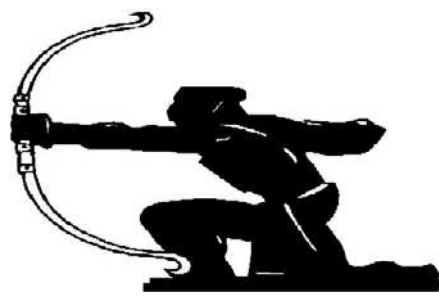


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June 2014 No. 247
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Former Kinks drummer Mick Avery, left, with sculptor Daniel Ostvold, centre, and former Kinks bassist John Dalton. Photo Mike Coles

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Bold and unmissable, this statue dedicated to The Kinks was unveiled at the Clissold Arms on 27 April in the presence of drummer Mick Avery and guitarist John Dalton.

They were joined by a contingent of Kinks fans from Norway, the home country of the sculpture's artist Daniel Ostvold. You can see the artwork for yourself in the pub and restaurant's Kinks room until 27 July.

Do you have a story for us?

You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Festival 2014: the full line-up

East Finchley's annual community festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June promises to be one of the best yet, with great music, food and craft stalls.

Volunteers are still welcome to help steward on the day, especially in setting up and packing away. If you have an hour or two to help things run smoothly, contact Councillor Arjun Mittra at cllr.a.mittra@barnet.gov.uk or 07867 902400.

The Archer team will have their own stall and we hope to be selling brand new Archer tea towels for charity.

Meanwhile, here is the entertainment programme for the two stages, hosted by Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock and Mike Hughes:

Main Stage line-up (bands)

- 12.10 Obsession
- 12.45 Lace & Whiskey
- 13.20 OuterSurburbia
- 13.50 Rob Thom
- 14.15 Yukfoo
- 14.40 Los Richochet
- 15.15 Spring Park Motel
- 15.40 Sola
- 16.15 Piefinger
- 16.40 Rock, Paper, Scissors - Martin School percussion band
- 16.50 Raffle
- 17.00 Sofa sonic
- 17.35 Sound of the Suburb
- 18.00 Close

The Helen O'Toole Community Stage

- 12.15 Martin Primary School
- 12.30 Friern Barnet School
- 12.45 Airborne Circus - Circus Skills
- 13.05 Rikud - Modern Israeli Dance
- 13.25 The Archer Academy
- 13.40 Finchley Youth Theatre - Dance
- 14.05 Fixation Theatre Company - Performing Arts
- 14.25 Erin - Michael Jackson Dance
- 14.30 Elsa - Music and Song
- 14.40 East Finchley Combat Academy - Demonstration
- 14.55 Isabella - Songs
- 15.05 Fortitude Dance Company
- 15.25 London Metropolitan Brass Training Band
- 15.50 S.O.U.P Ukulele Group
- 16.25 Popchoir
- 17.00 Derek Harris - self-taught musician
- 17.15 Cecilia Holmes - songs and piano
- 17.40 Jazz Guitar Ensemble

Timings and bands are subject to change.

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Fair in the Square

The Fair in the Square returns to Highgate on Saturday 14 June with a fun day of community entertainment. There will be live performances in Pond Square and more than 100 stalls lining the streets.

• Visit your community newspaper on-line at www.the-archer.co.uk •



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Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag for providing us with a meeting place.

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 – **July: 13 June, August: 11 July, September: 15 July**

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

8 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single/part two-storey side and rear extension, involving rear dormer window and two front roof lights to facilitate loft conversion.

1-17 Cromwell Close Garages, N2

New rise and fall entrance barrier.

37 Deansway, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension, following demolition of canopy and carport. Roof extension, including one rear dormer and two roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion. Alterations to front fenestration. New hard/soft landscaping to front and rear. Replacement of all uPVC windows and doors with timber double glazed to match originals. Partial conversion of garage into habitable space.

42 Deansway, N2

Single-storey rear and side extensions. Changes to windows and doors at side and rear. Roof extension, involving one rear dormer window and one side dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

82 High Road, N2

Installation of glass-block (lights) into front pavement.

401 High Road, N2

One internally illuminated freestanding advertising display unit.

51 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

69 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with three roof lights.

1 and 2 Red Lion Hill, N2

First floor rear extension to both properties.

67 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Extension with maximum depth of 6m from rear wall, eaves height 3m, maximum height 4m.

12 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Two-storey rear extension, with associated roof over. Rear outbuilding, new basement level, and rear conservatory following demolition of existing.

15 The Bishops Avenue, N2

New porch to replace existing one. New rooflight to front/side elevation.

Final step for Spike

By Daphne Chamberlain

Spike Milligan fans should soon be able to see his bronze statue sitting on a bench at Stephens House (formerly Avenue House). The Finchley Society has announced that it is now at the foundry, waiting for final approval.

However, in spite of heroic efforts from the Statue Fund organisers and many extremely generous donations, more contributions are needed.

There have been unavoidable delays, which may account for the slowing up of donations. Internationally known sculptor John Somerville has had bouts of ill health, including a liver transplant. However, he has continued to work enthusiastically on the project.

Poet, author and comedian

Spike lived in Finchley from 1955 to 1974. When The Finchley Society was formed in 1971, he was one of its first members, becoming its President and later its Patron. He first became famous as one of the stars of the Goon Show, and the Goon Show Preservation Society has donated towards the Fund.

Donations can be made by downloading a form from www.spikemilliganstatuefund.org.uk.

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Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000

Leisure

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

Transport

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

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Whittington	020 7272 3070

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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

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Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

Bobath director moves on

Jayne Pearce has decided to leave the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in July after 10 years as director of administrative services.

Jayne has worked alongside Christine Barber, director of therapy services, and has recently been pre-occupied in helping to manage the impact on the East End Road centre of the biggest shake-up of the health service since its foundation.

Small national charities such as Bobath are particularly hard hit because new Clinical Commissioning Groups are focused on using local services even when these are less specialised than Bobath.

Leaving: Jayne Pearce (right).



Jayne said: "Although the NHS is still in flux and we are inevitably facing severe problems, after 10 years I feel it is time to move on and seek pastures new. The administrative systems are in place and the charity can now recruit someone with new ideas and the appropriate skills to help take the Bobath Centre forward from here."

In a joint statement, Stephen Latner, Chairman of the Children's Centre, and Ida Bromley, Chair of The Adults' Centre, said: "Jayne has made a significant contribution to The Bobath Centre over 10 very loyal and hard-working years. We are immensely grateful for the improvements she has made and wish her well."

Fund a young actor

The Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre (FoFYT) recently collected over £200 in donations at their performance of Jonathan Livingston Seagull. This will be used to buy headphones and other equipment for the theatre in the High Road.

FoFYT is actively building support for the theatre among the local community. One of their major roles is to support the provision of free places for those young people whose parents/carers cannot afford to pay the minimal fee.

Whilst the theatre will always offer a free place to a young person that needs it, more requests for free places are being received now and that puts pressure on the arts programme itself.

The Friends say a donation of £5 will fund a place for a young person for one week and £55 will fund a place for a young person for a full term.

You can donate online at: www.fofyt.co.uk/donate.html or drop a cheque, made payable to 'FoFYT', into the theatre.

To find out more about what the Friends do, or how to support the work of the theatre, go along to their next open supporters' meeting on Wednesday 16 July at 8.15pm at the theatre when Councillor Arjun Mittra will be speaking about the impact of the local elections on the future of FYT and its work.

