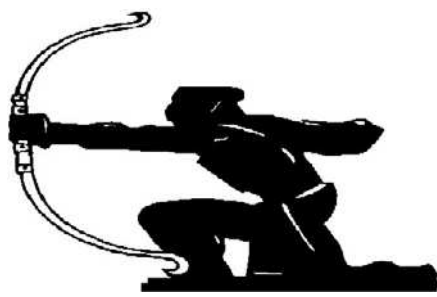


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# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## New hope for the Old Barn

By Janet Maitland

**THE ARCHER** has been reporting for four years now on the fight to restore the Old Barn in Tarling Road to the local community.

There is a new impetus in the battle with the appointment by Barnet Council of Mobilise Public Ltd to help local people shape the kinds of facilities they want from the centre. Mobilise is a "social purpose business" that works with local people, organisations and councils to find ways of providing better services for the community. "We come with a track record of enabling local people to shape successful services," said Avis Johns from Mobilise.

### Services and classes close

Until the current trustees took over the Old Barn in 2010, the community centre had run pioneering services for children and young people for over 25 years. These services were discontinued under the new management and the Old Barn now provides no services at all.

A nursery was opened in December 2012, but it was closed down by Ofsted in July for failing to provide safe childcare. At the same time, dance and martial arts classes had to stop because the teachers, who were not informed of Ofsted's concerns, had sublet

the premises from the nursery.

### Charity Commission to act

The Charity Commission told **THE ARCHER** in April that in their view the current Old Barn trustees were not validly appointed in the first place.

"The Charity Commission has been considering what action might be appropriate and it's hoped that their decision will be finalised by the autumn," said Ms Johns. "They are considering a number of options, all with the aim of ensuring an open membership drive and a fair Annual General Meeting to elect trustees."

Local campaigner Helen Drake said: "At long last the Charity Commission appear to be taking action and I hope it will not be too long before the Old Barn is returned to the community."

Mobilise is keen to hear from local people and groups who might be interested in becoming involved in the future of the Old Barn. All suggestions are welcome and more information is available at <http://mobilise.org/old-barn>.



Photo by Mike Coles

*The unveiling of the Spike Milligan statue at Stephens House with Maureen Lipman, Jeffrey Holland, Roy Hudd, Kathy Lette, Lynsey De Paul, Neil Pearson, Sir Michael Parkinson, The Mayor of Barnet, Dennis Norden, Terry Gilliam and sculptor John Somerville.*

*Turn to the backpage for more.*

## Three arrested in 'heroin handover'

By Diana Cormack

**Three men were arrested in Tarling Road, N2, on Sunday 14 September as they allegedly handed over a consignment of heroin with an estimated street value of £9.5million.**

The arrests came at the end of a pro-active operation by the Metropolitan Police Service. Detectives had tracked a Mercedes car to Tarling Road, where the male driver met an Audi car and a white van. Police watched as the driver allegedly removed two black holdalls from the car and put them into the van.

This was when they stepped

in and arrested the three men involved in the exchange. They were a 33-year-old, a 36-year-old and a 48-year-old. The holdalls allegedly contained 40kg of heroin.

During a second drugs raid at an address in north London another two kilos of heroin and about £10,000 in cash were found.

## Bus diversions

**Eagle-eyed commuters might have noticed that we currently have an extra bus service running through East Finchley.**

The 134 is being diverted up the High Road whilst Colney Hatch Lane is closed for major roadworks. The works are scheduled to last until 7 November, resulting in several bus routes being diverted, as follows:

- **134** - will run directly from Highgate up Great North Road/High Road, then via the North Circular Road to re-join its original route at Tesco, Colney Hatch.
- **234** - diverted away from Pages Lane to run via Tetherdown and Queens Avenue. There will be extra buses on this route to compensate for the lack of buses on Colney Hatch Lane.
- **102** - diverted between Muswell Hill and Bounds Green to run via Alexandra Palace (until 25 October).
- **43** - now terminating at Muswell Hill

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**Copy Editor**  
John Lawrence

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Alison Roberts

**Picture Editor**  
Mike Coles

**Editorial Team**  
Diana Cormack  
Daphne Chamberlain

**Sub Editors**  
Ann Bronkhorst  
Jeff Robson

**Finance & Advertising**  
John Dearing

**Distribution**  
Toni Morgan  
Rose Molloy

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

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

Copy deadlines – **November:** 10 October, **December:** 14 November, **January:** 12 December

## 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
<b>Haringey Council</b>	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

## New police team tackles crime in the West End

By Janet Maitland

**Have you ever been put off going for a night out in the West End because you're worried about getting robbed in the crowds? A team of 100 police officers is now patrolling the streets, a new initiative launched by City of Westminster police at the end of July.**

The officers are patrolling Leicester Square, Piccadilly Circus, Coventry Street and the immediate surrounding area and a mobile police station has been set up in Leicester Square. The plan is for a minimum of 18 officers to patrol during the day, and a minimum of 23 at night.

"Local people have wanted additional resources to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour," said Police Commander Alison Newcomb. "This new team will provide visible policing that responds directly to the concerns of the community. It will reduce crime and the fear of crime and

raise community confidence."

THE ARCHER asked whether the posts were new or if the team was made up of officers redeployed from elsewhere. "These are new posts, but they've been filled by experienced officers, who were asked to apply," said a spokeswoman from Westminster police. "Our budget hasn't increased. Seventy per cent of the officers came from Westminster and the rest from other boroughs. We've also recruited 100 new officers as part of the Met's general recruitment, who will work in neighbourhood policing teams."

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 13A Church Lane, N2

Change of use from Class B1 (Office) to Class C3 (Residential) 1 Unit.

#### 163 East End Road, N2

Single-storey extension to both sides, including removal of one shed, to convert existing dwelling into two self-contained flats.

#### 240 East End Road, N2 (Cavendish House Dental Surgery)

Rendering of front elevation. Two non-illuminated fascia signs (door and wall plaques). One internally illuminated freestanding sign.

#### Grange Estate, N2

Replacement of various entrances and installation of new electrical intake cupboards to these houses: Berwick, Bouchier, Cleveland, Crathorne, Craven, East View, Elmfield, Garden, Goodyear, Hilton, Lochleven, Myddleton, Sayers, Sycamore, Todd.

#### Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2

Development of vacant site to provide communal garden, including boundary fencing and gates, benches, paved area, steps, and timber shed. To be open only 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, with occasional early evening use.

#### 80 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4.8m from rear wall, eaves height 2.955 m, maximum height 3.2m.

#### 120A High Road, N2 (Sourcegift Ltd)

New ATM.

#### 1-39 Homefield Gardens, N2.

Enclosure of walkways to 1st and 2nd floors.

