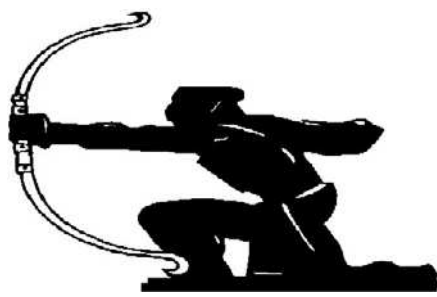


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Damp but determined: The Big Fun Walkers set off from the tube station. Photo Karen Plum/courtesy of North London Hospice.

On their heels for the hospice

Despite the cold and rain on Sunday 6 April around 1,000 walkers walked seven and a half miles across London in aid of North London Hospice.

Big Fun Walk participants set off from East Finchley underground station and made their way through many of London's Royal Parks before being welcomed to the finishing point at Storey's Gate in Westminster, where a host of entertainment, including a jazz band, and much-needed refreshments, were waiting.

Jo Balkin, who was walking as part of the 'Angela's Angels' group, said: "We are taking part in the walk in memory of my dear friend Angela Moon-

shine, mother of Sophie and daughter of Betty, who died at the hospice last Christmas. The care that Angela received was outstanding. It means an enormous amount to us to be here today."

North London chief executive Pam McClinton said: "Thanks to everyone who made the event such a success. This is a vital event for the Hospice, raising about £120,000 every year. In such a challenging fundraising environment, and with more than £7 million to

raise every year to continue to provide our specialist care, every walker and every penny raised really counts."

All money raised will go towards providing specialist care and support to terminally ill patients and their families in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Burglaries: We're not even in the top 50!

By Janet Maitland

We reported in March that a survey conducted by the price comparison website Moneysupermarket ranked N2 fifth overall on a list of UK postal districts where homes are most at risk of burglaries. Twelve of the top 20 districts most at risk were in Greater London.

In order to see how the Moneysupermarket survey compared with recorded crime, *THE ARCHER* asked the Metropolitan Police to provide us with the top 20 burglary hotspots in Greater London. Not only was N2 not in the police top 20 in 2013, it wasn't even in the top 50.

Burglaries drop in N2 and N10

We ranked 122nd with 167 recorded burglaries, a big improvement on 2012 when N2 nearly scraped into the top 50, ranking 52nd with 237 burglaries.

Muswell Hill, which ranked third in the country in the Moneysupermarket survey, was seventh in the police top 20 in 2012. But in 2013 burglaries dropped substantially, taking N10 out of the top 50 and down to a rank of 64th.

The Moneysupermarket survey is not based on police data about crime rates for burglary, but on insurance claims for burglary made over the last two years. And Moneysupermarket's crime rates are based on the rate of claims per 1,000 households, rather than the police method of rate per 1,000 population.

Nevertheless, the lists should not be that different. But only five of the Moneysupermarket's 12 London postal districts that featured in their UK top 20 were included in the police top 20 for 2013, and only three in 2012.

Explaining the difference
We asked Moneysupermarket how they would account for this.

"The volume of claims was not a factor when we ordered our postcodes," said Moneysupermarket spokesperson Nicola Parry. "We grouped the policies by postal district, and then within each district we proportioned out which policies did and didn't have a claim to achieve a rate per thousand households. The ones with the highest rates were ranked top and so on." Ms Parry also thought that some of the difference might be explained by the fact that not everyone whose home is burgled and reports the crime to the police is insured.

However, the Moneysupermarket figures may still have an impact on us all. A high proportion of insurance claims in an area give it a higher risk profile, potentially leading to more expensive policies for everyone living there.

On page 2 we print the top 20 postal districts for burglaries, with figures provided by the Metropolitan Police.

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

Copy deadlines – June: 16 May, July: 13 June, August: 11 July

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

Burglaries: London top 20

Here are the top 20 postal districts in Greater London for residential burglaries, 2013. Figures are provided by the Metropolitan Police.

1. SE24, Herne Hill, 13.6 burglaries per 1,000 population in 2013
 2. RM6, Chadwell Heath, 13.3
 3. TW5, Heston, 11.6
 4. SE27, West Norwood, 11.5
 5. SE14, New Cross, 11.3
 6. SE21, Dulwich, 11.1
 7. UB6, Greenford, 11.1
 8. SE4, Brockley, 11.1
 9. RM8, Dagenham, 10.9
 10. N11, New Southgate, Friern Barnet, Bounds Green, 10.8
 11. IG4, Redbridge, 10.7
 12. SE22, East Dulwich, 10.6
 13. RM13, Rainham, 10.6
 14. E7, Forest Gate, 10.6
 15. NW4, Hendon, Brent Cross, 10.4
 16. CR7, Thornton Heath, 10.4
 17. SE19, Upper Norwood, 10.3
 18. N4, Finsbury Park, 10.2
 19. E12, Manor Park, 10.2
 20. SE26, Sydenham, 10.2
- And where is N2?
122. East Finchley, Fortis Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb, 6.7 (in 2012, N2 was 52nd on the list with 9.5 residential burglaries per 1,000 population; in 2012, Muswell Hill N10 was 7th on the list with 12.6 residential burglaries per 1,000 population).

Can you deliver?

THE ARCHER is looking for a volunteer to deliver papers to Archer Gardens, the new homes between Lancaster Gardens and Strawberry Vale.

Can you spare 20 minutes once a month to deliver the paper to readers there? Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

Burglary at opticians

By Janet Maitland

The opticians David Hiller on the High Road has been burgled for the second time in two years. Burglars broke in by smashing the glass on the front door with a crow bar in the early hours of Monday 7 April. They stole a couple of dozen assorted frames and sunglasses estimated at £2,000 in value, damaging a display case and a storage cupboard.

A neighbour heard the alarm at about 1.30 am and called 999. Police responded quickly but were just a few minutes too late to catch the burglars. The alarm company contacted the shop owner David Hiller Burns, who arrived at the shop to find the police already taking forensic evidence. Police also took away CCTV footage of the burglary.

Mr Burns spent the rest of the night clearing up the damage. "As I cleared up I was thinking, I'm in this for the eyesight, why do I have to do this?" he said. "But I've got to provide a service and one just accepts that it won't always be easy."

One of the two burglars is described as a white man wearing a dark coloured hooded top, dark jeans and white trainers. The other man was also white, wearing a grey coloured hooded Nike top, blue jeans and black and white trainers.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101 quoting

reference number 2407724/14 or to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Falls awareness

Age UK Barnet and Home Instead Barnet teamed up in March to present a Falls Awareness event at the Ann Owens Centre. Falling is one of the major reasons for hospital admittance among older people, and this event provided information and advice. People attending also enjoyed demonstrations of exercise and dancing.

If you would like to attend or participate in another Falls Awareness event in June, during National Falls Awareness week, contact Deborah Cura of Age UK Barnet on 020 8432 1420 or email Deborah.cura@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

18 Bedford Road, N2

Rear extension, to facilitate wheelchair lift and shower room.

95 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey rear infill extension.

