





September 2014 No. 250 ISSN 1361-3952



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Don't let it close! Patients plead for GP surgery A number of readers have got in touch with us to express

their concerns at plans to close the GP surgery at 91 High Road, N2.

Patients received letters at the start of August informing them that the surgery, home to three GPs, will shut soon after 14 December. They were invited to send comments to NHSDIRECT by the start of September ahead of a final decision being made.

The surgery itself was collecting names in an attempt to show the level of local support for its services. Existing patients are likely to be transferred to other surgeries in the area, although this is not guaranteed.

One reader told us: "It is the most wonderful surgery and the two receptionists, Maxine and Maggie, are delightful and have worked there for over 20 years. So apart from the 3,500 patients who are likely to have to join another practice the two sisters could effectively lose their jobs. People like that don't exist anymore and it will be devastating to lose our surgery.

"I have two young kids and cannot see how I can walk or take the bus to an alternative surgery if they are sick. I am sure there are other people's stories that are sadder than mine.'

Another reader said: "They are at the heart of East Finchley and we cannot let them close.

The news of the consultation came through just as we were going to press on this edition. We hope to find out more from the surgery itself in time for our next issue.



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A young passenger enjoys a buttony welcome at the tube station. Photo Mike Coles

Welcome that's cute as a button

By Diana Cormack

A special handmade greeting has been hanging on the wall as part of the annual plant display and competition at the tube station. It is a mosaic made out of 1,700 buttons carefully sewn on by Gill Steiner to say "Welcome to East Finchley". Gill had the idea for this some time ago but shelved her plans when it seemed permission would be needed from such bodies as English Heritage along with those in charge of the Northern line.

However, station employee Nino Rocha Santos, who looks after the plants, encouraged Gill to finish the mosaic in time for the Station in Bloom competition judging in July. He keeps a careful eye on it and says the work is a big hit with children. The wall hanging, near the High Road entrance, is proving popular all round and many people stop to have their photo taken beside it.

Gill hopes her mosaic can become a permanent feature, framed and in a suitable place at the station. She told *The* Archer: "The sign is dedicated to all the lovely people of East Finchley who make it such a special place; very many people who show kindness, enterprise and initiative. Thank you to the volunteers who compile The Archer every month for telling us the stories behind all those considerate actions. I think it may be unique for an underground station to have a welcome sign."



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...and one of our most famous residents is looking respendent in a new coat of gold paint.

The statue on the top of the Bald Faced Stag has been smartened up as part of the pub's refurbishment.

The new golden Bald Faced Stag. Photo Mike Coles



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THE ARCHER

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Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag for providing us with a meeting place. THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

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

Copy deadlines - October: 12 September, November: 10 October, **December**: 14 November

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

75 Brim Hill, N2

Roof extension, with one side and one rear roof light and one side dormer, to facilitate loft conversion

5 & 7 Chandos Road, N2

Replacement of existing rear extension with single-storey rear extension with two roof lights

18 Chandos Road, N2

Refurbishment of rear extension, plus new infill extension.

40 Church Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension. First and second-floor rear extensions. One ground-floor studio and two one-bedroom flats at first and second floor levels.

235 Creighton Avenue, N2 First-floor side extension. Roof extension

to facilitate rear dormer.

20 Elmfield Road, N2

Single-storey rear. Proposed depth of 5.24 m. from rear wall, eaves height 2.74 m., maximum height 4 m.

20 Elmhurst Avenue, N2 Erection of front porch.

Flat 4, 13 Fortis Green, N2

Variation for planning permission F/00428/14. Roof extension, including new gable and dormer windows to both sides, to facilitate loft conversion. Amendments to rear. Variations including alterations to windows, insertion of roof lights, and reduction in glassing.

Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Road, N2 Refurbishment of front paved area,

including replacing decking and planting beds. Provision of bin store at rear.

120A High Road, N2

One internally illuminated ATM sign.

11 Hobbs Green, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Replacement of side door with window.

36 Howard Walk, N2

Single-storey side extension to provide link to garage, and conversion of garage ıble room. New shed in reaı garden.

27 Huntingdon Road, N2

Replacement of existing side extension with new one with four roof lights.

Unit 5, King's Mews, King Street, N2 Change of use from B2 (General Industrial) to D2 (Gym)

Ferris Lodge, 62 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Change of use from B1 office to C3 residential (4 Units)

32 Lincoln Road, N2

Single storey side and rear extension, with three side roof lights and one side skylight. 4 Market Place, N2

Variation of conditions, including reduction of side elevation glazing to comply with Building Regulations, and proposed opening of obscure window to utility room restricted to 100 mm, installed and opened so that neighbour's garden can't be overlooked.

11A Manor Park Road, N2

Single storey side extension. Ground Floor Flat, 69A Park Hall

Road, N2

Part side/part rear extension. 68 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 5.96 m from rear wall, eaves height 2.6 m, maximum height 2.75 m.

Stanley Road Playing Fields, N2

Details of Condition 4 (Materials), pursuant to planning permission for Archer Academy (F04475/13).

41 Tarling Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4m from rear wall, eaves and maximum height 3m.

Haringey Council

11 Annington Road, N2

New single-storey conservatory to rear elevation.

7 Aylmer Road, N2

Ground floor rear/side extension. First floor single-storey side extension. Enlargement of rear dormer windows. Replacement of mono-pitched roof with flat one.

3 Fortis Green Cottages, Fortis Green, N2 Single-storey rear ground floor extension. Single-storey rear first floor extension. Roof light to rear pitch. New side window. Alterations to existing windows.

1 Fortis Green Avenue, N2

Annexe to side and rear of main house. **10 Kingwood Avenue, N2** Certificate of Lawfulness for new building

in rear garden. 41 Twyford Avenue, N2

Internal alterations. Reduction of existing ground floor side extension, Flat-roofed rear single-storey extension. Flat-roofed single-storey garden room. External airconditioning unit to flank wall.

Open evening for Christ's College

Christ's College Finchley will be holding an open evening for prospective pupils on Tuesday 30 September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Guided tours will be arranged during and after talks from the headteacher, which run at 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

On 10 October, there will be an open morning from 10am to 12noon for parents to see the school at work, visit lessons and talk informally to the headteacher, staff and students.

