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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Throw some shapes: The Zumba fundraisers get active

Zuper Zumba!

By Ally Curtis

A taste of Brazil came to St Mary's Church in the High Road when a group of about 20 people of all ages had the most enjoyable dance experience and raised £209 for refugees in Iraq and Syria.

Zumba is a Brazilian dance and aerobic fitness programme with an exciting Latin American beat. The event on Saturday 14 March was led by teacher Belkys. No partners or experience were required; we just put on our trainers and fitness gear and got started!

The participants were also able to buy refreshments and magazines offered by enthusiastic volunteers who also took part. Even Father Terry, our parish priest, took part and donated a generous amount to such a worthy cause.

Official: Our High Road is good for you!

By Stepan Stepanenko

East Finchley's main shopping parade is among the top 10 healthiest high streets in London. The mix of shops and businesses in the High Road earns it eighth place in the rankings drawn up by the Royal Society for Public Health.

Gaining positive points were the High Road's pharmacists, pubs and greengrocers as well as East Finchley library. It avoided negative points thanks to its relative lack of fast food takeaways, tanning salons, bookmakers and pay day lenders. Grading of London's high streets was conducted between December 2014 and February 2015.

Muswell Hill just edged past East Finchley into seventh place, with Temple Fortune being ranked fifth and Whetstone taking first place. Among

the unhealthiest high streets were Whitechapel, Camberwell and Finsbury Park.

The aim of the survey was to look for businesses with an unhealthy influence on communities and to ensure local authorities have the power to create a healthier commercial mix.

Ranking threatened

While eighth place is a fine result for East Finchley, it's no time to rest on our laurels.

Continued on page 2.

Festival help wanted

East Finchley's summer festival is little more than a month away and a call has gone out for volunteers to help the day run smoothly.

As always, Cherry Tree Wood is the venue for this community get-together on Sunday 21 June from noon, with family fun, food and drink, and entertainment on two stages.

Stewards and marshalls are a crucial part of making the event a success. If you can spare some time to help, the organising team would appreciate hearing from you by email at: eastfinchley-festival@gmail.com

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Phoenix fan Benedict

Award-winning actor Benedict Cumberbatch has been announced as a new patron of the Phoenix Cinema.

The star of Sherlock and The Imitation Game is a fan of the East Finchley cinema and will be making appearances at future events there, to be announced. He joins the line-up of Phoenix patrons: Maureen Lipman, Mike Leigh, Ken Loach, Michael Palin, Bill Paterson, Victoria Wood and Mark Kermode.

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

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

Copy deadlines – **June:** 15 May, **July:** 12 June, **August:** 10 July

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Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900

Haringey Council

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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

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London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

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Cruse Bereavement Care 0870 167 1677
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EF Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Lone Parent Centre 020 7021 4146
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

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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 Info 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

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Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
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
Independent Age 0800 319 6789
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565



Fruit and veg: East Finchley High Road. Photo by Mike Coles

Official: Our High Road is good for you!

Continued from page 1.

The closure of the High Road's only GP surgery in March will have a negative effect on public health as patients are forced to travel further and wait longer to be seen. And we await Barnet Council's decision on the future of the library, a community hub as well as a book-lending service, which is under review by the borough as part of money-saving moves.

Here's the full list of the healthiest high streets in London:

1. Whetstone
2. St Johns Wood
3. Stanmore
4. Pinner
5. Temple Fortune
6. Kingsbury
7. Muswell Hill
8. East Finchley
9. Hornchurch
10. Stockwell

And here's the list of the unhealthiest:

1. Whitechapel
2. New Addington
3. Camberwell
4. Chrisp Street, Tower Hamlets
5. Seven Sisters
6. Plumstead
7. New Cross
8. Finsbury Park
9. Bakers Arms, Waltham Forest
10. East Beckton

Source: *Royal Society for Public Health*

Call back? Think twice

By Janet Maitland

If you get a missed call from a number you don't recognise, think twice before calling back. Ofcom is warning consumers about a mobile phone scam that tricks victims into thinking they've received a legitimate missed call and ending up being charged up to £1.50 a minute.

The numbers used start with 070 or 076, selected because they look like ordinary mobile phone numbers but cost considerably more to call. When you ring the number back, the call is immediately dropped or an engaged tone is played. Either way, you are charged.

Some callers have also heard a recorded voice suggesting a bad line, encouraging the caller to ring back and be charged a second time.

If you get a missed call number beginning with 070 or 076, make a note of it and call the premium rate regulator Phonepay Plus on 0800 500 212 to report it.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

25 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Two-storey dwelling house, including basement and rooms in roof space, following demolition of existing property.

30 Howard Walk, N2

Alterations to roof, involving three conservation roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion.

183 East End Road, N2

Relocation of entrance door to side elevation, and replacing existing door with window.

New canopy to side elevation. New window to first floor level. Single-storey rear extension.

Bald Faced Stag, High Road, N2
Erection of single-storey outbuilding.

10 Brook Walk, Strawberry Vale, N2

Replacement of existing railings and metal gates.

66 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension

5 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

1 Church Lane, former pub

Change of use from A4 (drinking establishment) to A3 (restaurants and cafes), erection of two canopy structures to rear, rebuild of existing canopy in rear garden, demolition of outbuilding and rebuild with new canopy in rear garden, erection of new roof to front patio area. One illuminated fascia sign to front, three illuminated signs to side.

34 Oakview Gardens, N2

Three-storey side extension to the existing dwelling house.

6 Elm Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Removal of existing front porch. Roof extension, including rear dormer and two front roof lights, to facilitate a loft conversion.