19 Church Lane, N2

Pitched roof brick shed at rear of garden. 3m deep, single-storey rear extension to house, with flat roof to living room. Part single/part two-storey front extension, to link with existing ground-floor projection under extended matching pantiled roofs. New front door. Ground-floor window to replace garage doors. Semi-dormer first-floor window. New side windows at ground and first floor levels. Replacement timber framed double-glazed windows throughout. Photovoltaic panels on rear roof slope.

East Finchley Station, N2

Wireless access points and associated works.

85A High Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension to third-floor flat.

Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, High Road, N2

Demolition of disused glass houses and horticultural buildings, including plant, and reinstatement of site to cemetery use. To include mausoleum development.

30 Lancaster Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Maximum depth 4.4m from rear wall. Eaves height and maximum height 3m.

340 Long Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension, including two skylights. Side windows at ground-floor level.

69 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension to ground-floor flat.

3 Summerlee Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Loft conversion, including replacement rear dormer window and one front roof light.

Haringey Council

15 Beech Drive, N2

Formation of front dormer.

17 Springcroft Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

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Post Office to move this month

The battle to save East Finchley Post Office in its current premises has been lost. All services will be relocated to Universal Office Equipment on the opposite side of the High Road from Thursday 22 May.

Campaigners wanted to keep the Crown Post Office where it is and 2,350 people signed a petition supporting that aim. They raised concerns about loss of staff expertise and worries about space and access in UOE.

But the Post Office announced on 8 April that the new franchise arrangement will go ahead. Staff will be redeployed or take voluntary redundancy and the existing premises in Viceroy Parade will be put on the market.

Campaigners' responses

Campaigner Gerard Sagar said it was disappointing news but that they would continue searching for other ways of challenging the move.

Huw Davies, a CWU union representative for Crown Office counter staff in the Greater London area, said: "It's deeply disappointing that further franchising is being considered when there are so many negative connotations linked with this model. Staff and customers alike will be concerned at this news."

Those fighting the transfer hoped their campaign had been given a second chance when the Post Office extended its public consultation in February. Its original publicity failed to mention that many services would be located at the rear of the UOE shop up a small set of steps, meaning a lift would be needed for disabled customers and parents with buggies.

One thousand extra petition signatures were collected in the extended consultation period but they made no difference to the final outcome.

The Post Office has said that a serving point will be available towards the middle of UOE on the lower level for those unable to negotiate the steps or lift.

Of the Viceroy Parade premises, a spokesman told *THE ARCHER*: "The Post Office has given notice to the landlord that it will be terminating the lease on its current site. It will be up to the freeholder to decide how it wishes to deal with the property."

For mothers everywhere

Mothering Sunday was celebrated at All Saints' Church in Durham Road with the traditional distribution of flowers to every member of the congregation. During the service some of the children presented a drama they had written on the importance of the church in their own lives.

Afterwards the Mothers' Union held a market stall to raise funds for their projects in London. These include supporting parents of patients in Great Ormond Street Hospital, encouraging young female prisoners in Holloway and Bronzefield prisons, and Away From It All, a scheme providing holidays and respite breaks for families with difficulties.



Shelley Cameron (on the left), Jenny Daybell and Naomi Cameron distribute daffodils at the Mothering Sunday celebrations at All Saint's Church.

Headteacher who led a transformation

By Toni Morgan

At the end of the Easter term Bishop Douglass RC School bade farewell to head teacher Angela Murphy. When she was appointed 11 years ago, the school in Hamilton Road was in special measures but she has led its transformation, culminating in a fantastic Ofsted report in 2013.

Miss Murphy is currently recognised as a 'National Leader' in education for the Pupil Premium programme and works to support other schools.

A thanksgiving mass for her services to education was held at the school on 2 April, attended by representatives from the local diocese, Barnet Local Authority and many colleagues, staff and friends.

The evening began with addresses given by the school's head boy and head girl, followed by a welcome from the Chair of Governors and messages from staff and students. During the mass a homily was given by Fr Michael O'Boy, a former pupil and head boy of Bishop Douglass.

Long service

Angela Murphy retires after 38 years of service to education which included 24 years as a head teacher. She took up her first teaching post at Bishop Challoner School, after which she joined the Archdiocese of Westminster's Education Directorate as a Youth Officer with Cardinal Hume before becoming Head of Learning Support at St Richard of Chichester.

Senior leadership roles followed: deputy head teacher at Crusoe House School, head teacher at Stormont House School and then secondment to Kingsland School as head teacher.



Angela Murphy is presented with flowers. Photo Toni Morgan

The world of education will not be losing Angela's experience, knowledge and skills for she will be taking on

a consultancy role. She carries with her all the good wishes of her colleagues, staff and pupils for a full and happy retirement.

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One of the vandalised cars in Deansway. Photo Martin Addison.

Cars vandalised

By Janet Maitland

Three cars were vandalised on Deansway sometime during the night of 25 March. All of the cars had their windows smashed on the driver's side.

The three cars were a blue Ford Focus, parked opposite the junction with Brim Hill, a grey Volkswagen Polo left next to the junction with Edmunds Walk, and a silver Jeep, which was opposite the junction with Vivian Way.

Police were called to Dean-

sway at about 7am on 26 March. No arrests have yet been made and enquiries continue. Anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101 or to ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or go to <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information-online>

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

Give blood and save a life

By Diana Cormack

The NHS Blood and Transplant Service held a special award ceremony at the Hilton London Green Park Hotel on 21 February. After welcome speeches, thirty four donors and their partners enjoyed a tasty lunch followed by the presentations. These were made by Emma Paine, a personable young woman representing all those who have benefited from being given blood.

Twenty two people received the Emerald Award for their seventy five donations and twelve received the Diamond Award for a hundred donations. This is the equivalent of twelve and a half bodies full! One of the Diamond Award winners was Ian Cormack of Cherry Tree Road. Ian has also been a platelet donor and is presently on a trial course to measure the effect of giving blood every two months.

Dominic Sutherland, Lead Donor Relations Marketing Manager, called these donors "silent heroes" and, in emphasising the need for more donors, said that less than 5% of the population here gives blood.

Sadly, because of "mad cow disease" British blood is no longer accepted in many other countries, including Australia and the USA.

Young and old welcome

There is a time limit set on people donating after tattoos and piercings and on those who have had certain illnesses, but otherwise most of the community has the ability to save a life by giving blood. Young people are especially encouraged to start donating and there is now no upper age limit, depending on your fitness and health.

Mobile units are being phased out as it is thought to be more cost-effective to hold blood donor sessions in local



Ian Cormack with his award for making 100 donations.

Photo Diana Cormack

venues such as church halls, where more people can be dealt with at one time. The whole procedure takes about an hour, including a rest and cuppa afterwards. For more information about giving blood call 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk

Mealworms and cayenne pepper

By Ann Bronkhorst

If wild birds aren't flocking to your garden, where are they? Chances are they're hanging out at Jaelen Allen's patch near Coldfall Wood.

On 25 March at Coldfall School Jaelen shared her experiences in attracting wild birds to her garden.

Illustrating the talk with her own excellent photographs and with a variety of feeders, often adapted or home-made, Jaelen described more than 20 kinds of wild birds that visit her small garden.

Personal favourites are jays and long-tailed tits but she delights in them all, even the gangs of messy starlings, the magpies ("the bird everyone loves to hate") and the alarm-



Rough-textured wood nailed onto a commercial feeder allows this greater spotted woodpecker to get a grip. Photo by Jaelen Allen

ing sparrowhawk which came, posed for its photograph and departed.