No appointment is necessary for either event. For further details, phone the school on 020 8349 3581 or visit www.christscollegefinchley.org.uk

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Councils		Hospitals		Crime	
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Admin/Town Hall	020 8359 2000	Coppetts Wood	020 8883 9792	Barnet Police	101
Council Tax	020 8359 2608	Finchley Memorial	020 8349 7500	CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600	Oak Lane Clinic	020 8349 7000	Victim Support	0845 303 0900
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700	Royal Free	020 7794 0500	East Finchley Safer	
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500	St Luke's	020 8219 1800	Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014
Employment Service	020 8258 3900	Whittington	020 7272 3070	Help & Advice	
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000	Health Advice		Advice Barnet Project	0844 826 9336
Leisure		AIDSline	020 8363 2141	CAB Money Advice	020 8201 7727
Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121	Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555	Carers' Line	020 8343 9698
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815	Barndoc	0300 033 3777	Childline	0800 1111
Muswell Hill Odeon	0870 505 0007	Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688	Disability Info Service	020 8446 6935
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789	Cancer Support	020 8202 2211	Gingerbread	020 8445 4227
Warner Cinema	020 8446 9933	Drinkline	0800 917 8282	National Debt Line	0808 808 4000
Transport		Drugs Helpline	0800 776600	NSPCC	0800 800500
Nat. Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950	MIND	020 8343 5700	Rape & Sexual Abuse	020 8683 3300
City Airport	0043 7404330	NHS Direct	0845 4647	Relate	020 8447 8101

OAPs' Advice

Contact (N2)

Age UK

Jogger attacked on Hampstead Heath

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National Express

Heathrow Airport

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0870 000 0123

By Janet Maitland

A 30-year-old woman was attacked while jogging on Hampstead Heath. She was punched and knocked to the ground as she approached Wildwood Road on Monday 21 July at about 11.30pm.

Her attacker, described as a white man about 5ft 9ins tall, repeatedly punched her in the back of the head as she lay on the ground, causing swelling and bruising. He ripped off her earrings and headphones, cutting her scalp, and then ran off.

In a separate incident on 18 July, a 29-year-old woman was attacked at about 10.30pm while making her way home from the Boardwalk shopping centre in Edgware. A man came up behind her and struck her on the back of the head with a can of drink, while she was walking down Church Way. He then punched her several times in the face. In the struggle they both fell to the ground and the woman injured her shoulder. The man ran off when the woman screamed to alert passers-by.

He is described as white, stocky, about 5ft 6ins tall with short blond hair and facial stubble. He spoke with an Irish accent.

The police say that the two incidents are not linked. "I need the public's help to identify these violent men before they strike again," said DC Mike Clinch from Barnet CID.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101 quoting reference 2416176/14 (Hampstead incident) or 2415968/14 (Edgware incident). Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The Archer tea towel... available on the High Road

The Archer tea towel is now on sale at the Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road. Pop in and buy yours, and you'll be helping to raise funds for three youth groups in East Finchley.

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Every penny we raise from £5 per tea selling them will support the work of the Monday Club, the Finchley Youth Theatre and the 3rd Space Youth Club at Strawberry Vale.

And you can still order your tea towel by post. Send a cheque made payable to The Archer for

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The air ambulance takes off from Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

Man injured in road accident

By Janet Maitland

A man was badly hurt in a collision between a car and a motorbike at the junction of Fortis Green Road and **Durham Road on 19 August.**

Two ambulances arrived at the scene of the accident at about 4.20pm and attended an unconscious man with head and knee injuries. The ambulance crews called an air ambulance, which landed in Cherry Tree Wood.

The injured man, who is in his late 20s, was taken by road to the trauma centre at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington as a priority. He was escorted by the doctor from the air ambulance.

Police closed the surrounding roads. They were reopened at 8pm after removing the crash vehicles, a grey Alfa Romeo and a blue Yamaha motorbike. No arrests were made and, at the time of going to press, enquiries were continuing.

Water leak worries near playground By Diana Cormack

Despite emailing and phoning Barnet Council several times over the last few months, Archer reader Dr Anthony Inwald is still waiting for some action to be taken regarding his concerns about a water leak in Cherry Tree Wood.

The water by the playground appears to emanate from a damaged area in the adjacent asphalt path, possibly caused by a heavy vehicle, which is gradually deepening and is also full of water.

Health hazard His first email in late May told the council that "surface pooling next to the children's playground seems to be a breeding area for mosquitoes". In mid-June he thanked Customer Services for dealing with another problem reported in that email (the cleaning of dog litter bins) but asked if the source of the leak had been discovered and whether anvone had been made responsible for dealing with the problem. Their reply promised a

working days. In mid-July he emailed his ques-

full response to his

enquiry within ten



A large puddle of still water from a leak near the children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Mike Coles

tion again and further underlined the "health hazard with loads of mosquitoes breeding in the stagnant water very near where children are playing.'

Dr Inwald thinks the problem arose after work started on the pavilion earlier this year. He told *The Archer* he had contacted Thames Water, who said that the leak was from a private mains under the park area.

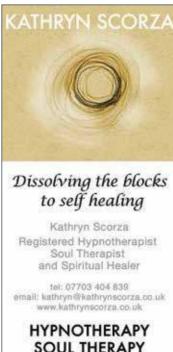
At the time of writing *THE ARCHER* was still waiting for a comment from Barnet Council, as was Dr Inwald.

East **Finchley** Arts **Festival**

The East Finchley Arts Festival will be bringing music, poetry, opera, literature and film to All Saints Church in Durham Road and the Phoenix Cinema during its nine-day run this month.

You can find out more and book tickets at www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk or Black Gull Books at 121 High Road, N2. We carried full details of the line-up in our last issue so here's a quick summary of the programme:

- Saturday 13 Sept, 7.30pm: A programme of Film Music
- BBC Elstree Concert Band • Sunday 14 Sept, 7.30pm: Jennifer Bate and All Saints' Choir
- Monday 15 Sept, 7.30pm: East Finchley Writers
- **Tuesday 16 Sept,** 7.30pm: PopUp Opera - Cosi Fan Tutte (staged performance)
- Wednesday 17 Sept, 7.30pm: Paprika, Balkan Band
- Thursday 18 Sept, 7.30pm: Shakespeare's Greatest Hits
- Friday 19 Sept, 7.30pm: Music and Poetry from the First World War
- Saturday 20 Sept, 7.30pm: Haydn Chamber Orchestra
- · Sunday 21 Sept, 2pm at the Phoenix Cinema: Oh! What a Lovely War 7.30pm: The King's Men



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Wendy Felstead, left, with a coffee morning friend.

Over the garden fence There's another name on the block with the arrival of

Streetlife, a national social network that aims to let local people connect and share information.

Streetlife says more than 1.000 people in and around East Finchley have signed up to its free website, which it describes as "the online equivalent of chatting over the garden fence."

Hundreds of conversations have allowed local people to promote a ukulele club, find volunteers for a non-profit organisation which aims to help young people find work and spread the word about lost cats.

Wendy Felstead, a regular

user, helps organise a coffee morning for a group of friends who met through Streetlife. "I've only been in the area for 18 months and I've learned so much by making friends with people on the site," she says.

"The display of community spirit we've seen from East Finchley residents has been fantastic" said Nina Whittaker, Streetlife's head of communities. Find out more at www. streetlife.com

Raise funds for Age UK Can you run a coffee morning, quiz night, race night, cake

sale, or any other kind of fundraising event? Perhaps you like a challenge, and might skydive or run a marathon. Or do you have your own crazy idea?

Fundraising events are a great way to help Age UK Barnet to support older people who are lonely and isolated. If you can run a fundraising event please contact Lisa Dubow at lisa.dubow@ ageukbarnet.org.uk, or on 020 8432 1415.

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Don't let burglars fool you By Janet Maitland

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is warning residents that the number and variety of distraction burglaries shows no sign of decreasing. Ten homes in N2 were burgled in this way between February and July.