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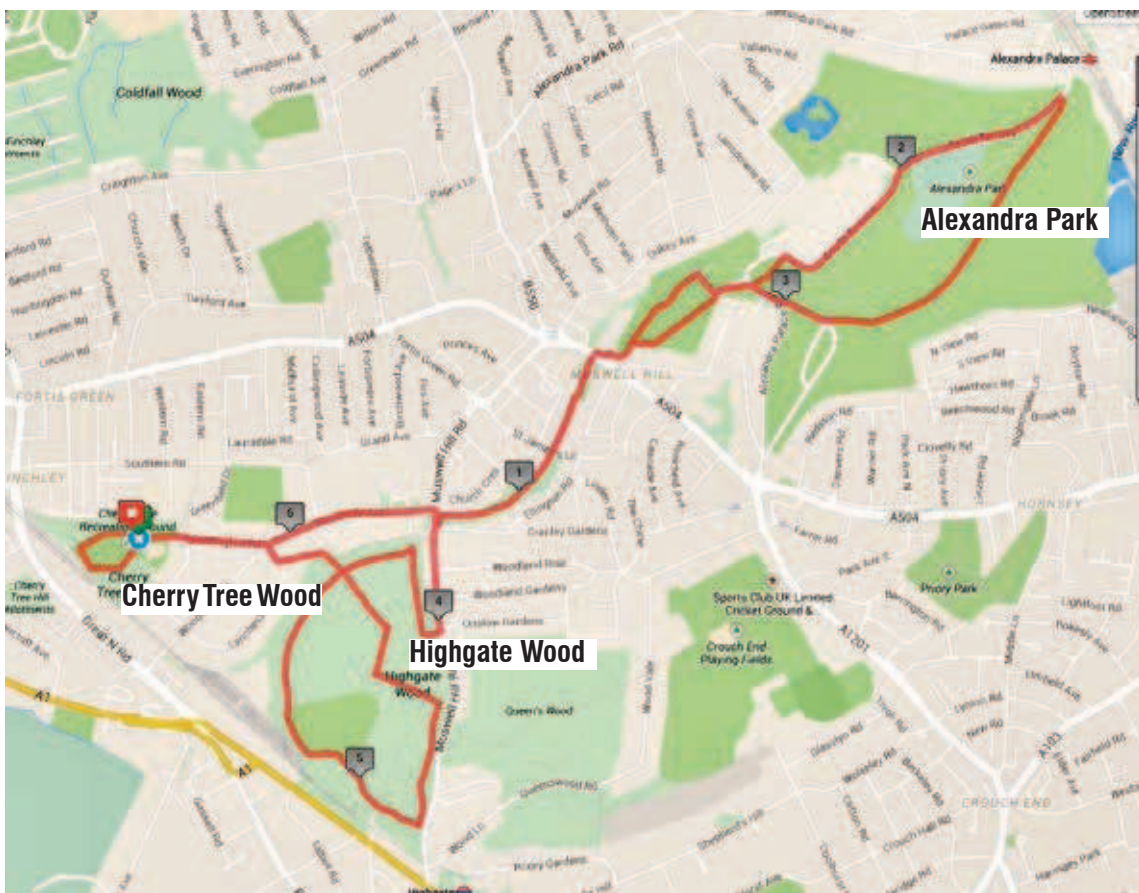
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Who's the fittest? Time to race the neighbours

An exciting new 10k run has been set up to provoke some friendly rivalry between East Finchley and Muswell Hill and there are already hopes that it will become a major fixture in the community calendar.

Race the Neighbours will take place on Sunday 7 June, starting and finishing in Cherry Tree Wood and taking a route through local parks and leafy open spaces, including Alexandra Palace and Highgate Wood.

It is likely to be a very popular event amongst local fun runners and more serious athletes. Entrants will run for either N2 or N10, and around 250 runners are expected to line up to hear the starter's pistol.

Whose big idea?

The race is the brainchild and dream of a group of local running enthusiasts. Greg Swimer, an East Finchley resident, had the original idea and he has assembled a keen group of local runners who are sorting out the numerous logistical and practical matters involved in setting up such an event. They include East Finchley and Muswell Hill residents Avi Freeman and Steve Ackerman and North London runners Greg Alon and Elliot Wilson.

Greg said: "I've taken part in so many 10k runs, half marathons and marathons but always wanted to do it on my home turf. We know the local community will be up for this and we can't wait for the race to start. Spaces will be quite limited for the first year, but we hope that over the years it will grow to a much bigger event".

Who's joining in?

Local businesses are being asked to provide some backing with low level sponsorship.



Organisers Greg Swimer, left, and Avi Freeman after testing the course (top left).

Many have already committed to support the project. Anyone who is interested in running or in helping with organisation can register at www.racetheneighbours.com. Runners will be directed to the RunBritain registration page. With spaces limited, it will be over-subscribed so those keen to participate are advised to register early to avoid disappointment. Follow race news on Twitter @northlondon10k.

Man sentenced over gang attack

By Janet Maitland

A local man has been sentenced to six years in a young offender institution for his part in a vicious gang attack. Jason Farinas, 20, from Fallows Close, was one of a gang of six youths who set up a meeting with a rival gang in Watling Park, Burnt Oak, on the pretext of a drugs deal in January 2013.

One man was robbed and a second man was stabbed in the back. A third victim was forced to strip to his underwear and was then stabbed five times. One stab wound was directly to his heart. He was found unconscious by the police who carried out CPR until the air ambulance arrived.

His injuries were so severe

the surgeon on board had to carry out open heart surgery before he was rushed to St Mary's Hospital in Paddington where further surgery saved his life.

Farinas was convicted of conspiracy to rob and possessing firearms. He was sentenced at Wood Green Crown Court on 20 March alongside the other five gang members who also received custodial sentences.

The defendants were part of a gang known as Finchley. The victims were associated with a gang based in Burnt Oak known as 'Oakboys' or 'D Block'. A police spokesperson said that rivalry between the gangs leading to tit for tat violence had been going on since April 2012.

Car boot sale

Plot holders at Vale Farm Allotments in Tarling Road, N2, are inviting everyone to a car boot and table top sale on Sunday 10 May.

You can grab a bargain and get gardening advice at the same time. The sale runs from 11am to 4pm. If you are interested in selling, you can book a table for £5 by contacting Lyndsay@valefarm.org or Janine@valefarm.org



Victim of a violent gust

Snap! Decades to grow and gone in a moment. Archer reader Craig Johnson snapped this shot of a tree in full blossom in Twyford Avenue broken in half by the strong winds that battered us over a couple of days at the end of March.

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Two people who make a difference to many

We congratulate two residents of East Finchley who were among the six people honoured with Civic Awards by Barnet Council in March. Mary O'Toole and Richard King were both recognised for their years of service to the community. Here's why:

Mary O'Toole, of Elm-hurst Avenue, was presented with a Barnet Civic Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. Mary recently retired from her voluntary role there. It was one in which she could call upon her own experience with her youngest daughter Helen, who was born with a life-limiting metabolic disease and sadly died in early adulthood. Through the voluntary organisations that supported Helen, Mary met families who used children's hospices and learned of their value.

Having worked with seriously ill children for several years, she knew that many families need practical support to allow them to spend time with their sick child. Mary discovered that volunteers were not used in this role and, despite advice to the contrary, she determinedly went on to establish a community volunteering programme. Since 2008 this has gone from strength to strength and other children's hospices have established similar volunteering services.

Mary's passion and commitment for working holistically shaped Noah's Ark's model of care in its formative years. She piloted a Family Link service to provide consistent and professional one-to-one support which was so successful that it is now a core service for Noah's Ark families. Mary helped to establish and will continue to facilitate Parent Groups and she also developed bereavement services, including an annual Memory Day.