Feeding

Jaelen has plenty of tips about bird food: sprays of millet to please the sparrows; monkey nuts to please the jays when acorns are scarce; live mealworms for protein and moisture (soak the dried ones in boiling water); suet balls or blocks in winter only, as melted fat on feathers transfers to eggshells, affecting their natural porosity. Clean, accessible water is a must: in winter more birds die of thirst than of hunger, according to the RSPB.

Feeding stations can be squirrel-proofed by painting the pole with olive oil and a

dusting of cayenne pepper; the birds don't mind it. Jaelen even wires long bramble stems over the top of her feeding station to deter squirrels. She is critical of 'novelty' feeders which are hard to clean, badly-designed or easily tipped over. Jaelen often adapts or combines commercial feeders, creates her own and sources materials from suppliers of game-bird equipment.

Nesting

When nesting starts in spring, she suggests making a patch of damp mud available for hen blackbirds to use and hanging up a container of mixed fibres such as corncob 'silk' and horsehair for birds to plunder. She fixes nestboxes high up and in shade, with an empty wire hanging basket in front of any open-front boxes to provide extra protection from predators. Lucky nesters to have her as their landlady.

Jaelen recommends www.wildaboutbritain.co.uk for its forums and helpful answers to queries.

Green Man Centre AGM

The Green Man Community Centre will be holding its AGM on Thursday 22 May at the venue in Strawberry Vale from 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

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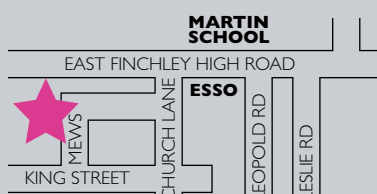
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Eve Bagley with Ted's Arctic Convoy medal. She is wearing the Russian friendship medal given to the wives on their various visits. Photo Toni Morgan

Arctic Convoy medal at last

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sixty nine years after the end of WW2, the men who served on the Arctic convoys have been honoured by the UK. The medal came too late for East Finchley's Ted Bagley, who heard of the award just before he passed away in April last year, at the age of 90, but it is now with his widow, Eve. "It was about time!" she said.

Crucial role of convoys

In contrast, the Russians have always honoured the men who brought them over four million tons of food and arms when they were besieged by German troops. People were starving; eating any animal they could find, and boiling their boots for soup. The convoys kept Russian resistance alive.

Sailing from Scotland, Liverpool and Iceland, they had to combat "the harshest seas known to man". Sea spray froze as it fell, waves were mountainous, and they were under attack from the air and from submarines. Those who arrived in northern Russia found temperatures of minus 40 degrees, and ice on rivers over four metres thick.

Ted was there for 13 months, inspecting and maintaining guns brought by the convoys.

Whenever Ted and Eve returned to Russia with convoy veterans, they were over-



Ted, pictured in 2013

whelmed by their welcome. Everyone recognised the famous white berets, and on Remembrance Days a red balloon is released for each of the men on the convoys. Ted was awarded several Russian medals, including the Arctic Star.

Four years ago, three Rus-

sian companies pledged money to maintain HMS Belfast. New masts were made in St Petersburg, and 11 Russian workmen came here to fit them. They said it was an honour to help preserve the ship which had been one of the convoy escorts. The Imperial War Museum said, "Without them, we would have been waiting years".

Ted lived in Church Lane from the age of five. He was a founder member of EFVRA, and former President of Glebeland and Finchley Victoria Bowling Clubs.

Loch Ewe in North West Scotland, from which 19 convoys sailed, is planning a museum dedicated to them, and would welcome stories and memories. For information, see www.russianarcticconvoymuseum.co.uk.

The tennis club that never closed!

By Jacky Wood

Fortis Green Tennis Club has made history this winter. The exceptional lack of heavy frosts allowed the club's shale courts to remain open right through the season, for the first time since club records began.



A hard core of members braved cold wind and rain to rejoice in the continued decent playing surface, and are now slowly shedding their thermals to herald the spring.

So we're already open for 2014 and new members are welcome to come and sample

the delights of this very local club. Adult beginners and rusty couch potatoes will be able to hone their skills at the popular Monday evening group coaching sessions from 12 May, open to members and non-members.

The 2014 junior coaching programme will be expanding to include squad training in the hope of entering a team in the 2015 Middlesex League. Check out the website www.fortisgreentennis.co.uk to see the full programme of activities and membership details for 2014.

Calling all writers

Try your hand in writing workshops, get tips about how to be published, and learn how to develop your online author profile by blogging and Twitter.

This year's Finchley Literary festival runs from Saturday 24 May to Saturday 31 May. It's supported by Greenacre Writers, Avenue House Trust, The Finchley Society, Waitrose and Squires Estates.

The two events in East Finchley are both in the library. On Saturday 24, Sarah Holding runs a creative writing workshop, CliFi (sic) for Kids, from 3-5pm. On Thursday 29, at 2pm, Maggie Butt has advice on 'How To Get Your Poetry Published'.

There are events all over Finchley. For the full timetable, visit greenacrewriters.blogspot.co.uk. For more information, contact greenacrewriters@gmail.com.

Old Barn trustees

'not valid'

By Janet Maitland

In a statement to *THE ARCHER*, the Charity Commission has marked a sea change in the long battle over the management of the Old Barn Community Centre by announcing that its trustees were not elected properly. "It is our view that the current Executive Committee was not validly appointed," said a spokesperson. "We are working towards the establishment of a proper membership and arrangements for elections as soon as possible."

When the current trustees took over the Old Barn in Taring Road in 2010, vital services for children and young people were discontinued. Campaigners, alongside Barnet Council, Community Barnet and, since last year, MP Mike Freer, have been trying ever since to restore the centre to local people. The trustees have taken no notice. The Charity Commission has also repeatedly attempted to get the trustees to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities but to no avail.

"I'm delighted that at last the Charity Commission has accepted the evidence that the trustees were not properly elected in the first place," said local resident Helen Drake. "I'm optimistic that we can soon hold an AGM to elect trustees with the drive to make the Old Barn the much-loved community asset it once was."

"The present management

has shown such disdain for the local community," said local resident Will Hudson. "The Charity Commission must take responsibility away from them. We need an open membership and a transparent election of trustees and we call upon the commission to appoint independent trustees to oversee this process."

A spokesman for Barnet Council, who own the building, said: "We are continuing to liaise with the Charity Commission and Community Barnet as part of our support for the local community."

"I continue to lobby the Charity Commission to take action and for the Council to rescind the lease," said MP Mike Freer.

Local people who want information on how to become members of the Old Barn or about any forthcoming AGM should contact Victor Momodu at Community Barnet on 020 8346 8400.



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Crowds fill Cherry Tree Wood at last year's festival. Photo by Mike Coles

East Finchley Festival: a special anniversary

This year's East Finchley Community Festival takes place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June from 12noon to 6pm. Here Roger Chapman explains how the history of the event goes back further than anyone imagined.

There is a long-standing debate about when the first East Finchley Festival took place. Many people say it was in the mid-1970s. However, evidence now shows that it is a little bit older than that.