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The first customer is served at the new post office in UOE. Photo Mike Coles

Hello, goodbye! Post Office opens in new home

East Finchley's Post Office moved out of Viceroy Parade to become part of the UOE gifts and stationery shop on the opposite side of the High Road on 22 May. It is now the first Post Office franchise in London being run by a privately-owned firm.

On the previous day, campaigners and trade union members gathered outside the Crown Post Office unit they had fought long and hard to keep operational, to say a final farewell.

One Post Office staff member has moved across to work in UOE, joining a team of nine counter staff there. Others from Viceroy Parade are either working in other Post Offices or have been offered voluntary redundancy.

The UOE shop itself has undergone a significant transformation, with the Post Office counters occupying an area at the rear where a storage room used to be. To reach it, customers must walk up three steps or use a ramp for wheelchairs and buggies.

First reactions

THE ARCHER asked customers what they thought on its first day. "It's a long walk through the shop and the service area seems quite small when you

get there," said Mike Edwards, who was posting a parcel. "It's like going halfway to Muswell Hill," said one lady buying stamps. "The staff are very helpful and seem to know what they're doing," said Alison Pitt, renewing a passport. "Not sure yet, I'll wait and see how they do when it gets really busy," said another parcel poster.

Weekend opening

UOE owner Elliot Jacobs acknowledged that not everything would be perfect from day one but hoped the Post Office would settle in quickly and become an asset to the High Road.

"We'll be open for longer, including Saturday afternoons and Sundays, so that will be a reason for people to come to the High Road all through the weekend," he said. "Also, we may attract customers from the busy but small Post Office in Muswell Hill."

Mr Jacobs said he and his

team are being closely audited and monitored by Post Office management. Their franchise is open-ended as long as they meet agreed levels of service and performance.

Customers will no doubt have opinions on the new wheelchair and buggy access ramp, not mentioned in the original public consultation exercise before the move. Mr Jacobs said that disability groups would be invited back over the next few weeks for their feedback.

What do YOU think of the new Post Office? Send us your thoughts by email to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.



5.30pm, 21st May 2014, the Crown post office in East Finchley closes for the last time. Photo Mike Coles

Dragon delights local mums

Nurturing Mums, the Finchley-based postnatal support group, is celebrating after winning the Small Business Sunday competition on Twitter with former *Dragons' Den* star Theo Paphitis.

The group was established 18 months ago by experienced mums Elise Mendelle and Gemma Frenchman, and runs unique six-week courses for new mothers in East Finchley and Crouch End. Elise and Gemma have already seen a significant increase in the number of hits on their website since winning the competition, which they hope will give them the momentum to expand their business.

"We currently run courses in two north London locations, with a third planned for the autumn," they said. "We love helping mums have a great postnatal experience and plan to roll our courses out nationwide!"

Business boost via Twitter
The Small Business Sunday

competition was started in 2010 by the businessman and former *Dragons' Den* investor Theo Paphitis, who owns several businesses including the Rymans stationery chain. It is a weekly competition on Twitter in which a small business can tweet Mr Paphitis with the hashtag #SBS. He retweets his favourite six to his 421,000 followers. The increased publicity and endorsement of a highly successful businessman can be vastly beneficial to small businesses.

Further details about the Small Business Sunday competition can be found on Mr Paphitis's website www.theopaphitis.com. For more details about Nurturing Mums, please visit www.nurturingmumsuk.com.

From pupil to headteacher

Bishop Douglass School is to be led by a former pupil. Martin Tissot has taken over from Angela Murphy, who retired after 11 years as headteacher.

Mr Tissot rejoins the school in Hamilton Road from his position as executive head at both St George's Catholic School in Maida Vale and St Thomas More Catholic School in Wood Green. Bishop Douglass was rated Good by Ofsted inspectors in September last year.



New Headteacher Martin Tissot.

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Three flee roof fire

By Janet Maitland

Three people had a narrow escape when a fire broke out in the roof of a house on Park Hall Road in the early afternoon of 17 April. The occupants called the fire brigade as soon as the fire was discovered and then fled the building, which was undergoing building work at the time.

Fire fighters tackled the blaze and managed to get it under control, although the whole of the roof went up in flames. "No one was hurt, but 100% of the roof was destroyed," said a spokesman

for the fire brigade.

The police were called by the fire brigade to keep traffic away from the blaze. Roads were closed for several hours. The fire is not being treated as suspicious.



Fire in Park Hall Road. Photo Loui Doukaki

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N2 gets ready to bloom again

By Sheila Armstrong

Readers will have spotted a newly cultivated flower bed outside the Monkey Puzzle Nursery opposite the station. The N2 Gardeners have been busy again and hope to involve the nursery in its maintenance.

There are already two other flower beds nearby that have been in successful cultivation for some time. The N2 Gardeners continue to maintain Station Bank, to the right of the station entrance, and always welcome new supporters for this. Maintenance meetings are usually on a Sunday morning but contact them for dates. There is a new sign, *N2 Community Garden*, identifying the garden, which at the time of writing was looking good with its fruit trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables.

Local Guides are also developing a plot in Prospect Ring, so the greening of East Finchley continues.



The N2 Community garden at the tube station. Photo Mike Coles

Tube station staff will enter the Stations in Bloom competition again this summer, working with the N2 Gardeners and anyone else who would like to help with planting and watering.

The Gardeners would like more local support so if you can help please contact them. And they encourage anyone to tame overgrown patches near where they live; again, contact

them for support and advice on n2gardeners@gmail.com

Helen's Zumba is a favourite

A Zumba class set up in Barnet by Helen Eracli has been voted among Britain's best in a prestigious national competition.

The class held at The Hindu Centre in Lyndhurst Avenue, N12, scooped one of the top awards in the Classes For You competition, run by Britain's biggest parenting site Netmums.

The UK-wide competition was launched as a chance for people running adult classes to be recognized for their hard work serving and improving the local community.

Helen, who grew up in East Finchley, has been serving the community with her variety of fitness classes for over 20 years and is highly qualified. Visit her website at www.friernfitness.com

Library expansion

Volunteers at Friern Barnet Community Library are adding thousands of donated books to their electronic system. They are on the way to providing their users with library cards and access to catalogues and extended internet availability. If you would like to help, please contact friernbarnetcommunitylibrary@gmail.com.

Be vigilant with unexpected callers

By Janet Maitland

Police have warned the public to be vigilant when opening the door to unexpected callers following four cases of theft in March. Although these crimes happened in Haringey, those responsible may target N2.

In each case the caller claimed to be working for a company or the council, and managed to con their way into the victims' homes.

• On 12 March a man claiming to be from a kitchen fitting company targeted a house in Earlsmead Road, N15, and stole £120 from a 79-year-old woman. He is described as white, approximately 5ft 5ins tall, with an Irish accent. He was riding a bike.

• A man who said he worked for the council called at a property in Duckett Road, N4, on 17 March and stole jewelry and

£50 in cash. He was also riding a bike and is described as white, with light brown/ginger hair.

• On 18 March a man claiming to be from a mobility scooter company targeted a house in Cunningham Road, N15, and robbed the 76-year-old resident of jewelry and clothing. He is described as white, 5ft 7ins tall, with short blonde/ginger hair and a 'pockmarked' face. He was wearing jeans and a blue, pink and white checked shirt.

