victoria. The one-day workshop led by Jacqui Pearce will have expert presentations and find-handling sessions. Participants are invited to bring along their own finds. It takes place at Stephens House, East End Road, N3, on Saturday 2 August from 10am to 4pm. Tickets and details from www.hadas.org.uk

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FT 514

Charity chic from Mary Portas

By Nick Young

Highgate is to be the latest venue for a branch of high-end charity shops established by television star and retail consultant Mary Portas.

Mary's Living & Giving, due to be launched this month, is part of a chain of volunteer-run shops that raises money for Save the Children. The new shop will be located on the corner of Highgate High Street and South Grove.

A Global Retail Ambassador for the charity, Ms Portas developed Living & Giving as a high-end charity shop following her 2009 TV series *Mary Queen of Charity Shops*. Described by Ms Portas's website as being as "not just a shop, but a place to inspire, share, create, meet and discover", the chain features stock by prestigious designers as well as items donated by local residents.

The first Living & Giving shop was a pop-up shop at the Westfield shopping centre, which earned the charity over £190,000 in three weeks. More than ten Living & Giving shops have since opened in London, with another one in Edinburgh.

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- **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
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464.
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Ladies Keep Fit** Class for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional music at TOC**, Highgate Hill, on 1st & 3rd Tues each month from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- **Bridge Club**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- **Youth Club** at Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale every Tues in termtime. Ages 8-13, £1 entry.



The A Chord choir at their debut concert.

New choir sings its heart out

By Amanda Shribman

On a wonderfully warm summer's evening in June, A-Chord, a newly-formed adult choir, gave its first public performance to a packed audience of over 100 people at the New North London Synagogue on East End Road.

Choir members sang a medley of songs from The Lion King, West Side Story and Joseph, plus light, popular music including Tears in Heaven and What a Wonderful World.

A-Chord are performing again as part of the programme for The Zemel Choir and Friends, a Summer's Evening of Song on Sunday 13 July at 7.30pm, again at the NNLS (tickets available from <http://www.bookitbee.com/e/gy43d>).

Their following performance will be on Sunday 20 July at 8pm as part of a varied musical programme of classical singers and performers on the theme of Broadway to opera at a Musical Soiree in Oakleigh Park in aid of Age UK Barnet. Tickets are £30 in advance to include a delicious buffet supper and wine (contact jonathan.fenton123@gmail.com for more info and to book tickets).

Sing along too

If you are interested in joining the choir, new members are always welcome, with no audition required. Although the choir rehearses in a synagogue it is not a Jewish choir and welcomes anyone who wants to sing, regardless of religious background.

Free taster sessions run on Thursday evenings from 8-10pm at the New North London Synagogue, 80 East End Road N3 2SY. For more details, call Laura on 07732 120464 or email a-chord@gerlis.com



A Winter's Tale: Jessica Lowery as Hermione, Omer Warman as Polixenes and Steven Maddocks as Leontes. Photo Tim Solomons

A Winter's Tale for the height of summer

Garden Suburb Theatre's annual open-air production this year is William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. It includes some of Shakespeare's most magical touches, including a lost princess raised by a shepherd and the famous stage direction "exit pursued by a bear".

The play opens in the Little Wood Open Air Theatre, Hampstead Garden Suburb, on Friday 11 July at 7.30pm with further evening performances at the same time on 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19 July. There are also two matinee performances on Saturday 12 and Saturday 19 July at 3pm.

Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions). Further information can be found at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk

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

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July

- First of two **East Finchley Open** artists' open house weekends, 11am-6pm. Thirteen houses will show work by 45 artists. Full details of venues at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Sunday 13 July

- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30 p.m. Viola da Cunha (mezzo soprano), Ryusuke Koarashi (guitar), Yuki Osedo (piano) and Ayumi Toyama (melodica) perform Dowland, Scarlatti, Strauss, Quilter, Brahms, Vittorio Monti and Montsalvatge. Free admission, collection in aid of Eastern India Palliative Care Project. Venue fully accessible to people

with disabilities.

Monday 14 July

- **North London Chorus and Cantus Domus Choir** from Berlin perform at the Milton Court Concert Hall, Barbican, 7.30pm. Includes Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and *Nanie*, and Mendelssohn *Verleih uns Frieden* (Grant us Peace). Box office 020 7638 8891 and barbican.org.uk
- **Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 July**
- Second of two **East Finchley Open** artists' open house weekends, 11am-6pm. Thirteen houses will show work by 45 artists. Full details of venues at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Sunday 20 July

- **Mill Hill: guided walk** with City of London

guide Paul Baker. Meet Mill Hill East tube station, 11am. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

- New choir **A-Chord perform in a Musical Soiree** on the theme of Broadway to opera in Oakleigh Park in aid of Age UK Barnet, 8pm. Tickets £30 in advance to include delicious buffet supper and wine (contact jonathan.fenton123@gmail.com for more info and to book tickets).