The first festival took place in September 1774, two years before America's Declaration of Independence, in the reign of George III. It was held on the site of the Hog Market, which is where Kitchener and Beresford Roads now stand.

The event was mired in controversy and had to be broken up because, according to one newspaper, illegal activities were taking place including "bear baiting, raffling and other unlawful diversions".

A different spin was placed on events by another newspa-

per called the *Public Advertiser*. Its report said that hand bills had been "stuck up" and distributed at Highgate, Finchley and adjacent villages giving notice that on Monday and Tuesday a "fair would be held at Finchley, when men would run in sacks and women for Holland Smocks, etc. and where all sorts of toys and good gingerbread would be sold."

Smock Races were common in the 17th to early 19th centuries. The idea was simple enough: "Sturdy country lasses competed in a footrace along a set course, the prize being a smock of fine linen."

Glorious gingerbread

According to the *Public Advertiser* the "promised diversions took place" but a gentleman of Finchley noti-

fied a Justice of the Peace at Muswell Hill who issued orders that the High Constable of Finsbury Division, a Mr Hurford, should suppress the affair. Thirty constables were dispatched and put an end to the event "by knocking down the gingerbread stalls and taking some old women into custody". The women were later discharged by the magistrates pleading "what was very true, their extreme poverty."

So this year we are not claiming this is the 40th anniversary of East Finchley festival. It is the 240th anniversary and on Sunday 22 June this year in Cherry Tree Wood we will be selling gingerbread on the Festival food stall in memory of the women who were arrested in 1774.

Patients asked about hospital bus links

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Someone's trying to get a bus to the hospital? Thank God for that. About time too!"

These are typical of the comments I heard from Finchley Memorial outpatients last month. As we reported in *THE ARCHER* in April, visitors to the hospital were invited to fill in a questionnaire about access.

The survey, carried out over two days under the auspices of The Finchley Society and Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital, asked visitors how they had travelled there, how easy the journey had been if they had walked, and whether they would use a bus which would bring them to the doors.

At the time of writing a full analysis had not been made, but statistician Gill Green told

us that there were 932 returns. This of course did not reflect the total number of visitors, as a number of people brought several children, and often only one of a couple filled in the survey.

Please continue sending us your opinions. Do you support the campaign for a bus to the hospital doors? And, if so, would you be in favour of a hopper bus circling the catchment area, and possibly also linking with different routes around the Tally Ho? Do let us know at *THE ARCHER* and we will pass on your comments. Our contact details are always on page 2.

A pedestrian crossing near the hospital?

By Daphne Chamberlain

THE ARCHER has asked Barnet Council whether they have considered installing a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Granville Road and the High Road.

At present, anyone crossing Granville Road at this point has to negotiate continual streams of filtered traffic at a four-way junction, with no pedestrian lights.

This is the crossing used by Finchley Memorial Hospital visitors who have got off the bus, as well as by all pedestrians along the High Road.

Many people say they avoid using it, and instead move a little way along Granville Road (which is also quite busy) to take their chance crossing when

a gap presents itself. Not desirable for hospital patients, or indeed anyone! It was a point brought up in last month's survey of hospital visitors.

A Barnet Council spokesman told us: "Residents have raised concerns about this crossing, and our officers have agreed to undertake a study to see if it is possible to install a pedestrian crossing. We have already begun a discussion with Transport for London to see what improvements can be made."

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Do you enjoy singing and like the idea of joining a choir? Well, here's your chance.

A-Chord is a recently formed choir which meets every Thursday evening from 8pm to 10pm at the New North London Synagogue at 80 East End Road and is looking for new members. All abilities are welcome and no previous singing experience or audition is required.

A-chord sings a light, popular repertoire, including songs from musical shows and pop, within a relaxed and friendly environment which is open to all. If you want to give it a go, the new term has only just started and the first

session is free. The choir is just beginning to perform locally and has its second concert scheduled for June.

Cost for the term is £60 per term including refreshments. For more details, call Laura on 07732 120464 or email a-chord@gerlis.com

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Front gardens in glorious bloom

By Sheila Armstrong

Front gardens are under threat with more of us trading them in for paved areas or parking. The Finchley Society is hoping to keep them front of mind with its Finchley in Bloom competition.

The idea is simple. If you're proud of your garden, or can nominate some one else, just enter, free of charge. The competition is open to anyone who lives in Finchley or Friern Barnet and maintains a front garden.

You could win a garden voucher worth £100 to spend at Finchley Nurseries and there are runners up vouchers worth £50 and £25, with a special prize of a £50 voucher for the best environmental/wildlife garden. Entries must be in by 11 July and entry forms are available in local libraries or from email Finchleyinbloom@gmail.com or phone 020 8346 5503.

There are opportunities for wild life in the smallest front garden. Bees, mini beasts, birds and even grasshoppers will quickly colonise it. And with just the smallest pond a whole different set of creatures will arrive.

Parking problems

Front gardens add to the pleasantness of the environment we live in but increasing numbers of front gardens are now totally hard surfaced to accommodate cars. And as long as there is drainage this is

allowed. The crossovers needed to access the new front gardens/car parks result in more limited on-street parking so neighbours then create parking on their own front gardens.

Concerns about hard landscaping

In late March, with thoughts of spring and gardening in mind, The Finchley Society held a meeting entitled *Do Front Gardens Matter?* The panel included a representative of Ealing's Local Agenda 21 who referred to other results of hard landscaping front gardens: alterations to the water table, flooding and effects on wildlife (see their website www.ealingfrontgardens.org.uk). Jane Blackburn from the Garden Suburb Trust explained that Suburb residents are not allowed to change their front gardens, and trees or hedges cannot be removed, so it is a very green place.

If you want to park on your front garden the RHS recommends greener alternatives to hard landscaping, such as moisture permeable surfaces, which can address some of the problems. Visit www.rhs.org.uk.

Get ready to vote

By Nick Young

The 2014 local elections, in which all councillor seats in all 32 London Boroughs are contested, will take place on Thursday 22 May. All 21 council wards of the London Borough of Barnet will elect three councillors.

The full list of candidates for the East Finchley council ward was not available at the time of going to press.

At the 2010 local elections, the Conservative Party retained control of Barnet Council with 39 councillors; Labour returned 21 councillors and the Liberal Democrats three. East Finchley returned three Labour councillors.

Usually, council elections are held on the first Thursday in May, but this year they have been put back three weeks to coincide with the elections to the European Parliament.

For the European Parliament election, East Finchley forms part of the London constituency which elects eight

MEPs using a method of party-list proportional representation.

If you are not already registered to vote, an electoral registration form can be downloaded from Barnet Council's website.



The hunt is over - who has the most eggs? Photo Mike Coles

Chocs away for Monday youth club

An Easter egg hunt got everyone racing around at the Monday Youth Club in Oak Lane. The club operates on Monday evenings between 6pm and 8pm at the Ann Owens Centre and on Martin School field for football. If you are interested in joining the club, where you can take part in many different activities as well as go on organised outings, call 07931 586 740 for further details.

A bench to remember Horace

By Diana Cormack

Part of Barnet Council's improvement work in North Finchley will include a memorial to the late Horace White. A bench and a plaque in his name will be situated outside Sainsbury's supermarket on the High Road, one of the places where Horace used to be found chatting to passers by.

