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# THE ARCHER



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*Crunchie the owl was just one of the fantastic faces at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for more photos from the day.*

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# THE ARCHER

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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 Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.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 – August: 15 July; September: 12 August; October: 16 September

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Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123		Age UK (general advice line) 0800 169 2081



New homes: How the former Esso site could look

## Homes on Esso site

Details have been released of the planning application that could see eight homes being built on the site of the former Esso garage on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, N2.

Documents submitted to Barnet Council show four three-storey terraced homes fronting onto the High Road, along with three two-storey homes facing onto Leopold Road and one more two-storey home on Church Lane.

The main vehicle entrance will be off the High Road, running through the middle of the site and aligned with a privately-owned alleyway that already exists between houses in Leopold Road and Church Lane.

There is off-street parking for 12 cars on the site, including three garages. Five of the parking spaces are accessible via the main entrance, four off Church Lane and three off Leopold Road.

You can view the planning application in more detail and submit a comment by going to the planning section of www.barnet.gov.uk and searching for application 16/3310/FUL.

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 9 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

#### 60 Brim Hill, N2

Single-storey rear infill extension. Replacement of garage door. Replacement of windows with timber-framed double glazing. Off-street parking.

#### 8 and 9 Chamberlain Road, N2

Single-storey rear infill extension to both.

#### 13 Chamberlain Road, N2

Lawful development certificate for roof extension, including rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

#### 16 Chamberlain Road, N2

Lawful development certificate for roof extension.

#### 217 Creighton Avenue, N2

Two-storey side extension, following demolition of garage and existing side extension. Single-storey rear extension. New front porch. Changes to fenestration. Land adjacent to 90-100 Elms-hurst Crescent and 35 Pulham Avenue, N2

Demolition of garages. Redevelopment to provide three-storey building comprising 11 self-contained flats, and two two-storey semi-detached houses. Associated access, amenity space, landscaping, car parking, cycle and refuse storage.

#### 4 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

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

#### 11-59 High Road, N2

Removal of Condition 4 to previous planning permission, relating to use of front pavement for external seating area with associated screening.

#### 28 Howard Walk, N2

Single-storey side extension, following demolition of garage.

#### 47 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Maximum depth 5.315 m from rear wall, eaves height 2.726 m, maximum height 3.185 m.

#### 93 Huntingdon Road, N2

Certificate of lawfulness for roof

extension.

#### 5 Ingram Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer with Juliet balcony and two front roof lights, to facilitate loft conversion.

#### Ground floor flat, 2 Oak Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension. New rear access door to first floor flat.

#### 32 Oakview Gardens, N2

Single-storey side infill extension between main house and garage. Associated conversion of garage to habitable room.

#### 34 Oakview Gardens, N2

Three-storey side extension.

#### 42 Oakview Gardens, N2

Conversion of garage to habitable room. Window to replace garage door. Enlargement of existing front window. Single-storey rear extension, depth 4 m, eaves height 2.55 m, maximum height 3.65 m.

#### 79 Park Hall Road, N2

Loft conversion, involving rear dormer, one dormer to rear projection, and two front roof lights.

#### 23A, Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Alterations to rear dormer, including one new rear window, sliding doors and glass balustrade.

#### 32 Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Single-storey outbuilding to rear of property.

### Haringey Council

#### 14 Lauradale Road, N2

Two-storey side extension. Single-storey rear extension. Front roof light. Enlarged front door.

#### 21 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Demolition of garage. Two-storey side extension with pitched roof.

#### 23 Twyford Avenue, N2

Demolition of rear extensions. New single-storey rear extension. Conversion of garage to playroom, including replacing garage door with window.

#### 44 Twyford Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension, depth 3.65m, eaves height 2.95m, maximum height 2.95m.

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Karla Zazueta in her Mexican kitchen. Photo Mike Coles

## Karla cooks up some Mexican magic

By John Lawrence

Karla Zazueta is well known in Grahams Butchers on East End Road. She's the one who often comes in asking for unusual cuts of meat to make the dishes she remembers from her childhood in Baja California, in the north of Mexico.