The perpetrators of this kind of burglary pretend to be police officers, care workers, nurses, council staff, door-to-door salespeople, utility company personnel and builders.

Gardening scam

They can also pretend to be gardeners, as local resident Stroma Leith found out when she was burgled on 16 July. She was gardening close to her open front door in Neale Close when a man came into her garden from the road saying he was going to be pruning some of her neighbour's trees and would be making a mess.

"He walked towards the trees, talking away, but I didn't go with him," said Ms Leith. "I had a sense that there'd been someone behind him, before he started talking, so I closed my front door and stood there doggedly. Then the door burst open and a man came running out. A third man joined them – probably a look out – and all three ran to a car parked at the end of the street. When I got inside, all the drawers and cupboard doors were open and £50 had been stolen from my wallet."

Police advice

If you're not expecting anyone, don't open your door until you are 100% sure the caller is legitimate. Ask for ID to be passed through the letterbox. If you have any doubts, ring the company they say they are from, using a telephone number from the phone book or directory enquiries.

Remember that it would be very unusual for anyone like a utility company to just turn up without making an appointment with you first. And that if any work needs doing on your property, this is for you to organise using a reputable company, not someone who just turns up on your doorstep.

"If all readers made a point of talking to an elderly/vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour about strangers at the door, this would make quite a difference," said Jan Lovell from the SNT.

Lisa Smith on 07909 998453 or

Better was established for local

people by volunteers and is aimed

East Finchley Altogether

email us@efab.org.uk

Ageing Well programme.

Longer ride on the 263 By Daphne Chamberlain

Those of us on holiday in July came back to find that the 263 can now take us past Highbury Corner. Most of us are probably pleased that our one and only bus to inner London now connects with several others, and also with the Victoria Line and London's Overground Railway.

A trip to Kew or Richmond, or in the other direction, to Westfield shopping mall and the other facilities around the Olympic site is now much simpler. Just shopping at the Nag's Head is a lot easier now we can forget about the Camden /Parkhurst Road loop and catch our return bus anywhere along Holloway Road.

Timing issues

We are also assured that the times between buses will not be extended as well. That was the big fear when the 263 was extended beyond Archway, but it proved groundless.

So why am I giving only two cheers? Those programmed intervals of 10/12 minutes are still longer than for most roads as busy and highly populated as our High Road. Public transport around the station and the shops is excellent, but for those East Finchleyans who live towards the North Circular

travelling is not so rosy.

High Road needs

The proposal to extend the 263 route was designed to give a better service to Holloway Road. The proposal states: "Demand for buses along the Holloway Road continues to grow" and mentions cramped and overcrowded buses. The same is true of our High Road.

On the Transport for London website which gives details of the decision, a Friend of Capital Transport Campaign remarks: "Holloway Road south of Nag's Head is one of the few main roads in London

with fewer buses than when I came to live here". One "disappeared" bus (the 104) also served our High Road, which had three buses running into central London.

A total of 734 people responded to the consultation, which closed in April, and 88.5% were supportive. Many commented on the need to maintain / improve the Barnet end. Some suggested a 24-hour

You can look at the consultation report at https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk, and you can still send your views to TfL.

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troubleshoot problems on comat getting projects up and running puters, laptops and tablet devices, which may benefit the area. The followed by tea and biscuits. initiative is jointly funded by Barnet Council and the NHS, and Anyone who would like to supported by the Barnet Seniors' Assembly as part of the council's

attend the sessions to learn computer skills, or give their time to help those less confident can call

on Thursday 4 September.

sions on computer and internet

skills are hosted by local people

who give guidance on how to

get online, send attachments and

The 'IT and Biscuits' ses-

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

Sit down for IT and biscuits

Computer skills sessions run by East Finchley Altogether

Better are returning to East Finchley Library starting

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children. Experienced singers are always welcome. Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

Holy Trinity Church Church Lane, East Finchley

Church of England

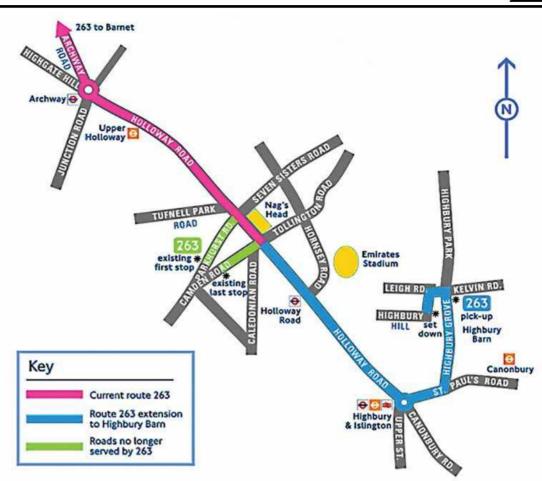
We're a warm and friendly congregation who look forward to welcoming you

Sunday Parish Communion at 10.00 am

Children's Sunday Club ♦ Meet over coffee after church Michael Stanway is happy to answer any enquiries: Tel: 020 8346 8591

www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk







Give a room, give a future...

The North London YMCA and Family Action have set up a brand new project called Keeping Families Together (KFT). The KFT project is aimed at supporting 16-24 year olds in Haringey who are experiencing communication and relationship breakdown at home, often meaning they are at risk of homelessness or already homeless.

The project is recruiting hosts (single people, couples or families in Haringey and neighbouring boroughs) with a spare bedroom who would be prepared to house and provide practical support to a 16-24 year old for up to three months. During this time the KFT team will provide mediation and family support work to help improve relationships between the young person and their family to help the young person remain in or move back into their family home.

Hosts will receive training, on-going support and payment of between £160 and £175 a week.

Supported Lodgings

This is the first time this type of Supported Lodgings scheme has been set up in Haringey. However, as a brief introduction to this way of supporting and

housing a young person, there are more than 100 similar Supported Lodgings schemes throughout England, many of which are run by other YMCAs.

Living in Supported Lodgings brings numerous benefits for young people such as being housed and supported by a host in the caring, nurturing environment of their home and this has been found to be hugely beneficial to the young person.

If you have space in your home and feel that you would be able to take on this rewarding role then contact community host coordinator Tom Hill at the North London YMCA to find out more. Email: supported.lodgings@ ymcahornsey.org.uk or phone 020 8340 2345. More details from www.northlondonymca.



Come on in - A host welcomes a young person

Top spot for school sports entrepreneur

By Diana Cormack

A Finchley sports coaching company which runs afterschool activities in local schools recently featured in the national finals of the WorldPay UK Business Awards 2014. Non Stop Action won the London Regional Final under the Young Entrepreneur category in the Federation of Small Businesses' search to find the UK's best

small business. Alex Vainella accepted the award on behalf of the company which he established nine years ago at his old primary school in Whetstone. His aim was to provide professional, structured sports coaching to children of all ages and abilities, giving them the opportunity to experience and enjoy physical activity. Alex is well known to pupils at Holy Trinity, Martin and St Theresa's who benefit from sessions in dance and football, as do primary school children all over the borough.