This well known character was a long term resident of East Finchley and, after his sudden death at the age of 54 in September 2012, thousands commented on a Facebook page devoted to him. There was an online petition calling for a memorial to be established.

Memorial garden

Subsequently in July 2013 Barnet Homes opened a new garden on the Grange Estate, where Horace had lived since 1972. It was created with the help of local residents and was dedicated to him.

Horace's sister Selina



A smile for everyone: Horace White. Photograph: barnet-today.co.uk

Higgins, who now lives in Edmonton, expressed her delight at this latest memorial to her brother, who will be long remembered by many for his wishing one and all "The best of luck."

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YOUNG ARCHER



Girls cricket at Finchley Cricket Club.

Cricket for girls ... and all the family

Finchley Cricket Club is offering cricket for girls age 6 to 17 with outdoor training until the end of August. The club caters for complete beginners up to county standard cricketers and this year it will, as usual, be entering competitive league sides for girls in the Middlesex Girls Seaxe league.

The club says it is proud of its enthusiastic and lively girls section, with an emphasis on inclusivity and fun. Girls of all abilities are welcome and all players have access to high quality coaching to work on their skills throughout the summer.

Finchley Gunns is the women's section of Finchley CC, which has two league sides who play on Sundays as well as a friendly team for the less experienced women players. Members include several Middlesex players including ex-England star Beth Morgan as well as a number

of international age group and England Academy players.

When you sign up your daughter for Finchley CC, social membership for all family members is automatically included.

A club spokesman said: "There is a strong family ethos and plenty of social events for adults and families throughout

the calendar year. We are noted for our friendly welcome, so please come and grab a refreshment from the café and bar, settle on a bench outside our lovely pavilion and watch what is undoubtedly the finest sunset in Finchley..."

Find out more at www.finchleycricket.co.uk

All welcome at school fair

Holy Trinity Primary School holds its spring fair on Sunday 18 May from 12noon to 2.30pm and everyone's welcome.

The school gymnastics team will be putting on a display followed by morris dancers to put a spring in your step. There will be many stalls including the jarbola, tombola, pocket money toys stall, second hand toys and books. Teachers have generously agreed to take their place in the stocks again and a bouncy castle and slide will keep the children busy. Delicious homemade food and

cakes will be on sale, along with raffle tickets to win great prizes.

Fun day

Martin Primary School in Plane Tree Walk hosts its Summer Fun Day on Saturday 14 June from noon until 3pm with a day of refreshments and activities for the whole family.

Best gymnasts in the borough

By Diana Cormack

For the second year running two gymnastic teams from Holy Trinity CE Primary School will be representing the borough in the London Youth Games. They achieved this in March by winning the Barnet Key Steps Gym-



One of the Holy Trinity School Gymnastic teams.

nastics Competition held at Queen Elizabeth Girls' School. The competition was open to all Barnet Schools, so this is a really impressive result for the one-form entry school in Egan's Close.

Pupils were selected from trials involving all the year groups at Holy Trinity, then coached by headteacher Tim Bowden and Stuart Ritson, with some help from Helen of JET Gym and All for Sport.



Best school rugby team in London

By Josie Dobrin

Coldfall Primary School had an incredible week at the 2014 Balfour Beatty London Youth Games at Crystal Palace in early April. After qualifying by coming top in Haringey for football and tag rugby, their football team came fifth out of 33 London boroughs.

Even better, the tag rugby team actually won the games, so they now go forward to represent the whole of London in the National Finals later this summer.

The school entered a squad of 10 children from Year 6. The team consisted of seven people, including at least three girls at any one time.

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- **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com
- **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.

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Oak Lodge celebration show

By Daphne Chamberlain

Oak Lodge was celebrating last month. The secondary school in Heath View was re-accredited as a National Autistic Society specialist centre, going above and beyond NAS standards. This follows their outstanding Ofsted result.

What better way to celebrate than with a show? Pupils sang, danced and made music, while their friends clapped, cheered, whooped and high-fived. The hall was alive with mutual support and encouragement.

Robert Pritchett from the NAS told them: "I've not had so much fun since I came here three years ago to present your previous certificate".

Learning from each other

Headteacher Lynda Walker and Assistant Head for Autism Ginny D'Odorico agreed that this was a celebration of the achievements of both pupils and staff, emphasising that they all learned from each other.

A father of three autistic children spoke about his experience. He said: "At first it brought out the worst in me. Now it's brought out the best." Instead of money and security, he now knows that the greatest gift he can give his children is love and time. They have made him more humble and understanding, and have taught him how to deal with fear. With courage and love, life will work out. He tells his children that people sometimes want them to be different, but the greatest thing is to be themselves.

Jenny and Marc speak out

Two of the pupils gave their own testimony. Jenny said: "Sometimes I repeat things. Sometimes people don't



Marc Sindole, a student in year 12. Photo courtesy of Oak Lodge School.

understand. I recognise when I upset people, but it takes time. I would like people to understand the way I react, the way my behaviour changes."

Marc said, "Sometimes people think I'm rude. They don't like loud voices. I like to shake hands and ask people questions. I like remembering what I'm good at." He had found it hard to make friends, but was doing that now.

Clinical psychologist Adriana Fernandez-Chirre from Barnet SCAN told *THE ARCHER* that the school has an environment conducive to learning, which helps children succeed and shine.

Not all the 165 pupils are autistic, but all have learning

difficulties. There are 12 places for pupils older than 19, as a franchise of Barnet and Southgate College.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Go now!

In the weird world of the disunited kingdom it's only a few months until the Scots can vote for independence. Lucky old Scotland. What bugs me is that we don't have any say in the matter. Why can't we have a referendum? Why don't they ask us 'do you want to get rid of Scotland?'

I can think of some pretty good reasons for dumping the useless north of the island and once we've got rid of Scotland we can make sure they don't get back in. And I don't just mean rebuilding Hadrian's Wall, I mean proper defences to stop them reverting to type and invading Newcastle every summer. Knowing the Scots, fair bet they'll get together with anyone who shares their hatred of England. Last time Scotland was independent they got the French to help, next time it could be North Korea.

And then there's the culinary wasteland that is Scottish cuisine. Who's going to miss deep fried pizzas, deep fried haggis and deep fried cream eggs? In parts of Scotland the only way to get people to eat lettuce is to deep fry it.

Why should they share the pound or the Queen? Let them find their own currency, something like the Irn Bru or the kilt. If they want the Queen as their monarch they'll have to grovel. Traditionally that means the entire Scottish nobility crawling naked along the Royal Mile to pledge loyalty to the true crown.

So what's the down side? The Scots always insist it's 'their oil', but once we've built a new pipeline to bring the stuff ashore in Essex it won't matter. Anyway, even if they kept it, their economic incompetence the last time they were in charge means it won't be theirs for long. I'm not talking about Brown Gordon, I'm talking about the great Scottish empire that was meant to begin with the Darien expedition. Only the Scots could decide to start their empire by invading a swamp in Panama. It didn't end well, it bankrupted the country and they had to come begging to the English for help.

But let's end on a high note: we could take the opportunity to expel the 800,000 Scots who are currently cluttering up England's green and pleasant land. As Cameron is Scottish we could always start there. And on that basis voting 'yes I want to get rid of Scotland' starts to make sense.

