

JEREMY LEAF & CO.
Professional Sales & Lettings
AT COMPETITIVE RATES
020 8444 5222
eastfinchley@jeremyleaf.co.uk

Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER



GLH
www.glh.co.uk
020 8883 5000
CARS & COURIERS

February 2015 No. 254
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Globetrotter: Marcel Thomas Lee

Marcel's slam dunk

By Alika Lee

Four years ago you might have seen him training in Cherry Tree Wood. Today, Marcel Thomas Lee is showing off his basketball skills and teaching the sport at a university in the States.

After many years of training and endless competitions, Marcel, 20, sent videos of himself playing the sport and won a scholarship to study and play at McMurry University in Texas.

The former Barnet and Southgate College student has loved the sport since he was 10 but really started taking it seriously when he reached 16, training nearly every day and using the Cherry Tree Wood courts to practise his moves.

THE ARCHER: can you help us with distribution?

THE ARCHER is looking for a volunteer to help count and sort newspapers for our rounds. Each month, the new issue of the paper will be delivered direct to your door, in bundles of 50, and it takes about 2-3 hours to sort the rounds. Our distributors will then pick up the rounds from you.

The only requirements are the ability to take the papers indoors and a ground-floor room or dry garage large enough to count them and store

them for a day or two. We give our sincere thanks to Rose Molloy who has done the job so well for the last two years. Can you help with this essential task? Please email us at the-archer@lineone.net, leave a message on our Freephone number 0800 612 0748 or drop us a line on Facebook or Twitter @TheArcherN2.

Residents on The Grange landed with huge bills

By Charlotte Black

Leaseholders living at Grange Estate, off Oak Lane, are in uproar over bills recently sent to them ranging from £5,000 to as much as £11,000 to cover the cost of maintenance on communal areas.

Barnet Homes proposes to start a £2.5 million repair project within the next financial year but leaseholders argue that they are unable to afford to pay these "unbelievable" bills with so little notice.

Barnet Homes has said that leaseholders can pay in instalments over the next two years, but that those who can pay upfront will be given a 2.5% discount. One leaseholder told THE ARCHER that the majority of leaseholders will not be able to afford to take advantage of this offer.

Another Grange Estate resident, Vanya Georgieva, drew attention to the fact that if you subtract her mortgage, bills and council tax as well the service charge from the average annual adult's wage in London she would be left with

less than £100 a month to spend on staples such as food, clothes, insurance and pension plans.

She is being asked to find just over £300 a month for two years in order to cover the bill for repairs that was sent to her. Some leaseholders are being asked to pay up to £500 a month.

Barnet Homes met with people who live in Berwick House on the Grange and agreed to a further consultation meeting to discuss the charges.

The organisation has said it encourages leaseholders to meet them on a one-to-one basis to discuss their concerns and find possible payment solutions.

If any leaseholders would like to find out more or provide information on a similar experience, the leaseholders group can be contacted by email at Grange-Leaseholders@outlook.com

VICTORY AUTO SERVICES

**Mechanical & Diagnostic Repairs
on most makes & models**

Servicing, MOTs, Tyres,
Bodywork, Vehicle Air-Conditioning

109 Fortis Green East Finchley London N2 9HR
Tel: 020 8883 9707 / 0023 Fax: 020 8482 9179



.....The Right Choice

Estate Agents - Valuers - Residential Sales - Lettings - Management - Cyprus Properties
40 High Road East Finchley London N2 9PJ Tel: 020 8883 9090 Fax: 020 8883 8580
Email: enquiries@primelocations.co.uk Website: www.primelocations.co.uk

Call us for a Free Valuation.

Family Business you can Trust.

**PRICKETT
& ELLIS** ESTD 1767

**82 High Road
East Finchley
N2 9PN**

020 8883 0033

highroadn2@prickettandellis.com

Estate Agents and Valuers Established 1767

Big Fun Walk is back

This year's Big Fun Walk in aid of North London Hospice takes place on Sunday 22 March, setting off from East Finchley tube station for a gentle eight-mile route through north London's glorious parks finishing at Westminster. You can have fun taking part and help to raise vital funds for the hospice by registering at www.bigfunwalk.co.uk.

Everything Electrical Ltd

Lighting the way & Making connections since 1995
www.everything-electrical.com info@everything-electrical.com
Tel: 020 8444 7994 or Freephone 0800 279 3463

**ALL TYPES OF LED LIGHTING
AND HEATERS IN STOCK**

- FAN HEATERS •
- CONVECTOR HEATERS •
- OIL FILLED RADIATORS •

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



THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE

www.the-archer.co.uk Email: the-archer@lineone.net

[@TheArcherN2](https://twitter.com/TheArcherN2) www.facebook.com/TheArcherN2

Voicemail (messages only) 0800 612 0748 for editorial and general enquiries or 0800 612 4027 for Advertising enquiries only

Published by
East Finchley Newspapers

Copy Editor
John Lawrence

Production Editor
Alison Roberts

Picture Editor
Mike Coles

Editorial Team
Diana Cormack
Daphne Chamberlain

Sub Editors
Ann Bronkhorst
Jeff Robson

Finance & Advertising
John Dearing

Distribution
Toni Morgan
Rose Molloy

Printed By
Sharman & Co Ltd

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 – **March: 13 February, April: 13 March**
May: 10 April

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900

Haringey Council

Leisure 020 8489 0000
Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Park 0870 240 6020
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
Cruse Bereavement Care 0870 167 1677
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
EF Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse helpline 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSLine 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

Health Information Service

0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700
National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hospital 020 7886 6666

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

GP surgery: closure notice goes up

It is the news that patients of a local GP surgery have been dreading. The proposed closure of the family practice at 91 High Road, first reported in *THE ARCHER* last September, is to go ahead.

A notice on the front door and a letter sent to patients state that the practice, run by the retiring Dr Isaacson and his partners Dr Knock and Dr Mulkis, will close on 31 March. The GPs intend to transfer patient lists to their practice in Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill.

Concerns about access

Some patients say they have been left devastated by the decision that will, for many, end a relationship with the surgery spanning 30 years. They are wondering how they will get to the new practice and fear the closure will have a detrimental effect on their care.

One mother with a young baby said: "At present the surgery is a ten-minute walk from where I live. The move means that I will have to walk 50 minutes there and 50 minutes back. By public transport it would probably take just as long on two buses on a big loop via Fortis Green and cost a lot in fares."

"In reality I'd have to take a half day off work to go to the doctor. They're also running an appointment system instead of the much-loved current walk-in. How do they expect me to do that with a very poorly or feverish baby? And for the elderly and disabled, the very people who most need an accessible GP, it's even worse."

Reasons unclear

There are fears that the closure will lengthen patient queues locally as people find themselves forced into switching to other GPs or the NHS walk-in centre at Finchley Memorial Hospital in North Finchley.

So why is the practice closing? Some patients have told us that the lease on the current

building is coming to an end and that the remaining two doctors have to find ways of managing an increased workload. However, the manager at the High Road practice declined to comment to *THE ARCHER* on the reasons for the closure.

A petition is being organised to oppose the closure. For details email SurgeryClosure@outlook.com.



Notice in the surgery window

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

6 Durham Road, N2

Continued use as two self-contained flats at first and second-floor levels.

121 East End Road, N2
Alterations to existing shop front to facilitate new access entrance to flat above.

25A Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

Flat 3, 42 Fortis Green, N2

Extension to roof, including rear dormer and three front roof lights to facilitate a loft conversion.

54 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

104B Hertford Road, N2

First-floor rear extension. Extension to roof, including hip to gable, rear dormer and two front roof lights to facilitate a loft conversion.

34 High Road, N2

Conversion into two self-contained flats, involving first floor rear extension, following removal of existing staircase and associated internal alterations.

111 High Road, N2

Alterations to the rear extractor fan and flue.

44 Kitchener Road, N2

Extension to roof, including hip to gable, rear dormer with Juliette balcony and two front roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion.

2B Manor Park Road, N2

Rear dormer and two front roof lights to facilitate hip to gable loft conversion.

Land opposite nos 48-56 and 90-102 Old Farm Road, N2

Two outdoor gym areas adjacent to existing playground along Old Farm Road.

17 Ossulton Way, N2

Roof extension, involving two rear dormer windows and a conservation roof light to side elevation to facilitate a loft conversion. Alterations to hard and soft landscaping to front to provide one off-street car parking space with associated vehicle access.

Festival fund raising

East Finchley's Christmas Festival held last December raised money for two local causes.

These were the Finchley Youth Theatre based on the High Road and TreeHouse School (Ambitious About Autism), Woodside Avenue, N10. This highly successful event raised £1,000 to be shared equally between the two.

