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# THE ARCHER




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**CARS & COURIERS**

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**20p**  
where sold

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

## They marched to save our libraries



Hundreds of people turned up to protest about the restructuring and threatened closure of our local libraries. Turn to pages 4 and 5 for our reports and more photos.



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## Coldfall poisoning rumours put dog walkers on alert

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Last month there were some worrying rumours of dogs dying after being walked in Coldfall Wood. It took weeks before the truth could be established and fears allayed.**

Naturally, friendly dog walkers share information so when a dog had to be put to sleep after severe reactions to eating some chicken bones in Islington (St Pancras) Cemetery the word spread. Unfortunately the story morphed into several more, variously suggesting that poisoned bait/bread was being put out for foxes/rats by allotment holders/local residents, while the venue became several places in Coldfall Wood.

Warning notices went up around the wood, there was

a flurry of Streetlife postings and a Facebook page was set up for concerned Coldfall dog walkers. The Broadway Ham and High newspaper carried two successive articles dramatically reporting three 'dog poisonings' although on 10 September it published a slightly more measured account.

#### No poisonings

Meanwhile, Haringey police and Haringey Council were trying to establish the truth. Local veterinary practices and the RSPCA had no poisoning

cases to report. The Friends of Coldfall Wood, who include dog walkers, were troubled by the rapid spread of the rumours; they maintained that there was no evidence of dog poisonings and appealed for information.

Sadly, dogs will pick up and sometimes eat unsuitable things. It is upsetting to see a dog being unwell, so some dog walkers have been avoiding Coldfall Wood. The facts are that one dog died, not three, and not because of eating any substance found in the wood. Visit [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk) or, for general advice on dogs, [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk).

### In this issue:

Fatal bus collision.....p2  
Million pound area.....p3  
New head for Martin School...p7  
Wicked wickets.....p8  
All Saints memories.....p9  
What's On.....p10  
Letters.....p11

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## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 8 Brackenbury Road, N2

Certificate for roof extension with rear dormer window and two roof lights.

#### 94 Church Lane, N2

Roof extension, with rear dormer and three front roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion.

#### 56 Deansway, N2

Part single/part two-storey rear extension. Internal alterations. Raising crown roof with front dormer and one roof light to rear roof slope.

#### 9 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer and three front roof lights, to facilitate loft extension.

#### 24 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 58 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Application for certificate.

#### 60 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Removal of ground floor walls.

#### First floor flat, 34A High Road, N2

First floor rear extension.

#### 62 High Road, N2

One internally illuminated hanging sign to replace existing fascia sign.

#### 105 High Road, N2

Mansard roof extension at third floor level, to facilitate self-contained studio flat. Rear extension at second floor level.

#### 127 – 133 High Road, N2

Reforming roof. External insulation and rendering. Glazed covering to rear staircase.

#### Land at rear of 1 King Street, N2

Details of conditions pursuant to appeal notices of 2013/14.

#### 354A Long Lane, N2

Refurbishment for conversion of two new two-bedroom flats with new access.

#### 4 Richmond Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer and three front roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion.

#### 1 Talbot Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear/side extension.

#### 12 Talbot Avenue, N2

First floor rear extension.

#### Wickets Lodge, Hobbs Green, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

### Haringey Council

Eden Primary School, 79 Creighton Avenue, N10

Approval for details pursuant to conditions for outdoor management area, attached to previous planning permission.

#### 73 Fordington Road, N6

Rear/side single-storey extension. Certificate of lawfulness for loft conversion.

#### 6 Fortis Green Cottages, N2

Rebuilding single-storey side extension.

#### 22 Twyford Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Certificate of lawfulness for hip to gable loft conversion.

#### 63 Twyford Avenue, N2

Infilling ground floor undercroft to parking space. Adding roof extension to side elevation.

## Pedestrian dies after collision



Tributes at the scene of the accident. Photo by John Dearing

**A 38-year-old man died after an accident involving a bus on the flyover where the High Road crosses the North Circular.**

Police were called to the scene at 7.30am on Tuesday 25 August following reports of a pedestrian in collision with a northbound bus.

Orlando Carbungco, 38, of Henderson Road, N9, was taken to hospital in a critical condition and died from his injuries two days later.

The bus driver stopped at the scene and no arrests have been made.

## Help for refugees in Calais

By Sheila Armstrong

**Members of the Help Calais support group were flooded with donations of adult and children's clothes, baby food and other essential items when they set up a collection depot in East Finchley.**

When *THE ARCHER* visited the Big Yellow Self Storage Company building by the North Circular on 11 September the organisation of donated goods for the refugees at the French port was in the capable hands of Danielle Lawrence.

She said they had been overwhelmed by the generosity of local people. The essentially social media-driven campaign had been a great success and people had responded quickly.

The group had a team driving to Calais on Thursday 17 September with the donations and it

is seeking to build a permanent team in Calais.

For regular updates on their progress follow the Help Calais group on Facebook. You can donate online at <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/kentforcalais>