• A man who said he was working on the house next door and needed access to the victim's kitchen targeted a property in Portland Road, N15, on 23 March. Once inside, he stole a handbag. He is described as in his 40s, with short ginger hair, wearing a light blue shirt, a grey woollen waistcoat and jeans.

If you have any information about any of these incidents, call Detective Sergeant Sean Lyons on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.

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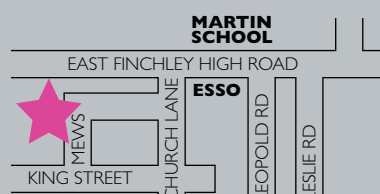
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Air raid shelter gone forever

By John Lawrence

A Muswell Hill resident is mourning the sudden loss of one of the area's few remaining Second World War air raid shelters after the structure disappeared overnight at the hands of developers.

The brick and concrete shelter stood at the rear of the Muswell Hill Odeon where Ruth Duckworth has been able to see it from her neighbouring garden all her life. But in May it was reduced to a pile of rubble and is destined to be replaced by two car parking spaces.

The shelter was provided by the cinema for the use of their patrons during the war. The site, which is no longer owned by the Odeon, is being redeveloped as part of an upgrade of the nearby arcade of shops.

Reminder of WW2

Ruth, a former archaeologist, is kicking herself that she didn't spot the tiny reference to removal of a 'derelict building' in a recent planning application for the site.

"I feel personally respon-

sible," said Ruth. "The shelter was tucked away and not many people would have known it was here but it's been a constant presence in my life and now it's suddenly gone."

"Yes, it was abandoned but it was a lovely building. All these shelters are a reminder of an important part of our country's history and they should be something we can hand down to future generations. They are being lost and the very least we should do is keep a record of them."

Do you have any memories of the Odeon air raid shelter? Did you perhaps use it during the war? Write to us at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE, email the-archer@lineone.net or contact us on Facebook and Twitter at TheArcherN2.



The air raid shelter, now demolished, behind the Odeon.
Photo from Google street map.



Children exercise at the Longjiang school where Jess and Pat taught.

Journey to the Orient

British council funding enabled Martin Primary School to send teachers Jessica Lundie and Pat Bulman to a partner school in China to learn about their teaching, culture and language. Here they describe their Far Eastern trip.

We started in Beijing where we explored the ancient civilisations of China by visiting the Forbidden City, opened to the public only since 1920. The summer palace was the next stop, followed by the Great Wall, used in ancient times to protect the emperor and his people. We also took in the sights of Tiananmen Square and the Mao mausoleum.

The Temple of Heaven, a place of worship for the old emperors and site of the Olympic torch changeover in 2008, was a calm haven after visiting the frenetic *hutongs*, narrow alleyways where old China mixes with new China. Along the way we sampled the delights of Northern Chinese cuisine.

Sharing ideas

We journeyed further south to meet our colleagues at Longjiang. We received a warm welcome from both the staff and children and were able to take part in various lessons across their



Jess and Pat in Beijing

curriculum as well as teaching English to the older children. We noticed many similarities in our methodology and will be sharing with colleagues in London ideas that we can implement to enhance our teaching at Martin Primary.

We were lucky enough to be visiting during the Ling Ting festival and got to experience local traditions and cuisine such as "fire pork".

It was certainly a worthwhile experience and we hope to continue to foster this friendship in the coming years and for the children and staff of both schools to benefit.

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Football for change

An East End Road resident has helped to launch the first global football tournament for children affected by war.

Kieran Nokes says Shoot4Peace is an international movement using sport as a tool to promote human rights and social justice.

The campaign will bring together eight teams of children from war-affected regions of Iraq, Syria, Israel & Palestine, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and

Colombia to take part in a football tournament in Santiago, Chile in October.

Kieran, who is also co-founder of social enterprise Gladiator Education, says: "Our mission is to give these young people a voice, to raise awareness of children's needs and rights, help them recover from trauma, give them the skills to improve their own lives, and to become agents of positive transformation in their communities."

The chosen teams from each region will take part in

the football tournament, attend workshops and also present talks and activities on the issues other youngsters are facing in their home countries.

Long-term projects

In a second phase, Shoot4Peace will partner with organisations and charities working locally in each participating country to establish permanent educational projects including numeracy, literacy, health education, social learning and human rights.

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Artist's neglected grave restored

By Ann Bronkhorst

The great Pre-Raphaelite painter Ford Madox Brown, famous especially for *Work* and *The Last of England*, was buried in 1893 in St. Pancras (now Islington) Cemetery. For years his gravesite has been damaged and obscured by trees and undergrowth but at last it is visible again and has a clean, upright replica headstone.

He was buried in the grave of his second wife, Emma, their baby son Arthur and their other son Oliver (born when they lived just off Ballards Lane) who had died aged 18. Two daughters survived him.



Rose and laurel

On the stone are four lines of verse in Italian, translated by Giacomo Leopardi from a French poem by Arnault called *The Leaf*. Here is the now legible inscription, followed by the translation (with thanks to Ted Green).

*Vo dov' ogn' altra cosa
Dove naturalmente
Va la foglia di rosa
E la foglia d'alloro.*

Go, where everything goes,
where of course
goes the rose leaf
and the laurel leaf.

So ... beauty, love, success and fame must perish and so must we. Sad yet stoic ideas, not the conventional religious ones usually found on graves of that period. In fact, there was no religious ceremony at Madox Brown's burial.

Mourners

Many friends attended, however, including fellow Pre-Raphaelites such as Holman Hunt and other artists and writers including Christina Rossetti, Richard Garnett and Walter Crane. One of those friends, Mathilde Blind, a strikingly handsome woman of German-Jewish background, was to

die within three years. Her tall marble monument with its fine profile portrait stands almost opposite Madox Brown's but has not been renovated.

These graves are not difficult to find, since they are behind and near to the huge Mond memorial, Madox Brown's to its left and Mathilde Blind's to its right. To find out about their lives, loves and friendships, and Madox Brown's connections with Hendon, Finchley and Hampstead, read *Into the Frame* by Angela Thirlwell (Pimlico). To discover other interesting local graves, search radavenport/cemeteries/contents.html

Farm food by click and collect

By Sheila Armstrong

A new shopping service is starting up in N2 that enables residents to click and collect local fresh food, ordering produce straight from farmers.

FarmDrop is said to be taking root in locations across the UK and launches at The Clissold Arms on Fortis Green on 11 June.

Tara Griffin manages the local online food marketplace, and is in the process of getting people in the neighbourhood signed up as members. They need 100 members to sign up

to make a launch viable, and it is free to join.

Tara explains why FarmDrop is proving so popular: "Increasingly, busy people want to shop for food online. Members of FarmDrop are able to purchase freshly baked bread and real dairy ice creams direct from farms only 10 miles down the road. What could be better than that when you care about where your food comes from?"

She says the FarmDrop initiative radically shortens

the supply chain and gives you the reassurance that you know exactly where your food has come from.

Orders are placed with a range of local producers via the FarmDrop website, with all food delivered to and collected from one venue, at one time. To find out how you can get involved visit www.farmdrop.co.uk or for further information please get in touch with Tara Griffin at muswellfarmdrop@gmail.com or on 07833 306 473.



Kids enjoying a Fit Perfect class.