Thursday 24 July

- First of four weekly **workshops for carers of people recently diagnosed with early dementia**. Run by Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers. Admission free, 10.30am to 1pm at Watling Community Centre, Orange Hill Road, Edgware. For information

July at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, executive director, Phoenix Cinema

This month we are offering some bold screen choices and as always, something for everyone.

We go from *Cold in July*, a stark thriller starring Michael C. Hall, to *Cycling with Moliere*, a warm French comedy about two friends, both actors, attempting to rehearse *The Misanthrope* from very different viewpoints.

In between these selections is *Boyhood*, an astonishing cinematic achievement and touching drama about the son of a divorced couple, filmed over 12 years.

For documentary lovers, we've selected two winners. Harris Milstead transformed himself from bullied schoolyard kid to a larger-than-life personality and cult movie star. *I Am Divine* shows how he blurred the lines between performer and personality, revolutionising pop culture.

Finding Vivian Maier is the true story of a mysterious nanny. Part Mary Poppins, part Weegee, she took over 100,000 photos but was so intensely private, uninterested in public acknowledgement, that she never shared them. Discovered decades later, she's now considered one of the 20th century's greatest photographers.

Special events are another distinguishing feature of the Phoenix. July boasts many, including a preview of *Downhill*, a comic adventure of four old school friends who attempt an idealistic trek across Britain and walk full tilt into their mid-life crises. Join us for this one-time-only screening on 7 July, with a Q&A by director James Rouse and star Richard Lumsden.

We bookend the month with *Don Giovanni*: on Sunday 6 July, the recorded Glyndebourne Opera version, and on 27 July a rare screening of Joseph Losey's cinema version, hosted by his grandson, filmmaker Mark Losey (*The Hide*) and a free tour of the Phoenix with pre-booking. See you at the movies!

and booking, contact 020 8937 7171 or barnet@alzheimers.org.uk.

Sunday 27 July

- **Fabulous Finchley: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet Finchley Central tube station (Ballards Lane exit) at 2.30pm. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 2 August

- **The Hendon and District Archaeological Society** presents Getting to Grips with Pots & Pipes: the archaeology of everyday artefacts from Saxon times to Queen Victoria with Jacqui Pearce at Stephens House and Gardens, East End Road, N3 from 10am to 4pm. Tickets and details from www.hadas.org.uk



Letters

Parking spot hogs

Dear Editor,

I have multiple sclerosis and was recently paralysed by a brain haemorrhage. Although I have learned to walk again with the use of two sticks, my mobility and stamina are severely compromised.

I'd like to make a plea to all able bodied drivers who think it's OK to sit in a disabled parking space as long as they keep their engine running and look as if they are about to leave at short notice.

While you are idling in a Blue Badge holder spot, thinking it doesn't matter as long as you are only five or 10 minutes while your friend nips into a shop, spare a thought for me and others like me, circling the block, waiting for you to go.

On numerous occasions, I have had to park further away than I otherwise would need to, and struggle as best I can, or turn the car around and just go home because a disabled spot has been taken by a non-disabled person using the bay as a sort of won't-be-a-minute-so-it-doesn't-matter parking space. And, whilst I'm on a roll, please do try to refrain from offering me violence, like a gentleman did the other day in Market Place, when I asked him politely if he had a Blue Badge...

Yours faithfully

Name and address supplied.

Grave concerns

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for the piece in your June edition about the restoration of the gravestone of Ford Madox Brown and his family.

I wanted to highlight that this is just one of many magnificent, and sometimes very neglected, plots in this wonderful cemetery.

Also, fans of the illustrator and designer of strange contraptions William Heath Robinson might be interested to know that he lies in a modest and equally neglected plot in East Finchley cemetery on East End Road.

Yours faithfully,
Harriet Connides,
Address supplied.

Post Office pressure

Dear Editor,

Thank you for inviting comments on the recently re-located Post Office in the High Road. I use the Post Office a lot and know all the services offered, even the thickness letters and packages need to be for the various price levels.