Her passion for the food of her homeland is as strong as ever, even after 13 years happily living in London. Now she is hoping to turn it into a business by teaching people to cook Mexican cuisine at her home or in their own kitchens.

### The real thing

Karla, who lives in Ossulton Way with her husband Russell and their two children, was encouraged to taste anything and everything when she was young by her own father. And she's keen to point out that when people think of Mexican food as spicy chilli con carne and fajitas they're barking up the wrong tree.

"Those dishes are not truly Mexican," says Karla. "My

aim is to let people try real Mexican food, with the recipes I was taught, matched with the ingredients that are available in London. You can get most things but sometimes I make substitutes, like feta cheese instead of the queso fresco Mexicans would use."

She believes the popularity of the Wahaca restaurant chain is evidence that Mexican cuisine is very much "on trend" these days. The food is easy to find in the centre of town but less so out here in the leafy suburbs.

### Big breakfasts

Karla's big idea is a twist on supper clubs. "I want to do breakfast clubs," she says, "where

mums or dads can come to my house during the morning and I'll teach them about the cuisine and the culture."

A typical Mexican breakfast consists of fried pieces of tortilla in salsa, with fresh cheese and cream, maybe also eggs with beans and salsa, sweet bread, along with fresh juice and coffee. "Quite big," Karla readily admits.

Find out more about Karla's morning and evening cooking sessions by going to her blog <http://mexicanfoodmemories.co.uk>. She can also be found under the same tag on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## Sexual assault in Cherry Tree Wood

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious sexual assault in broad daylight in Cherry Tree Wood on Monday 13 June. A 19-year-old woman was attacked while she was walking through the park at about 5pm.

Police are looking for a white man aged between 45 and 55 years old, with wavy shoulder length hair. He was wearing a black jacket and dark trousers.

The area was sealed off on the night of the attack and kept closed until midday the following day.

The attack happened two days after a woman was dragged off Long Lane and raped. A police spokesperson said: "At this stage, we do not believe that this incident is linked to any others that have occurred in the area."

If you saw a man matching the description, or noticed anyone, or anything else, suspicious in the wood on 13 June between 4pm and 6pm, please contact police on 101. To remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org).

## Woman is attacked on Long Lane

Police are appealing for information following the rape of a woman on Long Lane in the early hours of Saturday 11 June.

The woman was attacked near the junction with Vines Avenue, opposite Victoria Park, at a few minutes past midnight on Friday 10 June into Saturday. She was dragged from the street into a residential garden and raped by an unknown man.

The man is described as approximately 30 years old, of mixed race appearance with a stocky build and short dark hair. He was wearing dark trousers and a red t-shirt.

The victim, who is in her 20s, is being provided with support by specialist officers.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse team on 020 733 5011 or via 101, quoting reference number 2413690/16. To remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)



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## Crunch time for the pavilion

On the eve of our community festival in June, the dilapidated pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was hastily boarded up and surrounded by a secure metal fence.

Concerned about the state of the building (*THE ARCHER*, January 2016), the wood and the rise of low-level anti-social behaviour, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have lately been in discussion with the council about improvements.

They have launched an online petition at: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/make-the-pavilion-building-in-cherry-tree-wood-safe>. It will be presented at the Finchley and

Golders Green Area Committee, Garden Suburb Junior School, NW11, at 7pm on 6 July, when all are welcome to attend.

The Friends told *THE ARCHER*: "We feel we need to put pressure on Barnet Council to liaise with the leaseholder to make the site safe and to discuss the project. We are also starting discussions about a sustainable management plan for the wood, which we feel has become neglected in recent years."

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# Community garden dream comes true

By Martin O'Donnell

The new Octavia Hill Community Garden was officially opened by the new Mayor of Barnet, Cllr David Longstaff, on Bank Holiday Monday 30 May. The garden, which is next to the Green Man Community Centre in Strawberry Vale, will become a real asset for the neighbourhood and complement the centre's activities.

The garden is the result of collaboration between Peabody, which manages housing in Strawberry Vale, and the Green Man Management Group. It commemorates Octavia Hill, a Victorian social housing pioneer and contemporary of George Peabody, founder of the Peabody Trust.