Mary intends to become a Noah's Ark Family Support Volunteer in her retirement and to remain a Trustee of the hospice. We hope she still finds time to deliver *The Archer*!



Mary O'Toole with the Mayor of Barnet Cllr. Hugh Raynor. Photo courtesy of Noah's Ark Childrens Hospice

Richard King is well known to East Finchley allotmenters, after 13 years of active involvement. His Civic Award, however, resulted from long hours of meetings and paperwork, rather than digging and mulching.

He was nominated for the Award by colleagues in the Barnet Allotment Federation, which represents 37 allotment

individual allotmenters, were apprehensive.

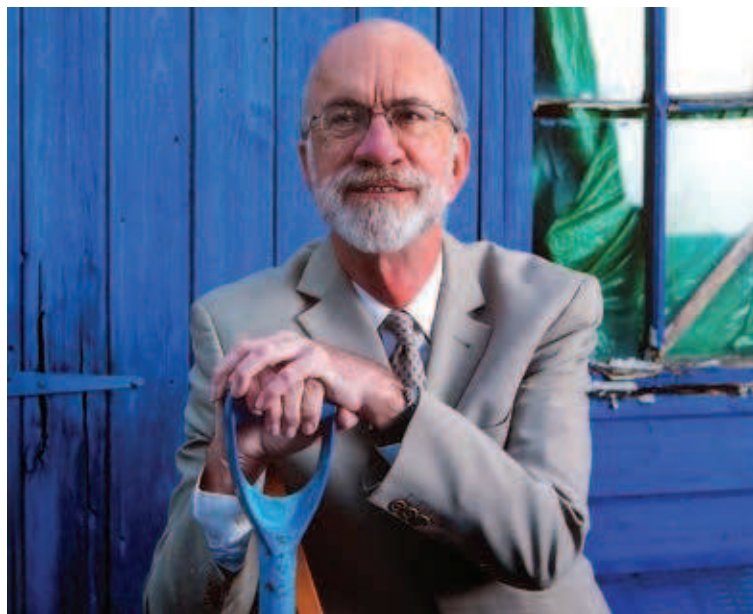
Richard volunteered to be their spokesman in negotiations with the council. He obtained *pro bono* legal advice and in 2010 it was found that a long lease arrangement would be legally possible. A standard template lease of 38 years at a peppercorn rent was worked out and the long process of agreeing detailed hand-over

arrangements for the 44 sites began.

This successful transfer to self-management, planned slowly and patiently and completed about two years ago, has interested other groups with allotment responsibilities, for example in Haringey, Enfield, Camden and Bradford. Asked what the most important message would be for allotment societies or councils tackling similar negotiations, Richard said: "Communicate, communicate, communicate!"

His background as a research scientist and as a civil servant in the Department of Trade and Industry, now retired, would have been a significant factor, as would his calm manner and his respect for people's varying points of view.

In the statement nominating him for the Civic Award Richard is praised for his "wisdom and balance" and for his "commitment and talents". He comments, however, that the award is also in recognition of "the work of the whole Federation team and the societies who held their nerve through some difficult times."



Richard King was instrumental in putting East Finchley Allotments under ploholders' control. Photo by Simon O'Connor.

societies spread across the borough. In 2006 Barnet Council proposed self-management for the societies but the implications and perceived risks were daunting. Many of the societies, and many of the 3,330

Help for Zimbabwe women

A small charity is looking for help to make a big impact working with young and disadvantaged people in Zimbabwe and the UK.

Care For Someone (CFS) is co-led by Patricia Chinyoka from her home in East Finchley. In the UK, it works with women, specifically focusing on ethnic minority groups that find it hard to break into the labour market.

The charity, registered in 2001, runs job skills mentoring programmes for black, Asian and ethnic minority women, many of whom are refugees and some of whom are female ex-offenders resettling back into the community.

In Zimbabwe, CFS works with young people aged 16-24, concentrating its efforts on those in rural and farming areas, where projects include soup kitchens to provide at least one healthy meal a day, classrooms to teach practical work skills, assistance with school fees for disadvantaged children and a rural library scheme.

Patricia says the charity now wants to scale up its work and is looking for volunteer fundraisers with experience in bid writing to help it generate more funds. Find out more by visiting the CFS website at www.careforsomeone.co.uk

Gardeners get ready

HGS Horticultural Society welcomes everyone to their annual plant sale to be held on Saturday 16 May from 10.30am to 12noon, at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. Entry is free.

There will be lots of good value summer bedding plants, vegetable seedlings and flower seedlings, and the local allotment group will be on hand with advice for 'grow-your-own'. More info at www.hortsoc.co.uk.

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Academy head leaves for new horizons

By Diana Cormack

At the end of the summer term the Archer Academy will be saying goodbye to headteacher Mick Quigley. He has long been involved in the free school's development, supporting the proposal from a group of East Finchley residents for a mixed, non-religious secondary school from the outset, before beginning his two years as its first leader.

Mr Quigley told *THE ARCHER*: "My wife and I will be relocating to Malaysia in September where she will be taking up a post as headteacher of an International Elementary school."

Next phase

In a message on the Academy's website, he said: "The school is now firmly established, with a strong, experienced team in place; and a new era is about to begin with the opening of the Stanley Road campus in September. It therefore feels like the right time for me to move on to my next challenge, and for the school to recruit a successor who will lead them through this exciting next phase and beyond."

Chair of governors Avis Johns said: "Mick has been a fantastic first leader of the Archer Academy. The knowl-



Saying goodbye: Mick Quigley

edge he brought to us from his time at Barnet, as well as his many years as a headteacher, meant he was the ideal candidate to head up the first phase of our school."

The academy opened in Beaumont Close behind East Finchley station in September 2013. From this September, the school's Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be housed in the Stanley Road campus, with current deputy head Lucy Harrison taking on the role of interim headteacher.

Primary school moves in

The academy has also announced that its Beaumont Close premises will be a temporary home for Alma Primary School for the 2015-2016 academic year. Alma, a state primary for Jewish children and those of other faiths, is currently waiting for its new premises to be built in Whetstone.

Cake baker rises to the challenge!

By Diana Cormack

Cake baking is a big hit on TV and there's an ever-growing taste for highly decorative and delicious-looking creations. This is not only the case for those made in the home for family and friends, but also those sold for public consumption.

A young graduate from a prestigious French cookery school is making the best of both worlds, with a catering-from-home business in her kitchen on Fortis Green. Kirstie Taylor studied at Le Cordon Bleu in Bloomsbury Square, graduating in March 2015. She had previously gained a degree in fashion and photography at the London College of Fashion but a love of cake making fostered when she was growing up in Jersey soon took precedence.