#### 3 Howard Walk, N2

Re-rendering all elevations. Repair and replacement of damaged and missing roof tiles and bonnets. Replacing all steel windows with like-for-like Crittall double-glazed windows.

### Haringey Council

#### 8 Church Vale, N2

Single-storey extension. Depth from original rear wall 6m, maximum height and eaves height 3m.

#### 20 Church Vale, N2

Two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension to replace conservatory.

#### 3Fordington Road, N6

Single storey side extension, double storey rear extension and loft extension. Ground floor flat, 28 Lauradale Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 38 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Rear ground-floor extension and roof extension with rear dormer.

## Barnet leads in cancer survival rates

**Battling cancer is not something anyone wants to face. However latest research from Macmillan Cancer Support shows that if you've been diagnosed with cancer, your survival rate is one of the highest in the country if you live in Barnet.**

Seventy-two per cent of people diagnosed with cancer in Barnet will live for more than a year following their diagnosis. This is above the national average.

Dr Clare Stephens, cancer lead for NHS Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and a local GP in Barnet said: "Early diagnosis and treatment of cancer is a top priority for us. We are working with Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Research UK to implement and develop tools in general practice that aid early cancer diagnosis and working towards the goals in the national cancer strategy to improve cancer services, enhance patient experience and raise survival rates."

### Symptom alert

The NHS invites people from higher risk age groups to screen regularly for breast, bowel and cervical cancer. Screening is one way to pick up any changes.

People are also asked to visit their GP should they experience any of the following key symptoms: unexplained weight loss, any unexplained bleeding including in urine or stools, any unusual lump or swelling, any change in the size, shape or colour of a mole, a sore that won't heal for several weeks, a cough lasting for three or more weeks or coughing up blood.

### Early response

Dr Stephens continued: "Stopping smoking, cutting down on alcohol and being a healthy weight all reduce the risk of developing cancer.

"And it's also about catching the signs and symptoms early. Research shows that identifying cancer early saves lives. We work with our partners and local community groups to build

awareness and educate people about the signs and symptoms of cancer and to encourage them to seek GP advice when they experience something not normal for them."

## Christ's College open morning

**Christ's College will be holding an open morning for parents of prospective pupils on Friday 10 October from 10am to 12 noon.**

Visitors will be able to see the school at work, drop into lessons and talk informally to the head teacher, staff and students. No appointment is necessary. For further details, phone the school on 020 8349 3581 or visit [www.christscollegefinchley.org.uk](http://www.christscollegefinchley.org.uk)

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# The Institute finds a new home

After many months of searching, The Institute has finally succeeded in securing a new home. As reported in *THE ARCHER* in 2011, financial pressures had forced the adult education centre to give up its purpose-built home at the Arts Centre next to the tube station.

The Institute will be moving next year to Masons House, Kingsbury NW9, a modern three-storey building six miles away and within a five minute walk of Kingsbury station on the Jubilee line.

There will be 30 car parking spaces on site and extra parking is available in the surrounding side streets. The area is served by various bus routes including the 183 from Golders Green.

## Which course goes where

Initially, from January 2015, Masons House will only be hosting the arts courses, such as pottery, sculpture and furniture restoration, which were previously held in the Arts Centre and had to be cancelled for the autumn term because they had no home.

All other courses will continue to be held at Bishop Douglass School in East Finchley until the end of the current academic year in July 2015. Evening classes currently scheduled at The Archer Academy will not be affected either.

## Access concerns

One student who spoke to *THE ARCHER* was upset at the move. She told us: "The Institute's move to Kingsbury is a

great disappointment. As a long term student, studying modern languages, it will certainly mean the end of my association. Kingsbury is extremely inaccessible. Not being on the Northern Line is a problem and trying to get there by bus would be a nightmare."

## A new start

However, chief executive Greville Waterman said the decision to leave the (Hampstead Garden Suburb) Institute's heartland after more than 100 years had not been taken lightly.

"Despite a comprehensive trawl of available properties over the past eighteen months, it has proved impossible to find suitable and affordable premises in the immediate vicinity of the Suburb," he said. "Masons House represents a new beginning for The Institute and will provide us with all the space we need to put on the courses that our students enjoy."

"We are very excited by the prospect of being able to continue the high quality provision of adult education in North London for which the Institute is renowned and believe that our new location will be ideally suited for all our needs."

# One in three shoppers 'not commuters'

By John Lawrence

The 'click and collect' van operated by Asda, which has become a permanent fixture in the car park at East Finchley tube station, has thrown up a surprise for supermarket bosses.

Originally intended as a convenient way for busy commuters to order ahead and pick up their groceries as they step off the train on their way home, it turns out that one in three shoppers using the service actually come from their own homes nearby.

The supermarket chain hadn't foreseen this but now says it's all contributing to the success of the pilot project in East Finchley and five other stations in Barnet. Asda now plans to roll out the idea nationwide.

## Choice and control

So why would anyone want to collect their shopping from the station when any major supermarket can bring groceries direct to their doorstep? It seems the answer is all about staying in control.

Saeed Anslow, Asda's senior e-commerce director, told *THE ARCHER* that click and collect at the tube station means East Finchley residents can collect their shopping whenever it

suits them, and without having to spend time travelling to any stores.

"Home shopping is ideal for some but others can't commit to being in at a certain time, so it's all about giving them options to suit the modern lifestyle," he said.

The most popular items bought through the service are fresh products as commuters, and people living nearby, look to pick up key ingredients for their evening meals.

Over the next five years, the retailer plans to introduce 1,000 new click and collect points across the UK, saying it wants to be within easy reach of 70% of the entire population by 2018.



The Dark City Gallery exhibition at the Phoenix. Photo: Mike Coles

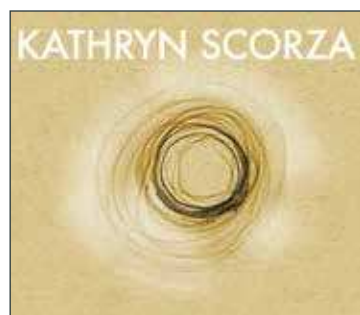
## Pavilion: work begins again

After months of inaction, work has begun again on the refurbishment of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. At the time of writing hardboard has been positioned over the original protective metal fence which served to



Photo: Mike Coles

prevent people getting into the remains of the building. The next phase is to replace the roof in its original style.



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## Dark arts at the cinema

Film aficionados had a treat at the Phoenix Cinema last month as it hosted the London Design Festival and movie poster art from the Dark City Gallery. Artists created striking posters for their favourite films in the belief that the poster plays a huge part in how audiences react to the movie itself.

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## What it's like to be homeless

During the summer, young actors from Fixation Theatre Company gave an evening of powerful performances that tried to get inside the minds of homeless people.

Thinking of all the situations homeless people might find themselves in, the cast researched and developed scenes, poems, films and music which they presented in front of a live audience at Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road.