Mayor of Barnet, Cllr David Longstaff, cuts the ribbon. Photo Mike Coles

## Along the garden path

In 2004 local residents were concerned about the future of the piece of rough land adjacent to the Green Man Centre, which had been used as a site compound for some major works on the estate. They approached Peabody for permission to create a garden.

The initial plan featured a lot of hand-cut stonework and was rejected by residents as too costly. Soil reports also showed slightly elevated levels of arsenic in the ground, thought to be related to the centuries-old metalwork found at the site.

Years earlier, when the foundations for the Green Man Centre were being dug, bits of metalwork including horse shoes were uncovered. With help from *THE ARCHER* we discovered that the site had previously contained an outhouse, probably a smithy, at the back of the Green Man Pub. The smithy would have looked after the horses when the Green Man was a coaching inn on the road into and out of London.

## Oasis of green space

The toxicity in the soil needed to be addressed, adding

another considerable cost. The Green Man Management Group was determined to see the garden delivered so new plans were developed and Peabody's asset management team was able to contribute additional resources to make the garden a reality. Both the Green Man Management Group and Peabody contributed about £65,000 each to the project.

Jan Kerr, chair of the Green Man Management Group, said: "It is so wonderful to see the garden finally open for local people to enjoy. Octavia Hill would have been delighted to see this little oasis of green space created."

## Sippy Azizollah

By now, many of you will have heard the sad news that Sippy Azizollah has died.

Sippy was well known and loved in East Finchley, and a long-time friend and supporter of *The Archer*. We heard the news of her death shortly before going to press, and will publish a tribute to her in the August edition.



Bend and stretch: Martin gets fit camp members working

## Fitness training in the great outdoors

Take a stroll on Lyttleton Playing Fields in Hampstead Garden Suburb and you might see a group of keep-fitters being put through their paces in an outdoor fit camp.

Qualified personal trainer Martin Carroll, who used to work in construction and is an amateur boxer and a Thai boxing competitor, runs the classes that involve balance and agility drills, resistance training, Pilates and boxing padwork.

Martin, a long-time resident of East Finchley, said: "I started the outdoor fit camps with the incentive of attracting local people who might be intimidated by walking into a gym or who may prefer to workout outdoors. All fitness levels are welcome; whether you are inactive or active, I promise that you will

improve your health and fitness from week to week and have fun doing it."

His Make That Change Personal Training classes run on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm and Saturday mornings at 9.30am at Lyttleton Playing Field. More information from Martin on 07809 593 952.

## Woman on crutch robbed in broad daylight

By Janet Maitland  
**Police are appealing for information after a disabled woman in her 80s was attacked and robbed in the street. The woman was using a crutch to walk along Thomas More Way at about 3pm on 1 March when a man pulled her to the ground and snatched her handbag.**

A passer-by who saw her lying on the pavement rushed to help her, thinking that she'd fallen over. She told him she'd been robbed and pointed to the suspect who was getting into the driver's seat of a grey Volkswagen Golf parked nearby.

He is described as about 5ft 6ins tall, of slim build, wearing a tight black woolly hat, grey/black jumper and khaki-coloured trousers. Police say he drove off, turning left into East End Road. The woman was taken to a north London hospital with injuries to her face and knee.

Police say the victim had just been to the bank to withdraw money for a holiday. It is not known if the robbery was random or if she had been noticed in the bank and then followed.

Anyone with any information that may assist the investigation is asked to call the police at Barnet CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Human error caused chaos at the polls

By John Lawrence

**Human error caused the wrong voting lists to be released ahead of the London Assembly and Mayoral elections on 5 May, preventing hundreds of people in Barnet from casting their vote, a report has found.**

Independent investigator Mark Heath was called in to find out what went wrong and to set recommendations for action before polling stations opened again for the Referendum on 23 June.

Among his recommendations were a complete review of procedures by Xpress, the company responsible for distributing the voting lists on behalf of Barnet Council, and an undertaking to release the lists a day earlier to allow time for checking ahead of a poll opening.