With a strong team of over 30 instructors and support staff, Non Stop Action works in conjunction with Barnet Schools Sports, providing such things as football festivals as well as nonstop camps, nonstop dance and nonstop parties. For a full



Alex Vainella Photo courtesy Non Stop Action

picture of what they offer visit www.NonStopAction.co.uk

A Local Handyman available for general household & garden maintenance. No Job Too Small Free Estimates Call John on: 0789 010 3831



A theatrical thank you

By Daphne Chamberlain

"A massive thank you" was how five former members of Finchley Youth Theatre (FYT) described their return to East Finchley last month. The newly formed Finch Theatre presented Casey Kurtti's play Catholic School Girls in the place where they learned their craft.

Funny, touching and thought-provoking, the play demands great versatility from its performers. Charlotte Christie, Megan Fellows, Eleanor Hardy and Sophie MacKenzie switched in seconds from schoolgirls at different ages to the nuns who were their teachers. This involved not only changes in character but in accents, sometimes American, sometimes Irish.

Each girl had her turn under the spotlight, revealing more about their personalities and backgrounds to the audience. In turn, they drew the audience more and more into the action. Full credit, too, to director/stage manager Catherine Nolan for keeping up the energy of this fast-paced satire.

Megan Fellows, who acted as producer, told THE ARCHER: "We met in 2009, tackling

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Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life* at FYT, and have remained close friends, while going our separate ways to universities and drama schools. I pitched Catholic School Girls to Liz Sacre, the bricks and mortar behind Finchley Youth Theatre, and a strong mentor and friend to us. We wanted to say a massive thank you to Liz and to FYT for all the wonderful years spent there. All profits from our two-night run have gone directly to them."

The Finch Theatre members are currently involved in their own creative projects, but would love to expand the company, explore new writing, and maybe even devise their own piece together.

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Page turners: Mums and babies enjoy reading time at the Highgate Family Centre

Family centre reopens its doors

A centre that provides a wide range of essential services to families with children under five reopens this month for the new term.

Highgate Family Centre, which is based at Highgate Primary School, North Hill, N6 4ED, offers services including midwives, health visitors, a baby weighing clinic and breastfeeding support.

Drop-in playgroups for different ages run each week alongside courses and classes including baby massage, weaning, sleep training workshops, baby and toddler First Aid and a baby sensory play

During weekends the centre is available to hire and provides a popular venue for children's parties.

Providing a lifeline

Manager Katherine Nashnush said: "Many parents see the centre as a lifeline, both in terms of the health services that are accessed and the social contact made possible for parents and their children through drop-in groups and courses."

For a current timetable and further information contact the centre by phone on 020 3213 0004, by email on familycentre@highgate-pri. haringey.sch.uk and through the website www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk

Summer in the pasture

By Daphne Chamberlain

Long Lane Pasture has completed its hat trick. For the third year running, it has been awarded the Green Flag Community Award. This year, Barnet has given only one of these awards, which are presented to parks and open spaces for cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.

The piece of land, sometimes called Finchley's best kept secret, owes its existence to community involvement. This summer, local people have joined in a Pond Day, the national Big Butterfly Count (www.bigbutterflycount.org), a Dawn Chorus Walk and a Bird Count. "Butterflies are everywhere", report pasture volunteers: The pasture provides a home to Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Skippers, Gatekeepers, Speckled Woods, Commas, Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals, Peacocks, Orange tip and Large White butterflies. At least 35 different species of birds have been spotted too. Honey from the bees will be sold at the East Finchley Winter Festival in December.

If you haven't yet discovered this amazingly peaceful oasis, do go and find it. The pasture is at 256 Long Lane, N3 2RN, just across the North Circular and opposite the Fire Station. It's currently open every day, and you may still be in time to pick blackberries.

If you would like to help the volunteers who keep the whole thing going, drop in on Saturday mornings between 10am and noon. Recently the People's Postcode Lottery Trust has awarded enough money to buy a sit-on mower, a brush cutter, and safety equipment and gloves. For further information, email longlanepasture@gmail.com. You can read more about the pasture at www.longlanepasture.org.

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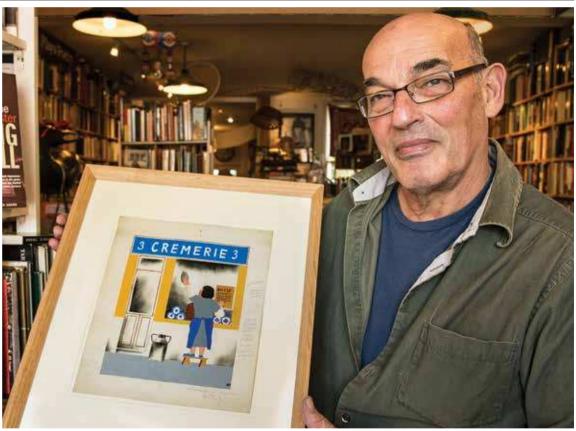
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Brian Schwartz with Nathalie Parain's original artwork 'Cremerie'. Photo Mike Coles

An original from 1930s France

By Brian Schwartz, of the Black Gull Bookshop

We thought we would share a piece of art that arrived in-house last month. The artist is the Russian-born Nathalie Parain (1897-1958), who was a young woman working at the centre of the modern art movement in France in the 1930s.

Cremerie (1935) is a framed original gouache on paper, 28 x 24 cm. In the margins are a number of Parain's own pencil annotations, including a stamped signature. The piece originates from the art-

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The image reproduced here from the book Faites Votre Marche, editions MeMo, 2012, (originally published 1935). The painting differs from this printed version in that the number 3 tops and tails the Cremene sign in our original.

You can compare the two as they sun themselves in our window. The price of the painting is £1,250.



Confidence to get back to work

Help is at hand for those hoping to find a job or going back to work after a break. Local professionals have offered their time and skills to support an East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB) project of confidence-boosting Back to Work sessions. The programme includes tips and guidance on improving your CV and advice on interview skills, as well as personal careers advice tailored to each participant.

No time for sitting

Staff from estate agents Jeremy Leaf and Co will step out

in the Cancer Research London Shine Marathon Walk

on Saturday 27 September. The firm says 11 employees

from its two offices in N2 and N12 will join the Walk

together, curbing their naturally competitive instincts

for the event. They've been training with regular fitness

sessions and walks throughout the borough of Barnet.

Your support and donations will be gratefully received;

please visit www.justgiving.com/Jeremyleafco/ or drop

Attendees on a recent workshop day said: "It's really useful and interesting: you'll learn a lot" and "This workshop is fantastic and definitely a 'must do' to be more prepared and get shortlisted!"

A free one-day workshop for people looking to boost their self-assurance and increase their chances of finding work is planned for a Saturday late in

around...

in to their office on the High Road.

September or early in October, at a venue to be confirmed in East Finchley. To register your interest, or find out more, contact Laura on 07976 511506 or at laura@ createyouridealfuture.com

More information will be available on www.efab.org.uk. Updates on EFAB can also be found on Twitter @eastfinchleyab or on its Facebook page: 'eastfinchleyab'.