And the evening actively helped those they were portraying because money from ticket

sales went to local charity Homeless Action in Barnet.

Cast members Viktorija, Isabelle, Elliot, Thomas and Daniel told us: "From the experience, we saw that society tries to block out homeless people but there is still hope for them. Many people are oblivious to homeless people, they usually don't seem worth their attention, however we

raised over £200 in order to help homeless people in Barnet, so not everyone is oblivious! We hope this money will help HAB continue the great work that they do." Fixation Theatre Company runs drama, film and dance classes for 4-18yr olds. To find out more information call 07708 608 570 or email [info@fixationtheatre.com](mailto:info@fixationtheatre.com)



Fixation Theatre

## Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre

The Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre will be holding their next Supporters meeting on Wednesday 22 October starting at 8.15pm at the Youth Theatre on the High Road. All are welcome.

If you are interested in the theatre and the work that goes on there, or just curious to know some more about what happens

behind the doors of this building next to Tony's Continental then this is the meeting for you.

The Friends have invited representatives from Barnet Council to update them on the future budget for the theatre. They say that in this age of austerity they can't expect a great deal.

The group will look at what else the community can do to support the work that goes on there. If you want to make sure that this local community facility is retained then go along and show your support. For more details, contact Roger Chapman by email on [roger.chapman99@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.chapman99@btinternet.com).

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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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



Tidy up: Wayne Armsby rides the mower and Dennis Pepper uses the strimmer.

## Two men went to mow a meadow

Long Lane Pasture Trust has been given a £4,000 grant by the People's Postcode Trust and it has spent some of the money on a new ride-on mower and a strimmer to help keep the grass and brambles under control at its two-acre site opposite the fire station on Long Lane.

Dennis Pepper, chairman of the Trust, said: "The mower and a strimmer will make a huge difference for us. No longer will we have to depend on hired equipment which either wasn't available when we needed it or broke down when we had it."

The grant came from money raised through the People's Postcode Lottery where players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes while raising money for good causes. For more information on the pasture visit [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org)

## Petal power

By Ann Bronkhorst

Some of our favourite local green spaces have just won awards in the 2014 London in Bloom competition, now in its 47<sup>th</sup> year.

Among the Overall Borough entries Haringey won Silver and its parks, gardens and open spaces did particularly well. Haringey will hold its own celebrations on Tuesday 7 October. For the full list of Haringey's winners go to [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)

Bruce Castle and Alexandra Palace Parks won Silver Gilt, as did Coldfall Wood for Conservation. In the Large Park of the Year category Golders Hill Park (City of London) came top with Gold.

There are awards for cemeteries, too, with Gold going

to the Westminster-run East Finchley Cemetery in East End Road.

In the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category the equivalent to Gold, Outstanding, went to Long Lane Pasture Trust in Finchley.

London in Bloom is a year-round campaign which saw a record 276 entries this year from 26 boroughs (not including Barnet). They also run a campaign for schools called Know, Sow and Grow. To find out more, visit [www.londoninbloom.co.uk](http://www.londoninbloom.co.uk)

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Nina Gentry at the Barnet Lone Parent Centre at the Green Man.  
Photo: Mike Coles

## Tea towels helping lone parent families

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sales of our Archer tea towels are helping three organisations this year. As well as the Finchley Youth Centre and the Monday Youth Club, proceeds are going to the Barnet Lone Parent Centre, previously known as Gingerbread, which has its main advisory centre in the Green Man Centre at Strawberry Vale.

Organiser Nina Gentry told us something about how it works, and explained how the tea towel money will be used.

### A library with a difference

Over 100 families are in touch with the centre. Their circumstances vary: there are some dads, some parents who share care of their children, and also situations where one parent is absent or unavailable because they are sick or serving a prison sentence.

Time and again, parents ask "How can I tell my children about...?" For a long time, Nina has wanted to run a library of books that could help answer their questions. Many children's books can open a window into the heart of a problem, helping a child to understand and relate. This is how she will use the tea towel money.

### Practical matters, too

Parents make their visits by appointment, but are given all the time they need. The priority is to listen to them and to gain their trust. Bringing up children takes years, and although some people need just one-off advice, others will have a much longer relationship with the advisors.

What to do if your fridge breaks down and you have no money? How to write effective letters. These are just a couple of examples of practical assistance the advisors can give.

Supplementing the work done at the Green Man is a new social group which meets on Sundays at Underhill, Barnet. For more information, contact Nina Gentry on [Gentry@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Gentry@peabody.org.uk), and to buy a tea towel visit the Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road.

## Three good causes for The Archer tea towel

First sold at the East Finchley Festival back in June, The Archer tea towel is this year's must-have item for any kitchen. We didn't quite get it into the Great British Bake Off tent, but maybe next year.

Each tea towel costs just £5 and every penny from every sale goes to three youth groups in East Finchley. They are the Monday Youth Club, the Finchley Youth Theatre and a reading project for young people based at Strawberry Vale. You can find out more about all three good causes in the stories on this page and page 4.

The Archer tea towel makes the ideal gift for posting off to

family or friends, especially if you're already planning ahead for Christmas.

### How to buy

Buy yours at the Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road. Thanks to the staff there for giving us shelf space and passing on all the money raised.

You can also order your tea towel by post. Send a cheque made payable to The Archer for £5 per tea towel to The Archer, PO

Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Include your name and address and we'll deliver to your door or post to you free of charge.



## Fun in the sun for the Monday Youth Club

By Maureen Clemetson, youth club leader  
Back in July the younger members of the Monday Youth Club, along with a couple of mums and dads, went to Southend on Sea. It was a piping hot day but this didn't stop them going on the rides, then drenching themselves in the sea to escape the sweltering heat.

A wonderful time was had by all. Seeing the smiles on their little faces was an absolute picture.

### Teens have their turn

Not to be left out, the teenagers had their trip at the end of August, something they had been looking forward to for many months. I was asked on a weekly basis when the Thorpe Park trip was coming up.

Well, the day arrived at the end of August and there was excitement in the air as they eagerly boarded the coach outside Martin Primary School. This was just for teenagers who attend the youth club and those who used to but are slightly older than 15. They still look forward to going to Thorpe Park and the Monday Youth Club still looks out for their welfare, making sure that they have somewhere to go during the summer months.

On arriving at Thorpe Park there was an eagerness to get going on the rides. Once the tickets were in their hands they were away, couldn't see them for dust until it was time to go home. Back on the coach they were very weary and tired out teenagers, almost half asleep, being absolutely exhausted from the rides. It was a very quiet journey home!

## Can you deliver?

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

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



Photo: John Lawrence

## It's a cat-cus!

This eye-catching garden ornament in Church Lane has become a comfy perch for Gugu the cat. It's perfect as a look-out post and keeps her nicely out of reach of the neighbourhood dogs.