Gift of reading

Minicab and courier company GLH, based in the High Road, has pledged £10,000 to buy books for the school library at its near-neighbour The Archer Academy.

The gift will allow the new secondary school, where English is a specialism, to substantially enhance the range of texts on offer, supporting the promotion of reading for pleasure and study.

Headteacher Mick Quigley said: "On behalf of everyone at the school, I would like to thank GLH for this generous donation, which will enrich the learning experience of each and every one of our students."



Robert Scott, centre left, with Archer Academy headteacher Mick Quigley and students.

GLH in the running for sustainability award

By Diana Cormack

GLH, the mini cab and courier business based opposite East Finchley tube station, has long been involved in local projects. Its generous donations to community events and school projects are not always publicised, but in recent years the company's involvement in sustainability and green issues has been recognised.

Amongst other things *THE ARCHER* has featured the late managing director John Scott's tree planting at Martin School,

tree plantations being created in West Wales and subsequently a nature reserve at Totteridge Academy being named after

him (*THE ARCHER*, November 2012).

Hard work by GLH members, school staff and pupils created the thriving nature reserve and it is for their input at Totteridge Academy that GLH has been long listed for the 2degrees Social Value Champions Award (named thus because limiting global warming to below 2C is said to be the way to prevent climate change). To learn more visit www.2degreesnetwork.com

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Regular Events

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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.



Lande Belo as Fay Hubbard, Ian Grainger as Guy Jones and Natalie White as Hannah Llewellyn in 'A Chorus of Disapproval' at the Bull theatre.

Life imitates art

Local amateur dramatics society Garden Suburb Theatre returns to The Bull Theatre with Alan Ayckbourn's comedy A Chorus of Disapproval about an amateur operatic society struggling to stage a production of The Beggar's Opera.

The show must go on, but the director can't seem to get past page one and the cast are divided by sexual jealousies and by a local piece of land, which may or may not be worth a fortune. As the director says, "I wish they were professionals. Then I could sack them."

This production is being ably directed by local North London

playwright and journalist Francis Beckett and features a talented cast of both familiar and new faces.

The play runs from Thursday 22 to Saturday 24 May at 8pm, with a 3pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets cost £12 (£10 concs) and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/garden-suburbtheatre or by ringing 020 7723 6609.

Fortismere Community

Choir and Orchestra

Review by David Allenby

The latest concert by the Fortismere Community Choir and Orchestra played to a full house and was much enjoyed by all.

This local cultural initiative, combining Fortismere students, teachers parents and local musicians, continues to gather momentum, providing a genuine musical focus in N2, N10 and beyond.

The programme featured Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. The Elgar favourite has special Muswell Hill connections: the concert venue of St Andrew's Church is only a street away from the home of the composer's publisher, August Jaeger on Curzon Road, who was immortalised by Elgar as Nimrod. This was the best performance the orchestra has given to date, richly deserving

the warm applause.

The work of Michael Solomon Williams with the choir continues to pay dividends. The opening Elgar items were well balanced between the voice parts with admirable diction, and the Mendelssohn hymn setting showed the choristers blending well with the sumptuous cello accompaniment.

Another highlight was provided by the quartet of young soloists in the *Coronation Mass*, particularly Raphaela Papadakis's demonstration of Mozartian vocal style in the final *Agnus Dei*. The next orchestral concert is on 12 July with music by Tchaikovsky and Brahms, so make a date.

What's on at the Phoenix in May

By Elizabeth Taylor-Meads, executive director, Phoenix Cinema

If you know your film customs you'll know that the Academy Awards, better known as Oscars, started in May 1929. If you know your Anglo Saxon customs you'll know that May is celebrated with Morris dancing and a maypole. The Phoenix Cinema (www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) suggests you sample our May offerings, with or without shin bells.

We're reviving another great tradition: late night screenings. Every first Friday of the month, Phoenix Nights unspools a film chosen and introduced by a celebrity host. At 11:45 pm on 2 May Reece Shearsmith of *League of Gentlemen* and *Psychoville*, presents the chilling *10 Rillington Place*, in glorious 35mm.

On 18 May, spend time with immortal youth, the legendary James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*. Here's your chance to don a poodle skirt or get creative with a quiff. Prizes for best costumes!

Fifty years ago audiences first played "what if" through Kevin Brownlow's milestone film, *It Happened Here*. You too can imagine what Britain would be like if Germany had won WWII on Sunday, 25 May.

10 May is *Cinderella* Day. Our Kids Club screens the classic Disney film at noon and later opera buffs enjoy Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, live from the Met.

Critically acclaimed new films run throughout the month. Tom Hardy is a man who does what a man's got to do in *Locke*. Michael Fassbender and a giant papier mache head star in quirky indie winner *Frank*.

Next, a Patricia Highsmith mystery glides elegantly onto the screen in *Two Faces of January*. Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst are upscale tourists in 1960s Greece. Oscar Isaac (*Inside Llewyn Davis*) is the guide who may or may or may not be scamming them.

So it seems we start and end with Oscars in May. See you at the movies!

A stimulating evening of poetry and music

Review by John Davies

Lovers of literature filled the Methodist Church in East Finchley on 22 March for the launch of a new book by local poet Dennis Evans.

The collection, entitled *First the Silence*, confirms his reputation as a gifted poet. Conjuring words out of silence, Dennis Evans makes them dance on the page. Always, though, his poems are rounded and full of meaning.

The book is divided into five elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water. Following that structure, Dennis Evans celebrates with tender humour his life experiences, his family and friends.

Particularly evocative was his reading at the event of a poem recollecting a childhood in the Second World War. The poem

revolves around the hopeful assertion "The Germans won't bomb us, Gwyneth". To those old enough to remember, it captures the austerity and self-reliance of those make-do days.

The presentation of his poems was punctuated by some excellent and very melodic renderings by a group of young female singers.

The poems that comprise *First the Silence* are contained in a handsome, well-presented volume edited by Helen Green and published by Celebration Press, 58 Helen Close, East Finchley, London N2 0UU at a price of £10.

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

Saturday 3 May

- **RSPCA Jumble Sale** on first Saturday of every month, Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, 1-2 pm. Next sale Saturday 7 June. Bric a brac, books, toys, children's and adults' clothing.

Saturday 10 May

- Fund raising for **World Lupus Day** at the Five Bells, East End Road, 10.30am -12 noon. Entry £5. Participants are invited to bake a cake and bring it on the day. Raffle tickets on sale too.

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

Saturday 10 May

- **Barnet Borough Sight Impaired Group** meet at Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS at 2pm. Tel. 020 8361 0174.

Sunday 11 May

- **Free concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite Creighton

Avenue, 7.30pm. Jill Anderson, clarinet, Edmund Barrett, viola, and Anna Lightbown, piano, play Mozart's Clarinet Trio and a selection from Bruch's Eight Pieces. Free admission with collection in aid of Smile Train, helping children with cleft lip and palate. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

- **The Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road at 2.30pm. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 and visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Monday 12 May

- **Comedians Milton Jones and Ian Stone** perform a fundraiser for The Archer Academy at the Phoenix Cinema, 8.30pm. Tickets £25 plus booking fee from www.tinyurl.com/archercomedy. Over-18s only.