Mike Gee, left, presents John Randall with his prize as winner of The Finchley Society's Front Garden of the Year 2014. Photo Mike Coles

John has plenty of front

By Mike Gee, Environment and Transport Chair of the Finchley Society In March this year The Finchley Society launched a new Finchley in Bloom competition to find the best front garden. There was a good response, with 53 entries from every corner of Finchley, and the winner in the Best Medium/Large Garden category was John Randall from Edmunds Walk, N2.

John was a standout winner. He carried out all the work himself, creating a lovely closely planted cottage-style garden, with plenty of year-round colour, which perfectly complements the house and road.

Endangered gardens

Front gardens are important. They define the suburbs, providing a habitat for all manner of wildlife, combating pollution, and brightening up our neighbourhoods. The simple fact, though, is that front gardens are disappearing at an alarming rate. They are nearly always converted into large areas of block paving to park cars.

In this borough alone an estimated 590 acres of front gardens have already gone, which is 45 times the size of Cherry Tree Wood!

Unfortunately there's no easy solution to this complex situation. But the Finchley Society set out to highlight the problem by this competition, to raise awareness of gardens, and show just how important even one well maintained garden can be. A front garden affects its whole neighbourhood, and benefits the whole community as well as passers-by.

Other winners

The winner in the Best Small Garden category was Sally-Ann Lever, of Village Road, N3, and the Best Environmental/Wildlife Garden award went to Deena Kestenbaum, of Fitzalan Road, N3. A special runners-up award was made to two gardens that had been reinstated from block paving.

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thanked sponsors Finchley Nurseries, Bennett and Hall, and B. Green Healthfoods and also thanks everyone who maintains a front garden which, whether prize winning or not, makes Finchley a better and The Finchley Society has more attractive place to live.



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YOUNG ARCHER



Cup winners: The triumphant Christ's College cricket team

Cricket final face-off

Two local schools faced each other in the final of the Barnet Cricket Cup. Christ's College Finchley and Fortismere were both unbeaten on their path to the final.

Fortismere won the toss and decided to field first. CCF got off to a flying start with Billy Blyghton hitting four boundaries within the first two overs. CCF lost wickets at regular intervals but managed to keep the scoreboard ticking throughout the 20 overs and finished on 128 for 7. Fortismere then took

Fortismere won the toss and cided to field first. CCF got to a flying start with Billy wighton hitting four boundars within the first two overs. To the crease and unfortunately lost their opening batsman in the first over before going on to make a steady scoring effort through their middle order.

With Fortismere finishing on 89 for 9 off the 20 overs, it was Christ's College who won by 39 runs. Well done to both sides for a thrilling game.

Tree climbing days

When did you last have the fun of climbing a tree? Would you like to learn how to do it? On the four Saturdays in September two highly skilled and friendly instructors will be in Alexandra Park to help all ages from six upwards reach new heights in a fantastic tree.

You can learn how to enter a tree's canopy using ropes, knots and karabiners while being securely attached in a harness at all times. Once at the top of the tree you'll gain an experience which can't be found on the ground. If

You can learn how to enter a you're feeling brave you can take e's canopy using ropes, knots the zip wire back down.

Sessions take place in the upper field by the deer enclosure between 10am and 4pm. For prices and further details visit www.alexandrapalace.com

Life on the home front

Daphne Chamberlain visits an exhibition at Stephens House in East End Road about the home front in the First World War.

In September 1915 an East Finchley schoolgirl named Phyllis Wren "died of fright during the night of the air raid by Zeppelins". Martin School (then the Great North Road School) recorded that 30 of its girls attended her funeral.

In February 1918 "a brass nose, weighing one and a half pounds, of an anti-aircraft gun shell" was found in the Marylebone Cemetery in East Finchley. This was reported in the local newspapers.

on their next bottle if they returned the empty one. The Treaty of Versailles, which formalised the end of the war, was signed in the same Stephens ink.

From home to hospital

At the beginning of the war, local papers reported that Mr Stephens had once again opened his gardens of Avenue House to the public of Finchley on Thursday afternoons in summer. By the end, his house had been requisitioned as a

could see one of the hospital beds, diaries and letters from VAD nurses who told how their feet "ache, ache, ache", nurses' costumes worn in the BBC drama *The Crimson Field* and a recipe for preparing, cooking and serving a calf's head. This was a classic recipe for invalids, but definitely not for the squeamish.

We saw a violin, one of the many musical instruments, books and games donated to patients, and a battered tin



'Crimson Field' costumes on display at the WWI events at Stephens House. Photo Mike Coles

Meanwhile, Stephens blueblack ink bottles carried a wartime economy label, telling users that stationers would give them "a generous allowance" hospital for injured servicemen. From 1919 until 1925 it was the Central Hospital of the RAF.

For a week last month we

helmet belonging to P. "Nutty" Almond of Curzon Road, Muswell Hill.

Playing softly as we looked at all these artefacts and many more were music hall songs of the time. At the door was a recruitment poster, "The Veteran's Farewell". It showed a Chelsea Pensioner waving off a young soldier with the words, "Goodbye, my lad! I only wish I were young enough to go with you".

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 8th October 2014 6pm-9pm

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Two-wheeler thefts double

By Janet Maitland
Police are warning N2
residents to take extra precautions following a sharp
increase in the number of
thefts of bicycles, mopeds
and motorbikes. Eight
were stolen during May
and June compared to just
four in the three months
before that.

"Unlocked mopeds and motorbikes have been lifted from side alleys next to houses and carried into or onto vehicles," said Jan Lovell from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

"Don't rely on them being on your property, lock them by a shank to a strong post or put them in a garage if possible. Think about installing a ground or wall mounted anchor lock."

The SNT also advises you to register your bicycle at www. bikeregister.com, the police-approved cycle database, which not only makes it easier to trace your bike, but reduces the chances of having it stolen because would-be thieves can see the registration mark.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- Baby & U baby massage. Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@ gmail.com, www.facebook.com/babyandubabymassage
- Dads' Club: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- 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

Musical Tots: Wednesdays 11am at

- the Old White Lion and Fridays 11am at The Five Bells N2. Katemusicaltots on facebook.

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

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

 Stepping Stones, interactive play for under 3s. Tues 10am, East Finchley Baptist Church. Liz 07836 284538.
- Teddy Bears' Music, singing for 0-3s in HolyTrinity Church, N2; Thurs 9.45am & 10.45am. Camilla 07900 988149.



Hidden treasures

Costas Constantinou, of www.flogit4u.com, reveals some of the sought-after items that might be lurking in our back rooms or attics.

With nicknames like the Drunken Bricklayer, the Banjo, and characteristics like bark, lips and dips, this is no strange family of human beings we are talking about, but a family of highly sought after glassware called Whitefriars.

In 1923, Whitefriars opened its factory in Weald-



Drunken Bricklayer, worth £250

The Banjo, worth £200 - £250.

stone, Harrow. During the 1960s and 1970s, well known glass designers such as Geoffrey Baxter began to experiment with new moulded glass.

Unusual pieces were made in moulds using tree bark, nails, wire and other materials to produce alternative textures to the glass ... and the rest is history!