Andrea Cosier, who owns the cat and the cactus, says Gugu can often be found sitting pretty there.

The cactus was a present from a friend 15 years ago and has just been given a new weatherproof coat.

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# Star turns and memories as arts festival comes of age



Director Geoffrey Hanson

Ten days of music, readings and visual arts, plus a Punch and Judy show, drew crowds to All Saints Church in Durham Road for the East Finchley Arts Festival, which this year celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The many highlights included readings by local

authors in the East Finchley Writers group and visits from national and international favourites like the BBC Elstree Concert Band and the Haydn Chamber Orchestra.

One particularly moving concert featured poetry and music marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, along with memories of Private John Parr, the North Finchley 17-year-old who was the first British soldier to be killed in the conflict.

Congratulations to festival director Geoffrey Hanson and his team of organisers and volunteers for another successful event and thanks to Marian Harris and Mike Coles for this selection of performance photos.



Paprika in full flow at the East Finchley Arts Festival. Photo: Mike Coles



The BBC Elstree Concert Orchestra. Photo: Marian Harris



Pop-up opera - Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Photo: Marian Harris

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Jennifer Bate, International Concert Organist, marking her 70th birthday year.

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## Splash at the Phoenix

Following on from the exhibition by East Finchley Open artists group in September at The Original Gallery in Hornsey Library, members are continuing their creation of work inspired by the theme Splashes, Wisps & Fragments.

They will be exhibiting at the Phoenix Cinema throughout October with the added discipline of working within a standard frame size. Expect a wide variety of painting, drawing, photography etc. to be on show on the foyer walls of the cinema. More details from [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)

## Future of Ally Pally

Alexandra Palace welcomes ideas and input from visitors as the Heritage Lottery Funded restoration nears completion.

Look up the survey at [www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/regeneration](http://www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/regeneration), and enter the prize draw for free event tickets, valid until September 2015. In the East Court you can visit an exhibition about the restoration until the evening of Tuesday 7 October.





# Make friends with a book at Chorak

By Daphne Chamberlain

Who doesn't like a good story? Storytelling has been with us since humans learned to speak, and was never a solitary activity. Now more of us are rediscovering the pleasure of sharing our reading with others. It's enjoyable to discover stories with the rest of a group; to talk about the characters and guess what's happening next; and to make new friends as the weeks go by.

The Reader Organisation, which started in Liverpool, is setting up groups nationwide where we can do just this. Earlier this year I reported on one at the Ann Owens Centre. I enjoyed it so much that I'm now a regular member, and the good news is that another one is starting in East Finchley.

Unlike conventional modern reading groups, you talk about the stories as you read them. People take turns to read aloud, with pauses to talk about what's happened so far. Nobody is forced to read or even to talk, because the sessions are relaxed and friendly.

There are always a couple of trained volunteer facilitators

who select what to read (often a short story and a poem, but also novels on a serial basis), and keep the ball rolling.

As Stephen Fry said recently, "Reading aloud and being read to can be a deeply affecting, life changing business." It's also fun. Drop in whenever you can.

The new group is at Chorak, 122 High Road. Part of EFAB, it is open to everyone in the community. It meets weekly on Wednesdays, from 10.30am to 12noon, starting on 8 October. For further information, contact Project Co-ordinator for Barnet, Paul Higgins, on 07985 718744. Find out more about shared reading on [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk).

## The support group

By Dennis Evans

Conceived by an elderly left-wing lady, and a man with politics well to the right.

We decided to bury our political differences for the duration of the strike.

News filtered down slowly...

Then it came:  
families in mining communities  
queuing for food at soup kitchens.

We had meetings and fund-raising parties,  
set up rotas for early-morning collections at the Tube station.

On my first morning,  
the local vicar shouted abuse.  
Aimed a kick at the collecting bucket.

Would I have to practise self-defence on a 'man of God'?

The following week, having done his homework,  
he put a tanner in the bucket.

Visits to and from the families,  
strong friendships formed.

Came the climax, came the tragedy.  
Family against family, divorces.

Police against neighbours,  
neighbour against neighbour.

The alliances we'd formed were let go.  
We went back to our old allegiances.  
But the warmth remained.



Tee Tarjan at MighteeFit ready to welcome you. Photo Mike Coles

## Health studio settles into new home

By Diana Cormack

After five years of being based by the Five Bells off East End Road, the MighteeFit Health Studio has moved to bigger and brighter premises at 2A Fortis Green, formerly home to the Noble Sage art gallery.

Director Tee Tarjan, who lives locally and is a former pupil at Christ College, told *THE ARCHER* that he wants to bring a playground theme to the centre, with an emphasis on fun to help people achieve their fitness goals. With this in mind it is the only facility in North London to have been fitted with astro turf. Another unique feature is the rig, which has been specifically designed for MighteeFit.

### Fitness teams with nutrition

Tee has plenty of experience in the fitness field, dating back to opening the local LA Fitness centre in 2001. Previous to that he played football for his school and for Barnet County. An interesting aspect of his experience is that, for the last four years, he has run the McDonald's Wellness Centre at their East Finchley European HQ next to the tube station. Nearly half of the 650 staff participate and the restaurant offers a healthy eating option alongside their usual fare.

This is an aspect of health education which Tee is eager

to bring to others, particularly youngsters. He believes they should be made aware of the benefits and value of good nutrition. So MighteeFit is running a Teen Eat course for 10-15 year olds and hopes to set up similar classes in local schools. Adult

nutritional advice and guidance is also available.

Call 0203 224 3043, visit [www.mightteefit.com](http://www.mightteefit.com) or email [info@mightteefit.com](mailto:info@mightteefit.com) for more information or just pop in for a look round and a warm welcome.

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Award winner Andrew Savvides

## Andrew is the Rolls-Royce of gap year students

Future engineer Andrew Savvides has just spent a year working with aerospace giant Rolls-Royce and was named among the top nine students on the prestigious Year in Industry working gap year programme.

The 19-year-old's placement was quickly appreciated by his host company for the value he could add to their projects and Rolls-Royce bosses praised him highly for his contribution to the business. Some of the work he did promises significant on-going cost savings for the company.

As a result, Andrew, of Creighton Avenue, was selected as one of the top nine students in the UK

marked out for having made

a significant contribution to the business of their placement company.

### Skills sets

Starting this month, this former pupil of Dame Alice Owens School, Potters Bar and Our Lady of Muswell Hill primary school is studying Mechanical Engineering at Sheffield University. He goes there not only armed with the technical skills he learned in the project but also with a valuable insight into the necessary

management skills, including planning, negotiating and communicating.