Saturday 17 May

- **Back to Work Confidence Boost Workshop** 9.45am to 4pm at The Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2. Spend a day with a professional team

of experts who will advise on job-seeking skills. Lunch and refreshments provided. Cost: £45 concs / £60 full price. Book in advance at www.efab.org.uk

- **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's annual Plant Sale**, 10.30am-12.00 noon, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. Entry free.

Saturday 17 May

- **Spring Bouquet concert** at St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church, Hendon Lane, N31TR at 6pm. Songs, arias and pieces to delight and entertain performed by Carl Gombich (bass), Rachel Weston (soprano) and Yuki Osedo (piano) with guest Alison Smart (Fisher). Entry free. Collection for Christian Aid and St Mary-at-Finchley. Doors open 5.30pm.

Sunday 18 May

- **Holy Trinity Primary School spring fair**, 12.00-2.30pm. Stalls including jarbola, tombola, pocket money toys and books. Delicious homemade food and cakes and a raffle. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 22 May

- **AGM of the Green Man Community Centre** to be held at the venue in Strawberry Vale, N2, from 6.30pm. All welcome.

- Simon Spillett presents the **music of Miles Davis** with Henry Lowther (trumpet), John Critchinson (piano), Dave Green (double bass) & Trevor Tomkins (drums), Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concs). More information from www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

Thursday 22 May to Saturday 24 May

- Garden Suburb Theatre performs **Alan Ayckbourn's A Chorus of Disapproval** at The Bull Theatre, High Barnet, 8pm, with a 3pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre

- **From Wednesday 28 May to Saturday 21 June**
- Highgate artist **Gohar Goddard's solo exhibition** 'Words in Forms and Graffiti' at Highgate Contemporary Art, 26 Highgate High Street, N6 5JG, Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 6pm. Tel 020 8340 7564. www.highgateart.com



Letters

Cyclist sees red

Dear Editor,

I was cycling along the High Road in East Finchley recently and I stopped abruptly at a red traffic light, whereupon a nearby pedestrian pointed at the lights and shouted, "Red means stop". I replied incredulously, "I have stopped", to which the reply was "Only just".

I must be uninformed of the new by-law prohibiting cyclists from "only just stopping" at red traffic lights. I suggest the creation of a new by-law to prevent pedestrians from "carelessly walking into the road into the path of cyclists without checking whether anything is coming, causing the cyclist to dangerously swerve or brake suddenly", since this happens to me on a nearly daily basis. Actually, wait, I think that might already be a law.

Please give cyclists a break: we're not all careless, suicidal maniacs.

Regards,
Dr Thomas Lidbetter
Bedford Road, N2.

I sat in the grandstand

Dear Editor,

I did once sit in that Grade 2 listed grandstand at Finchley and Wingate (*THE ARCHER*, April 2014)! It was the one time I went to a Finchley Reserves game and presumably prices were correspondingly lower. Normally I was standing with some of my schoolmates in the open!

Finchley mid-50s were one of the top teams nationally, with Hendon, Walthamstow Avenue, Crook Town and Bishop Auckland. As you say, George Robb was the star: he played regularly for the England amateur team and once got called up by the professionals, as well as playing for Spurs. I rather think he was a teacher at Christ's College.

Yours faithfully,
Pete Mitchell.
Truro, Cornwall.

Footnote: Yes, George Robb did teach at Christ's College. You can read our online obituary in the July 2012 edition of *THE ARCHER*.

Litter doesn't need to be a problem

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to read in your April edition ('Litter problem in Cherry Tree Wood') that "Apparently it is extremely difficult to make a bin with a slot big enough to take rubbish but which animals ... cannot get into." Whoever told your reporter that should take a leaf out of the French autoroute services' facilities book, as they have lidded bins in rural areas all over the country which are not only capacious but are both animal and windproof. Why do the British always make such difficulties and take so long to cotton on to simple ideas? It also took our supermarkets years longer than their continental cousins to introduce coin-operated trolley systems to solve the longstanding 'trolley blight' both in their car parks and on our streets.

Yours faithfully,
Valerie Teague
Leopold Road, N2.

Fond memories of Sue Townsend

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to hear that Sue Townsend, best known as the author of the successful Adrian Mole series, died at the age of 68 on 10 April.

The first of her comic series, *The*

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",
The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 2DE or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.

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

Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 3/4, was published in 1982 and as my son was very enthusiastic about the book, a friend bought it for his birthday and left it gift wrapped on my typewriter in the office. Unfortunately somebody stole it, perhaps due to its popularity, and my friend had to buy my son another copy!

We then went to see the stage production of the book and found Sue Townsend sitting right behind us; after some excitement and a brief chat, she kindly autographed the programme for us.

Yours faithfully,
Betti Blatman,
Cecilia Close, N2.

How to improve Cherry Tree Wood

Dear Editor,

There are two things that would improve Cherry Tree Wood for local residents.

First, bring back Sally who used to run the kiosk next to the tennis courts. She was the best-ever tenant of that kiosk and Barnet Council was pig-headed and short-sighted in giving her notice before any replacement had been organised. Now we face a summer with no refreshment kiosk at all.

Secondly, abandon the six days a week controlled parking zone. One hour a day from Monday to Friday would be enough to deter all-day parkers and would allow people who need to come by car to park nearby on a Saturday.

The council panicked when the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute announced their intention to move to East Finchley and introduced the CPZ without waiting to see if any parking problems arose. Now that the Institute has all but left East Finchley there is no excuse to keep the CPZ. I know it will cost money to change it to one hour a day and the council will lose revenue but that's their own fault for making the stupid decision in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
Eugene Myerson (retired transport policy adviser)
Annington Road, N2.

Living with dementia

More and more people are living with dementia at home. There is a real need to share experiences, in order to understand more about dementia.

A Dementia Workshop at Ann Owens Centre in February covered all of these areas and was attended by Age UK Barnet's volunteers as well as those with dementia, their family and carers. All those who attended found it a very informative and useful event.

For more information contact Dale Bevington from Home Instead Senior Care Barnet on 020 8446 7044.



Oriental garden in spring. Photo by Susan Bennett

Could you open your garden for good causes?

By Susan Bennett

As assistant county organiser of the National Gardens Scheme, I am appealing to Archer readers with cherished gardens to consider sharing them for a day with others. Visitors enjoy discovering what can be achieved even in a small space.

I am looking for passion and innovation, the wisdom that comes with trial and error. Perfection is impossible, although we all strive for it. Nature can be a harsh teacher.

Last year, through the generosity of garden owners and their visitors, the NGS donated £2,128,000 to our beneficiaries who include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, The Carers Trust, QNI, Parkinson's UK.

Email me at suebearlh@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like to participate. If you don't have

a garden do visit some of the local gems this season and enjoy home-made tea and the fruits of your neighbours' labours.

Open Gardens 2014

• **Sunday 4 May**, Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde, 5 ST Regis Close, Alexandra Park Rd N10 2DE, 2-6.30pm. Admission £3.50, children free. Plant sale and teas.