To this day, Whitefriars is hunted down by glass collectors from all over the world, and we're proud to boast it was made in north-west London.

All aboard for British and German voices in song Following their successful collaboration in Berlin last November, Germany's Cantus

Domus Choir joined the North London Chorus in a return match at the Barbican in

Earlier in the year in Berlin, the two choirs performed Benjamin Britten's War Requiem as part of the city's celebration of his centenary. In London, 100 years after the outbreak of World War I, they gave a concert of German music chosen in a spirit of reconciliation and remembrance.

Chorus member Marian Bunzl said: "Coming together again for a series of intensive rehearsals (and a few fun events) has strengthened our personal and artistic friendship, and this gave an added impetus to our performance. For us, it was a most moving and exciting experience and, judging by their reaction, also for our audience. We very much hope this collaboration will continue."

From the sublime to the interesting

After one of the day-long



Take your seats: North London Chorus members hop on board their Routemaster buses

rehearsals, North London Chorus gave a pre-concert party for the two choirs, and thereby took part in another London anniversary. This was Transport For London's Year of the Bus, in particular the 60th anniversary of the classic Routemaster.

The bus company Arriva, one of the Chorus's regular sponsors, provided two of their (now Heritage) Routemasters for a tour of London and whisked both choirs through Camden Town to Park Lane, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and on to a view of the City, including the Gherkin and the Shard, and then to a dinner venue.

Thus an Anglo/German choir celebrated music and friendship in the spirit of this year's centenary in an iconic London bus.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

ong live Johnny Foreigner!

It takes a lot for me to feel sorry for our charmless German royal family, but sometimes I just can't help it. August was the 300th anniversary of the Germans getting their hands on the throne and was marked with total indifference. It's not the first time this anniversary has been forgotten; no one bothered about the 200th in August 1914 as the only thing German that interested anyone then was war.

Then again, maybe there's another reason; maybe it's because no one wants to be reminded that the last English monarch was killed in 1066. Since then we've been ruled by a weird selection of foreigners.

Let's start with William the Conqueror, William the Bastard to his contemporaries, a displaced Viking who'd become Duke of Normandy He introduced serfdom, the Domesday Book and a new ruling class of 'Norman French'.

Next up, from 1154 we got the real, as in French, deal with the bloodthirsty Plantagenets. The first one killed the Archbishop of Canterbury, his eldest son spent his time slaughtering his way round the Middle East and the next one lost the Crown Jewels in the Wash. After that it got worse.

There was a hundred year's war with France, a couple of kings getting deposed, one with a red hot poker, the Black Death and finally a bloody family feud over what colour rose you should wear. The court still stuck to speaking French, the Bible was in Latin and the last Plantagenet got killed in battle and buried under a car park in Leicester.

Then we got the Welsh. I don't know what it was about the Tudors, but in 120 years they changed everything. It wasn't just Henry VIII and his wives or Mary burning heretics or Elizabeth the 'virgin' and the Armada. By the time she keeled over in 1603 England was a different, Protestant, place. Different enough for the next monarch to be imported from Scotland.

When it comes to bad-news-royals, look no further than the Stuarts. It wasn't just that they believed in the divine right of kings to do whatever they wanted, the civil war, Charles I losing his head or Oliver Cromwell, the Stuarts just weren't very good at anything. Finally they trickled to an end when Queen Anne managed to outlive her children.

There were 52 people with a better claim to the throne than the Elector of Hanover but the advert said 'no Catholics' so we imported George from Germany. And that is the end of history, as the last 300 years have all been about a bunch of Germans on the throne. It's the kind of thing that makes you wonder if UKIP are barking up a whole forest of wrong trees.

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Squeeze the best from a bountiful harvest

By Harriet Copperman

We are now well into the traditional time of year for harvesting nature's bountiful crop of plums, apples and pears. As in previous years East Finchley Abundance will be holding an Apple Event, this time on Saturday 11 October from 10am to 1pm outside Budgens.

We will be converting surplus apples into delicious juice and handing out samples to passers-by. Please note we are unable to sell it for hygiene reasons. However, we are again fortunate that one of our volunteers will be baking furiously nearer the time, so that various and delicious apple-themed cakes will be available to sample as well. If anyone else wishes to make similar contributions they will be gratefully received.

Similarly, if you have surplus apples do bring them along as early as possible on the 11th or we could possibly pick them up from your house by arrangement. Please also get in touch if you would like to help us on the day.

We can be contacted either on efabundance2@btinternet. com or c/o 32 Park Hall Road, London N2 9PU.

Watch out!

THE ARCHER has beeen made aware of a phishing email doing the rounds which appears to come from "sale@the-archer.co.uk".

There isn't actually any such address - and we are certainly not in the habit of sending out random requests for people to "wire" funds to us. If you receive an email of this nature, please delete it and, whatever you do, don't open the attachment.

East Finchley Baptist Church Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am Crèche and Sunday School during service Wheelchair access

For more information please contact the Church Office Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke) www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

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

Clubs & Social

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



Eighties revival: Helen Mikellides (centre) and the Style Councillors on stage at their first gig. Photo by Lisa Bishop.

Style Council back in season

What connects one of the most famous bands of the 1980s with a chemist's in East Finchley? The answer is a lady called Helen Mikellides, who works in Cootes Pharmacy and lives on Leslie Road.

Life-long Style Council fan, Helen, sent a chance email to tribute band, the Style Councillors, which resulted in her being recruited as their lead female

The only Style Council tribute act in the world, the Style Councillors have been going for four months. As well as Helen, their ten-strong line-up includes Darren Fletcher, who sings in the Paul Weller tribute act The Weller Experience.

Sounds of the 80s return

Their reception by fans and music lovers has been overwhelmingly positive. "It's been beyond our wildest dreams," Helen told *THE ARCHER*. "The Style Council were very popular. Their records outsold The Jam by three to one and they have a lot of die-hard fans.

The band has been working hard at replicating the sound of the originals. "We spent ages getting the sounds exactly right," said Helen.

The Style Council was formed in 1983 by Paul Weller after The Jam broke up, and continued until 1989. Two members of the original band, singer Dee C. Lee and drummer Steve White, have already expressed their support for the tribute band. Paul Weller himself has yet to comment.

See them live

The Style Councillors' first gig, at the Brentford Theatre in July, was a sell-out success. The next gig, their second, will be at the Jazz Café in Camden on 21 September.

Future plans include gigs in the north of England, while interest has been expressed in the US and Japan, where the Style Council had a big following back in the 1980s.

For more details, visit the band's website: www.thestylecouncillors.com

September at the **Phoenix**

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, executive director, Phoenix Cinema

September is bursting with great films and events at the Phoenix. Our feature films offer a selection of cinematic pleasures, starting with Helen Mirren and Om Puri in The Hundred Foot Journey, director Lasse Hallstrom's satisfying meal of a story about food and culture.

Pride opens on the 12th, the true tale of how two very different communities came together in London and Wales during the lengthy 1980s UK miners' strike. An irresistible crowd pleaser, it stars Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton.