The Year in Industry is one of the programmes for paid placement in technical and commercial functions organised by the Education Development Trust charity. Visit [www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry](http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry) for information on students using their gap year to improve their CVs and to earn some money with top UK companies to help finance their degree.

## Robo-students raise the flag in Brazil

Two pupils from the Robotics Club at Christ's College Finchley competed against 35 teams in the World Championships of Junior Robocup in Joao Pessoa, Brazil.

The global event fosters development and collaboration in robotics and artificial intelligence, with teams testing their skills in events such as robo-soccer, rescue and dance.

East Finchley students Riku Murai and Nikunj Pindoriya, whose team is already a three-times winner of the UK championships, were competing in the disaster rescue task, where their fully autonomous robot had to navigate a maze, find a victim and carry them to safety. The

CCF robotics team came in 11th place overall, making it fifth out of all of the European teams.

It is a very exciting time to learn about robotics in school and if you are interested in Junior Robocup then the UK website can be visited at [www.robocupjunioruk.org](http://www.robocupjunioruk.org). There is also information about robot events, including the London Open Championships which will be hosted by Christ's College Finchley on Saturday 13 December.



Paresh at the re-modelled CW Andrew pharmacy. Photo: Mike Coles

## New look for old pharmacy

By Diana Cormack

There has been a chemist's shop on the corner of Baronsmere Road and the High Road since the building there was completed in 1883/84. In 1900 it became CW Andrew and kept the name when it was bought by John Bolton of Twyford Avenue in 1939. Nearly 40 years later it was sold to pharmacist Paresh Shah's family and he refurbished it in 1995.

This September the familiar dark green shop front disappeared and the interior was revamped to give the place a fresh, updated modern look. Paresh told *THE ARCHER* it made for better working conditions and for a better customer experience.

As he pointed out, the role

of the pharmacist and the pharmacy has changed substantially. Nowadays people are encouraged to speak to the pharmacist for some aspects of medical advice. His business also has a full time travel clinic and there are staff offering vaccinations as well as flu jabs.

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## Royal Mail mumbo-jumbo

Archer reader Neville Robinson took this puzzling picture of a notice on his local post box in Bancroft Avenue, N2. Neville says it's a prime example of "gobbledygook" and it certainly seems that the more you read it the less it makes sense. Let's hope the postal staff collecting the mail know what they're doing!





# A new technique for pain control

**Kathryn Scorza, a highly qualified therapist based in East Finchley, explains how hypnotherapy and relaxation can combine to help those suffering chronic pain.**

Hypnotherapy has nothing to do with hypnosis used on stage as entertainment, but is instead a highly effective therapy able to mobilise the powerful resources of mind-body connection and control pain. Far from requiring clients to give up control, hypnotherapy is increasingly widely recognised as actually able to help them gain more control at any level: physical, mental or emotional.

My approach has been developed with a GP who had made a study of pain receptors, and is therefore based on current medical and scientific thinking about the nature of physical pain, how pain signals work, and why we get pain in the first place.

It's a programme using relaxation, mindfulness meditation techniques and hypnotherapy, to help people living with chronic physical pain reduce their need for painkillers.

The purpose is to help those with any chronic condition which involves ongoing pain, including arthritis, osteoarthritis, the pain which can accompany cancer, or even phantom limb pain.

With practice, people become empowered with techniques to keep pain at bay, or at least at a manageable level. Far from just having to "live with it", it is possible to transform the physical experience of chronic pain so that it dominates everyday life less.

It is important to stress that success depends on practising the techniques. With time, results



Kathryn Scorza.

can be achieved increasingly quickly. Hypnotherapy has no side-effects, and the skills learned are there for life.

To find out more contact Kathryn on 020 8444 5498 or 07703 404 839 or via her website [www.kathrynschorza.co.uk](http://www.kathrynschorza.co.uk).

## No Marks

THE ARCHER has heard a rumour that Marks and Spencer were interested in setting up a small local store in the former Post Office building.

A spokesperson told us that although M & S are always looking for new outlets, they have no plans to move into this site, but we would be told of any future interest in the area.

# Meditation and mindfulness

By Sheila Armstrong

**Sallie Rose, meditation teacher for over 30 years, will be running another meditation course in East Finchley this autumn. The course will cover various techniques to develop mindfulness, reduce stress and increase peace of mind.**

The four-week course starts on Thursday 6 November from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The cost is £65, or £55 for Sallie's current students. Information from Sallie on 07944 818197, by email at [sallie@meditationnow.co.uk](mailto:sallie@meditationnow.co.uk) or on the web at [www.meditationnow.co.uk](http://www.meditationnow.co.uk)

As the days draw in Sallie and Sunnah Rose will also be running a one-day yoga and meditation course on 18 October from 2pm to 5pm at Holy

Trinity Church in Church Lane. The cost is £35, or £30 for low-waged people.

Sunnah will teach yoga postures to help you root yourself and Sallie will offer meditation to ground your awareness and develop a sense of wholeness. All levels are welcome.

To book contact Sunnah at [sunnah@stretchingpeople.co.uk](mailto:sunnah@stretchingpeople.co.uk) or 07941 321 772. Or more information from Sallie as above.

## Try mindfulness for yourself

By Sallie and Sunnah Rose

**This is a lovely technique that can be used by anyone at any time of day to calm and centre yourself.**

1. Wherever you are, you could be standing or sitting on a chair, just feel your feet on the floor. Connect to the ground and feel that you have created a stable base.
2. Then imagine there is a piece of string coming from the top of your head encouraging your body to lengthen and draw tall.
3. Start to pay attention to your breath. You can feel it coming in and out through your nose or your mouth. If you are anxious or upset this can be quite challenging but keep trying.
4. Once your breath is coming and going more easily bring your attention down to your belly and feel the breath there. If you like, you can put your hands on your heart as a way to stay grounded.
5. Inhale so that your breath expands in to your belly. Exhale so that your breath is released from your belly. Try to do this breath 10 times.

This technique need not be used only when feeling stressed or upset but it can definitely help at those times. Do remember that you cannot fail at this, it is just a technique to help you experience a more peaceful mind.

More details at [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk) and [www.meditationnow.co.uk](http://www.meditationnow.co.uk)

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Name of Thrones

Once upon a time when men were men, women blushed at the sight of an ankle and most of the globe was coloured British Empire red, naming children was easy. Everyone knew that Archibald or Alfred or Ernest were suitable names for a boy, just as they knew that Mary, Mavis or Martha were perfect for a girl. These were good, English names, the sort of names that inspired men to conquer entire continents before luncheon.

Now, in the weird world of modern television, things are different. No more shall parents look to great British heroes for names; instead they shall turn to the warped cross between The Hobbit and The Godfather that is Game of Thrones. Yes, names like Arya, Khaleesi, Sansa and Catelyn seem so perfect for a girl and what could be better than calling a boy Tyrion or Theon?