Fit club to get children active

By Diana Cormack

Worrying reports are regularly published about childhood obesity and the lack of fitness amongst some young people. Despite the much vaunted Olympic heritage it seems this "time-bomb of inactivity" could lead to these children being the first generation to die at a younger age than their parents.

Apportioning blame to such things as computer games and the education system doesn't solve the problem, but local mother-of-two Hilary Burbidge is doing her bit to improve things.

Getting fit for life

On Saturday mornings during term time she runs fitness classes for boys and girls from aged nine to teenage years (an age when youngsters may take more notice of an adult other than their parents). Hilary told *THE ARCHER*: "I am passionate about educating children and young teenagers about the benefits of being fit and healthy and making informed nutritional choices, all topical issues causing parents concern."

She emphasised that not every child is sporty so avoids the temptation to make it all about sport, but tries to encourage the children to have an interest in their own personal health and fitness. Hilary thinks this should stand them in good stead for life, whereas the love or flair for a particular sport can come and go.

Woodland setting

Personal trainer Hilary's approach has caught the attention of the media both here and abroad. As well as being appropriate and challenging, the variety of exercises practised focus on fun along with self-improvement and competition. The club, for which booking is necessary, costs £5 per session. It meets at Hilary's Summerlee Gardens' home for an 8.15 am start towards Highgate Wood, where most of the activities take



Hilary Burbidge of Fit Perfect.

place. At 9.30am they finish at the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, for a healthy drink or snack.

During the summer holidays Hilary will be running week-long fitness courses for children. For further details visit www.fitperfect.co.uk or call 07801 225 660



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Visitors always welcome



The digital age finally reaches N2

There are signs that East Finchley is finally moving fully into the digital age. Whereas most of the capital has enjoyed top-speed TV and broadband for many years now, N2 has remained in a black hole for cable services.

BT provides broadband through its copper wire network but inexplicably much of our area was left out when cable lines direct to homes were installed in streets back in the 1990s and 2000s. This means many TV and computer users in N2 have been left struggling with poor download speeds.

However, one supplier, Virgin Media, seems to have woken up to the demand and has started exploratory digging in Baronsmere Road with a view to installing cables. The company also told *THE ARCHER* that it would consider a wider programme of installations if it received requests from customers.

'Odd pocket' to benefit

One user who has led the digital charge is project manager Tim Isaacs, who lives in Baronsmere Road and needs a decent download speed to

handle large documents when he is working from home.

Tim said: "Our area should have 16MB broadband but I've had speeds of as little as 0.6MB. It gets worse through the day as more people use the network."

"The Government's mandate is to ensure rural areas get a good broadband service but what about odd pockets like ours in urban areas? A lot of people in East Finchley work from home and would benefit from higher speeds."

Emma Hutchinson, a Virgin Media spokesperson, told us: "We're always looking at ways to bring our next generation broadband, TV and phone services to more people and will be in touch with residents as soon as our work in Baronsmere Road is complete and we're able to confirm what we hope will be good news."

Barnet boy styled Beatles' barnets

By Diana Cormack

When celebrity hair stylist Leslie Cavendish was called on to prepare the Beatles for a performance in January 1969, he realised he would have to make a special effort because it was to take place outdoors. The chosen setting was the rooftop of the Apple building in Saville Row. We now know that was the last time the Fab Four performed together. It also brought to an end three years of Leslie looking after the group's iconic hairstyle.

Sassoon trainee

North Londoner Leslie left school at 15. He decided to become a hairdresser after being inspired by the sight of so many beautiful women when he collected his mum from a hair appointment. Starting as an apprentice at Vidal Sassoon's in Bond Street, he moved to their new salon at the Grosvenor Hotel where his skills became obvious, for Leslie completed the three year training in just two years.

His talent was soon recognised and, over the years, such famous names as Dusty Springfield, Britt Ekland, The Bee Gees, Tony Curtis, The Dave Clark Five and The Who were among his clientele. But it was when a young actress called Jane Asher asked him to cut her boyfriend Paul McCartney's hair that his rise to the very top began.

Subsequently Leslie was always on call to care for John,



Leslie Cavendish - hairdresser to the Beatles Photo Mike Coles

Paul, George and Ringo's hair wherever they were and whatever they were doing. He went with them on the Magical Mystery Tour and ran their Apple hairdressing salon on the King's Road, Chelsea. Leslie himself often featured in the press and fashion world media and he continued to cut Paul and Linda McCartney and other celebrities' hair until 1975.

Now in his 60s, Leslie runs the All Aboard charity shop at 124 High Road. He is also involved in many aspects of Beatles memorabilia. Find out more by visiting www.beatle-shairstylist.com where you can also read his fascinating story, or wait until later this year when Leslie's book about his time with the Beatles is to be published.



Teachers and staff from Holy Trinity limber up for their run.

Holy Trinity take on the Heath

On Saturday 5 July many of the female staff at Holy Trinity Primary School will be joining the 5k Race For Life on Hampstead Heath. This is one of Cancer Research's female-only races dedicated to raise money and awareness of cancer.

Many of the school staff have witnessed the devastating effects of this disease first-hand and by joining together in this event are hoping to do something positive in raising money for an excellent cause. They have set up an online fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/teams/holytrinity.

Teacher Francesca Wiltshire said: "We plan to take on the beautiful, rugged landscape of the Heath together, raise money and have fun at the same time. In the meantime, we'll get in some training!"

Virtual walk for hospice

If you didn't join the North London Hospice's Big Fun Walk this year and are of bus pass age or older, you can join fundraisers at a combined open garden and sponsored virtual walk in a spectacular private garden in Asmunds Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb on 20 July. Numbers are limited so register your interest in advance by telephone on 020 8203 5131 or email events_nwsg@aol.co.uk



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YOUNG ARCHER



Row, row, row your boat.... Photo Diana Cormack

Fun for the very young

By Diana Cormack

A couple of years ago new mother Kate Constantinou was looking for something to do in East Finchley. After all, when you are a singer who has appeared in West End shows like *Chicago*, everyday life may seem a little mundane at times.

Kate solved the problem by mixing her musical talents with her motherly role. She set up Musical Tots, which brings together parents and babies in weekly sessions that Kate hopes will lead to lasting friendships.

As well as aiding social skills, the sing-alongs with Kate help in the development of speech, movement and expression. They also give parents the chance to enjoy a sociable chat and a coffee. Meetings are held at 11am on Wednesdays in the

Old White Lion (next to East Finchley tube station) and on Fridays in the Five Bells (165 – 167 East End Road). To find out more call 07909 938 230.

Kate also entertains adults, performing in local pubs such as the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, and she recently featured in a Motown Night at the Five Bells.

Plans for Five Bells

At the Five Bells new general manager Trudy Corless has more plans for music and

entertainment and has introduced a karaoke night on the first Saturday of the month at the request of customers. Trudy has been at the Five Bells since October and is keen to get herself and the pub involved in the community. She loves being in East Finchley and told *THE ARCHER*: "I have been made to feel so welcome by everybody. It has made settling in so easy." For more information call 020 8883 1714 or visit www.flaminggrillpubs.com

Family travel blog shortlisted for awards

Sarah Ebner and her two children, Jessica aged 12 and Robert, aged 9, have set up their own family travel blog, which is going from strength to strength and has just been shortlisted for two awards.