Kirstie told *THE ARCHER* that living in East Finchley reminds her of the quiet, friendly community she enjoyed on the island, where friends and neighbours used to benefit from her baking skills.

She has been developing her own recipes and uses only the finest ingredients for her business Flour Patisserie Ltd., making cakes, cupcakes, tarts, entremets (multi-layered, multi-textured desserts) and miniature layer bakes. There is also a bespoke cake design service where you can contact the company with your own ideas and requirements and they will bring them to life. Cakes are delivered to the customer's door in travel zones 1-3 and in East Finchley delivery is free.

More to come

Soon on the list of products will be wedding cakes, macarons and modern tarts and there



Kirstie Taylor at Flour Patisserie. Photo Mike Coles

are plans for a patisserie locally, offering breakfast and light meals. This pastry shop will have a glass screen through which customers will be able to see all the cakes being made. Contact [hello@](mailto:hello@flourpatisserie.co.uk)

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5k in the pool

Congratulations to Naomi Mahmud who swam 200 lengths, that's 5km, of non-stop crawl during a charity swimathon for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Naomi, 28, of Fortis Green, has raised £2,500 so far for the charity that cared for her father Dr Salim Mahmud before he passed away in 2013. Naomi's family send a big thank you to everyone who has donated so far and invite new donors to add to her total at <http://my.swimathon.org/sponsor/naomi>

Writers and readers rejoice

This year's Finchley Literary Festival runs across five days, taking in 18 events at libraries and other venues, most of them free.

The programme includes writing workshops and author events, a guided literary walk, a slideshow and a poetry and music evening, with the closing event featuring readings from a number of new local published authors and guests.

Among the guests is Mike Carey, whose acclaimed book *The Girl With All the Gifts* features a post-apocalyptic Finchley! Journalist JP O'Malley will interview Mike

on his work. Warning: There will be zombies.

Other events include Jen Campbell talking about *The Bookshop Book*, a celebration of bookshops around the world, and Katie Alford leading a writing workshop on writing fantasy fiction.

The venues for the festival are Church End Library, Hendon Lane, N3; North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12; Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11; Waterstones, 782 High Road, N12 and Café Buzz, 783 High Road, N12.

For the full programme visit www.finchleyliteraryfestival.blogspot.co.uk

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Walk in the woods: The Big Fun walkers set off through Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Karen Plum

Off we go through London's green spaces

The weather was kind to over 1,000 walkers who took part in this year's Big Fun Walk, trekking seven and a half miles across London in aid of North London Hospice. The walk is the hospice's biggest annual fundraiser, attracting participants young and old, and even a number of four-legged companions.

Walkers set off from East Finchley tube station at 9.30am on Sunday 22 March and made their way through many of London's Royal Parks before being welcomed to the finishing point at Storey's Gate in Westminster with a jazz band and much needed refreshments.

Janet Roth, who takes part in the Big Fun Walk every year, said: "I'm walking today with my good friends Lilian Cordell, Esther and Rochelle. It means a lot to us to support the hospice as we have all known family or friends that have been cared for there and know what wonderful care they provide."

Antoni Dworniak from Leyton said: "North London

Hospice is a cause very close to my heart. I have taken part in the Big Fun Walk since 2009. My sister's mother was cared for by the hospice, so I am walking in her memory."

North London Hospice director of fundraising Robin Langrishe thanked everyone who took part and the companies who donated food and drink for the walkers: Coca-Cola, Soho Sandwich Company, Reynolds Catering Supplies Ltd and Waitrose Barnet. All money raised will go towards providing specialist care and support to terminally ill patients and their families in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Take a walk with the WI

By Elizabeth Alcock, president of Finchley WI
Isn't it great when the temperatures start, ever so slowly, to rise? It's such a good time to be wrapped up (never trust the English weather) and take the family for a walk. We are lucky people, here in North London, with a multitude of routes available for observing the budding trees and flowers.

At a quick dash, I can think of the glorious Fritillaries near Darlands Nature Reserve Pond; any direction of The Capital Ring (through Cherry Tree Wood or towards Finchley/Hendon); up the Dollis Brook to Barnet (can lead as far as Borehamwood if you check your map); the route from High Barnet to Cockfosters; or joining the throngs on Hampstead Heath.

Of course, you may know another place to snatch a moment of reflection as we start a new growing year... but, while you do so, think of the gardeners and their forthcoming battle with the weeds!

Gaining thinking time

Walking is a favourite activity for the Finchley Women's Institute, and we love to share our routes, and would like to hear yours. Walking helps to slow down our busy lives to a manageable pace, it gives us time for thinking and planning. It also forms a sound base for a shared experience, forms and bonds friendships and, just occasionally, gives us something concrete (or muddy) to moan about!

So put on your collective strong flat shoes and take to the paths. If you want to start small, why not take everyone to Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road and try to find a new route to the playground?

Finchley WI is open to all women over 18 years and meets at 8pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) in The Salon, Stephens House & Gardens, East End Road, N3.

Next generation of volunteers

By Karen Finn

Do you ever wonder whether your pre-teens really 'get' all the charity fundraising stuff they do through school and other groups? I feel that mine don't and even though they're great kids, they need more perspective and less sense of entitlement. So I've decided to do something about it.

Through a project that I'm calling MyKids4Humanity, I'm aiming to do at least one 'hands on' volunteer activity each month as well as generally trying harder to encourage compassion on a daily basis.

Hopefully this will guide them towards being socially

face to face. In addition to helping people, MyKids4Humanity is about taking responsibility for the environment and the animals that live in it.

Since finding activities that the kids can do has been slow going, we've started out by searching for volunteer work



Big idea: Karen Finn with her children Toby and Jessica

responsible and thinking more about other people who aren't as fortunate as they are. Even if it's just helping an elderly person cross the road or picking some litter off the pavement.

Hunt for activities

Unfortunately, it's really hard to find opportunities for kids under the age of 16 to get properly stuck in. This really annoys me. Young people are our future doctors, nurses, teachers, CEOs and leaders, yet they are almost completely overlooked when it comes to giving them real opportunities to learn about helping others

to do by ourselves rather than joining organised events. We've already helped out at a city farm twice and have just been given the go-ahead to help clean up after an upcoming local festival. We're also looking into working with elderly people and disabled children.

To follow MyKids4Humanity check out my blog at www.mk4H.com or look for us on Facebook. The website also has a calendar of upcoming volunteering events that include younger kids, if any like-minded parents are interested in joining in.