### THE ARCHER online

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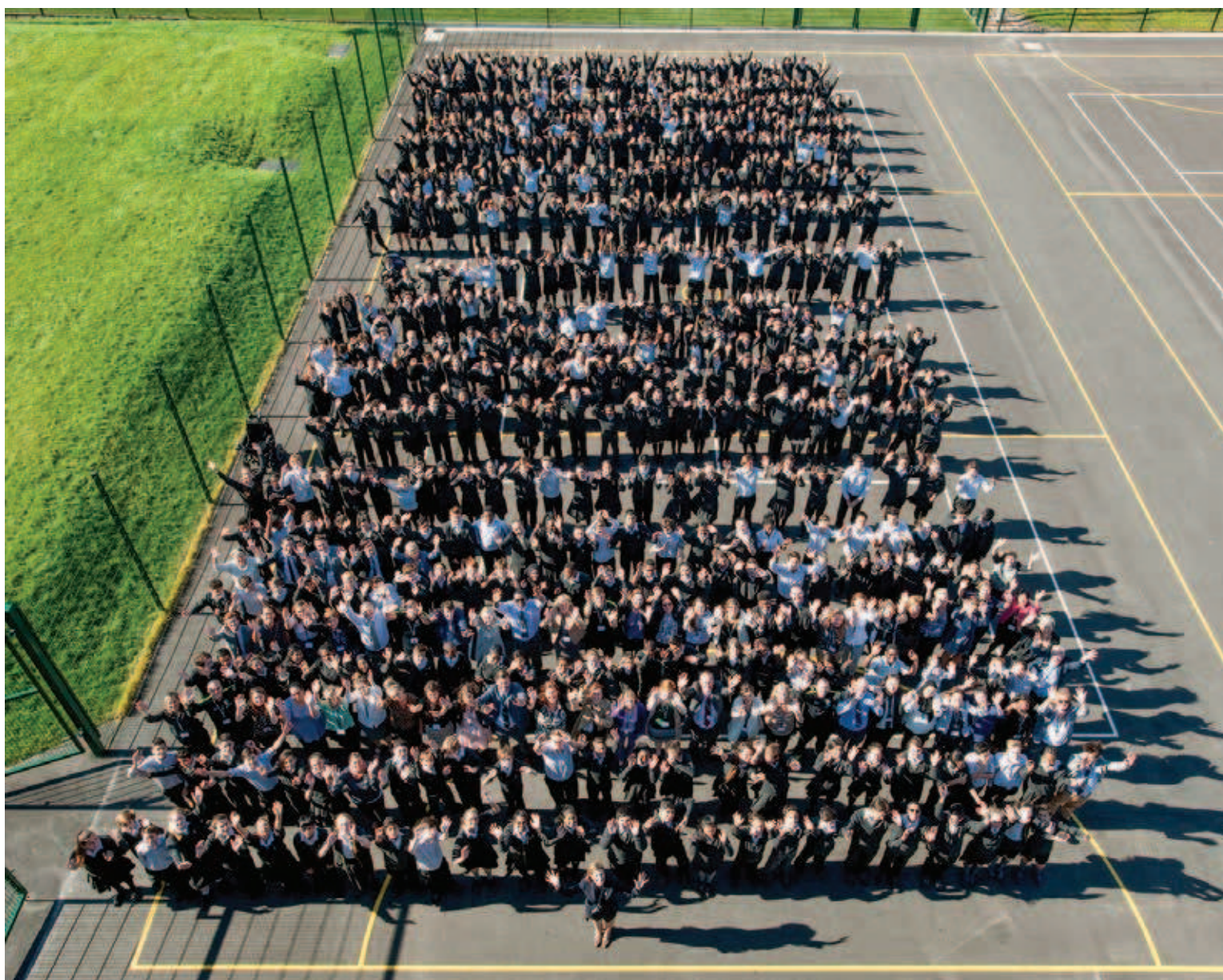
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Archer Academy students in their new home. Photo by Philip Vile

## Can you see me, mum?

This is one of the first photos of Archer Academy students on their new school campus on Stanley Road. All 450 pupils gathered behind headteacher Lucy Harrison, front, on one of the new sports pitches and photographer Philip Vile took the shot from the top of the school's teaching block.

The opening of the new site is another major milestone for the academy, which has spent its first two years in the former Arts Centre building in Beaumont Close, off The Bishops Avenue.

Year 9 student Ria said about the new school site: "I've got lost a few times but it's easy to adapt to. The facilities here are so new and modern which is really unusual in a school, we're lucky."

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: "The new academic year has got off to a great start; each year group had their own day at the school to explore the building and settle into their routines, which definitely helped them start with confidence. We rounded off our first week with our first whole lower school photo, a brilliant moment that will stay with me for a long time."

East Finchley residents will also be interested to know that the school's indoor and outdoor sports facilities are now open for public use outside school hours. Find booking information at [www.schoolsplus.co.uk/archeracademy](http://www.schoolsplus.co.uk/archeracademy) and look out for more details in next month's *ARCHER*.

## Now we're a £1 million home zone!

We all know that East Finchley is the happiest place to live in London (*THE ARCHER*, September 2015) but the flip side to that good news is that it is also becoming one of the most expensive areas in which to buy a home.

A survey by property firm Knight Frank found that more homebuyers are at risk of being pushed out of East Finchley because it is labelled as one of London's 11 new "£1 million neighbourhoods".

And Muswell Hill is one of the 11 too. The others are: Highbury, Kentish Town, Queen's Park, Clerkenwell, Maida Vale, Hammersmith, Vauxhall, Bat-

tersea and Herne Hill.

The analysis is based on postcode districts where at least 20% of residential property sales have been above £1 million in at least one quarter since the start of 2014.

Knight Frank said the surge in prices in East Finchley isn't the result of a trickle-down effect of rich foreign investors piling into the very top end of the market, as in

central London. In fact prices are rising because of "a scrum" for the type of mid-level housing that is widespread in N2.

£1 million properties are becoming the new normal, the survey concludes, because so many people are flooding into London and there just aren't enough houses being built to keep up with demand.

## Do you have a story for us?

You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto: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](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)

## Shape the future of our parks

Barnet Council is calling on residents to help shape the future of the borough's 200 parks and open spaces, including Cherry Tree Wood. There is a short questionnaire asking for views and aspirations that will help shape the way the council maintains its green spaces for years to come. A parks and open spaces strategy goes out for consultation in the spring of 2016.

Find the survey at <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> (search for 'Parks'). You can also give your opinions at [www.facebook.com/barnetparks](http://www.facebook.com/barnetparks).

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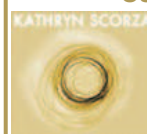
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# They marched to save our libraries



Poet Joshua Seigal and actor Rebecca Front. Photo Mike Coles

By Daphne Chamberlain and John Lawrence

**It was their last chance to show their feelings about how much they value the library service in East Finchley and across the borough. And so hundreds turned out for a noisy and good-natured demonstration march that they hoped would send a very strong message to Barnet Council ahead of its decision on the service's future.**

The Children's March on Saturday 12 September started from East Finchley Library because 66% of borrowers here are youngsters, an increase of 18% over the last five years. Young children dressed up as their favourite book characters held placards aloft and teenage students walked alongside them.