The blog, called *Family Travel Times*, is written by Sarah, who is a journalist for *The Times* newspaper, and the children, who write their own articles. It has just been shortlisted in the travel and video categories of the Brilliance in Blogging Awards, or Bibs.

Sarah, who lives in Baronsmere Road, says she thinks that the children's own work might be the secret of its success.

"People seem to love reading about the children's own opinions," she says. "Usually it's adults writing what they

think children like and dislike."

The blog features posts on holidays and days out, and includes articles on places as far apart as Jamaica and the Isle of Mull in Scotland. It also includes lots of local attractions in London and the South East.

"We hope it's fun to read and useful," says Sarah. You can read *Family Travel Times* at <http://familytraveltimes.blogspot.com/> or its Facebook Page ([facebook.com/Familytraveltimes](https://www.facebook.com/Familytraveltimes)). The winners of the Bibs are due to be announced at the end of June.



Travelling right: Sarah Ebner with husband Brian and children

A youth club not to be missed

The 3rd Space Youth Club at the Green Man Community Centre has been running successfully for five years. Vicki Williams took on the running of the club last year and says: "Every week we do something different, we like to keep the club fresh. Currently the kids bounce through the door asking immediately, 'What are we cooking? What crafts are we making? How can I win a prize this week?'"

They play classic old school games like shuffleboard, pinball alley, skittles, British bulldog and other games with a modern twist like balloon volleyball (legs only) and Malteser races. In the kitchen resident chef Natasha involves children in making fresh versions of their favourite foods which are tasty, filling and healthy and not the least bit processed.

Luke, aged 11 said, "When it was my birthday the club had a party for me. I chose the games and we cooked lasagne, my favourite. They even bought me a birthday present!"

Free first session

The club is run for the community by Barnet Lone Parent Centre, a registered charity. It is open on Tuesdays, during term time, from 4 till 5.30pm. You don't need to be a lone parent for your children to attend. Further details can be obtained from Barnet Lone Parent Centre, Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, Finchley, N2 9BA or call 020 7021 4146.

Bring your child to the club (with this article) and the first session is free; thereafter it's only £1 a week which includes a free hot meal and drink.

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

Treats and promises under the hammer

By Erini Rodis

Spring term ended on a high at Martin School as fundraisers held an auction of promises and a curry night to raise a massive amount of money.

Local businesses and individuals connected to the school were all tirelessly hounded by the school's formidable team of parent and governor fundraisers to donate a vast selection of items, vouchers and experiences, which were then offered up for auction or raffle.

Retailer Noel Lynch kindly donated his time as auctioneer and opened the event to an expectant and increasingly inebriated crowd.

A battle of the wallets began as with all the speed and fervour of a racing commentator Mr Lynch squeezed every last penny out of the winning bidders. Lots ranged from bespoke

pudding supplies to family days out, professional and amateur services, eye tests and hair-dressing vouchers; even some of the school's original coat hooks, and of course "being Head for a day".

The cashier on the night, who shall remain anonymous for security reasons, said it had been like a crazy shift down at the local bank on a Friday afternoon. The final impressive total was £5,700.

The school is now organising its Summer Fair, to be held on Saturday 14 June from 12noon to 4pm and to include some exciting new attractions. Everyone is welcome.

Naomi Burgess MSc Ed Psych CPsychol AFBPsS



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The kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood has re-opened whilst the pavilion cafe development is held up. Photo Mike Coles

Work stops on pavilion

At the time of writing, building work to renovate the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood has come to a halt. Plans to turn it into a coffee bar are on hold as damage and deterioration resulting from thirty years of abandonment are proving to be a greater problem than first envisaged. Efforts to maintain the original structure and design could be enormously expensive and time consuming.

However, park users are able to get food and drink because the kiosk by the tennis courts is open again. It is being run by Pepe while he waits for developments in his plans to refurbish the pavilion.

To view the plans visit the planning applications section of www.barnet.gov.uk and search planning reference F/02410/13.

Kiosk in the park, see Letters, page 11

At your convenience

The toilets in Cherry Tree Wood have been undergoing renovation, much to the relief of park users. In recent weeks there have been several complaints about the loos being locked.

Hopefully the work will soon be finished and the facilities will be up and running in time for the East Finchley Community Festival.

Cake and company

By Sippy Azizollah

May 10 was World Lupus Day so I arranged a Coffee and Cake morning at The Five Bells pub in East End Road. I had asked my supporters to bake a cake or biscuits to share and I was absolutely thrilled with the turn out. There were 13 guests around the table welcoming two new members to the North London Lupus Group.

I love these meetings as it really helps to talk about the condition and share thoughts and ideas to help us cope with day to day problems. Thank you to all who came, and a huge thank you to Five Bells manager Trudy for letting us hold our event, and for her time, raffle prize and help to make the morning so special.

I drew the raffle at the end of the morning, and I'm glad everyone won a prize. We raised £100 which is fantastic! Thank you everybody, your cakes were delicious!

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Michael manages marathon despite injury

By Diana Cormack

Despite picking up an injury in his final training session, Michael Michaeloudis went ahead with his run in the Virgin London Marathon on 13 April.

He struggled through the final stages but managed to complete the course in a commendable time of just over four hours. Michael, of Lynmouth Road, N2 was running to raise money for the charity Leonard Cheshire Disability which cares for his close friend Nik (*THE ARCHER*, February 2014). He would like to thank all those who supported him with their donations. Family, friends and the local community contributed to an impressive total of £3,068.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Unconscious coupling

I always reckoned that when the going got seriously weird the weird turned pro, but that was before I discovered conscious uncoupling. Now I realise I was wrong. I have seen the light at the end of the tunnel and know that it is an approaching train of unconsciousness.

Back when Gwyneth was a film star and Chris was in the most unrock'n'roll band in London they discovered conscious coupling. They even discovered that if you did it often enough you could make babies and call them after the contents of your fruit bowl. But the moment they headed for California you just knew that weirdness was going to take over.

And guess what, it has and now they've decided to weird out the English language. So, now is the time not to turn pro, but to reach for the vital ingredients of modern life; drink, drugs and insanity and turn being odd into an art form.

Weirdness is what California does, it has given us blue sky thinking and deferred success. OK, so blue sky thinking means coming up with something so insane that only the completely deranged would believe it and pass it off as inspiration. Like issuing a statement on your Facebook page announcing that you've decided to consciously uncouple from your marriage. And deferred success? Simple, when it comes to personal relationship issues everyone outside the sunshine state of mind calls it being dumped.

But we are on the West Coast and out there words have turned wacky. Now we know you don't meet someone, fall into bed, fall in love, fall out of love and split up. Now we know that you consciously couple, have a blue sky moment (a good name for your second child), have relationship issues and finally consciously uncouple. It all sounds far too clean for anyone who likes things sordid.

What I want to know is if unconscious coupling is something bizarrely tantric or a drunken romp after the kind of party you drink to forget? And does unconscious uncoupling mean being too out to lunch to notice you've been dumped? And what does that say about Coldplay's new record? We are professionals, we should be told.

Marmite might help sick foxes

By Daphne Chamberlain

We all know how common and how bold the urban fox is becoming. Last month I saw one enjoying a mid-evening stroll along a busy road in Holloway.

Love them or hate them, they are beautiful animals, but not when they develop mange. Sarcoptal mange is a horrible and ultimately fatal condition caused by parasites burrowing into the skin. It affects dogs and other mammals too.