Big push for world record

Members of Mightee Fit Health Studio at 2A Fortis Green will be flexing their muscles on Sunday 1 March, taking part in an attempt to enter the Guinness Book of World Records. The objective is to achieve the most push-ups performed around the world in the exact same minute of time. Each completed push-up has to be at least 90 degrees at the elbow to count and will raise money for the Jay Fund, a children's cancer charity.

Money for the one-minute push-up challenge will come from donations, sponsorship pledged previously or on the day, when the whole event will be filmed. Mightee Fit's minute begins at 5.31pm but, from midday, there will be food, entertainment and fun for everyone, so spare a few minutes to go along and give your support.

Email info@mighteefit.com Telephone 020 3224 3043 or 07939 166 454 for more details.

ROBIN KIASHEK

BSc (Hons) Ost Med

OSTEOPATHY in Fortis Green

including the Perrin Technique for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME, (Western Medical) Acupuncture
Nutrition, Life Coaching/NLP and Autogenic Training

52 Twyford Avenue
Fortis Green
London N2 9NL

020 8815 0979
07956 213 759

www.robinkiashek.co.uk



Piano Lessons

Jazz, blues, classical, rock

Also theory, keyboard harmony, improvisation, composition, arranging, song-writing, GCSE & A level music

James Drew-Edwards LTCL GTCL PGCE (music), CRB checked

jamesdrewedwards@gmail.com 020-8444 0655

Local Office Support

Reliable self-employed lady available for typing, filing, mailings, data entry, proof-reading, telephone/reception, office sitting...

Available day/half day

Are you a small business/sole trader?
Do you need occasional /or part-time office help?
Call Nathalie on 07799 670010



Two men jailed for running 'forgery factory'

By Janet Maitland

Two men, one of them from East Finchley, have been jailed for making and selling thousands of counterfeit documents.

Arsene Meci, 26, an Albanian national, ran what police describe as a 'forgery factory' from his home in Western Road, N2. Using computers, laminators and professional printing equipment, he produced fake driving licences, national identity cards, passports, and construction and security certification cards.

These were then sold by broker Medi Krasniqi, 47, a British national of Albanian descent living in Finsbury Park. Krasniqi was in charge of locating clients who were charged between £50 and £800 for made-to-order documents.

Major coup for National Crime Agency

The men were arrested as part of a three-year investigation by the National Crime Agency into an Albanian-led forgery network in North London which has led to 17 convictions and more than 68 years of prison sentences.

During the investigation, more than 300 fake passports and 200 counterfeit national identity cards were seized, along with databases containing thousands of images of fake documents and images of around

20,000 people.

When Meci's flat was searched, officers discovered computers with more than 8,000 images and templates for false documents, along with a number of photos, blank cards and fake passports ready to be made up.

Dangers caused by forged certificates

Both men pleaded guilty to conspiring to produce false identity documents, possession of false ID and money laundering charges. At Chelmsford Crown Court on 12 January, Meci was jailed for six and a half years while Krasniqi got five and a half years. Meci will also face deportation following his sentence.

"Krasniqi and Meci were prolific forgers who could supply almost any form of ID," said investigating officer Carl Eade. "They helped people to obtain work or services they weren't qualified for or entitled to. One of the forms of ID they specialised in was certification to work in the construction industry. We have no way of knowing whether their clients were actually qualified to do the jobs they were then able to apply for."



From the left, Michael Moody, Syd McGowan and Gerald Haines celebrate their TV appearance on Mel and Sue. Photo Mike Coles

Chefs cook up a treat for Mel and Sue

Three men from Age UK Barnet's cookery classes for older men were the star chefs in Great British Bake Off presenters Mel and Sue's new chat show in mid-January.

Gerald Haines, 87, Syd McGowan, 72, and Michael Moody, 68, who attend the classes at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, cooked up a tasty chicken casserole with dumplings, a dish they learned on their Age UK Barnet cookery course.

Instead of using celebrity chefs, the show is bringing on real cooks to demonstrate a favourite recipe.

Joining Gerald, Syd and Michael on the show were Jo Brand and Dr Christian Jessen

of TV's Embarrassing Bodies.

Syd chopped the veg, Michael prepared the chicken and Gerald made the dumplings, with Jo Brand and Mel and Sue as their helpers.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life! Everyone made us feel so comfortable that I didn't feel nervous," says Gerald. Michael agrees: "We felt really looked after and Mel and Sue put us completely at ease."

Syd, who couldn't stop smiling throughout the show,

says: "It's odd having six huge cameras on you the whole time, but as soon as you go live, you forget they're there."

If you or someone you know is interested in attending Age UK Barnet's men's cookery classes email Karen on eatwell@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8150 0967.

Walking football

Walking football for over 55s is all the fun of five-a-side, with no running.

Join in the nearest sessions on Thursday mornings, from 11am to 12 noon for £3 per hour at Power League, Bobby Moore Way, N10 1ST. For more information, contact Roger Engledow on 07817 111 642 or new10dger@virginmedia.com.

Nicky Sharp Osteopathy Clinic

Cranial and Structural Osteopathy and Acupuncture

All Major Insurers Accepted

For consultations and appointments:

Telephone: 020 8815 9433

260 East End Road www.nickysharposteopathy.co.uk

London N2 8AU e-mail: info@nickysharposteopathy.co.uk

KF COMPUTERS AND IMAGING
93 High Road, East Finchley, N2 8AG

WE SELL - REPAIR - BUY & TRADE

PC - LAPTOP - APPLE MAC

&

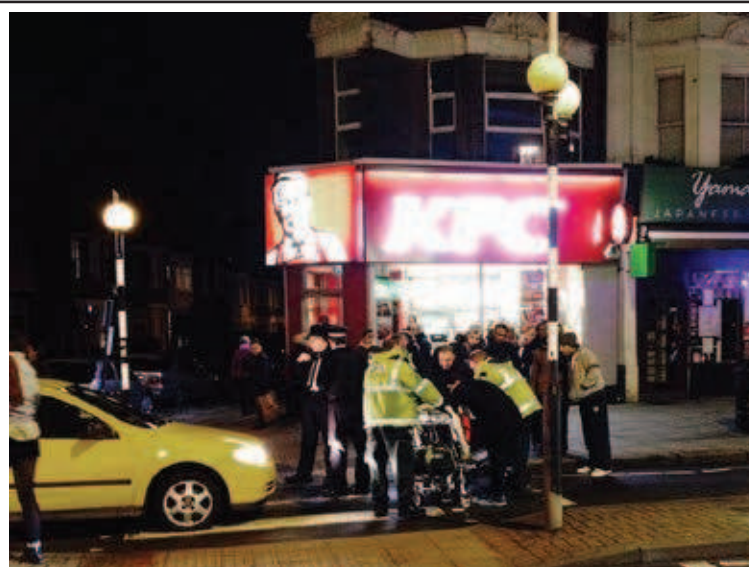
MOBILE PHONES & TABLETS

WE REPAIR WHILE YOU WAIT

Check the DEAL on Pre-Owned LAPTOPS



020 8815 9898



Man injured crossing High Road

By Janet Maitland

An elderly man was injured when he was in collision with a van as he used the pedestrian crossing on the High Road close to Huntingdon Road at about 5.15pm on Tuesday 13 January.

The man, believed to be 85, was treated by the ambulance crew at the scene of the accident and then taken to Barnet Hospital. His injuries are described as non-life-threatening. No arrests were made. A report has been submitted to the Met Prosecutions Traffic Unit for investigation.

Josephines

EXPERTS IN CREATIVE FLORAL DESIGN

Whether it's flowers, a bottle of champagne or even just a box of chocolates, what better way of saying 'I Love You' this Valentines Day (Saturday 14th February).

Place your Orders Now to avoid disappointment,

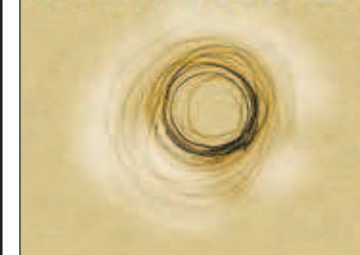
Love to all xx

www.josephinesflowers.co.uk

Tel: 020 8444 9569

60 High Rd, East Finchley London N2 9PN

KATHRYN SCORZA



Dissolving the blocks to self healing

Kathryn Scorza
Registered Hypnotherapist
Soul Therapist
and Spiritual Healer

tel: 07703 404 839
email: kathryn@kathrynskorza.co.uk
www.kathrynskorza.co.uk

**HYPNOTHERAPY
SOUL THERAPY
SPIRITUAL HEALING**

Hypnotherapy can help with managing many issues, including stress, anxiety, phobias, fears, phobias and compulsions



Last chance to fight for our libraries

By Daphne Chamberlain

Campaigners across Barnet, including the East Finchley Library Users Group (EFLUG), have been ensuring that the council realises how much people value their libraries. There is still time for you to do the same until 22 February. At the Finchley and Golders Green Forum last month, library supporters brought up the issues which are disturbing people most.