Actor and author Rebecca Front kicked off the march from East Finchley Library with a stirring speech, and the crowd also heard from 10-year-old library advocate Ralph Vincent from Whetstone, and performance poet Joshua Seigal.

With music playing and stewards shepherding them along the route, around 250 marchers set off along the High Road and then up East End Road to Church End library where they were met by a red open-top bus festooned with balloons and even more supporters. The London Metropolitan Brass Band played to the throng, which then marched up Ballards Lane for its final stop at North Finchley Library.

East Finchley Library Users Group said afterwards: "Thank you very much to everyone who came. You're all brilliant and it was great to be with you."

## Why we need a local library

*Here are some of the memorable quotes from the Children's March for Libraries that set off from East Finchley.*



**Actor and author Rebecca Front:** "Imagine you're on Dragons' Den and you go to the dragons with an investment idea for a series of buildings across the country where people can go and read books and borrow them for free, where they can read newspapers and use the internet for free, and borrow CDs and DVDs.

"The dragons would say this was a terrible investment idea because they wouldn't make money. But libraries are not a money-making scheme. They are a community-making scheme. They are a good society scheme. Let's support the libraries."

**Mother Emilia, with 15-month-old Aron:** "We use the library for the singing and reading sessions. Being a new mum isn't always easy and I've made many friends through coming to the library. It's a hub to meet people and I dread to think what life would be like without it."

**Alex, 13:** "Libraries are useful and I like the range of books. I use East Finchley Library in my spare time because I like looking at the guide books."



Two of the children's posters. Photo Mike Coles



Harry Potter joins the kids at the library. Photo Mike Coles



Parents and kids ready to march. Photo Mike Coles

**Emily, 11:** "I come into East Finchley Library every couple of weeks. I use it for taking out books and reading while I'm there. If we didn't have it, I'd feel very sad."

**Seen on banners:**

"Libraries are cheap. Illiteracy is expensive."  
 "Hands off our libraries!"  
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A young library user proudly shows off his reading monster t-shirt

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Poet Joshua Seigal reads a special poem to the marchers. Photo Mike Coles



The marchers set out along East End Road. Photo Mike Coles



The marchers, accompanied by a brass band in Finchley Central. Photo Mike Coles

# Libraries: what happens next?

By Daphne Chamberlain

The results of last winter's consultation on libraries have been published, and the next step is the Council Meeting at 7pm on Monday 12 October. This is when the final proposals for Barnet's library service will be announced. Except that "final" does not appear to be quite the right word.

Cllr Reuben Thompstone is saying that any new proposals coming up at that meeting will go out for further consultation in the autumn. He adds that the Council "will explore ways to keep the same number of libraries across the borough, whilst reducing the overall cost of the service. To do this, the service will need to change and adapt, meaning it could end up looking significantly different from how it is today".

Attending the Town Hall meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> may give a better idea of what this means. There is an indication in the consultation report that Barnet might propose a mixture of elements from all the options.

## Council options rejected

There were over 3,000 responses to the consultation. All three options put forward by the Council were rejected. So reduced library sizes, closures and unstaffed opening hours were all given the thumbs down. The general public and focus groups agreed on this, although there were differences between the two sections.

The most popular suggestion was the use of more volunteers, although it should be noted that the majority of people said that volunteers should supplement profes-

sional staff, not replace them.

Regarding the option of setting up community libraries, it is worth bearing in mind that the Council proposed a handover of building and existing stock, with no further help or specification.

The full report is on [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) and some print-outs may still be available in libraries. Make sure your views are represented at the Council meeting on 12 October.

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# A whole street comes out to party together

By Lulu Shooter

Residents of Cherry Tree Road aired the bunting and cleared away cars on Sunday 6 September to host their annual street party. The day was a great success and saw the mingling of old and new residents, all delighted with the opportunity to really socialise with their neighbours.

Ollie Mellmann has reigned as barbecue king for all six years that this party has been running. Everyone ate to their hearts content, the street's canner canine residents included!

Music is always a big part of the event, with seasoned singers such as Ollie's daughter Evie consistently wowing party-goers. A group of neighbours – Antonio Incisa on drums, Charles Lewis on trombone, Lulu Shooter on keyboard and Dave Quirke on guitar, whose dad Mike on harmonica also did some blues singing – kept up the high standard of musical entertainment.

The afternoon itself was warm and sunny, so the children could play games like football,

limbo and Twister. The pavement was temporarily chalked with a jungle mural.

A raffle was held in aid of the Bobath Centre. Other classic activities such as guessing the number of Smarties in the jar (over 1,000) and the weight of the cake (around 800g), contributed to covering the costs of the party, as did donations for food and drink.

A big thanks to Nathan and Mel Eastwood, Sara Glaser and David Quirke who helped Ollie with the organisation. Residents and visitors said they had had a fantastic time and doubtless, as they packed away the parasols and tables, everyone was already looking forward to next year's event.



'Science in action': CCF students using a clinometer on the beach in Swanage to collect data

## Top of the class

The geography department at Christ's College Finchley has become the only school this year to be awarded a prestigious badge of excellence.

CCF was given the Secondary Geography Quality Mark by the Geographical Association in recognition of its creative teaching and good learning in geography

The award, now in its ninth year, looks for student achievement in areas such as geographical knowledge and concepts and is rigorously judged by a team of assessors. CCF previously held the award from 2009-2011.

A spokesperson for the school said: "We try to enthuse students of geography to be activists in their world engaging with tough local & global issues and creating meaning in their own sphere which can then inform deeper learning at a regional, national and global scale."

Alan Kinder, chief executive of the Geographical Association, said: "There has never been a more important time for all children and young people to study geography. Growing up in the 21st century means living in an increasingly interconnected world, one facing a growing number of global challenges such as climate change and the need to live our lives sustainably."

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## Calm return for meditation sessions

Meditation can help to relax the body and still the mind, and mindfulness meditation is about being in the moment and accepting life as it is.



Peace of mind: A meditation class under way

An informal group seeks to share their skills with those who wish to experience this, at a course run over six Tuesday evenings, starting Tuesday 13 October, from 7.30pm to 8.30pm at the Archer Academy, Beaumont Close, N2.