• **Sunday 18 May**, Princes Avenue Gardens, N10, 2-6pm

• **Sunday 18 May**, 94 Oakwood Road, NW11

• **Sunday 25 May**, 58 Summerlee Avenue, N2, 2-6pm

• **Sunday 7 June**, 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, 2-5.30pm

Full details at www.ngs.org.uk

Best paws forward

On Sunday 8 June, up to 100 dogs will take part in a sponsored 4km walk around Highgate Woods to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The route covers two laps of this beautiful ancient woodland in North London. Small groups will set out from 10am, starting from the playing fields in front of the cafe. There will be prize-giving for the best fundraisers and for the Best Dressed Dogs, and a group from Dima's Good

Boy Dog School will give a demonstration of their talents.

Registration is £8 per dog. For more information visit <http://supportus.cancerresearchuk.org/BPFHighgate>, contact Celia on 07940 592755 or e-mail nondonfundraisers@gmail.com

Pet of the month - Ceefor

By Margi McAlister

Ceefor (c-for cat) is a dear little black and white cat who lives in East Finchley with eight-year-old Constance Butterworth and her family. No one really knows her age, which might be 17, as she was left to fend for herself by the previous owners of the house when they moved out. She hadn't even been given a 'proper' name.



She survived a successful thyroid operation as well as the loss of her companion, large fluffy Oscar, after which she became lonely and needy. But she soon picked up, revelling in the love and attention lavished upon her.

She sits contentedly by Constance and her mum when they are at home. From her safe eyrie on the back of the sofa she surveys the street below and basks in the sun, dribbling, fat cheeked when she's content and happy.

FYT flies high

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

Finchley Youth Theatre demonstrated excellent acting ability, circus skills and creative imagination in their production last month. This was their interpretation of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, the short story by Richard Bach about a seagull who dares to be different.

Unlike the rest of his flock, Jonathan flies high and fast. Sent into exile, he meets and learns from three kindred spirits and eventually returns to teach the rest of the flock.

Director Liz Sacre told *THE ARCHER*: "The original is very short and focuses on Jonathan. Mina (Jonathan's love interest), her family, and the birds that take control of the flock are our invention.

The punishment of Mina (drenching in oil) and the development of a military style flock, with raids on other birds, is all from the young people."

I particularly loved the moment when they were alerted for a morning raid on approaching ships.

Obviously both the original and the interpretation are really about people, but the seagull parallel gave a lot of scope. Jonathan and his friends swung, spun and somersaulted on ropes, while members of the flock perched on higher pieces of the set in true bird style.

The flock included smaller and younger actors, who marched in military fashion, but also danced. Liz, who is senior arts worker for Barnet's Youth and Community Service, told us that one sequence was what the dance tutor called emotion memory work. Each dancer was remembering certain emotions and expressing these memories by moving to music. So they each had their own movement pattern, unique to that performance. The programme notes teased us by saying that one sequence was different every night, and if you're wondering, this was it.

Finchley Youth Centre, 142 High Road, N2 9ED, runs classes for 7-18 year-olds in drama, dance, drumming, circus skills and film making. Contact 020 8359 3530 or fytinfo@barnet.gov.uk for details.

CEEFOR:

Age: Nobody knows; maybe 17

Breed: Black and white moggy

Likes: The smell of Chinese takeaway, open drawers to snooze in.

Dislikes: Being on her own.

Talents: Likes to help with school homework mainly by sitting on it.

Claim to fame: A true survivor

Your pet of the month

Send us a photo and tell us about them, including their likes, dislikes, friends and special talents. Email us at the-archer@lineone.net or post to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.



Great War artifacts on display at East Finchley library. Photo Mike Coles

Life in the trenches

By Peter Hart, author of *The Great War*

I was delighted to be invited under the 'Good Reads' programme to give a talk on *Life in the Trenches* at the East Finchley Library on Saturday 12 April. The talk was to complement a display by the 10th Essex Living History Group, two of whom were dressed in authentic uniforms, with the weapons and artefacts of the time laid out for all to see and, if we wanted, to touch.

There were rifles, wicked-looking bayonets, helmets, and my favourite, a hard-tack biscuit fed to the troops in the trenches, part of a daily ration of a staggering 4,000 calories. These men led hard lives and food was fuel.

Harsh conditions

The front line trenches in France and Flanders were dangerous places: to look over the sandbag parapet meant risking death from a sniper's bullet. Shells could crash down at any time to kill you or your comrades. The men slept in crude dugouts, sometimes mere holes hollowed out in the mud walls of the trench. In winter the cold was excruciating and they were often up to their ankles in freezing water.

Voices from the past

My talk used quotes from the oral history interviews I did in the 1980s for the Imperial War Museum. These connect us to those grim times. Who for instance has not struggled to open a corned beef tin? Private Donald Price certainly did.

"We had a tin of bully beef. At the side of this thing was a key which you used to turn the top off. Mine didn't act and I got this jack knife to open this tin. Unfortunately it slipped and my

Peter Hart talks about life in the trenches in *The Great War* at East Finchley library. Photo Mike Coles

hand was jagged. See this – it's still there! A great jag and of course I bled like a pig! The boys bandaged me up!"

They also show the horrors of war. After one particularly shocking incident, in which many of his friends had been blown to pieces, Private William Holbrook recalled his young officer's reaction:

"The officer got his water bottle out, he'd got some rum in it and we had a good sip. He said 'How long you been out?' I said, 'Two years!' He said, 'Two years in this! God almighty! Do you know how long I've been here? Ten days and I'm bloody well sick of it!'"

It really was a terrible war.

Live comedy at the Phoenix

By Nick Young

Comedian Ian Stone will be compering a fundraising evening of comedy at the Phoenix Cinema on 12 May to support The Archer Academy, where his son Alexander is a pupil.

Although it will be raising money for the secondary school, it is an over-18s event. That said, the comedians who will be accompanying Ian on stage, including Milton Jones, are by no means 'blue' comedians.

"We did have the chat," says Ian, "and there will be no sensitive subjects." The message is clear: stand-up comedians do not have to resort to risqué material to get laughs. "If you're good enough, you can talk about whatever," says Ian, who like many of his fellow-comedians uses everyday observations as a source of humour.

An experienced stand-up, Ian is adept at dealing with anyone who tries to heckle him while he's on stage. "I talk to them, and let them know that it's not their time to speak ... I treat them with the disdain and contempt they deserve," he explains. "It's not about them, it's about me, and I'm there to entertain people."



Ian Stone

Mini and maxi

Ranked by *The Independent* as one of Britain's top ten

stand-ups, Ian has been performing since 1991. In over two decades in the comedy business, he has performed at venues varying in size from a pod on the London Eye ("a good laugh, but quite odd") to a crowd of 8,500 at Bestival on the Isle of Wight with Jimmy Carr, and he has performed for British troops in Afghanistan.

He has been on the TV shows *Mock The Week* and *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, and performs regularly at the Comedy Store in London. Tickets for the Phoenix event cost £25 and are available from www.tinyurl.com/archercomedy.

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Coffee and cake morning

Lupus sufferer Sippy Azizollah is organising a fund raising event on World Lupus Day, Saturday 10 May.

It will be held in the Five Bells, East End Road between 10.30am and 12 noon. Entry is £5 and participants are invited to bake a cake and bring it along on the day. This will either be shared to eat with your coffee or sold if it is spared. Raffle tickets will be on sale too.

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