Key concerns

Under the proposals, unaccompanied under-16s will not be allowed to use libraries when buildings are unstaffed, unless they are with "an appropriate adult such as a teacher". Parents of vulnerable older teenagers are also concerned about the safety of unstaffed buildings. The council says that CCTV cameras and possible on-site security are planned.

Library supporters say that reports of the "open" / closed library being successful elsewhere, for instance in Denmark, are not relevant as circumstances are very different.

If East Finchley library is relocated, how could the current High Road building, where the Grade 2 listing includes library fixtures and fittings, be used for another purpose? The council says it is "developing more detail around specific options".

A new site

Relocating to a "better foot-fall" site would take it away from its central position in East Finchley and further from areas which need a library most, say campaigners. The consultation involving a new Waitrose supermarket and an associated new

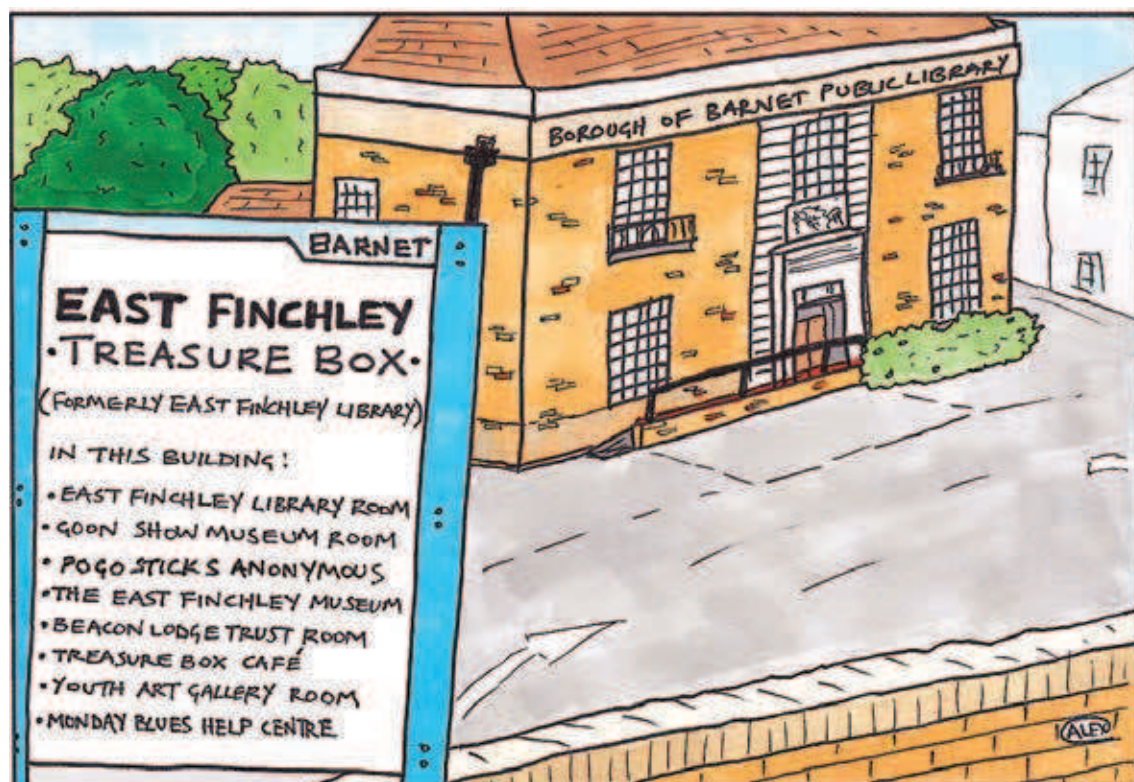
library site near the tube station in 2003 showed how unpopular such a move would be.

Membership of East Finchley Library has grown since then. Currently, the upstairs hall is filled with local students during exam time. Where would they go, if the library was shrunk to one room size? Barnet Council suggests they should travel to one of four study sites across the borough.

Having your say

If you oppose the proposals, sign one of the paper petitions in the streets, the online petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-to-closure-of-barnet-libraries>, and fill in the council consultation on libraries. This offers three options, all of which involve drastic reduction in size, relocation, complete closure, and / or two-thirds of opening hours in unstaffed buildings.

EFLUG are urging us to do it, but with care. See their website www.eflibrary.com for their advice. The consultation closes on 22nd February. And write to Conservative councillors, especially those with slim majorities. Contact EFLUG for details.



Plenty of life in the library yet

Thanks to Alex Athanasiou for sending in this cartoon to show that our library could have a future as a community hub. Alex, of Western Road, N2, says: "My reason for doing the cartoon is that there seem to be so many things closing down/being moved so maybe why not try and get them all into one place like the library? All these treasures being found at a one-stop shop." His idea chimes with Ruth Kersley's letter on this page.

Library letters special

We've been flooded with letters about the future of East Finchley Library and the library service across Barnet. This letters special is a selection of what you've been saying. Your views were still coming in as we went to press so we hope to print more letters next month.

For the sake of future families...

Dear Editor,

Having been lucky enough to have lived in East Finchley for over 40 years, and having brought up a family of a son and daughter taking full advantage of all the local amenities available, I am now very shocked to hear that our local council is considering closing East Finchley Library which has been a great asset all the time we have lived here.

For the sake of future families, who are increasing all the time, and retired pensioners who use the library on a regular basis, I appeal to your readers to reject any proposals to close East Finchley Library.

It is used by local schools and must be a great advantage in young peoples' education. I appeal to you, once again, on behalf of a large number of the local community to oppose any measures to close East Finchley Library and retain it with qualified, experienced staff.

Yours faithfully,
Norman Cude,
Leopold Road, N2.

Libraries are beacons in an austere world

Dear Editor,

I was deeply shocked to hear of the planned closure of further libraries in Barnet. These are beacons in our world where people can learn, be in an attractive environment irrespective of their means and feel part of a community.

Like many others, I spent a lot of my childhood in libraries, first my local library and then several university libraries, and no one would dispute, except perhaps some Barnet councillors, that their essential role is a 'public good'.

Even my son who has a nice home to study in for his GCSEs got hooked this Christmas holidays on going to Barnet libraries for his revision. He met up with a friend on many days and going to the library became a source of inspiration for them both.

My son reported that in one of the libraries that he went to, the same men in their 40s and over appeared every day. The library was clearly a home for these people, providing friendship, warmth and learning in a world that might otherwise have shut these men out.

I am appalled as a professor at a university that Barnet wishes to wield the axe to this beacon of civilisation, the library. It is an act of arrogant barbarism which reflects ill on those wielding power in the borough. At a time of economic deprivation, such as now, it is the very thing that should be maintained and not destroyed in the interests of continuous learning and positive spirit.

Yours faithfully,
Gloria Moss,
Address supplied.

How to keep the library alive

Dear Editor,

We should be finding new ways to make libraries more effective for their communities. These are some suggestions for making better use of the space within our local library:

- Book readings for children, the elderly and adults with mental health issues. Volunteers could be used from within the community.
- Book clubs for adults, the elderly and adults with mental health issues.
- Adult literacy sessions to promote literacy within the adult population.
- Book sessions for those with English as a second language.
- Cafe with wifi internet in separate room and disabled toilet.
- Develop study areas for greater use by school/university students.
- Develop upstairs for dance classes, keep fit, pilates, tumble tots – space to be rented daytime.
- Local orchestras to rent space in evenings for rehearsals.
- Lectures on authors, book launches, links with Black Gull Books in East Finchley.
- Art exhibitions in downstairs space to be rented.
- Workshops and demonstrations.
- Develop the DVD lending library and link with books that inspired the films.
- Special book events for children on Saturday mornings.
- Extra reading sessions for school children after school and help with homework clubs.
- Creative writing courses.
- Poetry reading for adults and children.
- Being part of the 'Cityread' initiative.

The council needs to live up to the sign that greets everyone entering the London Borough of Barnet: "Putting the Community First".

Yours faithfully,
Ruth Kersley,
Abbots Gardens, N2.

Editor's note: This is an edited version of Ruth's original letter to Barnet Council leader Richard Cornelius.

OFFER OF THE MONTH

3 X PERSONAL TRAINING MIGHTEEFIT SESSIONS FOR £100
(new clients only, one offer per person)

www.mightteefit.com 0203 224 3043 info@mightteefit.com
2A FORTIS GREEN EAST FINCHLEY LONDON N2 9EL

a room in my house
vintage & handmade

**GIFTS / SOFT FURNISHINGS
JEWELLERY / STATIONERY
FURNITURE / HOMEWARE
CLOTHING / TRINKETS
& GREETINGS CARDS**

SHOP OPEN FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 10AM-4PM

shop online aroominmyhouse.com

HOMEWARE.CRAFT.VINTAGE SHOP RE OPENING SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2015
King Street Mews / East Finchley N2 8DY

MARTIN SCHOOL
EAST FINCHLEY HIGH ROAD
CHURCH LANE
KING STREET

ESSO
LEOPOLD RD
LESLIE RD

Etsy and find us on Etsy too



Mystery of First World War medals

David Kemp, in Adelaide, South Australia, found The Archer online at www.the-archer.co.uk and got in touch with us:

Among my late father's possessions were First World War medals awarded to a Private Frederick Reid and I'd like to find out more about him.