The cost is £4 per session, including refreshments and a chance to discuss best practice.

Fee covers venue hire and refreshments only, as the leaders are not charging for their time.

All are welcome to go and see how mindfulness can work for them, and how easy it is to fit a few minutes of peace into your day. Contact eddylevin@blueyonder.co.uk or call Lisa on 07909 998453 for more details or to book.

## Gold thefts

A network of volunteers has been set up across London to help combat the targeting of Asian families for their ceremonial gold jewellery. The volunteers, two from each borough, provide a link between the police and London's diverse ethnic communities.

The Met Police has had a specialist team of officers working as part of 'Operation Nugget' to combat the increase in burglaries where the sole purpose is to steal gold jewellery, often from Asian households.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Gold Network, contact volunteer co-ordinator Heena Patel by email on [heena.familygold-network@hotmail.com](mailto:heena.familygold-network@hotmail.com). For more information on how to protect yourself from becoming a victim, visit this link: <http://ow.ly/CfdFg>

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[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

**Visitors always welcome**





# No such thing as a free trial

By Janet Maitland

**There's been a big increase in the number of victims signing up for 'free' trials of pharmaceuticals or supplements that turn out to be anything but free.**

The scam involves a text message or web pop-up advertising a free trial of products such as diet pills. Customers are told they only have to pay for postage and packaging (P&P), but when they enter their payment details, they are actually signing up for a continuous payment authority (CPA). That allows money to be withdrawn from their account every month after the trial period, usually 14 days, has ended.

The terms and conditions, if there are any, are buried in the small print, so many customers don't realise they've agreed to a CPA until they check their statements.

One man who signed up for a free trial of health supplements found that the company had tried to take £94 from his

account after he'd used his debit card to pay the £2.99 P&P.

## What to do

If you discover you've been duped, Moneywise advises you to contact the company to explain that you weren't told about the monthly payments.

The next step is to tell your bank to stop the CPA. Moneywise say: "The Financial Conduct Authority has confirmed that when you ask your bank to stop a CPA, the agreement must be cancelled and if another payment goes through by mistake, the money must be refunded. If your bank doesn't resolve the issue, then speak to the Financial Ombudsman."

For more information go to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or [www.moneywise.co.uk/scams-rip-offs](http://www.moneywise.co.uk/scams-rip-offs)



Aiming high: Rebecca Bakar and pupils at Martin Primary

## Head start at Martin Primary

By Rachel Ellis

**Headteacher Rebecca Bakar is promising to 'aim**

**high for all her pupils' as she takes over at Martin Primary School.**

Mrs Bakar, who has 35 years' teaching experience and has worked at the school for seven years, says getting the basics right in reading, writing and maths is her priority for the 565 pupils at the East Finchley school.

This will be achieved, she says, through a wide, creative curriculum that uses the excellent facilities available at the school including a large school field, science garden, school library and dedicated music room.

## Aiming high

"We are having a big push on reading and have spent a lot of money training teaching assistants in a new one-to-one reading programme to help foster children's reading skills and their love of reading.

"At the heart of an outstanding school is getting the fundamentals of reading, writing and maths right, but that needs to be done through a broad and stimulating curriculum. I want the best outcomes for all the children, not just academically but by

fostering their creativity too so that each develops as a whole person. I'll be aiming high in everything we do."

## Available and involved

Mrs Bakar, 57, an East Finchley resident for the last 15 years, whose two sons both attended Christ's College Finchley, became head of Martin Primary in September following the departure of Helen Morrison to work in Barnet Council's education team.

Maintaining the school's strong community links and being hands-on and accessible to both parents and pupils are key, she says.

The school has revamped its website over the summer to provide more information to parents. Mrs Bakar will be at the school gates daily, host coffee mornings for parents once every three weeks and is spending one day a week teaching children in Year 6 and Year 2 as well as running a maths club for Year 6.

"I'm also having school dinners with the children a couple of times a week so I get the chance to talk to them in a more informal way. I think that's important," she says.

# Hospice nurses walk to remember

**Nurses at The Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead, tackled a 10km walk this summer to remember those they have cared for, and invited others to join them. The Walk to Remember event took place on 1 August at Osterley Park, in south-west London.**

Its 10km route took walkers past colourful formal gardens and lakes, through woodland and across the ancient meadow, bursting with wildflowers and butterflies. After completing the walk, participants enjoyed live music, entertainment and fireworks.

Leonie Christian, who has been caring for people at the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead, for 25 years, said: "Every day we care for people facing terminal illness, and support their families. This walk was a wonderful opportunity for us to remember these people, and to raise money so the hospice can continue to provide care for many, many more."



Comfy shoes: Hospice nurse Leonie Christian.

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## YOUNG ARCHER



Up stumps: North Middlesex Under-11s celebrate their victory

## Wicked wickets

North Middlesex Cricket Club entered teams in the Girls Under 11 and Girls Under 13 leagues over the summer and both had a very successful season.

The Under 11s won all their league matches and qualified for County Finals Day as undefeated champions of their division. On County Finals Day they won their semi-final

with Ealing, and then won the final against Bushy Park Girls with the last ball of the match. The Under 13s won half of their matches and so finished third in their division.

This is a good result for a first year in a new league. North Midd's ground is at the bottom of Muswell Hill, and a number of East Finchley girls play in their girls' teams. If you would like to join email: [nmcc.colts@gmail.com](mailto:nmcc.colts@gmail.com)

## Runners and ramblers on the move

EFAB's Mums Who Run group, a friendly jogging group for women, and Talkie Walkies walking group, have both moved their sessions to a different day, and look forward to welcoming newcomers to the groups.

Mums Who Run are now meeting on Friday mornings at 9.30am in Cherry Tree Wood, and encourage women of any age (not necessarily mums) to join them for a friendly, supportive jog together. All fitness levels are catered for. Contact [sarahglennon7@gmail.com](mailto:sarahglennon7@gmail.com) for more details or to attend.

Talkie Walkies have decided

to change their weekly meet-up to a Monday, and now meet at 12.30pm outside the Clissold Arms pub, 105 Fortis Green, before setting off on a 45-minute stroll and chat together. If attendees wish they can then enjoy a cuppa or lunch together afterwards. Please contact Esther on [samsonel@btinternet.com](mailto:samsonel@btinternet.com) or call Tony on 07958 334665.