And it's not just the TV listings. There are other ways of doing it too. You can pretend you're clever and do what Kim and Kanye West have done by calling your child North. What are they going to call the second one ... South? That's almost as sad as the Davidsons calling their son Harley, although nothing sinks as low as Mr and Mrs Nicholls calling theirs Harvey.

Weirdness can begin closer to home, perhaps as close as the fruit bowl. Why stop at Apple when there is space for a Kiwi, Apricot or Raspberry, but perhaps not for Peaches any more. Or maybe just dig out a map because if there is Bronx and a Brooklyn then there must be room for a Finchley, Camden or Norwich.

And if we are talking about maps we have to be talking about cars and isn't Jag a good name for a boy, or Van and Sierra is at least as a good a name as Cortina or Chevy for a girl. And guess what, strange though it may seem, the first Mercedes car was named after the daughter of one of Daimler's directors, not the other way round. Still, that's no excuse for calling your daughter Portia even if you have read Shakespeare.

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## Regular Events

### Sport & Fitness

- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07593 367134.
- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or [james@taiji.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).

### Music, Dance & Creative Arts

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

### Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://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



Mark Overall (*Frankenstein's Monster*) at work.

## Frankenstein's monster haunts graveyards

In their special Halloween production of the horror classic *Frankenstein*, Garden Suburb Theatre has cast in the role of Frankenstein's monster a local monument mason, Mark Overall, who specialises in gravestone restoration in cemeteries all over London. His working life should give him plenty of opportunities to get into character!

Frankenstein is the first of two appearances the group will be making at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate this autumn. Our Man in Havana follows in December. Frankenstein runs from Thursday 30 October to Sunday 2 November at 8pm (4pm on Sunday) with a special Halloween matinee at 5pm on 31 October. Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are available from [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com) or by ringing 020 8340 3488.

## Be seen in The Archer

Has your charity, church, school or society got a public event happening? Tell everyone in East Finchley about it with a free listing in our What's On column on page 10 of every issue.

Send us details by email to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. You can also reach us on Facebook and Twitter at TheArcherN2.

Deadline for submissions is always the middle of the month ahead of the issue in which you'd like your event included. Full details of deadlines are always at the top of page 2.

## What's On... E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Sunday 12 October

- **Open Sunday at Stephens House and Gardens**, East End Road, N3. From 1pm to 5pm The Stephens Collection and The Botchy Gardens are open for you to visit. See this boutique collection of Stephens ephemera, explore the gardens and enjoy a classic Sunday lunch with main courses from £6.50 and sweets from £2.50 (booking recommended).

- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. Barnet Voices, with Robert Puzey (viola) and Millie Pollicek (piano) perform many styles from classic to modern, including Byrd, Purcell, Mozart, Elgar, John Rutter, Jerome Kern and Richard Rogers. Free admission with collection in aid of Cherry Lodge Cancer Care and East Finchley Community Trust. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

### Friday 17 October

- **Memory Lane Singing Club** invites you to an hour of song, 11am at St Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, N3. Free of charge and all are welcome. Disabled access. Reserve

a place by contacting Valerie Cowan on 020 8458 4508 or [v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk)

### Sunday 19 October

- **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 11am. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Saturday 25 October

- **The Confections** will hold a concert at 7.45pm in the Church Hall, St. Mary's Church, 279 High Road, N2. First half Old Time Music Hall, second half songs and sketches from 1930s onwards. Tickets £8 and £7 concessions, including refreshments, from 020 8440 2817 or at the door. All proceeds to St. Mary's.

### Sunday 26 October

- **Halloween at Stephens House and Gardens**, East End Road, N3. Scary fun for all the family including spine-tingling spooky tour, face painting, fire jugglers, children's activities and more. Adults £5, children (aged 5-15) £4, families £16. See [www.stephenshouseandgardens.com](http://www.stephenshouseandgardens.com) for more details.

# October at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, executive director of the Phoenix Cinema

**Autumn at the Phoenix brings several feature films that have been racking up kudos at glitzy international festivals and some that caught our attention without any fanfare.**

We start with *Ida*, in which director Pawel Pawlikowski's memorable central character faces questions and contradictions arising from revelations about her family history.

Sharing the screen the same week is David Cronenberg's unique take on Hollywood, *Map to the Stars*, starring Julianne Moore and Mia Wasikowska.

Next is *71* in which Jack O'Connell plays a disorientated British soldier accidentally abandoned and trapped in war-torn Belfast. Then Phoenix favourite Emma Thompson is both writer and actor in *Effie Gray*, which imagines the relationship between Victorian art critic John Ruskin and his teenage wife.

Back on screen together for the third time, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper play a childless couple in Depression-era North Carolina in *Serena* by Danish director Suzanne Blier. Finally, the long-awaited Jimi Hendrix biopic *All is by my Side* rounds

off the month.

Phoenix Nights invites guest curators to present a favourite film at our monthly Friday late-night slot. Join us at 11.30pm on 3 October when film critic Mark Kermode does the honours.

Our regular Community programmes continue with our Kids Club, an arts activity and film screening every Saturday morning, then Toddler Time on Tuesdays at 11am, and Bringing Up Baby for parents and carers with infants in tow on Wednesdays. Starting soon, Phoenix Film Salon will be a twice-monthly enhanced evening screening and film discussion series.

Check our website for schedule and title updates at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk)

The fastest way to book tickets to ensure you don't miss out is by purchasing online. The Phoenix offers a unique experience and friendly atmosphere in an iconic independent cinema. We hope to see you soon.

## What's the point of the Methodist Church?

**East Finchley Methodist Church invites you to explore some of the answers to this question at its October Open Church month. Displays, exhibitions and social events will celebrate Harvest Festival in the first two weeks and Black History Month in the second two weeks.**

Every Thursday, Wesley's Coffee Bar will be open from 9.30am. Come and learn more about the history of Methodism in East Finchley and enjoy our displays for Harvest Festival and Christian Aid, focussing this year on Burundi.

An exhibition opening on Sunday 19 October will cel-

brate the history of Methodism in the Caribbean and include a display of artefacts from various African countries.

For further information about the church on the High Road opposite Creighton Avenue please contact Rev. Michael Giles (020 8346 1700) or Andrea McTeare (020 8346 7325).

### Tuesday 28 October to Saturday 1 November

- **Halloween Ghost Walk**: a very special guided walk through Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England, with City of London guide Paul Baker. Prize for the spookiest costume! More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Thursday 30 October

- **The Finchley Society** will host a talk by learning officer Isobel Aptaker on *plans for the future of Alexandra Palace*, which has received Heritage Lottery Funding. Mike Gee will also speak about the recent Finchley in Bloom competition; 7.30 for 8 pm at Stephens (Avenue) House, East End Road N3. All welcome. Non-members £2.