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Police 'contact point' opens in Waitrose

By Janet Maitland

A pop-up police 'contact point' has opened at a branch of Waitrose in the Spires Shopping Centre in Barnet.

Contact points were introduced by the Met Police in 2013 as part of a new policing strategy for the capital. They are normally run out of Safer Neighbourhood Team offices, but police are testing whether locating them in places that the public is already using, such as a supermarket, will increase their ease of use.

Contact points provide a range of traditional counter services such as crime reporting and crime prevention advice and are staffed by police officers and Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs).

The Waitrose contact point will be open six hours a week: Monday 3-5pm, Tuesday 10am-12pm and Friday 5-7pm.

Apart from the Waitrose

pop-up, there are just four other contact points in the borough. One of them is our local Safer Neighbourhood Team office at 113 High Road, N2, which is now open on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 2pm to 3pm. You can also call them on 020 7161 9014 or email them at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk

There are only two operational police stations left: Colindale, which is open 24 hours a day, and Barnet, which is open from 12-8pm Monday to Friday.

If you need immediate assistance from the police because a crime is taking place, dial 999. If it is not an emergency and you need to report a crime that has already happened, ring 101.

Where does your water go?

Waste water from sinks, washing machines and other appliances should go into the sewer but sometimes plumbers and householders make mistakes and connect pipes to the wrong drains.

The stream in Coldfall Wood has been polluted for many years largely because of plumbing carelessness. Thames Water has been carrying out drainage surveys in the catchment area of the stream and has found 27 properties with misconnections. These included 11 kitchen sinks, 10 dishwashers, seven washing machines and four handbasins.

For now, the problems have been sorted and the stream is receiving only rainwater and (another problem) road run-off water. Dogs and wildlife should be much safer.

To find out about the nationwide campaign to protect watercourses from rogue plumbing, and to check for misconnections on your property, visit www.connectright.org.uk



Big voices: Caspar James and Colleen Nicoll of Opera Dinamica will be at St Jude's

Many nights of the Proms

Tickets are now on sale for this summer's Proms at St Jude's Festival in Hampstead Garden Suburb which runs from Saturday 20 June to Sunday 28 June.

A special treat this year is Maureen Lipman narrating *Wonderland*, the London premiere of a musical tribute to Alice in Wonderland creator Lewis Carroll on the book's 150th anniversary.

For jazz fans there's Clare Teal and her Mini Big Band, and the London International Orchestra brings the festival to a close with a stirring *Last Night of the Proms*.

The Nevill Holt Opera returns on the opening night with a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen*. Violin virtuoso Charlie Siem is back with a programme including Beethoven's *Kreutzer Sonata*, the Brodsky String Quartet with Gemma Rosefield perform Schubert's *Quintet in C major* and The Cardinall's Musick sings works by Palestrina, Allegri and Tavener.

Talks and walks

The line-up for the Literary Festival, which runs on the weekend of June 20 and 21, includes Vladimir Putin's "No1 enemy" Bill Browder, former Labour Minister Alan Johnson, Boris Johnson's father Stanley, BBC maths wizard Alex Bellos, Hampstead Garden Suburb resident and thriller writer Michael Ridpath and political journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown.

Daily guided heritage walks will include a look at the Suburb's artisan quarter to examine its



Wonder-ful: Maureen Lipman will perform in the Proms at St Jude's season

history during the blitz and a tour of Golders Hill Park and Hampstead Heath Extension will show how Suburb founder Dame Henrietta Barnett helped save them from developers.

To book tickets online, visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk. General enquiries can be made by phone on 020 3322 8123.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Slime-makers take the class

National Science Week was focused on celebrating the international year of light and the Archer Academy approached the celebrations with their own brand of creativity. Students had the opportunity to be the teacher for a day as they led science workshops for 90 visiting Year 6 students from Garden Suburb Junior School, which involved making slime.

Normal lessons were suspended in Science and Design Technology as professionals gave lectures and workshops, including PHD student Matthew Tata from University College London, who filled students with enthusiasm about his specialist subject, developmental and stem cell biology.



Dine for £5

The Silver Service scheme has now kicked off, with several local cafés and restaurants offering £5 set meal deals to customers over 60 years of age, and their guest, on Tuesday lunchtimes.

The Bald Faced Stag, Baracuda, Big Chef, New Local Café, The Pelican Fish Bar (formerly Costi's) and Seasons restaurants are all taking part.

Look out for the silver sticker displayed in windows and each restaurant will set tables aside for Silver Service diners, clearly displaying their menu and what is included in the deal.

If you have a restaurant or café in East Finchley and would like to take part in this scheme



(for free), please call Lisa Smith of East Finchley Altogether Better on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk

Lyme's disease needs instant treatment

By Diana Cormack

Last year Radio 4 broadcast an item about the prevalence of Lyme's disease in the UK in 2014. This could have been due to the weather, with conditions being favourable to the tick whose bite causes the disease, along with people exposing more of their skin in the heat.

The disease was identified 40 years ago in Lyme, Connecticut, but is believed to have been in existence for much longer. Over there the tick was traced back to living on deer and on dogs. In this country sheep, grasses and bushes are its preferred habitat. So taking a healthy walk across the fields this spring or summer could mean you bring back more than you set off with.

Symptoms

Unfortunately the effect of a bite may not appear for days or, in some cases, even months or years. When it does, a give-away sign can be a reddened bull's eye shape (see photo) along with symptoms such as fever, headache, lethargy and muscle pains. There can also be characteristic joint inflammation typically affecting the knees and other large joints. However, some victims complain of suffering such symptoms for

years without the disease being diagnosed.

Complications affecting the heart or nervous system can occur too. This happened to my brother-in-law who was debilitated by Lyme's disease last summer. Luckily his wife comes from a part of Germany



where it is well known, so she was able to ensure that he got the necessary rapid medical treatment. Consult your doctor if you have any of the above symptoms, particularly after a tick bite. The disease can be confirmed by blood tests and treated with antibiotics.



Face to face

Woodhouse College student Pouyan Ahsani won the Young Artist prize at artsdepot's Open Exhibition for emerging and established artists.

The 17-year-old, who is currently studying for his AS levels, contributed a work called Portraits, which explores the different ways we can all interpret faces. The North Finchley venue's first prize winner was Judy Veal for a portrait sculpture and photographer Peter Steedman won second prize.

Frozen smiles

There's nothing better than a chance to dress up! Dozens of mini Elsas and Annas joined in a fundraising singalong to the Disney film Frozen at the Phoenix Cinema on Mother's Day in March. More than 100 children and their parents raised over £700 to help the Spread a Smile charity pay for a troupe of artists to entertain seriously ill children in hospital. Hosts from Let It Glow Events donated their services for free.