## Found in the roof

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Found anything interesting in your attic lately? Restorers working on Codebreaking Hut 6 at Bletchley Park were amazed by what they found stuffed into cracks between roof beams.

Keeping out draughts were the only known examples of Banbury sheets, devised by Alan Turing to help break the Enigma code, together with notes and calculations. (We never saw Benedict Cumberbatch up to any of this in the very moving Imitation Game.) The finds are on display in an exhibition currently running in Hut 12.

If you missed The Imitation Game when it was on at the Phoenix, it is available on DVD. You can also find out more about some of the 8,000 plus women who worked at what was called "Station X" during World War 2. A new book by Michael Smith called The Debs of Bletchley Park is available now. It's a rather misleading title, as they came from many different backgrounds.

Published by Aurum Press, ISBN 9781781313879 (suffix 389 3 in e-form), I'm sure it could also be borrowed from the library!

## Laptop support

Local minicab and courier company GLH has continued its support for the Archer Academy by providing 12 bespoke laptops for use by students with dyslexia. They are being used as part of the school's learning support programme, which is run in conjunction with the Hampstead Dyslexia Clinic.

As Delia Gascoigne, a director of the clinic, explains: "Access to a laptop for essays and note-taking in class and in exams can be an absolute life saver to a young person who has difficulty getting their thoughts down on paper, or poor penmanship or organisational skills."

The laptops have been fitted with dyslexia-friendly spelling programmes and other specialist software, designed to increase the students' fluency,

confidence and independent learning skills. And the students are feeling really positive about the impact it is having on their learning. Sam, a Year 9 student, explained: "Having a personal laptop has enabled me to feel more confident in my lessons. I know that I can concentrate on the topic we are studying, instead of being distracted by my spelling and presentation, and make better progress. I am enjoying my lessons more!"



Young vision: Monique Narh

## Ambitious for Africa

Monique Narh is working hard towards four A-levels while at the same time hoping she'll come away wearing the crown in the Miss Teen Africa competition.

Monique, 17, is studying biology, chemistry, politics and psychology at Christ's College Finchley. On 14 November she'll take a night off to enter the beauty pageant at Stratford town hall.

As a contestant she has already been involved in a string of public appearances including Africa Fashion Week, the Kenya in the Park event and a press conference for Dance Afrique.

Monique says: "I love empowering youth and I believe becoming Miss Teen Africa will provide me with the platform to target and inspire British African youth to have higher aspirations and tackle the issues

which stop us from achieving. This way we help and build ourselves and then we can help people living in Africa."

### PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ☉ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Naomi at [eastfinchleynct@haringey-nct.org](mailto:eastfinchleynct@haringey-nct.org)
- ☉ MusicalTots: Wednesdays 11am at the Old White Lion and Fridays 11am at The Five Bells N2. [katemusicaltots](https://www.facebook.com/katemusicaltots) on facebook.
- ☉ Phoenix Cinema activities, Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- ☉ Stepping Stones, music and play for 0-3s. Tues 10am, East Finchley Baptist Church. Liz 07836 284538.
- ☉ Teddy Bears' Music, singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thurs 9.45am & 10.45am. Camilla 07900 988149.

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# Mediaeval memories... all the way from 1952

By Ann Bronkhorst



John Purchase's children ready for the Middle Ages, c. 1952.  
Photo Robert Andrewes

On the back page of September's *ARCHER* we carried still photos from an intriguing All Saints' Church publicity film made in 1953. Looking directly at the camera in one photo are two boy scouts, brothers Robert and Richard Andrewes; behind them, helping Robert to carry a huge basket, is Christopher Gray (later a poet). And inside the basket?

The contents might have remained a mystery had Robert not stayed all his life in East Finchley. The eldest of three sons of a local vet, he still worships at All Saints' and has vivid memories of the church fetes and fairs, one of which the film was advertising. Above all, he would love to track down another short film publicising the 'Mediaeval Fair' of 28 June 1952, held in the Vicarage gardens and organised by the talented John Purchase.

#### Witches and wimples

John worked in the film industry and was the presenter in each 'newsreel' shown at the

Rex cinema before each fair. He had a talented wife, too, as the press discovered when they objected to the dancing bear, a main attraction at the Mediaeval Fair. It was *not* a mangy, maltreated animal but Mrs Anne Purchase in a life-size bear costume.

The Andrewes boys played their part by running a puppet theatre. People dressed up in appropriately mediaeval style,

there was an archery display and the alarming-sounding 'Burning the witch'. Tantalisingly, Robert remembers little of this event but does remember that 'Judgement on the Organiser' entailed throwing rotten tomatoes at the unfortunate Mr Purchase who was in the stocks.

The fair was followed by an evening of square dancing (not quite so mediaeval) in the Parish Hall.

And inside that basket, a year later? Probably dressing-up clothes, he thinks. The 1953 'newsreel', as John Purchase called it, is a wonderful find which has brought back many memories for Robert but the one advertising the Mediaeval Fair of 1952 would be treasure trove. Does anyone have a copy?



'Scouts' honour: from left, Richard and Robert Andrews, and Christopher Gray' Photo courtesy of the BFI.

## Esso farewell

So farewell then Leopold Service Station,  
A victim of deflation?  
You used to get your petrol from Esso,  
Now I get my petrol from Tesco.  
Lawrence Robinson,  
aged 64 ¾

## Volunteer at home

Home-Start Barnet is a local charity offering emotional and practical support for families with at least one child under the age of five. Trained volunteers visit a family in their own home once a week, offering support for many families who are struggling to cope with such things as isolation, depression, multiple birth and disability.

They also provide support for individuals aged 25 or under who are experiencing multiple disadvantages. As part of their holistic approach, other services include a family group, parenting programmes, domestic violence support groups, money-smart support for low income families, and trips and outings. Home-Start also has a charity shop to enable volunteering experience in retail.