As we reported last month, scores of voters in East Finchley and across the borough were turned away from polling stations because their names weren't on the list, even though some of them had polling cards with them. Those who were able to return later in the day found they could then vote.

Mr Heath, the Returning Officer for Southampton, estimated from the number of

complaints that hundreds rather than thousands of voters were affected on the day.

### Other recommendations

He called for a more robust checking process at all stages of the electoral system and for adequate staff to be employed to make the checks. Communication between polling station inspectors and the election office needed to be better and a public helpline with a minimum of 10 telephone agents, not an answerphone service, needed to be in operation throughout voting hours.

Mr Heath also recommended that Xpress should communicate the problem in Barnet and the measures taken to rectify it to all other counting officers across the country.

You can read the full report and the full set of recommendations online by going to <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documentsandsearchingfor'ElectionProblems'>.

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Hang in there: Babies and mums at the baby yoga classes

## It's a topsy-turvy world

A mother-of-two has brought her baby yoga classes to East Finchley offering exercise for parents and their tiny ones.

Jay Ehrlich has lived locally for 26 years and has worked

with children and families in hospitals and the community for as long. She also specialises in yoga therapy for children from birth to 19 years with a variety of special needs, including children on the autistic spectrum.

Her baby yoga classes encourage young ones to roll, sit, crawl and stand with songs and signs to encourage speech and language development. For the parents, postures support their back care and they learn new ways to stand, pick up and carry their babies.

Jay said: "Dads are welcome and the class is fully inclusive of babies with special needs. Certain yoga postures help reduce the pain of teething and most babies have a long sleep after all the action."

Baby yoga is suited to babies from around 3.5 months to active crawling. Classes take place on Tuesday mornings at Yogalogy on the High Road, N2. The next course starts on 16 August. For more information, email [jay@yogababies.co.uk](mailto:jay@yogababies.co.uk) or visit [www.yogababies.co.uk](http://www.yogababies.co.uk).

## New High Road development "would take away privacy"

By Daphne Chamberlain

There has been a second application to develop 12-18 High Road following the withdrawal in January of an earlier one after a meeting with Barnet planners. The site opposite the tube station is currently occupied by GLH, but their lease runs out next year (The Archer, December 2015).

Neighbouring residents, who objected strongly to the original application, are saying that the new one is very little different. Residents of Ingram Road, part of which backs on to the site, have sent a strong joint letter to Barnet's principal planning officer, and other neighbours have written individually. They are very concerned about lack of parking, overlooking, noise and loss of privacy.

The flat roofs of the proposed two four-storey apartment blocks would be about the same height as the tops of the pitched roofs of Ingram Road, with a communal roof terrace and high balconies included in the plan. There are just two parking spaces to serve 22 apartments

and some office space.

Because the developer is linked with a company which is building holiday accommodation, there has been speculation that the development could be intended as a hostel for tourists.

THE ARCHER put this to Safeland PLC, the company which is the would-be developer and also the owner of the site. Safeland told us: "As you may be aware, the proposals that have been submitted to Barnet Council are for the redevelopment of the site to provide 22 high-quality new homes, as well as new office space at ground-floor level. The homes would be for people to live in, rather than the kind of holiday hostel accommodation you refer to."



Arul Joseph (right) and the teachers reach the Eiffel Tower in the rain

## Teachers go on school trip without the kids

Ever wondered what teachers get up to in the school holidays? Well, in the case of ten primary school colleagues they used the half term break to cycle all the way from north London to the centre of Paris to raise funds for a new kitchen.

Among them was Arul Joseph, who lives in East Finchley and whose mum is Sonia Singham, former head-teacher of Holy Trinity Primary School. The saddle-sore group took four days to complete the ride, dealing with six punctures along the way and arriving in the French capital under a torrential downpour that presaged severe flooding.

Arul said: "I hope that the people of Paris don't think that

it was our fault the banks of the River Seine burst but had we reached there a day later some of our triumphant photos would have been taken under water."

The teachers are raising money for a £175,000 community kitchen in the grounds of Rhyl Primary School, Ken-tish Town, where Jamie Oliver chose to launch his food revolution day last year. The hope is to construct a kitchen space where children will learn about nutrition, cooking and healthy eating, and which community groups will be able to hire.