Already I've used the new Post Office a number of times and am unhappy at the way customers who are not so familiar with the services, particularly older people, are persuaded to pay for premium services they don't need at considerable additional cost. When I am posting a package I always say clearly the service I require, often for instance First Class UK with proof of posting (which is free). Inevitably I'm asked if I want the item signed for and I repeat what I have already said and, reluctantly, that is processed.

While waiting in the queue recently I watched an elderly man posting a small parcel. There was a lot of discussion with the counter clerk and, it being a Friday, he asked as he left if it would arrive on Monday. The reply was, "Oh no, tomorrow," meaning that he had paid for Special Delivery on a Saturday which, from what I had overheard,

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was well beyond what he needed and expensive.

Then a woman who hadn't complete command of English discussed a pile of brown envelopes she had to post with staff whose English is not entirely colloquial either. Again the attempt was made by both the counter clerk and the supervisor to pressure her into sending them by Special Delivery. She said, "Is there something less expensive?" and the reply was "No"2, which isn't true. On other occasions, when a customer asks the cost of sending their letter or package First Class they are asked if they want it "to arrive tomorrow" and as the answer is often "Yes" it is then proposed that they should use a higher service. I wonder if other readers of THE ARCHER are reporting similar observations.

Yours faithfully,
Celia Rufey,
Address supplied.

Post Office plea

Dear Editor,

On my two last visits to our late lamented Crown Post Office I was reassured that the exterior letter boxes would remain *in situ*. However on Thursday 22 May, wishing to post a first class stamped letter I discovered that they had in fact been sealed. A Post Office representative standing on the pavement outside advised me to discuss my concerns with the managers at UOE.

At UOE I was informed that they would accept my letter but had no idea when it would be collected. Further if I was really concerned about a swift delivery I should send it by express delivery. Rather a non-sequitur!

Moreover the staff thought the nearest letter box was either at the far end of Lincoln Road or at the sorting office on Market Place.

Name and address supplied

Our new (recycled) post box

By Mike Coles

Well, the new post box has been installed at the junction of the High Road and Lincoln Road, a few steps from the new Post Office.

But what's this? It's not a new Post Box, it's a 'previously enjoyed' one. A bit of amateur research reveals it's a C-type (double) cast iron box made by the Carron Company in Stirlingshire.

This was apparently one of five small iron foundries that made post and telephone boxes for the Post Office but went bust in 1982. Of the companies who made boxes it seems only Machan, another Scottish company, are still doing so although they have no orders and may be going out of business themselves.

The box in Lincoln Road is stamped 'ERII' so it's post-1953 but was made before 1982, possibly around 1977. At

Janet in the jungle

This is Janet Maitland, one of our contributors, with her trusty copy of THE ARCHER in the Amazon jungle. Janet went to Peru in May, unprepared for just how adventurous an adventure holiday could be.



Archer in the Amazon!

"We went on a three-day trek in a remote part of the Andes that was described as 'easy to moderate' which nearly finished us off," said Janet. "We climbed to 14,700 feet, finally reaching the summit in a raging blizzard and collapsing on our knees in relief. My hands were so swollen with altitude sickness that my knuckles disappeared."

"Then we flew to the Amazon to recover. We sweltered away in the humidity, looking at sloths and the like through binoculars. It's not in the least like a David Attenborough programme. Animals have the sense to keep away from humans."

"Apart from the alligators in the river by our hut, the closest we got to any wild life was a

baby boar and one of those monster sized guinea pigs pottering round the compound where we stayed. Oh yes, and there were butterflies – thousands and thousands of them."

Janet is happy to report that, despite the humidity and close-packed baggage, her copy of THE ARCHER remained in pristine condition throughout the trip.

The First World War at Stephens House

By Daphne Chamberlain

Stephens House – formerly known as Avenue House – was once a military hospital. During the first week of August, exactly 100 years after the start of the First World War, we can get a glimpse of what it was like then.

On display will be a recreation of part of a hospital ward, recruitment posters for the war, vintage films from the era, a music hall style show, and costumes from the BBC drama The Crimson Field. Outside, on the rockery, will be another field of Flanders poppies, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Golders Green.

Caring for the wounded

Viewers of The Crimson Field will know that the enormous number of military casualties could not have been cared for without an estimated 90,000 volunteers working for the Red Cross and the Order of St John of Jerusalem, both on the front line and in the UK. Large and small houses, town halls, hotels, libraries, colleges and even asylums were used as hospitals or convalescent homes.

East Finchley had a convalescent home in Fortis Green, where local people who were

Depala day trip

On Monday 12 May, members of the Depala Community from Finchley and Golders Green were welcomed to Parliament by Mike Freer. Members were hosted at a function in Westminster's Jubilee Room by the Finchley MP for the second consecutive year.