If you would like to become a volunteer or feel you would benefit from support please contact Home-Start Barnet office on 020 8371 0674 or email [admin@homestartbarnet.org](mailto:admin@homestartbarnet.org). For more info on services visit [www.homestartbarnet.org](http://www.homestartbarnet.org)

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

### Trying, very trying

Just when you thought it was safe to turn on the TV without hearing a load of jingoistic rubbish about plucky England, the men with oval balls hit town. Yes, folks, after the football, the cricket, the darts and the tiddlywinks it's rugby's turn. And what a World Cup it's going to be. If, that is, you like mud, blood, licensed violence and beer which, apart from the beer, I don't.

I was forced to 'play' it at school and being pushed face down in the mud by the class bully while the standard issue sadistic games master looked on put me off for life. It's not character building, it's dangerous. Boys getting paralysed when scrums collapse or former players dying from dementia after being knocked out too many times is not character forming. And, weirdly, the whole edifice is built on a lie about a schoolboy cheating at football.

William Webb Ellis was the son of an army officer whose mother did the middle class thing and moved so that he could get a place at Rugby School. He was good at cricket, but a bit of a cheat and, so the story goes, cheated at football by catching and running with the ball. He became a vicar and died in France in the same year as the first FA Cup Final. Four years later, some local historian came up with the 'story'.

In 1895, the Old Rugbeians 'investigated' and decided the story was 'true'. They forgot that the first boy to make a habit of running with the ball was one Jem Mackie, but he got expelled so that didn't count.

It took until 1987 for rugby to get the World Cup bug. Back then very few countries had signed up to rugby's version of FIFA. Since then another 80 have leapt aboard the bandwagon. Even places like Georgia and the USA have joined in. This year 20 teams will spend over a month kicking balls and each other in such wonderful places as Leicester and Milton Keynes, all hoping to lift the William Webb Ellis Cup.

And the cup itself? That confection of silver gilt and bad Victorian design was made in 1906, dumped in a vault and rescued from oblivion when it was bought second hand in 1986. But never mind, if rugby's what you like and you think that drunken Aussies doing drunken wallaby impressions is fun then you'll spend October in seventh or eighth heaven, probably with a pint.

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





## 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
- **Ladies Keep Fit Class** for over 50s. Tues 10.30–11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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](http://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](mailto:james@taiji.co.uk)
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).
- **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. [www.a-chord.uk](http://www.a-chord.uk)
- **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.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. [www.boldbodies.co.uk](http://www.boldbodies.co.uk).
- **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.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15–5.15pm, ages 6–10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional music at TOC**, Highgate Hill, on 1st & 3rd Tues each month from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

### Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7–9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **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.



Hooded figure: Janet gives the Archer an airing in Rio.

## Stormburst over Rio

*Janet Maitland, one of our contributors, packed THE ARCHER in her back pack when she went to South America earlier this year. Here she describes her trip.*

This photo was taken beneath the 30 ton statue of Christ that stands on top of a mountain in the heart of Rio de Janeiro. Tourists make the journey up there for the fantastic views but there was a thick mist so Rio was completely invisible.

Then a storm broke right over our heads. We queued for two hours in the lashing rain for the last funicular down. When it finally arrived we shamefully joined the stampede to climb on board. It was like the last plane out of Saigon.

And the next day, as soon as we got off the cable car at the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, another must-see viewpoint, huge black clouds burst all over us.

But we also spent one boiling hot evening marching through the back streets of Buenos Aires following a band of African drummers.

### Surviving the glacier

The best bit was trekking in Patagonia, hundreds of miles of wilderness in the south of Argentina. One trek included struggling along the Puerto Moreno glacier. We found out later that the glacier had been featured in a Bear Grylls programme about how to survive in extreme environments.

We had to strap crampons on our boots because glaciers are not flat, but hilly. Who knew? I certainly didn't. They're also full of treacherous deep blue crevasses.

Climbing uphill is easy once you get the hang of keeping your feet wide apart to avoid ripping your calves open with a crampon spike. But going downhill defies all survival instincts as you have to lift your legs up like a trotting horse and stamp as hard as you can. Everything in you wants either not to do it at all or to climb down backwards, on your hands and knees. After three hours of this, the relief of climbing off the glacier was pure bliss.

## Morning musical

To celebrate 22 years of singing in the community, **Memory Lane Singing Club** is inviting local people, their carers, friends and family to join them for a free morning musical show.

There will be a selection of popular songs and a sing-along at the show at St Mary's Parish Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley Central from 11am to 12noon on Friday 16 October. Tea and biscuits will be served.

The singing club usually performs in nursing homes and day centres. For this event, the hall is very spacious and has wheelchair access. Please RSVP to Valerie on 020 8458 4508 or email [v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk) to help organisers accommodate the right numbers.

## Learn to cook... or cook better

EFAB's new cooking group 'The Wooden Spoon and Apron club' is getting ready to run four weekly sessions of cooking, and eating, delicious recipes together, starting on Thursday 22 October.

Participants will learn how to create a different menu each week, and then share the pleasure of eating together afterwards. With printed recipe sheets to take away with them, they can then recreate their new repertoire of recipes at home. The sessions at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, are aimed at

anyone who wants to improve their cooking skills, including complete beginners, and to cook on a budget.

They will run from 4.45–7.30pm on Thursdays 22 and 29 October and 5 and 12 November and the cost is £20 for all four sessions, which covers ingredients and utilities. To book your place, contact us at [efab.org.uk](mailto:efab.org.uk) by 16 October.



## The spirit of singing

The first open evening of Singing in London at the Archer Academy on 14 September raised the roof with songs from the shows.

Members and guests, mostly residents of East Finchley, enjoyed the musical leadership of Kieran, the session leader, singing the sentimental songs 'I won't send roses' and 'Movies are Movies' from the musical Mack & Mabel. The tunes were followed by 'Sweet harmony'

which was quickly learnt by the guests.

You can catch up with the singing at the next Open evening on Monday 19 October at the Archer Academy Building in Beaumont Place, off The Bishops Avenue. Find out more at [www.singinginlondon.com](http://www.singinginlondon.com)

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Saturday 3 - Sunday 11 October

• **East Finchley Arts Festival** at All Saints Church, Durham Road and The Phoenix Cinema. See [www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk) for details.