If your local fox is obviously sick, you can contact the National Fox Welfare Society. This is a charity which has been active for more than 20 years. It sends bottles of healing drops to be added to food free of charge (around 300 to 400 bottles a month). In very severe cases, the society also arranges for cage traps.

Sometimes though, the fox (or your dog) may have dry hair and hair loss because of unsaturated fat or vitamin deficiency. In these cases, a teaspoonful of sunflower oil, fresh liver and/or a sprinkling of vitamin powder or "stress powder" from pet shops can do the trick. Alternatively,

just put down some Marmite sandwiches.

All this information, plus much more, comes from the website of the National Fox Welfare Society www.nfws.org.uk.

Health and wellbeing

Barnet Senior Citizens Assembly is holding a Health and Wellbeing event which is open to all on 10 June from 10.30am to 3pm at Hendon Town Hall.

Topics under discussion will be your GP and changes to healthcare in Barnet, how your pharmacist can help with healthcare, how to keep your brain active, and special services for heart attack, stroke and dementia sufferers and their carers.

Stars at the Proms

Proms at St Jude's, the music and literary festival in Hampstead Garden Suburb, opens on Saturday 21 June. From Bernstein and Sondheim to Mozart and Schubert; from *La Bohème* to *The Lark Ascending* there are nine days of concerts to suit all tastes. Among the big names are Endellion String Quartet, violinist Tasmin Little and soprano Lesley Garrett.

You can enjoy a literary weekend with reminiscences from Edna O'Brien, journalistic secrets from Lynn Barber and crises of identity from Sathnam Sanghera. There are free lunchtime recitals and concerts for kids. For those who want to be active there are eight guided heritage walks in and around Hampstead Garden Suburb, one especially aimed at families with children.

This is the 22nd year of the festival which runs from 21-29 June at Henrietta Barnett School and St Jude-on-the-Hill church. The festival raises funds for the North London Hospice and for Toynbee Hall which helps socially excluded young people. Online booking at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk. Telephone booking on 020 3322 8123.

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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** 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.
- **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. All musicians welcome 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.

June at the Phoenix

By Phoenix Cinema executive director Elizabeth Taylor-Meads

Starting off June's weekly features is *Jimmy Hall*, the latest from directorial master Ken Loach, a heart-warming story of a notorious 1930s Irish Communist's attempts to open a dance hall in his home town. Join us for a Q&A with the director on Wednesday 4 June.

On Sunday 8 June at 2pm meet **Nell Dunn**, a famed novelist and authentic voice of the changing world of London in the 1960s, as she joins us for a rare screening of the 1965 BBC adaptation of her controversial book *Up the Junction*, coincidentally directed by Ken Loach. Seen by an astounding 10 million viewers, it stirred such national debate as to instigate the Abortion Act of 1968. Following the screening Ms. Dunn will take part in an on-stage conversation.

Advanced Style, a documentary based on Ari Seth Cohen's famed blog, paints enchanting portraits of independent stylish women aged 62 to 95 as they challenge conventional ideas about beauty, aging and our obsession with youth, on Sunday 22 June.

Our weekly runs in June include a charming family-friendly tidbit from Amelie director Jean-Pierre Jeunet called *T.S. Spivet*, followed by the divine Fanny Ardant in *Bright Days Ahead*, playing a married woman who falls for a much younger man. Ending the month is *Chef*, a mouth-watering, hip-swaying, laugh-out-loud hit with Dustin Hoffman and other stars.

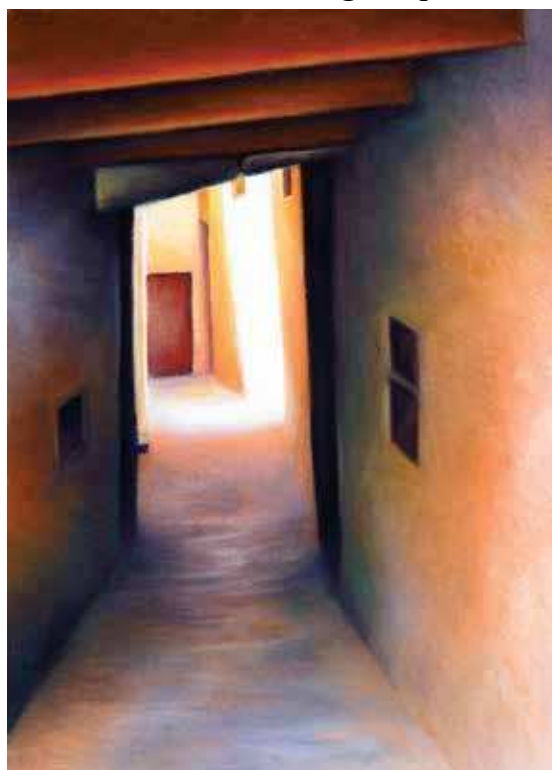
June is indeed "bustin' out all over" with live performance transmissions. Visual genius/ex-Python Terry Gilliam directs *Benvenuto Cellini* for the ENO on 17 June, and the National Theatre's production of Alan Ayckbourn's *A Small Family Business* screens on 12 June.

For details of these and more, visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Pastel work on show

Work by artist Christine Watson, of Creighton Avenue, has been selected from almost 700 entries to appear alongside paintings by some of Britain's leading pastel artists. The Pastel Society UK's annual exhibition will be on display at Mall Galleries near Trafalgar Square from 10 to 21 June.

The Pastel Society holds an open submission exhibition in central London each year. Founded in 1898, with historical membership including Walter Crane and Dame Laura Knight, today the society is well known for spanning figurative, abstract and experimental work in all types of dry media.



Fez Alley by Christine Watson.



Talk: Virginia McKenna. Photo copyright Andy Gott

An afternoon with Virginia

Virginia McKenna OBE, famed for her roles in the stage version of *The King and I* and the films *Born Free* and *Ring of Bright Water*, and more recently with her late husband Bill Travers as founder of the Born Free Foundation, will be giving an afternoon talk at Avenue House in East End Road on Wednesday 9 July at 3pm in support of the North London Hospice. Tickets are £20 including tea and cakes. To book call Bill Tyler on 020 8883 2006 or the hospice on 020 8446 2288.

Cinema turns comedy venue

Review by Danny Avner

The Phoenix Cinema saw a full house on Monday 12 May when four critically acclaimed comedians played for one night only in order to raise funds for the Archer Academy. The local community came out in droves to support the event and were treated to a fantastic evening of first-class comedy.

The sell-out show was compered by local comedian Ian Stone, a current parent at the Archer Academy, whose quick wit and repartee seamlessly paved the way for the subsequent three acts. First to take centre stage was Romesh Ranganathan, with his self-deprecating, acerbic observations.

Next was the wonderful Pippa Evans who appeared as her sociopathic singer-songwriter alter ego Loretta Maine. The final act was the arch-pragmatist, Milton Jones, who is renowned for his quick-fire, ingenious one liners.

It was an absolute delight and pleasure to be in the audience.

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

Sunday 8 June

• **Garden open** for the National Gardens Scheme charities, 48 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 6HG, 2-6pm. Teas, plants for sale (inc tomato plants, perennials, house plants). Admission £3.50, children free.