Pte. Reid was born in or near East Finchley in 1891. His parents were William and Kate Reid of 10 Hamilton Road, East Finchley. Frederick had several siblings, including brothers Edward, Ernest, Bertram, Arthur and William; and sisters, Nellie, Mary and Kate.

My grandfather served with the Australian Imperial Forces in France and was killed in action at the Battle of Mont St. Quentin in 1918. Pte. Reid also served in France on the Western Front, firstly with the Lincolnshire Regiment and then with the Royal Field Artillery. He survived the war and returned home to England in March 1918.

The mystery is how his medals came to be in my family's pos-

session (in Australia). Frederick's descendants may be interested in having them returned but I would first like to solve the mystery of his medals and the Australian connection.

Names to ring bells?

Frederick may have married a woman by the name of Winifred E. Smith around 1925 in the District of Staines. His younger sister, Kate, may have married a John Bartlett and lived at 44 Boyne Road, London.

The 1964 London Electoral Register lists the following people at No. 10 Hamilton Road: Ernest A Reid, Nellie Reid, Kate Bartlett (possibly known as Kitty and possibly nee Reid) and Mary A. Ball (possibly nee Mary Reid).

If you can help with any information about Frederick Reid and his family, please email me at atd-kemp@bigpond.com



Unknown soldier: The 1914 medal inscribed to Private Frederick Reid.

Food for thought

What does it take to provide about 14,500 meals a year for homeless people? Martin Stone, leader of the Muswell Churches Soup Kitchen, estimates about 2,500 cans of soup, 1,000 cans of tinned tomatoes, 1,000 cans of vegetables, 200 cans of fish, 600 packs of pasta, 300 packs of rice, 500 bags of sugar, 2,500 pints of milk, 1,000 loaves of bread and 1,200lbs of meat.

Martin told the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association that local churches, schools and synagogues provide lots of food, especially at harvest time. The Soup Kitchen, which is a registered charity, is entirely voluntary and supported by the community.

They serve about 50 people a night, from 7.45pm to 8.45pm, Sunday to Thursday, in Muswell

Hill Baptist Church. That adds up to about 10,500 served meals and 4,000 takeaways each year.

Because many of their guests have complex needs, including alcohol and drug problems, dementia, phobias, physical illness, learning disabilities and schizophrenia, Martin runs a Reflective Practice School for the volunteer workers.

He said: "We also offer supportive services, linked to statutory and voluntary organisations that can empower the guests to start new lives away from the street homeless culture." If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Martin on martinstone18@gmail.com



On the catwalk: A model takes the limelight at the RSPCA fashion show.

The height of fashion

A live fashion show held by staff at the RSPCA charity shop in the High Road in December was such a success that they are already planning another. Managers Gabriella and Julie thanked the models who prowled the catwalk, along with the shop's volunteers and customers for all their support. There was a live commentary and a raffle on the night too. Gabriella said: "It went down really well and we hope to do another one very soon. We are currently on the scout for models!"

Quick Tips To Speed Up Your Computer

If your computer is a few years old you might be thinking it is already past its sell-by date.

- 1) Reload the operating system from scratch**
Some computers have a recovery partition - CAUTION Make sure you have great backups.
- 2) Increase the RAM.**
This is the usable memory and if you are running with less than 4GB on Windows 7, it will make a big difference for a small cost.
- 3) Upgrade to Solid State Hard Drive (SSD).**
This will make your machine purr and breathe fresh life as a SSD can be 10 times faster to access.

We help local businesses and individuals with their IT, and are based in the heart of Muswell Hill. With over 25 years' experience, we are always looking to help and support the local community.



For more useful advice and information online, read our blog at www.northlondonitsupport.com/blog
Call one of our IT support technicians today on freephone 0800 7561400
4 Mews House, Princes Lane, Muswell Hill, N10 3LU

North London Floor Sanding Experts

We offer full floor renovation service which includes:

- Wood floor sanding and finishing, staining and dying
- Buff and lacquer/oil/wax
- Gap filling
- Repairs, bespoke floor fitting incl parquet

Free and no obligation estimates

www.sandingexperts.co.uk - 077 38753430

East Finchley, High Road N2

A Local Handyman

available for general household & garden maintenance.

No Job Too Small
Free Estimates

Call John on: 0789 010 3831
or: 0208 883 5325

Japanese Acupuncture & Moxibustion

Gentle, dynamic & effective.
Promoting health and vitality.
Treatment is tailored specifically to your needs.

Fiona Hurlock

Ph 07795 203107

Please see www.fionahurlock.com
Utopia 1a Leicester Mews, N2 9EJ



- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk

020 8883 5888

2-3 Bedford Mews Bedford Road London N2 9DF



ALMAR BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Accountancy | Payroll & Book-keeping | Tax services

Business services:

Bookkeeping & Accounting
Business planning
Business start-up
Company Secretarial
Corporate tax planning
eCommerce & Payment Solutions
Payroll
Service Charge Accounting
VAT

Personal services:

Personal tax planning
Self assessment

Specialist sectors:

Building profits
Charities
Owner directors
Retail
Sole traders

Why choose us?

By providing high quality of service and not charge over the top fees, we retain the business and loyalty of our customers, as well as win many new ones through word of mouth. We also work with tax specialists, investor advisors and auditors to provide clients additional services where there is a need.

Call us for a FREE review of your requirements and to discuss best way forward, with no obligation.
Tel: 0203 151 0750 or email: info@AlmarBSL.co.uk

Visit our newly improved website with useful and topical information: www.AlmarBSL.co.uk

Almar Business Solutions Limited is a registered company in England and Wales (registered number 04541322), holder of ACCA Practising Certificate with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has Professional Indemnity Cover for its business activities.



Old Post Office: letters special

Thank you to everyone who's taken the trouble to give their thoughts on how the old Post Office building in the High Road could be used. Here we print some of the letters we've received this month and we'll find space for more next time round.

Don't rewrite history

Dear Editor,

In your round-up of readers' views on uses for the old Post Office building in the High Road (January issue) Ulla Mead says she suspects that many people felt pressured to support the successful campaign against the proposed Waitrose "branch" in East Finchley a decade ago, though she admits she wasn't living here at the time.

Let's be clear that Waitrose wanted to build a vast supermarket that would have stretched from the entrance to Cherry Tree Woods opposite the Tube station as far as Baronsmere Road. It would have brought traffic chaos to the High Road and killed many of our excellent small shops. The campaign to stop it, led superbly by local resident Kathryn Scorza, was widely backed. I recall no pressure being put on anyone.

We can have a fresh debate about the merits of another small supermarket in East Finchley. A Waitrose, or indeed a Marks & Spencer or Sainsbury's Local, in the old Post Office would be a very different proposition to what was planned in 2004, though many would still oppose it. But let's not rewrite history.

Yours faithfully,
David Brindle,
Durham Road, N2.

Why we fought against Waitrose in 2003

Dear Editor,

Following recent comments, this seems a good time to review the myth that local opposition was all about stopping Waitrose opening a store in East Finchley. Things were actually much more complicated.

The residents' protest group name "Warning on Waitrose"/WOW, and an eye catching national newspaper headline "The neighbourhood that said no to Waitrose" may have fuelled the perception that the opposition was solely to a supermarket. However, the library was also under threat.

Early in 2003 it emerged that Barnet Council was planning to dispose of Park House (currently rented by Monkey Puzzle Nursery). Proposals for a Waitrose superstore with a car park for around 170 cars and a new library on the first floor were apparently being considered.

If approved, everything from Park House to Baronsmere Road would have been demolished. In exchange for Park House the developers were to provide the new library, leased to the council for 125 years at a peppercorn rent.

Concerns raised at a public meeting which filled All Saints Church to overflowing highlighted increased traffic congestion and the threat to our much-loved, well situated library.

Around 400 people joined WOW, many solely bent on preventing the library proposal. Other worries were the size of the store (clearly intended to attract shoppers into the area) and its negative impact on the neighbourhood, including increased pollution. Knocking down a parade of shops was completely unacceptable.

A public consultation on the future of library services was held which made no mention of the combined proposal. *THE ARCHER* maintained a scrupulously neutral stance throughout, but voiced the views of many residents in condemning the consultation process as selective and even



Front page news: How *The Archer* covered the Waitrose and library campaign in 2003 and 2004.

manipulative.