### Saturday 3 October

• **Fungi walk in Coldfall Wood** led by local mycologist Andy Overall. 2.30 at East entrance to wood on Creighton Avenue. Booking advisable: [info@coldfallwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@coldfallwoods.co.uk)

### Sunday 11 October

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**: The Silver Park trio play music by Haydn, Squire, Scott Joplin and Shostakovich, with dance gems from the 1920s to the 1950s. Free admission with collection in aid of HOPE, supporting children with epilepsy and their families. High Road, East Finchley, opposite Creighton Avenue. Venue accessible to

people with disabilities.

### Friday 16 October

• **Memory Lane Singing Club** celebrates 22 years of singing in the community with free musical show and sing-along, St Mary's Parish Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley Central, 11am to 12 noon. All welcome, along with carers, friends and family. Accessible to wheelchair users. To attend, please contact Valerie in advance on 020 8458 4508 or [v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk)

### Saturday 17 October

• **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Tuesday 20 October

• **Stephens House and Gardens artist-**

**in-residence** Laura Fishman opens her art exhibition, A Walk in the Park, 7pm to 9pm, in the drawing room and salon of Avenue House, East End Road, N3.

### Sunday 25 October

• **Spooky basement tour**, garden ghost hunt, face-painting, fire jugglers, children's activities and more at Stephens House and Gardens, East End Road, N3. Family ticket £20. No unaccompanied under 12s. More details at [www.stephenshouseandgardens.com](http://www.stephenshouseandgardens.com)

### Monday 26 to Saturday 31 October

• **Halloween half-term activities at Stephens House and Gardens**, East End Road, N3. Visit the Spooky Basement, venture outside for 'Ghosts in the Trees' garden ghost hunt with prize for all completed ghost hunts! £5 per visitor. Hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes, light snacks in pop-up tea room; traditional

afternoon tea in the Victorian dining room of Avenue House during half-term week. Daily 1–4pm. More details at [www.stephenshouseandgardens.com](http://www.stephenshouseandgardens.com)

### Tuesday 27 to Saturday 31 October

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

### Monday 9 November to Saturday 14 November

• **Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society** presents *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim, The Dugdale Centre, Enfield; 7.45pm with 2.30pm Saturday matinee. Box Office: 020 8807 6680 and 07956 304 947 or [www.dugdalecentre.co.uk](http://www.dugdalecentre.co.uk)





## Letters

## Tube station staff

Dear Editor,

I write to clarify a point made in your article about the reorganisation taking place on London Underground and which includes ticket office closures and movement of staff (THE ARCHER, September 2015).

Most of the staff at East Finchley will still be working at the station; the difference is that we will not be here permanently, instead we will be covering all stations between East Finchley and High Barnet. We have been asked to explain this by hundreds of local residents who were saddened with the news we would be leaving.

Customer Services Assistants Nino Rocha Santos and Michael Haynes, Margaret Osei and Pat Santilale, from the ticket office, and supervisor George O'Sullivan will still be in the general East Finchley area from January next year when the changes are made.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Nino Rocha Santos,**  
**East Finchley tube station.**

## Old Barn proposal is rushed

Dear Editor,

I am concerned about Barnet Council's handling of the Old Barn project on Tarling Way. Their stated intention is a dual purpose community centre, half used by the Somali Bravanese Welfare Society and half by the community as a whole.

This project is too rushed. I was told verbally that the plan costs £2.5million, with £1.1million (so far, more expected) coming from Barnet's taxpayers and £600k from insurers (the value of the burned-down Coppetts Road building the Somalis previously used).

This still leaves a £800k shortfall, and fitting out/ongoing running costs have not been accounted for. It seems ridiculous that the online consultation lasted just one week.

**Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"**

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

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

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The planning department has been very evasive about the building's day-to-day usage, admitting only "it may have some educational or religious use".

I feel deeply uneasy about reserving half of a public-funded building for the sole use of any one religion or race. We are one (hopefully, welcoming) community in East Finchley and facilities should be equally available to all.

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

## Best friends forever

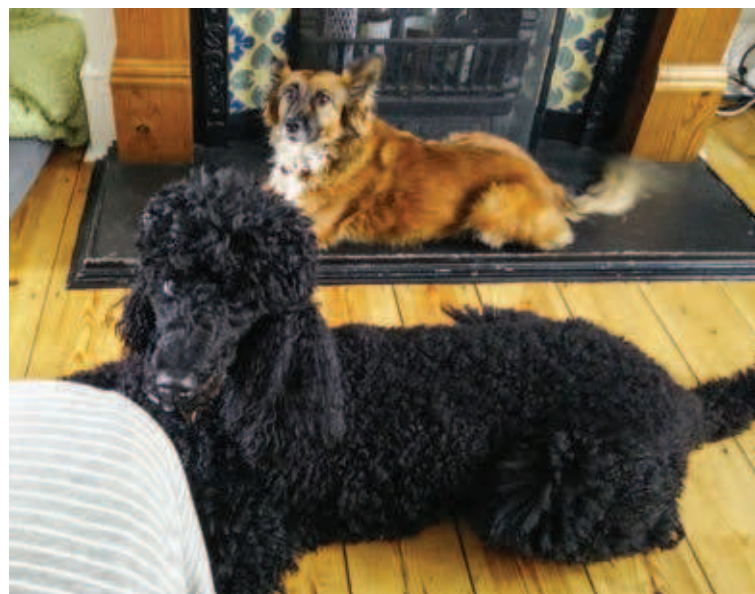
Dear Editor,

We are new in East Finchley, two couples with a dog each. We came all the way from Tel Aviv to study in London and we love the neighbourhood very much.

We call our dogs Lola and Sasha 'The Finchleys' because they are so happy since we moved here. Lola arrived four months ago and at the beginning she was a bit scared and didn't get the fact that the nights are so cold compared to the unbearable heat and humidity in Tel Aviv.

Then Sasha came too when our friends moved in with us and now Lola and Sasha are inseparable. They love to kiss and bite each other and if you walk around the house you have a constant shadow of the two who love to follow you wherever you go. Best of all, Sasha showed Lola how to break into the kitchen and eat forbidden goods!