Ending our feature runs this month is Woody Allen's latest, Magic in the Moonlight, co-starring Colin Firth and Emma Stone as jazz-age Riviera rivals.

Late night on Friday 5 September we're expecting *The Visitor*, a psychedelic relic of 70s Italian cinema featuring Franco Nero and an A-list Hollywood cast, hosted by film critic and author Kim Newman.

Our Saturday Kids' Club presents affordable films and art activities for our younger audience including *The Glitterball* and *Matilda* this month.

On Sunday 21 September we take part in both London Open House and the East Finchley Arts Festival by offering historic tours of the Phoenix and a special screening of classic First World War-themed musical *Oh*, *What A Lovely War*.

Book early for two more one-time-only events: **20,000 Days** on Earth lands on 17 November with a satellite performance and Q&A by the film's star and music icon Nick Cave, followed on 28 November by a screening of Billy Elliott The Musical, live from the West End stage.

Everyone's schedule fills up at summer's end so we hope you'll mark your calendar and book tickets online now at www. phoenixcinema.co.uk. See you at the movies!

So...

My husband and I went along to the Phoenix Cinema for the final showing of Monty Python Live (Mostly). The screening had sold out well in advance and the foyer was crowded when we collected our tickets.

In the auditorium we were delighted to see that there were some empty places in the back row just where we usually sit, so we chose two and sat there to enjoy watching the cinema filling up.

Then I noticed that other people were peering at their tickets and studying the seats before settling down. A woman approached me and asked "Are you in the right seats?" quoting the number on her ticket and counting along to indicate we might be in hers.

Number? What number? We didn't know the seats were allocated so hadn't bothered to check our tickets.

It turned out that this lady was in the wrong row and found her place elsewhere. We, however, without being aware of it, had sat down in the very seats and row allocated to us on our tickets. Weird or what?

Diana Cormack

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

Tuesday 2 September to Thursday 11

• East Finchley Altogether Better pop-in sessions for anyone to share ideas about ideas and skills to improve life for everyone in East Finchley. Tuesday Thursday 4 September, 1 pm to 4 pm, at the Phoenix Cinema. Monday 8 September and Thursday 11 September, 10am to 12noon at Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road. EFAB is a community-led project aiming to reduce isolation and help local people set up projects for others in the area. Everyone welcome. More details at www.efab.org.uk

Sunday 7 September

 From 10am, Socratic Dialogue: Can unequal treatment ever be just? Friern Barnet Community Library, entry £15. In a Socratic Dialogue we explore a question or a statement. We do this by exploring an example based on a real life experience given by a member of the group. This is a private event and the library will be closed to the public. For further information or to book please email info@socraticdialogue.co.uk

Saturday 13 September to Sunday 21 September

· East Finchley Arts Festival: the 18th year of our very own festival of music, literature, opera and art at All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2, and the Phoenix Cinema, High Road, N2. See programme summary 2 September, 11.30am to 2pm, and elsewhere in this issue, or visit www. eastfinchlevartsfestival ord uk

Saturday 13 September

- Colney Hatch Asylum past & present, a talk with slide show, Friern Barnet Community Library, 2pm – 3.30pm. First in a monthly series of local history talks by Dr Oliver Natelson.
- Free music concert at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, N2, 7.30pm. Andrea Whittaker, soprano, Sanae Honda, violin, Caroline Soresby, piano, and Lawrence Tang, piano, play a programme to include Mahler, Strauss, Braga, Prokofiev, James Brash and Brahms Free admission with a collection in aid of The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. The venue is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Sunday 14 September

• The Battle of Barnet: a guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 11am. Tickets

£8/£4 for under-12s. Phone Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks. talktalk.net

Monday 15 September

· Barnet Carers Centre and Carers in Barnet present an event for family carers of people living in, or considering moving into, a care home. Speakers. advice and a light lunch. From 9.45am to 2pm at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, London N20 0EJ

Friday 19 September

- The Italian Grand Tour: Vivaldi, Corelli and the rise of the violin. Join Gut Instinct on a tour of 100 years of Italian music, from Venice to Rome, Bologna and Naples, 7.30pm. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) on the door.
- Any Questions? Panel includes Cllr David Longstaff, chair of Incognito Theatre, musician Julian Silverman, and Thor (one of the occupants who reopened Friern Barnet Community Library), 7.30pm, Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Tel: 020 8361 0174.

Sunday 21 September

• Phoenix Cinema takes part in London *Open House* and the East Finchley Arts Festival by offering historic tours and a special screening of classic First World War-themed musical Oh, What A Lovely War. Details at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk Tuesday 24 September to Saturday 4 October

• Splashes, Wisps and Fragments: Artists from the **East Finchley Open** group exhibit at The Original Gallery, 1st floor Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, Crouch End, N8 9JA. www.eastfinchleyopen. org.uk

Thursday 26 September

• The Finchley Society concentrates on East Finchley. Topics not yet revealed. 8pm at Martin School, Plane Tree Walk, N2. Sunday 5 October

• Blunderbus presents Hugless Douglas: Music, puppetry, high energy storytelling. Little cubs and grown-up bears will all have fun, 12pm & 3pm. Ages 3-7. Tickets £8.95. Jackson's Lane Children's Theatre, 269A Archway Road, N6 5AA. Box office 020 8341 4421. www.

jacksonslane.org.uk. Friday 17 October

• Memory Lane Singing Club invites you to an hour of song at 11am in St Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, N3. Disabled access. Free of charge and all welcome. Details from 020 8458 4508.



Letters

Menacing atmosphere Dear Editor,

I have noticed lately the degradation of Cherry Tree Wood, when approaching from the East Finchley Station entrance.

It s overgrown, littered and now on the right hand side has become an area where many males gather to drink and smoke during the daytime.

Obviously it an open space for all but it feels a little menacing and unkempt, making it extremely unpleasant to walk through with the dog.

Kind regards, **Esther Rinkoff** (East Finchley resident for over 50 years)

Five lost parking spaces Dear Editor,

I am a resident of Leicester Road. For the last two and half years there has been a building site for a new house half way d own the road.

In consequence the local authority granted five parking spaces to the builders, marked with one yellow line. Building is very slow. At times, for weeks and months there is simply no building activity.

The local people have lost five parking spaces. Phone calls to the relevant office in the Borough have been left unanswered. I would be grateful if you could investigate why the parking restriction goes on and on.

Yours sincerely, D. McEwan Leicester Road, N2

Wanted: local outdoor gym

Dear Editor,

On reading the council newsletter Barnet First, I was delighted to learn that Barnet Council is introducing seven new outdoor gyms in addition to the one already in Oak Hill Park, East Barnet. However, none of the eight listed are near East Finchley. Indeed a lengthy bus, tube or car journey will be required if you live in N2. Somewhat self-defeating, surely. Is this part of the postcode lottery administered by the London Borough of Barnet?

Yours faithfully, Carmen Stevens Address supplied

Riding school remembered

Dear Editor,

Re the article on page 6 of your recent issue on the Vale allotments, the last farm in Finchley, at Strawberry Vale, was in fact run as a riding school by the daughter in law of Evan Evans.