Many would have welcomed a small Waitrose. WOW might never have been formed had the library not been part of the plan. Library supporters won a Grade II listing for the building, and have continued to fight to maintain a full library.

Could a proposal similar to that of 2003 come up again? Barnet still owns Park House. Compulsory purchase orders were apparently being considered then. While local protest is thought to blow itself out in time, developers and the council are used to playing a longer game.

Yours faithfully,
Kathryn Scorza,
Address supplied.

We have the right shops

Dear Editor,

I was very surprised by the number of people in your survey who thought that the best use for the old post office was a Waitrose or a Marks and Spencer outlet. For me, one of the great attractions of East Finchley is its High Street. Unlike Muswell Hill, it still has a lot of independent shops, including a real fishmonger, several bakeries, a coffee-roaster and numerous other small businesses. This gives it a character all of its own, and helps to foster a sense of community that can only come when customers and shopkeepers have known one another for years.

I would like to single out Tony's Continental for special mention. I doubt that Waitrose will spend hours trimming Christmas trees

to the customer's specification. I don't suppose that Waitrose will sell both handfuls of lychees and whole boxes of them. I suspect that the staff in Waitrose won't know their customers by name, and won't understand their stock in the way that someone who has run a greengrocer's shop for decades understands it.

We should be cherishing our local shops for the treasures that they are, not introducing yet more competition. Tony's prices are also highly competitive with those of the major food retailers, especially on fresh fruit and vegetables.

Shops like Tony's are already under pressure from the change in the parking regulations and the growth of internet shopping. There is a Waitrose and an M&S in Muswell Hill, and enormous Waitrose stores on Holloway Road and in Ballards Lane. There is only one Tony's.

And, finally, to your respondent who thought that people were 'pressurised' into signing the last petition against Waitrose, I've lived in East Finchley long enough to know that folk here are too feisty to be pressurised into doing anything.

Yours faithfully,
Vivienne Palmer and John Bolitho
Huntingdon Road, N2.

Everything we need

Dear Editor,

I write to express my horror at repeated calls for a Waitrose or M&S Food to take over the old Post Office site. East Finchley is blessed with an array of

independent food retailers from greengrocers and delis, fishmongers, bakers and florists: Tony's Continental, Amici Delicatessen, A Scott & Son, Chorak and Josephines to name but a few.

For a small supermarket Budgens has an impressively wide range catering for many cultures (open until 11pm Monday-Saturday) and with Midhurst Butchers just up the road in Fortis Green, there is little I am unable to find on or just off the High Road.

For those that crave the delights of a large chain, there is both a Sainsbury's and a Tesco a short drive or bus ride away. I suspect snobbishness or perhaps a shyness in shopping at those above is behind such calls for another chain but it is vital that we support our current retailers, many of whom have had a presence on the High Road for decades. We need to look to what currently isn't available when thinking of who should fill this retail space.

Yours faithfully,
Sarah King,
Kitchener Road, N2.

east finchley
smiles
expert general & cosmetic dentistry

NHS CHECK-UPS £18.50
(this includes x-rays where necessary)

NHS EXEMPT PATIENTS AND CHILDREN UNDER 18 ARE FREE

new NHS list now open

member of the
BDA and the BDHF



smile with confidence

020 8444 3436

144 The High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9ED

www.eastfinchleysmiles.co.uk

MIKE'S GARDEN MAINTENANCE

All your Fencing, Decking, Slabbing and Concrete work undertaken.
Sheds Built and All Outside work taken in hand.

I also provide a Licensed Waste Removal Service
of all your Building rubble, General and Garden Rubbish.

For Free Quotes, Call Mike on 07961918866.

Licensed Waste Carrier

All areas covered.

GET YOUR DANCER BODY
All age,
All fitness
levels are
welcome!

BURN 400 CALORIES

Improved flexibility
Leaner limbs
Stronger core stability
Improved posture
Better balance
Greater grace
Improved coordination
Confidence and memory

BOOK YOUR FREE LESSON!

WWW.AEREOBALLET.CO.UK
INFO@AEREOBALLET.CO.UK
CALL US: 075 80041270
EVERY DAY IN N2, N10, N6



Above: The Cherry Tree Wood toilets just before Christmas and below: repainted again on 13 January. Photos Mike Coles



Graffiti pulls somebody's chain

Without wishing to give undue publicity to people who leave graffiti sprayed across our public spaces, we couldn't help noticing the tug of war that's being going on in Cherry Tree Wood recently.

The toilet block near the tennis courts was repainted towards the end of last year but within weeks its clean white walls had been daubed with painted messages.

Days later, however, the walls had been repainted and restored to their pristine state. Was this a case of super efficiency on the part of Barnet

Council and the contractors it pays to look after the park, or was it a local resident who decided to take matters into their own hands?

Either way, the clean look didn't last long, because the graffiti painters returned shortly afterwards and the toilet block was defaced again. This one could run and run...

Human Resource Solutions Plus

Helping you to manage, train and develop your employees at a commercially sensible cost.

www.hrsp.net

Richard Pell: info@hrsp.net • PO Box 27013, London, N2 0WX

HRSP

ACCOUNTANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

At TaxAssist Accountants we specialise in supporting small businesses. We can help with:

- Self Assessment Tax Returns
- Business Accounts
- Corporation Tax
- Bookkeeping and VAT
- Business Start-ups
- Company Formations
- Payroll and HR
- Help with Finance Raising
- ...and much more.



020 8883 5258
www.taxassist.co.uk/eastfinchley



brera gardens

- garden design
- maintenance
- hard landscaping
- irrigation systems
- soft landscaping
- East Finchley based
- indoor plants

Mob. 07939 557 934 Tel. 020 8920 3721
Email: breragardens1@btinternet.com

Old Barn: Now's the time to have your say

By Janet Maitland

A public meeting about the future of the Old Barn will be held at 7pm on 11 February at Martin Primary School. This is your chance to turn up and have your say.

Barnet Council announced its plans to refurbish and extend the community centre on Taring Road at a public meeting last November. The plans include a new wing, linked to the main building, for the local Bravanese community, whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, was burnt down in an arson attack in June 2013.

Consultation

The news about the extension was a surprise to many people at the meeting. Concerns were raised about the lack of prior consultation by residents who live in Brownsell Road, which backs onto the site.

This is the last public meeting before the council submits a planning application in March. However, a spokesperson from the council stressed that it is

not the last opportunity to comment, because once the application is made, all parties can then "participate in the formal planning consultation process".

Future management

The Old Barn charity has now been formally dissolved. The lease has been given back to the council, who have appointed the social and community group Mobilise to explore options for managing the centre. Several existing local organisations have expressed an interest.

One option is for a new local organisation to take the reins, such as the Big Local, which has £1 million of lottery funding to spend on the area bounded by Church Lane, the High Road, East End Road and the A406. Anyone interested in

the Old Barn's future should contact oldbarn@mobilise.org

The Old Barn was a thriving community centre for over 25 years until it was taken over in 2010 by a group of 'trustees' who discontinued all the services. The centre was finally reclaimed last October by Mobilise, who were appointed as temporary trustees by the Charity Commission. Now the charity no longer exists, Mobilise are no longer trustees.

The council is consulting on how best to manage all Barnet's community organisations. Anyone interested should go to http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/commissioning-group/draft-community-asset-strategy/consult_view. The closing date is 13 February.



Good Companions: The Talkie Walkies.

Talkie Walkies

Fancy having a healthy stroll followed by a friendly chat (and possibly a delicious cake)? Talkie Walkies is a group of local people who meet up on Friday afternoons outside Boydens Café on Church Lane, N2 at 1pm, go for a walk together and then end up back at the café by 2pm. All are welcome including dogs and children but please be aware pushchairs are a bit tricky off road and slings may work best for little ones!

Laura Roberts, who set up the group, says: "The walks are free and we really welcome new members. It's a fun way to meet your neighbours." Contact laura@createyouridealfuture.com for more information.

THE EXCHANGE

WHERE THE CHOICE IS YOURS

★ DON'T WANT IT? ★
EXCHANGE IT.

WE BUY YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS
FOR CASH OR VOUCHER.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

GET £1 EXTRA STORE CREDIT WITH THIS VOUCHER.

WE BUY



MOBILE PHONES



TABLETS



CONSOLES
CONTROLLERS
VIDEO GAMES



CAMERAS



LAPTOPS



The Exchange 54 High Road East Finchley London N2 9PN

★ OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK ★



TheExchangeUK.com

0208 442 1111



@TheExchangeUK1

Offer ends 28th February 2015. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. May be withdrawn without notice. Only valid with a cut-out voucher. Terms and Conditions apply ask in store for details.

