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# THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURIERS

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*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 NHS DIRECT 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.



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."



...and one of our most famous residents is looking resplendent 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 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 anyone had been made responsible for dealing with the problem. Their reply promised a full response to his enquiry within ten working days.

In mid-July he emailed his ques-



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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Sit down for IT and biscuits

**Computer skills sessions run by East Finchley Altogether Better are returning to East Finchley Library starting on Thursday 4 September.**

The 'IT and Biscuits' sessions on computer and internet skills are hosted by local people who give guidance on how to get online, send attachments and troubleshoot problems on computers, laptops and tablet devices, followed by tea and biscuits.

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

Lisa Smith on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk

East Finchley Altogether Better was established for local people by volunteers and is aimed at getting projects up and running which may benefit the area. The initiative is jointly funded by Barnet Council and the NHS, and supported by the Barnet Seniors' Assembly as part of the council's Ageing Well programme.

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

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

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(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,  
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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

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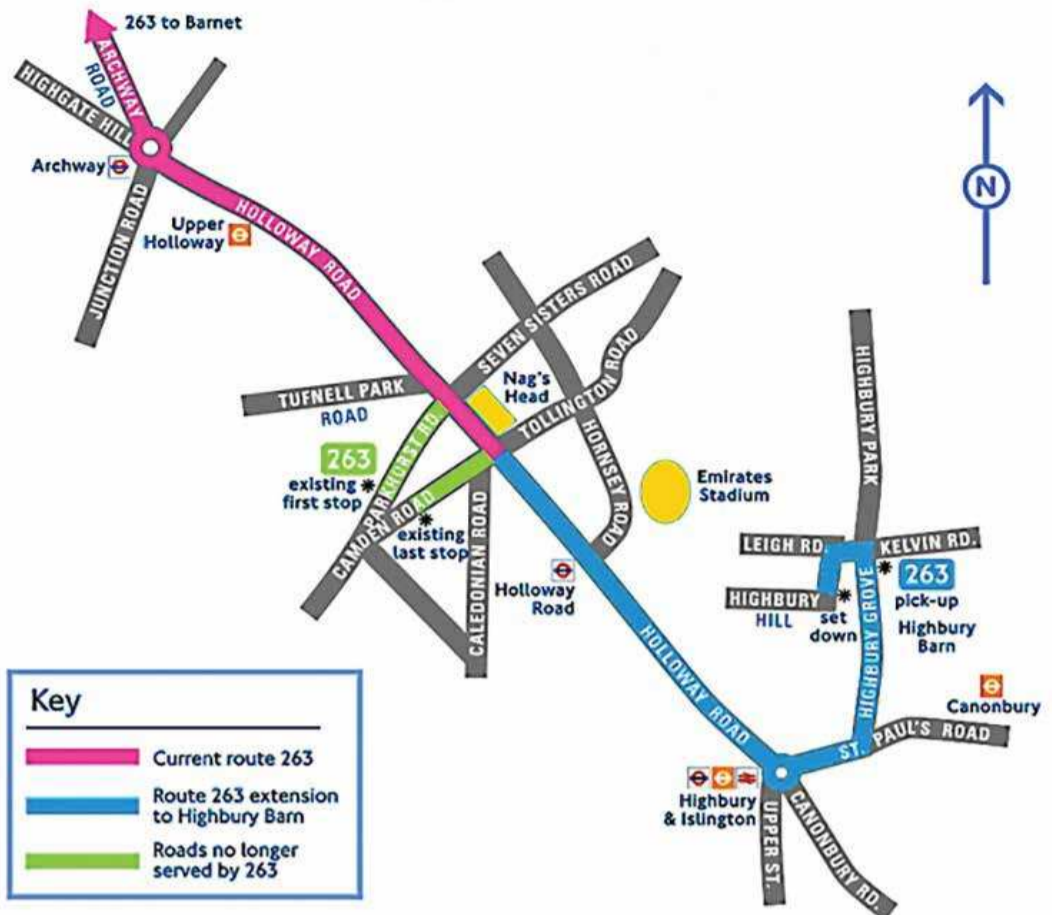
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## Longer ride on the 263

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 service.

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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## 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](mailto:supported.lodgings@ymcahornsey.org.uk) or phone 020 8340 2345. More details from [www.northlondonymca.org.uk](http://www.northlondonymca.org.uk)



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 after-school 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](http://www.NonStopAction.co.uk)

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## 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

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

course.

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

### Providing a lifeline

Manager Katherine Nash-nush 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-primary.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:familycentre@highgate-primary.haringey.sch.uk) and through the website [www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:longlanepasture@gmail.com). You can read more about the pasture at [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org).

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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 artist's studio.

The image reproduced here is 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.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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# 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.

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

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](mailto:laura@createyouridealfuture.com)

More information will be available on [www.efab.org.uk](http://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

# No time for sitting around...

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/](http://www.justgiving.com/Jeremyleafco/) or drop in to their office on the High Road.



Ready to go: The Jeremy Leaf team will walk their socks off

# 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 Envi-

ronmental/Wildlife Garden award went to Deena Kestbaum, of Fitzalan Road, N3. A special runners-up award was made to two gardens that had been reinstated from block paving.

The Finchley Society has

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 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

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're feeling brave you can take 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](http://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 blue-black 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".

## 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](http://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.

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





# 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-



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.



Drunken Bricklayer, worth £250 - £300.

# 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 July.

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

### Long 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.

## 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 arrange-

ment. 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 been 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.

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**Letters**

**Menacing atmosphere**

Dear Editor,

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

It is 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 is 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 down 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](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.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 hard-up 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 11 July, 'she just made things work.'

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September | 10.00am until 6.00pm

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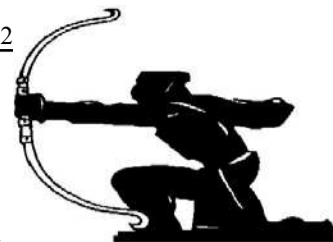


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Quite a buzz: A hive and its inhabitants made from wool



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.

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 excep-

tion. 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.*

## 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 Aphorp 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.

## New term, new voices!

**A-chord, an East Finchley-based 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](mailto:a-chord@gerlis.com)

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