Tessa (Teresa) Evans) sadly lost her husband Fred to leukaemia at a young age, leaving a two year old son. Today he is a farrier and works locally (although he lives in Wales, going back to his family roots).

Tessa died a few years back and had a large horsedrawn funeral which came up past the yard

before she was laid to rest.

There are still a few of us girls who rode there at that time and have a Facebook page with tons of photos. It was a special place for us all, and dearly remembered.

Yours sincerely, Julie Newman. Contact details provided

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.

A reader's bouquet Dear Editor.

As a regular reader of THE ARCHER I should like to congratulate both you and your staff, all volunteers on an excellent local paper.

It is informative, interesting and well illustrated. I look forward to its publication and send best wishes.

Yours sincerely, **Erna Karton** Creswick Walk, NW11

A favourite view of Spain

Muswell Hill artist and teacher Henry Hagger has reached the final of the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition with his painting of the New Bridge at Ronda in southern Spain.



Heat and dust: A watercolour view of Puente Nuevo in southern Spain by Henry Hagger

Henry is fascinated with this view and has also made pictures of it in pastels, in charcoal, as etchings and as lithographs. He loves the contrast between the texture of the rocks and the masonry of the bridge: the hotel perched up above the gorge and the tiny jail in the middle of the bridge.

The shortlisted pictures will be exhibited at the Mall Galleries (close to Trafalgar Square) from 15-20 September. Admission is free. The competition, now in its 26th year, is jointly sponsored by investment advisors Smith & Williamson who will show the pictures in their offices around the country and at Guildford House gallery.

Kay Hurwitz MBE, 18 March 1920 - 2 July 2014

By Thomas Radice

The viola player and teacher Kay Hurwitz, who has died at the age of 94, will be remembered by countless North London parents and their offspring as the leading inspiration behind and a constant presence at the Youth Music Centre (YMC), now in its 48th year, which meets every Saturday morning in Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead

Garden Suburb.

For over 50 years Kay was married to the famous violinist and outstanding chamber musician Emanuel Hurwitz CBE, who died in 2006. For a number of years they lived in Golders Green and Temple Fortune before settling in Finchley Central in 1966.

Born into a musical but hardup family of three brothers and two sisters, Kay Crome had her first violin lessons at school. She had to leave at 14 to help support the family, working in a lingerie factory but continuing to study the violin in her spare time and playing in various amateur ensembles. At 17 she joined the women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). In 1942 a short-lived marriage to a young major left her penniless and with her baby daughter Jackie to support.

Kay moved into a kind of musicians' commune in Bloomsbury and studied at the Royal Academy of Music. Her early professional career involved a hectic round of freelance work with orchestras such as the Hallé, the Liverpool Philharmonic, Sadlers Wells Opera and the English Chamber Orchestra.

In 1958 she got together with two friends from the RAM to form a music-making group for young children and their mothers, meeting in her house on Saturday mornings. News of this venture soon spread and they had to find larger premises. It was from these modest beginnings that YMC emerged as we know it.

Over the years Kay enlisted the services of many fine players and teachers who took pleasure in teaching young children instrumental skills and chamber and orchestral playing. By the mid-1960s YMC was attracting 200 children every Saturday and had four orchestras, a wind ensemble and a parents' orchestra. Out-of-town away days and summer schools became a regular feature, including visits to Aldeburgh. In her mid-seventies Kay retired from direct responsibility as a trustee of YMC but kept up close links with the centre.

Amidst all this activity, Kay was active in organising concerts in her own house and those of others, providing platforms for up and coming artists and raising money for music scholarships, the North London Hospice, Music Aid and other charitable causes.

For her achievements in providing encouragement and opportunities for budding young musicians Kay was made an MBE. She had a unique and enormous enthusiasm for life, enhanced by classic good looks and unflappability, characteristics that stayed with her to the end. As was said at her funeral on 11July, 'she just made things work.



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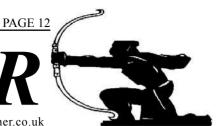
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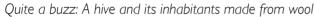
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Basket case: A beautiful bouquet of knitted flowers



High rise rose

Summer's End

A short story by E.T.Laing

I am lying in the long grass, maybe for the last time this year. Another summer is coming to an end. The branches of the poplar tree high above me are black, silhouetted against the blue sky. But their fluttering leaves turn bright green and gold as they rustle in a light breeze. Time passes. The breeze subsides. A few ragged clouds scud across the sky. But the rest of the world stands still.

Later in the afternoon, back in our quiet road, the sounds of the piano scales repeat endlessly, alternating with the clink, clink, clink of garden shears, the sounds of the lawnmower and the hissing of the spray over the grass in the garden of Mr and Mrs Wilson who live next door. She is so pretty and he is so handsome; although she is now over thirty and they are still waiting for a baby.

New term, new voices!

A-chord, an East Finchleybased adult choir, begin a new term with new songs to learn from Thursday 4 September, meeting 8pm to 10pm at The New North London Synagogue, The Manor House at 80 East End Road, N3 2SY.

If you've always wanted to sing but never dared to give it a go, the choir welcomes you to join them for a free taster. No audition is required and being able to read music is useful but not essential. A-chord sings light, popular music including songs from musicals, and the folk and pop repertoires.

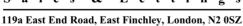
Although the choir rehearses in a synagogue, it is not a Jewish choir and A-chord welcomes anyone who wants to sing, regardless of religious background. For more details, call Laura on 07732 120464 or email a-chord@gerlis.com

The elderly twins at the end of the street will wash their car again this Saturday, as they always do. They have not driven it yet, after three years. The cows will amble home at sunset, and chew at our hedge as they go. Later, Holy Hector, the vicar, will pass on his daily walk up the bridle path in the warm evening air.

On the kitchen table the water in the jam jar containing our sticklebacks is turning cloudy, and they will probably die. But they will be an exception. Almost everything else will remain as it is, just as it should be. The poplar tree will always be there, just a little taller. We will grow up slowly, but not grow old. Summers will come again, and they will be more or less the same. For ever.

An extract from a collection of reminiscences about growing up in the 1940s. E.T.Laing ("Ted") is one of the East Finchley Writers Group, meeting on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. Details from Carola on 020 8883 5808.

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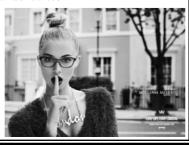
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Beauty of the knit-ural world

By Sheila Armstrong

Through the summer, artsdepot in North Finchley was host to a fun community knitting exhibition. The sound of bird song signalled the presence of Blooming Marvellous in the Apthorp Gallery and a garden of delights of many things vegetable and floral awaited within... all made from wool.

Birds, beasts and other living things were knitted and organised into gardens, greenhouses, picnics and hanging baskets, making a very colourful sight with appeal to all ages. It was followed up with workshops for children on Saturday mornings. Find out about future sessions at http://letslearnto.co.uk/

Organised by Pauline Stanley, a participatory visual artist, over 2,000 knitters of all ages contributed their creations. The whole project was inspired by the Plasticine Garden exhibited two years ago at the Chelsea Flower Show.