Greene Driving School

East Finchley N2

From **£17.50** x 2 Hr lessons

Safe driving for life

Low Co2 footprint 114

Eco & Low Maint Tuition

Pass Plus 4 cheaper

Insurance. Greenedriving.co.uk

Call John M.I.M.I

0773 851 4406

Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat
at reasonable prices
Free-range poultry
Home-made sausages
(including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,
Fortis Green, London N10
Tel. 020 8883 5303



Lights, camera... walkies!

By Sheila Armstrong

Pert, pretty, petite Peaches – surely the Ginger Rogers of the dog world – was talent spotted in a local charity shop, where she was browsing with well-known local Cavalier Spaniel Woody and their respective owners Rebecca Redhouse and Carmen Stevens. A local film maker recognised her good looks and talent and the deal was struck.

Peaches, a five-year-old Pomeranian Poodle cross with star quality, took to filming with gusto. The filming of her scenes took place in Cherry Tree Wood; the plot involved revenge and scorned lovers.

Peaches had to wear a Grayson Perry style dress at one point and in her last touching scene she was tied to the railings in the park, all alone. Most of the rest of the film was shot at Chriskitch café in Muswell Hill.

Details of the film maker and the final film are being kept under wraps at the moment, but if he reads this



Peaches and Woody

please let us know when and where it will be shown. Fame hasn't changed

Peaches: she can still be seen chasing squirrels in the park.

ODI World Cup captain is honorary local boy

By Diana Cormack

Did you know that England's team captain for this year's Cricket World Cup used to live in East Finchley? Although he was born in Ireland and played cricket for his country, 28-year-old Eoin Morgan made the move to England, thus giving greater scope to his obvious cricketing skills.

From the age of 16 he came from Dublin in the school holidays to train at The Middlesex Academy in East End Road. For the following five years whenever he was in London he lodged at Hamilton Road, N2, opposite Bishop Douglass School. This gave him a tenuous connection with *THE ARCHER* because his landlady was the late Pam Kent, proof reader and a stalwart member of our



Locally trained: England cricket captain Eoin Morgan. Photo courtesy Wikipedia

So...

For at least a couple of decades, a motley crew of vindictive criminals has been beaver away writing software designed to mess up our computers and steal our passwords. I spent 30 years as an information technology professional and still consider myself well-informed and experienced, yet I nearly got caught the other day.

To click ...

To enable their pernicious plans, these people have to persuade you to allow their malevolent creations onto your computer. The art of doing this is called 'social engineering' and it involves using confidence tricks to convince you to open an email attachment, or click on a link, something you should never do unless its provenance is crystal clear.

In my case, I had to make several lengthy and stressful telephone calls to a utility company, and as a result I needed to pay a one-off bill. The same day I received a well-formatted email purportedly from the same utility company, telling me to update their record of my payment details by opening the attachment, otherwise my account with them would be compromised.

... or not to click

This seemed extremely plausible so I started to open the attachment. Then just before I clicked the button, I broke into a cold sweat. Such emails always address you by your name and post code or account number. This one did neither. Genuine emails from utilities never ask you to open an attachment as this one did.

Then I noticed a spelling mistake, which is the 'smoking gun'. This email was fraudulent and the attachment was probably malware. I manually scanned it and sure enough, it was. I immediately deleted the email.

Why didn't the automatic email scanner pick it up? I don't know. How did 'they' know to send just the right message to me at just the right time? I don't know and I find it quite disturbing.

John Dearing

Winter nets

Would you like to play cricket this year? Perhaps you are hoping to get back into the game after a few years' absence? If so, you might like to know that winter nets have started for N2 Cricket Club. These are taking place in Mill Hill on Sunday evenings from now until the start of the regular season towards the end of April.

Established in 1982, N2CC is a family-friendly club that is the perfect choice for the 'casual' cricketer. Only friendly matches against teams of similar ability in the local area are played, at weekends, with home games taking place at Mill Hill

Village CC.

New players of all ages and abilities are welcome. Net sessions cost £6 per person. For further details, please contact club captain Shai Bhatt on shai-bhatt@talk21.com. The club's website is www.n2cc.co.uk.

team for many years.

In the cricket season Pam let the house she owned next door to hers to cricket players. You can read her piece "World-Class Lodgers" on page 6 of *THE ARCHER* April 2011 on our website www.the-archer.co.uk.

Eoin plays for Middlesex and another *ARCHER* article (page 7, July 2007) predicted his possible England future. Let's hope that includes captaining the team to 2015 World Cup victory!



EST.2004 **HAIR.202**

This February...

Hair202 presents

YUMMY MUMMY MONDAYS

Look the part this

VALENTINE'S DAY

Visit Hair202.com to find out more about our exclusive offers.

To book an appointment, call 020 8444 3384 or book online at Hair202.com

Hair202
East Finchley
London, N2 9AY

[@202hair](https://twitter.com/@202hair)
[Hair202salon](https://www.facebook.com/Hair202salon)



Friendly, Boutique Salon Requires

YOUNG PERSON (boy or girl) TO ASSIST ON SATURDAYS

The ideal candidate will:

- Have an interest in fashion and hairdressing
- Be outward going, confident and friendly
- Be fluent in English
- Be hard working and conscientious

IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, We would love to have a chat!

Either pop in or give us a ring Wed - Sat on 02084449440

119 East End Road N2 0SZ



Mary Loomes at her 100th birthday party.

Happy 100th, Mary!

Mary Loomes, a regular member of the congregation at East Finchley Baptist Church, was 100 years old on Christmas Day. Friends and family threw a party at the church on the first weekend in January.

Mary was born, and grew up, in Poplar. Her family survived the Zeppelin bombing raids on the East End in the First World War by taking refuge in the Blackwall Tunnel. In the Second World War she remembers hiding under tables because she was fed up with going to the air raid shelter.

Throughout her adult life,

Mary has been a keen worker for London City Mission. In her younger days she had a very melodious voice and was an accomplished piano player.

She married Charles Loomes in 1941 and the couple had moved to East Finchley by the time they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2001.

New fertility support group

For people who experience difficulties conceiving, peer support is very important which is why a fertility support group is starting in East Finchley.

It is organised by Muriel Bouvier, a cognitive hypnotherapist with a particular interest in fertility, pregnancy and birth.

The group meets every second Tuesday of the month between 7pm and 8.30pm with the aim of offering mutual support to members and a place to exchange ideas and new findings in a non-judgemental way.

Open to men and women, attending the meetings is free

of charge. For more information, contact Muriel through her website www.PregnancyMatters.co.uk or by phone on 020 8374 4468.

A real winter warmer

Here is a recipe idea courtesy of Liz Alcock, president of Finchley WI, to get you through the winter. Loaded with vitamins and minerals, this uses up your leftover veg and also freezes well. Trawl local markets and stalls for knock-down produce and follow this heartening recipe.

Garden Soup

The ingredients are flexible and you can adjust anything. Just use what is to hand.

Minimum quantities: (all washed and roughly chopped – don't bother to peel)

3 carrots
2 onions
2 sticks celery
2 cloves garlic
Half a butternut squash
Three potatoes (or a handful of pasta thrown in five mins from the end)
1.5 pts chicken / beef stock
2 star anise
Black pepper

Method

Fry the celery and onion and carrots with star anise gently until the onions are soft. Remove star anise. Add remainder of ingredients. Bring to the boil then reduce barely simmering. Cook until all veg are tender. Whizz with a hand blender and serve in warmed bowls or mugs. Want to be fancy? Use scooped out mini-cottage loaves and top with a grating of hard cheese. Happy winter!

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Red carpet, raging ego

There's nothing like being lost in a film, that sense of darkness in daylight, daylight at midnight, watching the flickering image on the silver screen. There's nothing else this side of heavy duty narcotics that can transform your world from the humdrum to the Technicolor and it doesn't matter what the film is, they can all do it. It might be a modern classic, a blockbuster, a forgotten masterpiece or just plain trash.

From Bogart to Bond, from Some Like it Hot to Ice Cold in Alex, from Star Trek to Star Wars, or maybe even from King Kong to Paddington Bear, the thrill is still the same. Lights, camera, action, popcorn, welcome to that world of fantasy, the other world, a dream world. And then there's the Oscars.

Yes folks, it's time for the ritual humiliation, red carpet fashion show and tears as the world turns its attention to the self-centred home of the movies and the stars who are, those who will be and those who have no hope.

The whole thing was started back in 1927 by Louis B Meyer as a dinner in a flash hotel. Two years later they came up with the awards. The statuette was designed by Cedric Gibbons. Made of pure gold-plated britannium, it got its nickname in 1936 either because it looked like someone's uncle or the rear of Bette Davis's husband. Either way, it's the time Hollywood honours its own ego.