**Yours faithfully,**  
**The Segal and Reshef families,**  
**Brackenbury Road, N2.**



Best friends: Lola the poodle  
and Sasha (letters, above).

## Patrick McGrath

**THE ARCHER is saddened to report the sudden death of Patrick McGrath, who lived in East Finchley for more than 20 years. Patrick, 58, died on 2 September at his home in Long Lane.**



Much missed: Patrick

Patrick was a keen cyclist and was very much looking forward to representing the UK in the Union Cycliste Internationale World Cycling (UCI) Tour Final in Denmark on 5 September, competing against 1,500 other cyclists from more than 45 countries around the world.

He was invited to take part in this prestigious race, which is the world championship for amateur cyclists, by finishing in the top 25% of his age group in the qualifying race earlier this summer.

The UCI and Danish Cycling

Association asked competitors to observe a minute's silence for Patrick before the race began.

Earlier this year Patrick had earlier this year taken part in the London Prudential Ride, supporting the Moorfields Eye Charity. He completed the 100-mile course in a very impressive time of 4 hours 50 minutes and raised more than £900 for the charity.

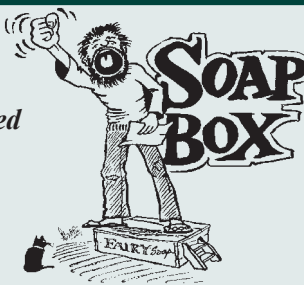
He worked for St Albans-based law firm Debenhams

Ottaway, joining the partnership in 2013, building up the commercial team and business.

Patrick is survived by his wife Amanda and three sons, Tomás, Milo and Calum and he will be greatly missed by his many friends in East Finchley. His funeral took place on Saturday 12 September. Donations in Patrick's memory can be sent to Moorfields Eye Charity and online donations can be made at: [www.moorfields.nhs.uk/content/donate-memory](http://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/content/donate-memory).

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.



## The perils of public transport

By Harold Karton

**I was on the bus the other day, my thoughts rambling... the anticipated monthly bills, where my wife Erna and I should lunch the coming Friday, the credit crunch...**

The bus stopped. A young woman boarded and approached the driver, her head resting on her shoulder and supporting a mobile phone while she rummaged through her library of credit cards, looking for her bus pass without interrupting her flow of conversation. She sat down next to me.

At one time it was thought that the art of conversation had died; if so, the mobile phone has brought about a rebirth. I endured an eternity of mindless rubbish from my new neighbour until the conversation appeared to be winding down. "I'll see you then, yes, take care, ok, take care." And then the dreaded words: "Oh yes, guess who I saw yesterday?" and a new cycle began.

Travel by tube can also be hazardous but in a physical sense. One is beset by half-wits wheeling their mini-trunks and posing a threat to life and limb. There you are on the escalator; the man in front of you suddenly turns and his enormous rucksack smashes you in the face. From the size of the rucksacks sported at Kings Cross, it could be the staging post for the Everest ascent.

Then there's the usual broken-down escalator which means you must walk. They are always waiting for spare parts and this takes forever. Can it be that the spare parts are travelling along the Silk Road and the camel train is being attacked by Genghis Khan's hordes?

As I grow older, women are finding me more attractive, particularly if they have bad colds and coughs and no handkerchief; they instinctively home in on the seat next to mine. Nowadays one is constantly bombarded with charity appeals: save the panda, save the planet, save the child; but what of those unfortunates who use public transport and don't have a handkerchief?

When the time for retirement comes I shall establish a charity which I shall name T.F.T. or Tissues for Travellers.

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## Mr Blue Skies

**You are sitting in a tiny aircraft. You're crammed in with 13 friends and no one feels like talking. For 20 long minutes your plane climbs up into the sky, above the clouds and into the atmosphere. When your aircraft reaches three miles above the earth a signal is given, a door opens and you step out... into very thin air.**

Not something that most of us will ever experience but almost a matter of routine for Brian Cumming and his fellow skydivers, who have just broken the British record for flying in formation.

Looking like flying squirrels in their wingsuits, which give them amazing control over their speed and direction as they plummet towards the ground, the 14 friends manoeuvred themselves into a precise shape and held it long enough for

well, it feels 'still'. There's a quietness about the formation that is hugely empowering.

"The most dangerous part of the skydive is the end. We can't all open our parachutes in the same place as they would get tangled so we need horizontal separation from each other. Getting enough space can be tricky.

"Back on the ground, firstly there's relief that we're down without incident and then there's a long pregnant pause while we wait for the judges to



Wing man: Brian Cumming.

adjudicators watching below to judge the formation.

### Thought control

So what does a jump really feel like? Over to Brian: "When we're preparing, on the ground and before the jump there's an air of nervous excitement. Some people need to psych themselves up, some have to calm themselves down.

"The climb to altitude is 20 minutes of cramped concentration with only your thoughts for company. If you don't have confidence in your skill and the skill of those around you then your thoughts can be sabotaging.

### Judging distance

"When we jump the hardest thing is the spacing between each other. It's easy in everyday life to judge distances between people as the ground is there for reference. In the air, there's nothing to help.

"If a formation attempt is going badly there are people everywhere and the sightlines are skew-whiff. When it's going



Blue skies: A diver's eye view of the jump. Photo by Mark Harris.

pore over the video evidence."

### Major surgery

Brian, 38, is a former resident of Deanery Close, N2, now living in Regents Park Road. He took an AFF (Accelerated Free Fall) course in 2003 which began his passion for the sport and he is now a full-time skydiver. However, he underwent major organ surgery in late 2013. Multiple complications led to him losing three stone in weight and having to take six months off work.

As Brian's strength returned he began training and, in April this year, he ran the London Marathon, raising money for St Mark's Hospital Foundation. In August he rode his bike 100 miles during RideLondon, again raising funds for St Marks.

As we go to press, the skydiving team is travelling to

California to have a crack at the world record.

If you want to know more about skydiving, Brian is a qualified instructor and can be contacted at [www.askmeaboutskydiving.com](http://www.askmeaboutskydiving.com)



Sky high: Brian, bottom left, with his fellow skydivers during their record-breaking jump. Photo by Mark Harris.

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