• **Free concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. Catherine Morphet (clarinet), Ted Barry (violin) and Gillian Cracknell (piano) play Milhaud, Mozart, Debussy and Finzi. Collection in aid of The Alzheimer's Society. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Saturday 14 June

• **Singalong a Showtune** with Sister Mary McArthur, Highgate's very own star-struck nun, at Lauderdale House, Highgate, at 10am and 11.30am. Join in with all your favourite songs from the musicals: Chitty

Chitty Bang Bang, Mary Poppins, Beauty and the Beast, and loads more. Ages 3-8. Adults £4.50 adults and children £3. Telephone: 020 8348 8716.

• **Martin School Summer Fun Day**, Plane Tree Walk, East Finchley, from noon to 3pm. An afternoon of activities and refreshments for the whole family. All welcome.

• **Summer Flower Show** hosted by Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society at the Free Church Hall in Northway, NW11, from 3pm to 5.30pm. TV star Jonathan Ross will judge the children's fancy dress and adults' fancy hats competitions. More details at www.hortsoc.co.uk/events

Thursday 19 □ Saturday 21 June

Southgate Opera presents The Tales of Hoffmann. 7.30pm at Wylyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HN. Sung in English, with a full orchestra. Box Office 01707 645005 or www.wylyottstheatre.co.uk.

Saturday 21 June

• **Barnet Ghosts**: special guided walk for the Summer Solstice with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube station, 7.30pm. More information from 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 June

• **Proms at St Jude's**, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Full programme of top-class music and literary guests, including Lesley Garrett, Tasmin Little and author Edna O'Brien. Full details at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

Sunday 22 June

• **East Finchley Community Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12-6pm. Bands, live entertainment, crafts, food and drink. Don't miss this annual extravaganza!

Thursday 26 June

• **The Finchley Society AGM**. 8pm at Stephens House (formerly Avenue House), East End Road, N3 3QE. Non-members very

welcome, at £2 admission.

Saturday 28 June

• **Brookland Infant School Summer Fair**, Hill Top, NW11 6EJ. 12-4pm. An afternoon of fun for all the family. Stalls, Bumper slide and donkey rides, BBQ and other refreshments.

Saturday 5 July

• **Moth morning at Long Lane Pasture**, opposite the fire station, as part of National Moth Night. Volunteers identify moths caught in traps set overnight. Previous years have identified 100 different moths. Event will be postponed if bad weather overnight. All moths trapped will be released.

Wednesday 9 July

• Wildlife campaigner and actress **Virginia McKenna** gives an afternoon talk at Stephens (formerly Avenue) House, East End Road, at 3pm. Tickets £20 include tea and cakes available from Bill Tyler on 020 8883 2006 or the hospice on 020 8446 2288.



Letters

The pavilion and the kiosk

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to Eugene Myerson's letter in May's *Archer* please.

Firstly, thank you Eugene for your kind words. The last few months of running the kiosk, just as my five-year lease was due to expire, I was feeling worn out and looked forward to a change.

I always knew the kiosk was only a temporary building designed to be relocated to another park once the pavilion had been developed and operating as a cafe. Sadly, the efforts of a dedicated steering committee of local residents that I formed to make this happen did not come to fruition.

I would like to make clear that Barnet Council did not give me notice to leave the kiosk. The council offered me a temporary lease on the kiosk until the new operator that had been granted a lease on the pavilion was ready to trade. I declined the offer as I wanted a change of scene and move on to new things, so I liaised with a nearby cafe, where I knew pupils from the nearby TreeHouse school trained, to step in and run it instead.

I thoroughly enjoyed training the pupils from the TreeHouse School whilst at the kiosk, so this is the direction I have now moved into and have found a job that I love and my heart is in once again. The charity I now work for and the TreeHouse School sent a proposal to Barnet Council at the end of last year to continue operating the kiosk as a training facility until the pavilion was ready to trade. Our proposal was declined, as we were told that the pavilion would be ready to trade by early 2014 and that the kiosk was being relocated to another park.

Due to structural problems, the pavilion has not opened as early as anticipated, therefore rather than leaving the park without any refreshment facilities, the council has granted the new pavilion operator a temporary lease on the kiosk.

Should the Pavilion plans fall through, the charity I now work for in collaboration with the TreeHouse School would like to resubmit our proposal to reopen the kiosk as a training facility for young people should it come back up for tender. If this does not happen, I shall be taking away a lot of wonderful memories from my time in Cherry Tree Wood with me and Rob and I would like to again thank all of our lovely customers over the years for their support and wish you all well.

Yours faithfully,
Sally Wigfield,
Address supplied.

Unsightly and unsafe

Dear Editor,

Am I the only one ashamed and revolted by the huge amount of dog poo in our streets? Every single day, to get to their nursery, school or work, hundreds of children and adults use The Walks, the public footpath that runs through East Finchley from New Trinity Road to East Finchley tube station. For many, the footpath is the safest way to get to their destination, away from the heavy traffic on the High Road.

Every single day, we all face potentially walking in dog poo on that path. Whereas it may not be too difficult for adults to avoid, it is hard to keep your small children safe as

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"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.

they bounce along.

Today, I spotted no less than five poohs on a tiny stretch of the path that runs between Leopold Road and Leslie Road.

Not only does such a huge amount of pooh in our streets make East Finchley look grotty and undesirable as a neighbourhood (so much for the "East Finchley Village" marketing exercise!), it also poses a health risk as dog poo can transmit various diseases such as roundworms, salmonella and E-coli.

I met three council workers from the gardening department who were about to start their work on one of the estates along the path. They told me how they are regularly covered in pooh as they mow the lawns.

It is clear that some residents will never have consideration of others. But please can we have more signs up warning people of the £100 fine that will be enforced on anyone caught not tidying up after their dog.

I urge Barnet Council to consider making enforcement officers more visible along the path to send the right signal: that this is not a place for people to take their dogs to the toilet.

Yours faithfully,
Pernille Richards
New Trinity Road, N2.

Scottish vitriol

Dear Editor,

I read the 'Kalashnikov Kultur' column for May with genuine surprise. The tone of *The Archer* is normally a warm and welcoming one. To read a piece of ignorant, racist diatribe masquerading as humour is astonishing. The piece seems to me ignorant because of the crude and offensive stereotyping. The Scots have contributed a huge amount to the life of the United Kingdom, although I suppose there is a degree of subjectivity about such an assessment. My family is Scottish and perhaps I value the contribution of the Scots more highly than those without a Scottish connection. I personally would hugely regret the imposition of a new border between Scotland and England and the division that would entail. As a litmus test for racism, though, try substituting 'Jewish' or 'Nigerian' for 'Scottish'. I hope *The Archer* would not have published anything anti-Semitic which criticised Jewish culinary ability or diet or suggested inherent aggressiveness and so on, ending by suggesting Jews should be expelled. In case you are in any doubt, the definition of race for legal discrimination purposes in the Equality Act includes direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of national origins. I hope that Ricky Savage intended the piece to be amusing rather than offensive and that he simply catastrophically misjudged the tone, as did his editor. Frankly, though, the vitriol of the piece and the lack of any good word for the Scots leaves me thinking he really does hold the racist views he expresses.

Yours faithfully,
Colin Yeo,
Ingram Road, N2.

Stroma has landed

By Daphne Chamberlain

ARCHER deliverer Stroma Leith made her charity skydive last month. It was something she had always wanted to do, but did it live up to her expectations? She told us, "Yes it did, but if you blow up any of the photos of me descending, I look very 'po faced', probably because I was feeling a tiny bit sick from all the spinning around and was looking forward to landing!"