The winners aren't always the best, they're just the ones the Academy voted for. This year's crop includes two Brit flicks, something about jazz and torture, a glorified home movie, and the inevitable chunk of American patriotism about a sniper. The winner will be the one the Academy members dislike the least. And seeing as they are mostly white men with an average age of 63 it will probably be as predictable as a black tuxedo.

On the red carpet the women will be in borrowed jewellery and high fashion, all glitter, smiles and cleavage. The speeches will be dull as everyone thanks their mom, the director, their makeup artist and everyone who voted for them in that cloyingly humble way that only Hollywood can manage. As Robert Redford said it's 'an awful lot of extravagance for nothing'.

Who sent the first Valentine card?

By Diana Cormack

The first Valentine card is credited to the Duke of Orleans, who was imprisoned in the Tower of London after the battle of Agincourt in 1415.

It was for his wife in France. He must have made it himself, but did he start the tradition of the sender's identity being secret? Who knows, but by Victorian times this tradition was firmly upheld, with home-made cards being delivered secretly, often by hand, postage being so expensive. Huge, elaborate creations replaced the custom of gentlemen buying expensive Valentine's Day presents for ladies. However, instead of sentimental verses, some of these lovely cards hid a

message inside which could be extremely personal, really rude or very cruel. No wonder they were anonymous!

One nineteen year old American was so impressed by an English Valentine card she received from business associates of her father that it led to her becoming "The Mother of the American Valentine". Esther Howland (1828 – 1904) set up her own production line after leaving college. She used friends to make the cards and her brother to sell them when he was out promoting their father's book and stationery business. They were a huge success.

Six hundred years after the first Valentine card, millions are sent all over the world, ranking second only to Christmas cards in their sales.

Klages Plumbing & Heating Agency LTD.

CONTACT TELEPHONE No: 020 8346 7218 / 8636

KLAGE

A NAME IN PLUMBING FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Exceptional Care homes

Comfortable, en suite, private rooms now available at:

- **Apthorp Care Centre** – New Southgate
- **Dell Field Court** – Finchley
- **Meadowside** – north Finchley

For more information, please call - **07721 128 885 / 020 8242 9443**

or email: enquiries@fremantletrust.org

www.fremantletrust.org

passionate about care



THE FREMANTLE TRUST
Passionate about Care

The Fremantle Trust is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 2722437).
A registered charity. Not for profit. (Registration Number 1014986).



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

FT 640



the cherry tree

A wide range of inspired and elegant gifts for all occasions, for everyone!

Carrying Exclusive Brands including
LSA JOSEPH JOSEPH TRUE GRACE JELLYCAT PAPO

for the perfect gift idea

Visit our shop at 172, High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9AS
For further information please call 020 8883 4369 or email info@thecherrytree.co.uk
to reserve the perfect gift!



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

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

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk 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** over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390



New faces: the 2015 cast of *Jungle Rock*.

Jungle drums rumble again

By Mary Musker and Mary Groom

Garden Suburb Theatre is reviving its smash hit production of *Jungle Rock*, a version of Kipling's *The Jungle Book* with a 1960s twist.

The theatre group first staged the show, written by former chairman Terry Rogers, in 1998 and quite a few of the original cast have been re-cast in this production, in one case being promoted from merely non-speaking animal chorus to the heady heights of the all-speaking, all-dancing First Jackal!

The production is directed by Gabi Maddocks, who for her day job runs The Playing Space, a drama company for children,

young adults and adults in Southgate, with her husband.

Jungle Rock runs at the Lund Theatre, University College School, Hampstead, from Tuesday 17 February to Saturday 21 February at 7.30pm with an additional matinee on Saturday 21 at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £12 (£9 concessions) and are available from <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre> or by ringing 020 7723 6609.

Pastel shades

Work by local artist Christine Watson, of Creighton Avenue, N2, has been selected from over 600 entries to appear alongside paintings by some of Britain's leading pastel artists. The Pastel Society UK's annual exhibition will be on display at Mall Galleries, near Trafalgar Square, between 24 February and 7 March.

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

On show: This work by Christine Watson will be exhibited in Central London.



Meditation meeting

If you would like to start meditating or are looking to improve your existing practice, turn up for an informal group on Monday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am in Holy Trinity Church, on Church Lane.

The group talk about how they are getting on with meditating and follow some recorded guided meditations together. All are welcome, whatever your experience of meditation. The group sit on chairs, but please

bring a cushion if it will make you more comfortable. The cost will be £3 maximum to cover venue hire. Contact laura@createyouridealfuture.com or call 07976 511506 if you'd like to come along.

February at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, Phoenix Cinema executive director

The shortest month of the year is long on must-see films and events at your favourite cinema.

We split the first week between Louis Malle's *Au Revoir, Les Enfants*, a semi-autobiographical tale of friendship between two 12-year-old boys in Nazi-occupied France, and *Birdman*, critically acclaimed as one of the best films of 2014, showcasing Michael Keaton as a former superhero star.

Selma, the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1965 Deep South civil rights march, is a deeply moving slice of history powerfully brought to life by director Ava DuVernay.

Our next two films look at 'being different'. Alfred Molina and John Lithgow portray a long-term couple in the multigenerational heart-warmer *Love is Strange* while *Kumiko the Treasure Hunter* asks why life can't be like it is in films.

Finally, the hotel reservation we've been waiting for! Why not book into the *Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*? Everyone's favourite ex-pat senior

residents (Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Celia Imrie) light up the screen again, this time making room for new guest Richard Gere.

Our Metropolitan Opera transmissions offer great value. Join us for *Iolanta/Bluebeard's Castle* and *La Donna del Lago*.

Our Film Salons move to Monday night and take place on the 4th and 18th this month. Our popular Use It Or Lose It Film Quiz takes place Sunday 22 February.

We have plenty happening for the youngest filmgoers this month. Half term events include a new photography workshop and another chance to join in a *Frozen Sing-along*.

Don't forget our weekly family programmes: Toddler Time (Tuesday) Bringing Up Baby (Wednesday) and the interactive Kids Club every Saturday.

Full programme details and online booking at: www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

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

Sunday 8 February

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road (opposite Creighton Avenue), 7.30pm, 'Winter to Spring'; Caroline Hunter and Sandra Lissenden, soprano, Kerry Reid, horn player, and Richard Black, piano, perform Purcell, Mozart, Schubert, Wolf, Quilter, Gurney, Berlin and Dring. Free admission with collection in aid of Walk the Walk (breast cancer). Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Sunday 15 February

• **Gardening day at Stephens (Avenue) House**, East End Road, N3. Meet at the café at 11am or 2pm.

• **Quiz Night at Stephens (Avenue) House**, East End Road, N3; 7.30pm in the house; £15, including fish supper.

Tuesday 17 February to Saturday 21 February

• Garden Suburb Theatre presents *Jungle Rock* at the Lund Theatre, University College School, Hampstead, at 7.30pm with an additional matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £12 (£9 concessions) and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre or by ringing 020 7723 6609.

Tuesday 17 February to Saturday 14 March

• **Muswell Hill**, a blackly funny play by Torben Betts, at Park Theatre, Finsbury Park, N4 3JP. It is January 2010, an earthquake in Haiti has just killed thousands but life goes on for a group of friends in Muswell Hill...

but will history remember any of them? More details from www.parktheatre.co.uk

Saturday 21 February

• **Winter Trees**: a walk through Coldfall Wood, led by local woodsman Iain Loasby. Meet 2.30 pm at western gate, Creighton Avenue. Warm clothes and tough footwear advised; £3 donation appreciated.

Thursday 26 February

• The Finchley Society hosts a talk by Adam Corsini on *Mediaeval Middlesex: the archaeological remains*. 2.30 pm at Stephens (Avenue) House, East End Road, N3. 020 8346 7812.

Non-members very welcome. Admission £2.

• **Gospel Choir at St Mary's N2** Parish Centre, Thursdays 7-8pm in term time; all welcome; St Mary's Church, 279 High Road, N2. Contact Sandra on 07866 479913.

Saturday 28 February

• **Enjoy making a mandala**, a magical artwork that can be relaxing and transformative, 1.30pm to 5.30pm at North Bank, Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, N10 1PP; £45 per person, materials and refreshments included. More details from www.artists-resource.co.uk

Sunday 1 March

Majjo's Indian buffet and film at the Phoenix Cinema; *Pather Panchali* directed by Satyajit Ray, plus *Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. For full details, phone the box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

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

Visitors always welcome



In good shape at a good age

In the summer of 2013 Hilda Silver started her Hatha Yoga for seniors (and beginners) class in Fellowship House, Hampstead Garden Suburb. It was so popular that a second class was started in the Free Church Hall that October.

A year on, students have come and gone but the core group has enabled Hilda to provide small groups (12 people) with personal attention, enabling them to see great personal improvement both physically and mentally.

Students find the class enjoyable because it is perhaps the only time in the week where they can work on themselves without interruption.