The event, which was held to recognise the work of the community locally, was attended by around 50 people. Speaking after the event, Mike Freer said: "It's always a pleasure to welcome constituents to Parliament and the Depala Community were no exception. I enjoyed discussing local, national and international issues with members of the community. I hope to maintain our excellent links going forward." The Depala Community Centre, located on Church Lane in East Finchley, plays host to a number of social and religious events. For further information, please visit sadmm.co.uk

Can you deliver?

THE ARCHER needs a volunteer to deliver papers to Archer Gardens, the new homes between Lankaster Gardens and Strawberry Vale. Can you spare 20 minutes once a month? Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.



the time our photo was taken, it hadn't been commissioned and needed a coat of paint.

children at the time have told THE ARCHER they remember seeing soldiers in blue uniforms with red ties (known as Hospital Blues). The library in Manor Gardens at the Nag's Head, Holloway, housed a surgical unit and Stephens House was used as a hospital by the RAF from 1919 to 1925.

Military models

The exhibition week will run from Saturday 2 to Saturday 9 August, 12 noon to 5pm. On Sunday 3 August, there will be a display and demonstration of military models from the North London Military Modelling Society. Writing workshops, local history walks and talks, and tea with Chelsea Pensioners are also planned.

For more information, see www.stephenshouseandgardens.com. To see personal stories from volunteer nurses and aides, see www.Spartacus-educational.com/FWWnurses.htm.



The Archer Academy building site at Stanley Field with Holy Trinity school in the foreground. Photo Mike Coles

Building work starts on Stanley Field

Work has begun at Stanley Road on the Archer Academy's new campus, as our photo by Mike Coles shows. Stanley Field will eventually be home to the academy's lower school, with facilities being made available to the local community outside of school hours.

Before the work began, the Museum of London Archaeology investigated the site for historical interest. Ten trenches were excavated but only a field boundary ditch and the site of a pond were found.

Construction work will continue on Stanley Field throughout 2014 and early 2015, ready to welcome students in September 2015.

Muggers on mopeds

By Janet Maitland

Police are warning people to be vigilant following a spate of robberies involving men dressed in black on mopeds who threaten their victims with hammers.

On 11 April, a 57-year-old man walking down Platts Lane, NW3, was approached by four men on mopeds, two drivers and two pillion passengers, who threatened him with a hammer and stole his watch. The men were dressed in boiler suits with their faces covered by motorcycle helmets.

A woman walking down Farm Avenue, NW2, on 1 May had her watch and phone stolen by a man who threatened her with a hammer. He is described as black, about 5ft 7ins tall, wearing a motorbike jacket and carrying over his shoulder a black Wilson tennis racquet case with a red W for Wilson.

On 3 May, a woman driving down Priory Terrace NW6 had her watch and some money stolen when her car window was smashed with a hammer by a pillion passenger on a moped. A second moped was driving alongside. The men were wearing black clothing and black crash helmets.

A woman was confronted on her driveway in West Heath Avenue, NW11, on 7 May by a man who stole her jewellery. He then jumped on the back of a waiting motorbike which sped off towards Hampstead Heath. The thief is described as white, aged 20-30. Both he and the driver were wearing black clothes and black crash helmets.

Police believe these crimes are linked and that the people committing them select their

victims at random. Anyone noticing someone acting suspiciously on a moped or motorbike should call 999. If you are driving and believe you are being followed, police advise you to keep driving and only stop and call 999 when it's safe to do so. If you have any information call 101 or 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.

Keep it clean

Volunteers from the N2 Gardeners, who cultivate the bank of earth alongside East Finchley station, are asking for a bin to be installed to give train travellers somewhere to dump their rubbish. Recently, there have been some unwelcome deposits on the bank.

Until the bin arrives, if it ever does, please help to keep the patch clean and tidy by putting any cigarette ends and litter in the existing bin a little further down the slope near the pedestrian crossing.

Behind the garden gate

Two hundred visitors enjoyed homemade teas, bought plants and explored two contrasting and inspiring gardens that opened their gates in Summerlee Gardens on 25 May, raising more than £1,300 for the National Gardens Scheme, which donates to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Other local gardens open this coming month include: 66 Muswell Avenue, N10, on Tuesday 8 July from 6pm to 8.30pm; 19 Hillfield Park, N10, and 18 Park Crescent,

N3, both on Sunday 20 July from 2pm to 6pm; and five gardens in Alexandra Park Road Gardens, N22, on Sunday 3 August.

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