Sparkling: A young Frozen fan with Elsa and Anna from Let It Glow events at the Phoenix singalong.

Golden growers

By Sheila Armstrong

At the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, a variety of activities is offered by Barnet Age UK including a garden club called the Golden Growers. Run by garden therapist and designer Rebecca Smith, the weekly sessions are popular and need to be booked in advance by getting in touch with Amanda Radonich (email: amandaradonich@ageukbarnet.org.uk)

THE ARCHER went along to a session on planting bulbs where Ruth told us how to plant our pots using 'the lasagne method' (think layers of pasta and filling). A good selection of pots, compost and bulbs were provided: iris, anemone, and ixia. Violas were also provided. When the pots were all planted up members took it in turns to read from the well known book *Bulbs* by Anna Pavord, which gave the history and cultivation details of each bulb.

Ruth, who is a gardening

therapist and works for Thrive (www.carryongardening.org.uk), also gave us a talk on adapted gardening for the less able showing the group a variety of special tools for bad backs and weakened grips.

Age UK offers a variety of activities at the centre including ballroom dancing, art classes, seated exercise, a lunch club and tax advice. A hairdresser and chiropodist attend periodically. More details from www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet or phone the centre on 020 8203 5040.



Old Barn: More time to have your say

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has decided to delay its planning application for the extension of the Old Barn community centre in Tarling Road, N2, so that more consultation can take place.

The council's proposals include building a new wing primarily for the local Somali Bravanese community, whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, was burnt down in a racist arson attack in June 2013. The council had hoped to apply for planning permission in March/April, but this has been postponed to May/June.

"Some stakeholders have asked for additional time to allow more community engagement to take place," said a council spokesperson.

Community concerns

Local residents have raised a number of concerns about the proposals. One issue is whether the council has the right to build on the land adjacent to the Old Barn, given its history as protected green space. Another is frustration that the council can find money for the extension but not for local services under threat of closure. Some residents who live in the streets surrounding the centre feel aggrieved at the lack of direct consultation with them, given that they will be affected the most.

The council has employed

their community liaison service to facilitate the additional consultation. The council spokesperson said that the council wanted the needs of all parties to be "explored, understood and accommodated, so far as is practicable, so that the community hub and facilities can be shared for joint and separate group activities, for the mutual benefit of the community."

THE ARCHER asked if local residents, particularly those living in nearby streets, would be consulted. "Our liaison service will work with all parties," said the spokesperson. "The residents, the Somali Bravanese group, the Big Local and CommUnity Barnet will all be encouraged to collaborate on the design, build and use of the community assets that will supplement the Old Barn so that we can work together to provide community space that is based on a common understanding of the issues and needs."

The council hopes that if the application for planning permission is successful, the Old Barn could be completed by March 2016, although exact timescales will be "dependent on the final agreed design."



Owners Barbaros and Estella Cicek at the launch party for the Visage Beauty Salon in the High Road.

Photo Mike Coles

New beauty salon launched on the High Road

A new hair and beauty business has opened at 148 High Road, the former site of the SevenHill salon. At the launch party of Visage on Sunday 12 April friends, family and other well-wishers were entertained by the jazz band Oriana and participated in a raffle with the proceeds donated to the North London Hospice.

This is a second salon for husband and wife team Estella and Barbaros Cicek, and their business partner Erkan Deniz, as they already have one in Belsize Park. Estella said they are offering top of the range products along with a high standard of treatment which they offer at reasonable prices.

Hairdressing for men, women and children, including colour and bridal packages are available as are beauty treatments for face, hands and feet, waxing and massage.

Visage is open every day

of the week. For more information call 020 8444 3936 or 4340, email: enquiries@visage-hairsalon.co.uk or visit www.visagehairandbeautysalon.com. Facebook page www.facebook.com/visagebelsizepark



It has been a joy and a pleasure serving the Community of East Finchley. We have met some wonderful people over the years and we will miss them all.
Maxine & Maggie

So long, surgery

Patients and staff of the surgery at 91 High Road gathered for one final photo when it closed at the end of March.

Many had signed a petition to save the surgery but it was not to be. Receptionists Maxine and Maggie made their feelings clear in a note to patients, above.

The Finchley Charities



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Closing date 15th May 2015

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Home, Jeremy

After months of the unreal world of politics it's time to return to the reality of drink, drugs and insanity where everything happens in a genuinely surreal way. And what could be more surreal than the world after Clarkbore.

With hundreds heading for the bookies to put money on the dream ticket of Jodie Kidd, Sabine Schmitz and Vicki Butler-Henderson, there is a need for an alternative. It is time for an all-new Top Gear that doesn't let anyone smoke the tyres or try to out-Stig the Stig round a disused airfield in Surrey. Yes, it is time for the driverless car show. A nightmare for petrolheads they may be but driverless cars hold a strange appeal.

Let's start with the Friday night pub crawl. No longer does some poor fool have to drink water and drive their drunk friends around. Instead they can get into a Google self-drive, fire up the sat nav and hit the road. One over the eight? No problem, as long as you can find the car you can keep drinking. And, as long as you can remember where you live, it can get you home so that you can fall out into your own gutter.

Technology in action can transform your commute. No need to have breakfast before you leave the house; take it with you! Recline in luxury, eat your cereal, drink your organic vanilla latte and check out the new dancing cat video on FaceTube.

It's not just food and drink. You could sit there playing Grand Theft Bicycle in the knowledge that your car won't do anything half as stupid as you did the last time you tried driving. And you can do it without worrying about being late or getting suffocated on the tube.

And what about the girls? Well with Clarkbore, May and the Gerbil safely locked in their self-drive cars, Jodie, Vicki and Sabine will be able to get on with the real business of driving proper cars. Maybe they'll give me a lift.

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- **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 Classes** Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. 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.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

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.
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- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Gospel choir**, St Mary's, 279 High Road, N2, Thursdays 7-8pm, all welcome. Contact Sandra 07866 479913.
- **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** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390

Medieval soap opera

Garden Suburb Theatre is bringing *The Lion in Winter* to The Bull Theatre in Barnet. The play is the group's entry in the Barnet and District Drama Festival.

This black comedy features a family Christmas with a difference, one that puts the 'feud' into 'feudal'. King Henry II of England has commanded his estranged wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their three sons to spend the festive season with him. However, his mistress and her brother will also be there. Will Henry finally name who is to succeed him on the English

throne? Their yuletide celebration soon turns into a black comedy of deceit, betrayal, power games and scorching wit.

The Lion in Winter runs from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 May at 8pm, with a Saturday matinee at 3pm. Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre or by ringing 020 7723 6609.