### Thursday 30 October to Sunday 2 November

- **Garden Suburb Theatre** group presents *Frankenstein* Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate. Nightly at 8pm, with special Halloween matinee at 5pm on Friday 31 October and matinee on Sunday 1

November at 4pm. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com) or by ringing 020 8340 3488.

### Saturday 1 November

- **Fireworks Festival at Alexandra Palace**, including UK's largest German bier festival, two funfairs, ice skating and a family area, with street food and refreshments. Gates open from 3pm, fireworks from 7.30pm. Tickets from [www.alexandrapalacefireworks.co.uk](http://www.alexandrapalacefireworks.co.uk)

### Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 November

- **Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society** (FFBOS) presents *Mack & Mabel*, the Hollywood musical, at The Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green, Green Lanes, London, N13 4DH. Featuring classic songs such as "I Won't Send Roses" and "Tap Your Troubles Away". Tickets £13/14 (£10 concessions). Box Office: 020 8482 6923 or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ffbos](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ffbos)

### Until Sunday 21 December

- Exhibition marking the 50-year career of *Ray Davies of The Kinks* at Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17.





## Letters

**Waiting for a hospital bus**

Dear Editor,

I am a retired health professional who has lived in East Finchley for five years now and one thing I am so grateful for is the service at Finchley Memorial Hospital. It simply is a wonderful resource for the area, especially the walk-in medical centre.

I have had reason to use this resource many times. As well as getting my regular blood tests I am now a Warfarin patient.

The newly built hospital is such a pleasant place to visit with its landscaped gardens and ample car parking. One does need to work out the parking ticket machines... once done it's easy, but every time I go I see someone else standing there with a puzzled look on their face.

However, it is not so easy for those with mobility problems in that no bus service goes along Granville Road where the hospital is sited. I am fortunate in that I can drive there, or if necessary, take the bus and walk along.

I understand there has been something of a campaign to get something done about this issue. I just want to add my voice as it is becoming harder for those with mobility difficulties who find council services cut back more and more.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Name and address supplied**

**Save our GP surgery**

Dear Editor,

This is an appeal to the NHS to save our local GP surgery at 91 High Road, East Finchley (The Archer, September 2014). We need help to keep this surgery open. We have been attending it for almost 40 years.

Both of my parents are elderly and they have various medical problems. I am a doctor myself and I am their only son. Very recently I had to move away from London. As a result it is worrying for me to know that the surgery is going to be closed soon. Considering the vulnerable conditions of patients like my parents, please take action, so that we do not lose our surgery.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Arup Chakraborty,**  
**Consultant in intensive care and general medicine, Milton Keynes Hospital.**

**Public toilets are a disgrace**

Dear Editor,

Barnet Council's management of the public toilets in Cherry Tree Wood is awful. Too many council officers, and a private company, have split responsibilities for the buildings, the cleanliness, the plumbing and the supply of toilet paper.

No soap has ever made an appearance in the 33 years I have lived here! Toilet paper is often missing, the toilets themselves are seldom cleaned and often smelly. WCs are blocked for days without attention.

In April this year after finding the gents' toilet locked with no notice I wrote to the council leader Richard Cornelius. It took him seven weeks to respond, saying blandly: "The

lavatories in Cherry Tree Wood are at last being worked on and so will be restored to a respectable state."

Scandalously, the toilets were still locked at the time of the East Finchley Festival on 22 June. They finally opened again in the last week of June. The outside of the toilet block looks good and new hand dryers have been installed. However, those are the only plus points.

On 1 July, the gents' toilet had no paper, no soap and no chain. Fast forward to August and the toilet has excrement all over it and I understand the ladies' was equally filthy. When a complaint was made to Barnet Council, the caller was told that nothing could be done because staff were "on leave".

The private company responsible for cleanliness and providing soap and water deserves to be heavily fined and then sacked.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Eugene Myerson,**  
**23 Annington Road, N2.**

**Noisy neighbours**

Dear Editor,

I moved to Muswell Hill in 1993 as it was a beautiful, quiet area with nice and friendly neighbours.

This changed in 2011, when Eden Primary School was granted planning permission to occupy a vacant space adjacent to our back garden. Although local residents opposed the project, citing increase in traffic and noise from the playground, it was approved.

The school supplied a noise report based only on assumptions, as no survey was done. This report gave ambient noise at 50-52dB, and said that noise levels are already high because of another school nearby (in fact, Fortismere school has never been a problem).

As per the National Planning Practice Guidance on noise, this school should never have been built. According to ENV6: Noise pollution: "Potentially noisy developments should only be located in areas where ambient noise levels are already high", and paragraph 123 states: "Planning policies and decisions should aim to avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impact on health and quality of life as a result of new development."

One of Haringey Council's planning conditions was the erection of an acoustic fence to protect neighbouring residents from increases in noise. The school proposed a solid 2m fence which should reduce levels to 51-55dB. It is an ordinary wooden fence of mixed size panels, with huge gaps which allow sound to move freely. Unfortunately, Haringey Council certified it as adequate.

For the last two years we have complained to the council and the school about unacceptable levels of noise. The school playground is immediately at the back of my garden, and we are not able to sit outside or open the windows during school breaks, which occur every two hours. Children are allowed to play in the playground until 6pm, when the school day ends. The shouts can even be heard inside the house. This is affecting our health tremendously.

We assumed that a good relationship with local neighbours would be a top priority for a new school. Sadly, it seems that we were wrong. The last correspondence from the headmistress is dated September

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"

The Archer, PO Box 3699,  
London N2 2DE or e-mail  
[the-archer@lineone.net](mailto: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.

2013, with a promise to look into the matter. My emails from June this year have been left unanswered.

For the last 8 months I have been asking for an independent report to actually measure the levels of noise. It was provided on 4th July 2014, and confirms what we have been saying all along. The ambient noise in my garden is 48db, and school noise levels are 86.5db coming from 60-80 children. When the school reaches its full capacity in 2017, there will be 210 children.

The noise levels measured illustrate how loud, high pitched screams and shrieks are perceived by recipients. The noise is not a continuous monotonous hum, but intrusive and impulsive.

I am taking legal advice, but would appreciate any help. Is there anything we can do?

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Yvonne Rybarczyk,**  
**Ringwood Avenue, N2.**

**Clutter and junk**

Dear Editor,

When I pick up every recent publication which I have bought or have had delivered, a host of unwanted adverts falls out.

I pay for the deliveries and resent having these items thrust upon me. I am sure that the advertisers pay for the insertions but I don't want to.