"It was nerve-wracking having to fall out face first at 13,000 feet, descending for 7,000 feet before the parachute was deployed. Wow! You fall at 120 mph and the wind buffets you, but you are very tightly strapped to your instructor. (The straps dig in a bit.) Then when he opened the parachute it was lovely and quiet and he pointed out landmarks (Silverstone was close by) and spun us around to look this way and that, which was what was slightly sick-making!!

"Anyway, I did it! And the weather was brilliant. Many thanks to everyone for your donations and support. I am so grateful."

At the time of writing Stroma had raised about £2,000 for the North London Hospice, with a little more still to come in. There is still time to contribute; either via www.doitforcharity.com/stroma, or by cheque to the hospice. Taxpayers can increase the amount donated by giving their address.

Life models for would-be artists

Here's your chance to try drawing from real-life models. Lauderdale House in Highgate is running drop-in life drawing sessions throughout the summer term.

Two models are available, one maintaining longer poses for up to an hour and another keeping shorter poses from five to 15 minutes.

You don't need any experience but do need to take your own materials. Paper will be on sale. Sessions run on Fridays until 18 July (half term 30 May) from 10am to 1pm. Fees are £10.50 with £8.50 concessions and no booking is necessary. Find out more from www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

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.



Warning to fellow dog owners

By Tania Gordon

Our beloved Ziggy has suffered the horrors of five unprovoked and vicious attacks by unleashed pit bull mix dogs over the past five years. The last horrific attack was fatal.

Be aware of unleashed, untrained and highly aggressive dogs, over which their owners have no control. These dogs are dangerous and are certainly capable of attacking humans too.

Sadly, such dog-on-dog attacks continue to occur without any recourse to the law as it stands (the police will only get involved if a human is specifically targeted and injured). The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which was amended in 1997, is at present undergoing further amendments. However, the act is not routinely being enforced.

The majority of dog-on-dog attacks are not reported or documented and the true prevalence is therefore not known. Please contact us via the email address below with any details regarding similar experiences in your area.

Hopefully, by collating this information, we might be able to appeal to the authorities to acknowledge the severity of this issue and take action to protect our dogs and our families in the future.

Thank you and take care.

ziggygt9@gmail.com

Editor's note: The alterations to the Dangerous Dogs Act have just been released and include longer prison sentences for the owners of dogs who kill humans, plus prosecutions if a dog attacks someone on private property or in their home. Punishment for dog-on-dog attacks applies only if the attack is on a guide dog.

Soup kitchen theatre

Fixation Theatre, based at Finchley Youth Theatre, is staging its first charity performance event to raise awareness about homelessness in London and raise funds for local charity Homeless Action Barnet (HAB).

Spare Change will be a multi-accessible performance event, with the audience being greeted in a soup kitchen, along with music performances, drama monologues and poetry.

The performance takes place at the theatre in the High Road on Thursday 10 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 each (includes £3 donation). More details at www.fixationtheatre.com.

Chip your dog

The law is changing. As from 6 April 2016 you must have your dog microchipped. Contact the Dogs Trust on 020 7837 0006 for more details or visit www.chipmydog.org.uk

Optometrist looking for research volunteers

By Diana Cormack

Since his student days when he was learning optometry, David Hillel Burns has carried an idea about a basic and simple eyesight measurement. Over the years he has thought about a better way of measuring the extent of accommodation, which is how the eye automatically focuses at different distances. Now David is researching this seriously and to do so he needs your help.

However, you must be between 18 and 43 years of age because your eyes are fully matured after that. As David put it, "It's the last part of growing up that we do." If you would like to be involved in this doctorate research project you would need to attend two sessions, each of about an hour, at David Hillel Optician, 119 High Road.

Held during normal opening hours at a time to suit you, there is no payment but refreshments and agreed expenses such as for public transport within five miles will be available. It will be comfortable, with no side effects and you will not be asked to use any drugs or eye drops. Information collected by the research will remain confidential.

Everyone who completes the research will be entered into a free prize draw for a new iPad mini, with two runner-up prizes of a pair of classic RayBan sun glasses. For further details contact David at 119 High Road, telephone 020 8444 2233 or email office@davidhillel.co.uk



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Bug blog

New York has Spider-Man, East Finchley has Bugwoman. This mysterious (alas, not masked) nature lover is a life-long Londoner, now living in the county roads.

As a child she spent most of her time in her pocket-hanky sized garden in Stratford, digging up insects with her mother's cutlery and marking ants with paint so that she would recognise them individually when she saw them next.



A ladybird in Bugwoman's garden in the County Roads.

Now a slightly scruffy middle-aged woman (her own description), Bugwoman is still fascinated by the plants and animals that surround us even in the midst of the city. She has promised to write about them on her blog every Saturday for

Here's a small extract:

One of the things that I most recommend if you feel downhearted, or stressed, or distracted, is to find a little piece of greenness and sit in it for a few minutes. It can be a garden, a city square, a park, a field. I can guarantee that after a few minutes, you will notice something. Maybe there will be an insect doing something interesting, or a leaf that doesn't look quite like all the others. If you close your eyes, you will hear birdsong threading its way between the sounds of the traffic and the chattering of passersby. For a few minutes you will be taken out of your head and into the big, rich, varied world around you, with all kinds of organisms going about their daily lives. If you are like me, you will realise just how much you don't know, and your curiosity will be piqued, but more than that you will be restored to your true, animal self, the one that knows that the deadline, the perceived slight, the to-do list, are all superficial compared to the hum of bees and the insistent pounding of sap below the bark.



A frog in Bugwoman's garden

the next five years (her first post was on 15 February this year) so she spends the week finding interesting creatures and plants to discuss with her readers.

Recently, she has also been posting on Wednesdays about the 'weeds' that grow unnoticed and uncelebrated at the bottoms of walls and which pop up unexpectedly in her garden.

Bugwoman is not a scientist or a wildlife expert, but she is curious, and loves to share what she discovers. Recently, she has recorded an angry squirrel in Cherry Tree Wood, celebrated the appearance of mistle thrushes and discovered that Shepherd's Purse is used in a Japanese festive dish.

She has stalked snails and slugs with a spotlight on a Saturday evening, and used the algae on the bark of the London Plane trees on the High Road to help her find her way home. You can enjoy Bugwoman's adventures on <http://bugwomanlondon.com/>



Rosa, two and Lucy, one, get watering.

Our beans are growing

By Susie Huntington

I saw the plant and seed exchange advertised in the last edition of *THE ARCHER*. It was the first year we had been and I will definitely be returning next year. I took my one-year-old daughter along and she enjoyed selecting seeds and beans, some of which are heritage varieties not available in the shops. We've planted them in our old recycling boxes in our garden in Leslie Road and I'm hoping the anti-rodent/fox netting works. So far, so good.

Fancy that, it's Wossy

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society is delighted to announce that its president and TV chat show host Jonathan Ross has once again agreed to judge the children's fancy dress and the adults' fancy hats competitions at the Summer Flower Show on Saturday 14 June at the Free Church Hall in Northway, NW11, from 3.00-5.30pm.

As well as the usual competitive classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables and other home-grown produce, for the first time there will also be a table at the show with

home-made jam, marmalade and other preserves for sale

in aid of the North London Hospice.

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