Royal relations: Catherine Little as Eleanor and Mark Overall as Henry

Land of the summer sun

Highgate Contemporary Art is hosting an exhibition by French artist Luce Géas until 16 May. Her studies of rich ochre earth, twisted ancient olive trees, clear blue skies and purple lavender conjure up sun-saturated Provence in the south of France, a landscape she has known and loved all her life.

In 2009 Luce was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, France's highest honour, following a distinguished career professionally, socially and artistically. She has exhibited extensively

and has many loyal followers in the UK and France.

The gallery at 26 Highgate High Street, N6, is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30am to 6pm. Entry is free.

What's on at the Phoenix in May

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, Phoenix Cinema executive director

The merry month of May is brimming with big screen pleasures at the best 'picture palace' in North London.

Director Thomas Vinterberg delves into Hardy country for his remake of *Far from the Madding Crowd*. This time round Carey Mulligan plays the headstrong heroine Bathsheba Everdene, pursued by three very different suitors. Opens 1 May.

Women continue to hold the spotlight in two films starting on 15 May. VE Day, 1945 is the setting for *A Royal Night Out*, a delightful film that imagines what happened when young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were allowed to wander incognito, celebrating among ordinary Londoners. Rupert Everett and Emily Watson play the royal parents.

A new monthly strand, *Sunday Best*, offers the chance to see recent releases that didn't fit into our schedule before but are films we feel merit your attention. Our presentation on 10 May is *Force Majeure*, a Swedish film set in the Swiss

Alps; a funny, edgy story about the perfect family man forced to confront his real nature.

Ralph Fiennes stars in the National Theatre production of George Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman* on 14 May.

Bring the children to see the *Shaun the Sheep Movie* at our Saturday Kids Club on 23 May. Then if you're looking for something special during half term week, we've got the enchanting *Secret of Kells* on the 25th and Oscar-nominated Studio Ghibli feature *The Tale of Princess Kaguya* on the 29th.

Our *Use It Or Lose It Film Quiz* takes place at 11am twice this month, on the 3rd and 31st. Test your cinematic knowledge with classic film clip clues and win a gift membership for you or a friend. Full programme details and online booking for all our screenings at: www.phoenixcinema.co.uk. See you at the movies!



Owner Juliet Walden with chalk artwork. Photo Stepan Stepanenko

A new place for art

By Stepan Stepanenko

Local artists are invited to showcase their works at a new café which has opened on Aylmer Parade. With all styles welcome, Aylmer Pantry is looking forward to hosting the artwork and organising regular soirees for the artists.

Owner Juliet Walden said the artisan establishment is eager to become an active member of the community. As well as the displays of art, the café and shop will be hosting chalk paint workshops.

Visitors to the cafe can also enjoy a cup of origin coffee and relax in a beautifully decorated environment. The interior of the café has been fitted out in the style of the Vintage Garden shop with which it is connected. Visitors can sit and enjoy a coffee in comfortable vintage chairs while surrounded by a décor of recycled floorboards and other pre-loved furnishings.

For those who would like to display their art, please hurry

as demand is high and the café is looking for new exhibitors no sooner than the coming September.

Running mums

Mums Who Run is a friendly women's running group that meets fortnightly on Thursday mornings in Cherry Tree Wood. It's ideal for runners who like friendly company while they exercise. Contact sarahglennon7@gmail.com for more info.

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

Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 May

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents *The Lion in Winter* at The Bull Theatre, Barnet, nightly at 8pm, Saturday matinee at 3pm. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre or by ringing 020 7723 6609. The play is GST's entry in the Barnet and District Drama Festival.

Saturday 9 May

• **Dickens in Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Dickens's travels and writings in Barnet and Finchley. Meet at High Barnet tube station, 2.30pm. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Sunday 10 May

• **Car boot and table top sale** at Vale Farm Allotments, Tarling Road, N2; 11am to 4pm.

• **Free music concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra Ensemble plays Schubert's Octet in F major. Free admission with collection for Alzheimer's Research UK. Venue fully accessible.

Saturday 16 May

• **HGS Horticultural Society's plant**

sale, 10.30am to 12 noon, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. Entry free.

• **Holy Trinity Primary School Fair**, Eagans Close, N2, 12 noon until 2.30pm. Enjoy a bungee run, a bouncy castle, surf simulator, beat the goalie, arts, crafts, food and drink. All welcome.

Until Saturday 16 May

• **Exhibition of paintings** by distinguished French artist **Luce Géas** at Highgate Contemporary Art, 26 Highgate High Street, N6 5JG. Gallery open Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30am – 6pm. Entry is free.

Wednesday 20 to Sunday 24 May

• **Finchley Literary Festival**: 18 events including author talks, writing workshops and poetry evenings at five venues across five days. Venues are Church End Library, North Finchley Library, Friern Barnet Community Library, and Waterstones and Café Buzz in North Finchley. Find the full programme at www.finchleyliteraryfestival.blogspot.co.uk

Friday 22 May

• **Finchley literary tour**: a guided walk as part of the Finchley Literary Festival. Meet at Finchley Central tube station (Ballards Lane exit) at 3pm. More details from Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net



Phoenix goes all funny again

By Andry Moustras

Following the roaring success of last year's sell out show, the Archer Academy has announced their second comedy night, which will take place on Monday 15 June at the Phoenix Cinema.

Once again the evening will be compered by Academy parent and top comedy stand-up Ian Stone, a regular in the West End's Comedy Store and ranked by The Independent as one of the top ten stand-ups in Britain.

Stone will be joined by headliner Stephen K Amos, a TV and radio regular, who has performed on Live at the Apollo (BBC1) and Have I Got News for You (BBC2), as



Stephen K Amos tops the bill at the Phoenix

well as Sara Pascoe (Mock the Week, The Thick of It) and Ian Moore (The Stand Up Show).

Ian Stone said: "Last year's comedy night at the Phoenix was as good as any that I have been involved in in 25 years in the business. It's a beautiful venue to be watching first-class stand-up in."

Last year's comedy night raised £7,000, which was used to enhance the school's enrichment provision for students. Tickets this year cost £25 plus booking fee and are available at tinyurl.com/archercomedy2015. Doors open at 8.30pm for a 9pm start. Please note that the event is for over-18s only.



Sara Pascoe. Photos by Edward Moore

Letters

Old Barn: a space for all Dear Editor,

I read your articles and comments regarding the Old Barn with great interest. It is a shame it has been closed so long. I feel strongly that it should be a place for all groups to use. Integration is important. I feel that creating a centre for one group of people would be excluding others.