I also have to throw these papers out and this clutters up my bins.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Deanna Kaye,**  
**Address supplied.**

*Editor's note: The Archer is delivered each month by volunteers and never carries advertising leaflets.*

# A boy too young to go to war

By John Lawrence

**A pavement plaque was unveiled in North Finchley in August to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Private John Parr at the age of 17. The young volunteer was the first British soldier to be killed in the First World War.**

Halfway down Lodge Lane, N3, is a modest terrace house, with a bay window, shrubs in the garden and a wooden fence. Just over 100 years ago, it offered cramped conditions for the two families who shared it, one of them the Parrs.

In 1912, at the age of 14, John Parr lied about his age in order to enlist in the Army. He may have been looking for a set of clothes that fitted him and three square meals a day or, as his mother's great niece Iris Hunt puts it, "He was looking for adventure and something to do with his life."

**First of many to die**

As the First World War broke out in July 1914, he was among the men of the Middlesex Regiment shipped to northern France to halt the German advance into Belgium. On or around 21 August, in circumstances that are still unclear, Private Parr was shot and killed just before the Battle of Mons and shortly after his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, becoming the first British fatality of a war that was to claim the lives of millions.

Historians dispute whether he was close enough to the German positions to be killed by enemy fire. There is a theory that, while out on patrol, he might have been the victim of an unwitting



Remembrance: Wreaths of poppies alongside the memorial stone for Private John Parr in Lodge Lane, North Finchley.

Belgian soldier instead, possibly one who'd never seen a British uniform before.

Either way, he died in the service of his country and his grave is now in St Symphorien Military Cemetery, a few miles from the spot where he died.

**Searching for the truth**

In the confusion of this early skirmish no one knew John's exact fate. The captain of his regiment wrote to his family to say he was missing in action but, months later, his desperate mother still did not know whether her youngest son was alive or dead.

When the Lodge Lane plaque was unveiled, Iris Hunt read aloud from a letter that contained Alice Parr's response to the records office, pleading for help. "He informed [me] that my son Private John Parr has been missing from the regiment since August the 23rd 1914 and has not been heard of since. I should be very grateful for any information as to his whereabouts."

**Named and honoured**

He was buried by the Germans and it wasn't until a year on, after the Allied lines had moved forward, that his grave was found. Agonisingly, though, his family never learned the circumstances of his death and the mix of grief and guilt they must have been left with may be the reason he was rarely if ever mentioned. Family descendants have said they never heard his name.

But now at last the paving stone provided by Barnet War Memorials Association is a way of honouring his memory. Next time you visit North Finchley, perhaps consider taking the short detour down Lodge Lane to pay your own respects to Private Parr and the many soldiers who perished on the battlefields of Belgium and France.

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Roy Hudd shares a moment with Spike. Photo: Mike Coles

## Comic genius comes home

By Daphne Chamberlain

Against all odds, a fabulous bronze statue of Spike Milligan was unveiled in the grounds of Stephens House (the former Avenue House) last month. It could possibly feature in many future quizzes. Questions: 'Where is the statue of a man on a bench, turned to talk to whoever joins him there?' and 'Why was the sculptor awarded a Scout modelling badge?'

### Fundraisers' long haul

Quizzes played their part in this story. When The Finchley Society's Barbara Warren had the idea of a statue, she didn't realise that it would be nearly 10 years before it materialised. Inexperience in fundraising, no grants, and serious illness among the organising committee and the sculptor himself were gigantic hurdles to overcome.

The long round of fundraising with local events was boosted by the generosity of people like the quizgoer who wrote out a cheque for £10,000, and of many of Spike's friends and admirers. Barbara mentioned "lovely ladies" Maureen Lipman and Joanna Lumley.

### Troupers turn out

Joanna was absent (on the Trans-Siberian railway) but Maureen was at the unveiling. So were Roy Hudd, Denis Norden, Michael Parkinson, Jeffrey Holland, Terry Gilliam and Lynsey de Paul. Barry Cryer sent a message.

Michael Parkinson remembered "a wonderful man, who was also a pain in the butt!" Roy Hudd applauded the British tradition of erecting statues to people who make us laugh, but Spike was very serious about conservation and the environment.

### Spike's life, in bronze

He lived in Finchley from 1955 to 1974, becoming The Finchley Society's first President and lifelong patron. Look carefully at that bench next time you visit Stephens House. It incorporates reminders of the Goon Show and his service in

the Royal Artillery. The two Indian elephants represent his Indian childhood, and the fairies the fantasies he wove for his children.

Sculptor John Somerville got his Scout badge because he was once in the 10<sup>th</sup> Finchley Scottish Scouts, when Barbara Warren was his Akela.

Barnet's Mayor congratulated everyone, saying: "Welcome home to a comic genius." However, there is still a financial shortfall. Mementos are on sale at Stephens House, and donations can be made via [www.spikestatue.org.uk](http://www.spikestatue.org.uk).

## A tinselly date for your diary

After last year's wonderful event the East Finchley Christmas Festival will be back on Saturday 6 December. The High Road will be host to Father Christmas along with carols, competitions, mince pies and much more festive cheer for everyone. See you there!

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## So...

*I was queuing up at Paperchase in town buying a birthday card and some wrapping paper. It was lunchtime so the queue snaked out from the tills; about eight of us were standing in between those adjustable barriers shops use.*

*As we all waited patiently, a man in his 30s, stocky but normal-looking, holding a couple of items, suddenly ducked under the tape and barged in two ahead of me, putting himself second in the queue.*

*The man in front of me started to remonstrate with him: "Hey mate, there's a queue here." To which the new arrival responded with an angry "So what?" and turned his back on him. He obviously wanted to be challenged and seemed to be quite comfortable with the confrontation. Shameless, in fact.*

*My fellow queuer was having none of it. He neatly stepped around the man and restored his own place in the queue.*

*At this point, the stocky barger-inner turned and looked at me, challenge written all over his face. As he looked at me, I had a moment to think.*

*Before he could turn away I said in my sweetest voice: "You know what, I'm not in any rush. You obviously are so you're welcome to take my place in the queue."*

*He blinked at me and then his reaction was not what I expected. "You know what," he almost shouted, his eyes flashing, "forget it!"*

*With that he threw the items he had presumably been intending to buy onto the nearest shelf, stormed out of the queue the way he had come and left the shop without looking back.*

*Was it something I said? The power of politeness, perhaps.*

Heather Cooper

*Have you got a tale of everyday life? Email your story to 'So' at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.*

## Come Dine With Me needs cooks

The Channel 4 show Come Dine With Me will be shooting in north London from November 3-7. Over five days four strangers will take turns to host the perfect dinner party, with the eventual winner getting a cash prize of £1000.

To participate email [cdwm@itv.com](mailto:cdwm@itv.com) or call 0871 244 4142. (Callers from a BT landline will be charged a setup fee of 14p per call + 10p per minute. Calls from other networks may be higher and from mobiles will cost considerably more).

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