Yoga can be adapted for all ages and all levels, so beginners can work together with the more advanced.

The only male student to stay the course started about 11 months ago. He realised that he was not taking exercise and that he had poor posture. Arthritis was starting in his toes, fingers and elbows. His partner suggested he come along to the class and he has not looked back.

Hilda Silver said initially it was challenging but after six weeks he noticed his balance was improving and some postures were becoming easier.

You can join one of Hilda's yoga classes in The Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11, on Thursdays at 10am or Fridays at 9.45am. Find out more at www.yogawithhilda.yogaclassnearyou.co.uk or by telephone on 07810 205343. Private sessions and teenage groups are available on request.



Stretching back to feeling better. Photo Hilda Silver

Letters

Does parking have to be this difficult?

I have always considered that I attempt to park safely, pay when required and in approved places at all times. I think that I am a reasonably intelligent individual but over the last couple of years I have found parking my car has become increasingly difficult in Barnet.

This is mainly due to the confusing information and different modes of paying for parking in approved places around the borough. I have three particular examples.

1. Telephone payment. This requires a credit/debit card, a mobile phone, knowledge of parking number and not least good hearing and the hope that it is not raining when trying to pay! Once last year, with my hands full holding phone card, umbrella and handbag, I ended up by mistake paying for 24 hours! Also, not only do you pay for the parking but also for use of the card.

2. Parking meters that only allow card payments. The signage is not clear and on a recent attempt to pay with coins I discovered I could not. After three attempts to pay by card it did not give me a ticket to display so, presuming it must be similar to the pay by phone method, I left my car. I returned later (within the time that I had actually paid for) to find

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 parking ticket on my windscreen. It took three letters before I was released from paying the penalty notice even after supplying my credit card details clearly showing the payment to London Borough of Barnet.

3. On Boxing Day (a bank holiday) I assumed, wrongly, that parking in a safe position on a single yellow line in a quiet residential street was similar to arrangements for Sundays in that street but after 10 minutes I received a parking ticket. I checked the London borough of Barnet's website and could not find any helpful information about bank holiday parking arrangements. Also on checking the local signage it makes no mention of bank holidays.

Am I the only Barnet resident who tries to keep within the law but keeps hitting a brick wall when trying to park and pay if necessary in Barnet? Yours faithfully, Name supplied, Brackenbury Road, N2.

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

Winter warmers at the ready!

The winter has been fairly kind so far but there's usually a cold spell in February. If it comes, East Finchley Altogether Better and Finchley Charities will be offering a warm welcome

to anyone who is finding it difficult to heat their home. Turn up for a hot drink and some company at a friendly venue just off East End Road not far from the Five Bells Pub. Contact Lisa Smith on 07909 998453 or email us at efab.org.uk to find out more about coming to a session or helping out.

Sight and sound tips for dementia carers

A person who has dementia has difficulty with sensory perception. To help people with hydration and make sure they get enough drinks, use brightly coloured blue or red cups.

Probably better known is the fact that music, especially popular music from the patient's youth, can help recapture many lost memories and bring a sense of well being.

STEWART DUNCAN OPTICIANS

126 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY, N2 9ED 020 8883 2020

THE SALE



UP TO
80% OFF
THE FRAMES

WHEN YOU BUY
A COMPLETE PAIR
Sale must end on
14th February 2015

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY,
ASK IN STORE FOR DETAILS.

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

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>

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

Sunday service at 10.30 a.m.
With Crèche and Young Church

Worship Music Social events Wheelchair friendly
e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk Room hire tel: 020 8444 9887



Shoes, Trainers, Sandals, Bags and Luggage

Complete Repair Service by a craftsman
Same day if required

Key Cutting

1 Manor Park Rd. N2, behind 88 Church Lane, opposite Trinity Church
Tel: 07956 329 150 Open 12-7pm

THE ARCHER

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk

A detail of the 100 year old copy of the Daily Sketch found when The Exchange was being renovated.

Photo Mike Coles

Yesterday's news today

By Nick Young

Everyone finds unexpected objects when renovating a house or shop, but how often does one find something over 100 years old?

That is what happened to businessman Abdul Idrissi, who found a 1914 newspaper underneath a stairwell while

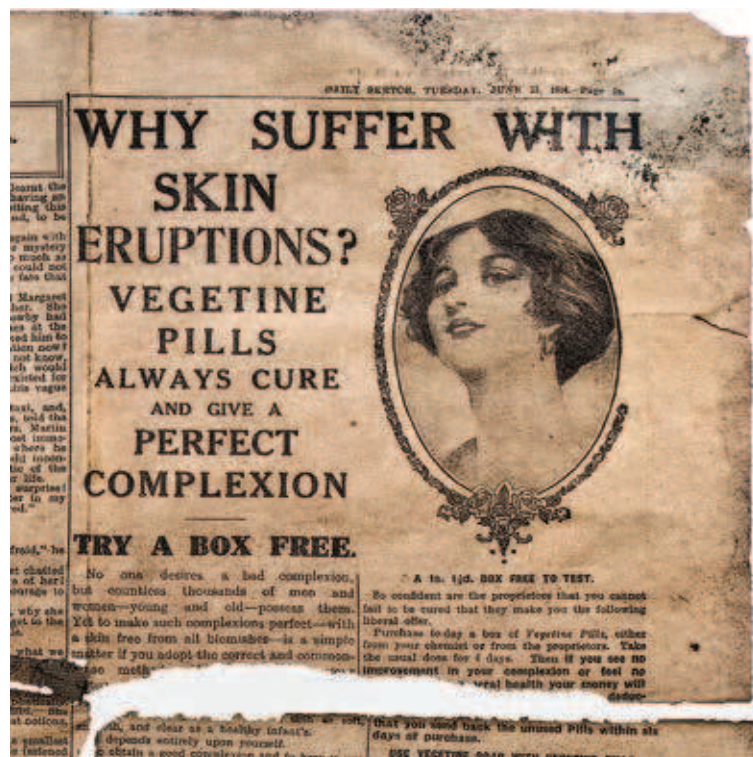
renovating 54 High Road prior to the opening of The Exchange, the site previously occupied by Phone City on the corner of High Road and Fairlawn Avenue.

The copy of the *Daily Sketch* that Abdul found is dated 23 June 1914, not long after the parade of shops on which his business is located was built. The big news of the day was the Trooping of the Colour, to which the then Prince of Wales (the future Edward VIII) took his own camera in order to photograph the troops. Elsewhere, the paper wondered what Londoners would make of a new opera that had shocked Paris.

Abdul was particularly taken by a headline which reads "American Heiress To Become An English Duchess"; although there is no follow-up article, he found it appropriate as his business's parent company is American.

The Exchange in East Finchley is the first UK franchise. It deals in phones as well as other new and pre-owned technology and offers on-site repairs for mobile phones and laptops and a phone recycling service.

Following a consultation process, it even sells computer games. "We're the only games store within a three-mile radius," says Abdul.



Adverts 100 years ago certainly didn't mince their words. Photo Mike Coles

Own an orchard?

The Urban Orchard Project is looking for old orchards in London, where it can work with local communities to preserve and celebrate them, through orchard management, pruning workshops and apple days.

Project officer Stephanie Irvine said: "Orchards must consist of at least five trees and preferably be over 20 years old. They may be overgrown and neglected, or managed

by a community group that would like some assistance with recruiting volunteers and holding events."

Find out more on the website www.theurbanorchardproject.org

New primary school plan

Aparentinformationevent regarding a proposed new primary school was held at East Finchley Library on 21 January.

The Ara School is applying for permission to open a new, state-funded, non-religious school in September 2016.

Ever increasing demand

The borough faces an ever increasing rise in the demand for primary school places. No site has yet been selected, but Barnet Council favours the Coppetts Wood area, which is deemed to have the greatest need. Visit www.araschool.org for more information.

COLIN SCLARE

Sales & Lettings

119a East End Road, East Finchley, London, N2 0SZ



We require all types of property

for Sale and Letting, so please call us for a free market appraisal and discussion.

Competitive fees: 7% Letting fee 1% Sales fee (plus vat)

But more importantly, a quality service to you!

Open 6 days a week

9.30 am - 7 pm Monday to Friday

10 am - 3 pm Saturdays

Contact us on

020 8444 3351 www.colinsclare.co.uk sales@colinsclare.co.uk

SECUREBASE
DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY
Est 1988

Your
Security
problems
Solved!



- ▶ Intruder Alarms
- ▶ CCTV
- ▶ Access Control
- ▶ Intercom Systems
- ▶ Locks, Doors & Keys
- ▶ Safes & Grilles
- ▶ Locksmiths



020 8442 0660

Securebase Ltd
112 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9EB

T: 020 8442 0660
F: 020 8365 2788

info@securebase.co.uk
www.securebase.co.uk