The piece of land earmarked for the Bravanese community should I feel be kept as an outdoor space for all the young people in our community and the play area reinstated. I've been reading your paper since I moved here and it is very informative and has helped me settle in the local area so thank you staff and editor of THE ARCHER!

Yours faithfully,
Jane Beyer
Address supplied.

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.

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VE Day comes back to life

By Daphne Chamberlain

Seventy years ago this month, 10,000 people had a party in the grounds of Avenue House in East End Road (pictured above). They were celebrating VE Day, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe. Were any of you among them? If so, there will be a special welcome for you at a big anniversary event on Sunday 10 May.

Avenue (now called Stephens) House is inviting everyone, of all ages and backgrounds, to let their hair down and have a fun day. The organisers say: "We would love people to come in vintage dress, and we would love to hear from anyone who came to the original celebrations here at the house in 1945, and to offer them a free lunch."

The party will run from 12 noon to 5pm, with entertainment from the stage on the lawn starting at about 1pm. Performers will include The English Jazz Orchestra and The Three Belles.

Children can learn how to dance around a maypole, and (English weather permitting) you can enjoy picnics on the lawn. Bring your own food or buy some to eat there. There will also be Sunday lunch served in the house, and a drinks tent on the lawn.

The cafe in the stables will be open, as will the Bothy Gardens and the Stephens Collection museum, and there will be stalls on the terrace.

Exhibition

Following last year's WW1 exhibition, Stephens House will be staging a tribute to the work carried out there during both World Wars. The exhibition will run from 1 July to 30 September.

If you would like to contribute memories and/or artefacts, or to volunteer as a steward, please contact info@stephenshouseandgardens.com or Fiona Marcus on 020 8346 7812 (option 4).

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Fair dues for all

By Ian Cormack

A trip along The Bishops Avenue at night when so few lights are on shows how nearly a whole street can be taken out of the economy by spasmodic occupiers.

When you think this is happening all over central London in properties owned by mainly foreign investors who do not have to pay for leaving their properties vacant, the size of the problem starts to become apparent.

They can passively make ordinary people's lives more difficult just by taking property out of circulation because there is less left for the rest of us.

To get over this dilemma we need to insist that people who wish to monopolise property whether they use it or not, should pay to the national Exchequer for this privilege.

This single act would provide a level playing field for all citizens, as everyone has to have access to land one way or another to live and work. They cannot avoid it. Taxes on anyone who works for a living should be reduced by the same amount to facilitate fairness to all.

Land has no intrinsic value in itself. It gains its price from the activities of people around it, as a block of flats on the top of Ben Nevis would prove. So the gains from rising populations and improved infrastructure paid for by public funds should not be squirrelled away into private hands.

By charging the appropriate rent to those who wish to monopolise these finite resources, these gains would be assisting the general population.

Do you have a story for us?

You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Tweet us @TheArcherN2 and find us on Facebook. You can also find out more about contributing and advertising at www.the-archer.co.uk

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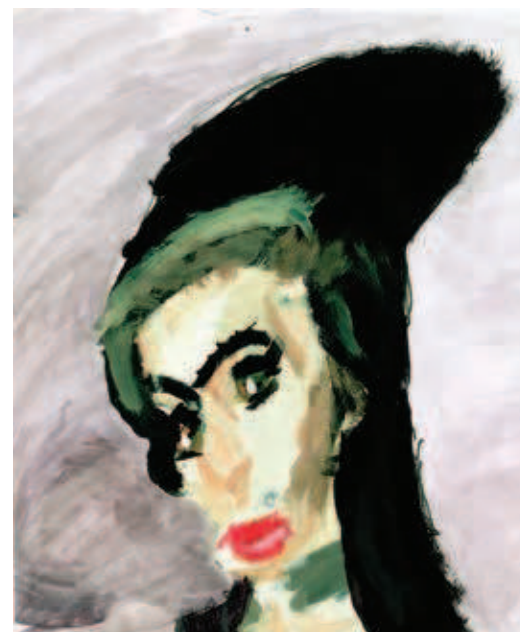
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From Mandela to Amy: a fresh take on famous faces

They may be some of the most photographed people in recent history but sometimes it takes a very special artist to get under the skin of our most celebrated heroes and celebrities.

Jake Chodosh is one such. His portraits of famous faces like Amy Winehouse, The

Beatles, Bob Dylan and Nelson Mandela are strikingly different and somehow seem to capture the character of his subjects.

Jake is 21 and a former pupil of the TreeHouse School in Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill. His paintings were on show at the East Finchley Open fair held there late last year and his sisters Katie and Jess have made them available to buy through

the website www.artismbyjake.com.

Jake, who is at the severe end of the autism spectrum, started art therapy at TreeHouse when he was 13. He used to paint animals before moving on to people portraits because he liked working on skin tones.

Katie says: "Once the teachers told my mum how much he enjoyed it, we started replicating the sessions at home. Jake is non-verbal, so doesn't say why he likes doing it. But he is at his happiest, quietest and most relaxed when painting. He can paint for hours in silence with his art teacher Leah. He really enjoys the process of painting."

Ideas for portraits often come from Katie or Jess, or from requests through the website. Katie says Jake doesn't know who the people are that he paints, he just likes to paint. Perhaps that's why he has such a knack for cutting through the layers of fame and getting to the real person underneath.



Keen eye: Jake Chodosh works on a painting of the Queen, and (above) his portraits of Nelson Mandela, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Amy Winehouse.

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Spring fair is in the air

Holy Trinity Primary School will be opening its gates for its spring fair on Saturday 16 May from 12noon to 2.30pm. Bursting with activities such as a bungee run, bouncy castle, surf simulator, tin can alley, beat the goalie, arts and crafts, tombola, face painting and lots of goods for sale, there will be fun for the whole family.

The raffle this year has prizes including: 1st prize £100 cash, 2nd prize ALIYA.J Boutique £100 voucher, 3rd prize Samsung Galaxy Tablet.

As a grand finale to round off the event, the school is

debuting its very own version of Top Gear's "Star in a Reasonably Priced Car" called "Parent in a Budgens shopping trolley"! It promises to be a nail-biting twist on the classic pram race.

New club for carers

Barnet Carers are recommending CarerSmart, a new club from Carers Trust. Joining CarerSmart is easy and free, and members can benefit from a wide range of offers. These include cash back on shopping from numerous high street retailers, best rates from energy providers, reductions on insurance renewals, discounts on holidays and travel arrangements, free legal advice services, and reduced price lifestyle activities. Details from www.carersmart.org.

Carers Trust is the UK's largest carers' charity, and is open to carers, people with care needs, and staff and volunteers across the Trust network.

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