Donations are still very welcome on the website [www.rhylkitchen.org/donate](http://www.rhylkitchen.org/donate) or by texting RHYL00£10 (or any amount under £10).

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Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)  
[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

**Visitors always welcome**

## RSPCA shop needs help

Emma Prosser, the manager of the RSPCA shop in East Finchley, has put out a plea for donations. The shop urgently needs clothing, bric-a-brac, DVDs, toys and books in good condition.

Emma said: "Money raised in the shop funds the RSPCA's animal welfare work. There are a lot of charity shops locally but if you care for the welfare of animals and want to support the RSPCA please think of us when getting rid of your possessions."

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# Fun, friends, food... and feathers... at the festival!

There was marvellous music, there were encounters with friends, there was fabulous food... and there were owls! This was the East Finchley Festival 2016 and it turned out to be one of the best ever.

So many people were relaxing in their picnic spots or walking round the attractions in Cherry Tree Wood during the six-hour event on Sunday 19 June that the park looked the busiest it's ever been.

Owl lovers queued to handle the beautiful birds of prey brought along by Jambs Owls from Bexleyheath, very welcome new guests for 2016.

Cecilia Holmes, Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock and 'Silent' Mike Hughes did a superb job hosting the excellent line-ups of entertainment on the main stage and The Archer community stage.

Dozens of groups and businesses were there on the day, demonstrating what a rich community network we're lucky to enjoy in East Finchley.

Thank you to all the organisers who put so much work into this year's festival, and to all the volunteers who helped on the day. It was a triumph!

*We hope you enjoy our pictures from the day, taken by Archer photo editor Mike Coles.*



Above: Vertical take-off by Relentless MC. Below left: SOUP ukulele band and, below right: storytelling with Kate Brown.

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Above left: Reach for the sky on the climbing wall. Above right: local musicians Dorton Yonder  
Below left: Close encounter with Jambs Owls. Below right: Majjo's food

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The Metropolitan Brass Training Band



Crunchie poses with local actor Daniel Mays



Clockwise from left The Gill Hunter/Martin Bush Soul Project; Rob Thom opens on the main stage; Fixation Theatre; Fun on the bouncy slide



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## YOUNG ARCHER



London tale: Author Sarah Elizabeth Beaumont has updated Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

### Alice's adventures in... north London!

Anyone who dropped into the storytelling tent at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood may have heard London author and artist Sarah Elizabeth Beaumont reading from her modern version of a well-loved classic.

Sarah has written and illustrated 'Alice's London Adventures in Wonderland', which follows Lewis Carroll's young heroine through the streets and underground tunnels of modern-day London.

In her light-hearted retelling, Alice's journey incorporates 119 famous London landmarks including Harrods, The Shard, Tower Bridge, The Globe Theatre and St Paul's Cathedral.

Her pen-and-ink illustrations are a homage to the originals by Sir John Tenniel. In her book, she shows Alice playing with a royal corgi in front of Buckingham Palace, swimming with a mouse in Trafalgar Square, and talking with the Cheshire Cat in Camden.

From receiving her first pop-up book as a child, Sarah has been fascinated by Alice in Wonderland. She is a fine art and music graduate who edited international journals for trade and industry throughout the 1990s and has written training materials for education. This is her first published work of fiction.

### A giant summer of fun

July sees the start of a summer of fun taking place in Barnet libraries with The Big Friendly Read summer reading challenge 2016 which runs from Saturday 9 July to Saturday 17 September.

To celebrate Roald Dahl's centenary, the Reading Agency has teamed up with The Roald Dahl Literary Estate to set the theme for this year's challenge, featuring some of Roald Dahl's best-loved characters and favourite stories. Children aged 4 to 11 are encouraged to read just six books during their summer holidays. Children of all reading abilities can join in and read whatever they choose: stories,

joke books, fact books, or even listen to audiobooks, it doesn't matter as long as they are borrowed from their local library. For every two books that they read, they get stickers and prizes and there's a certificate and a gold medal for everyone who finishes the Challenge by reading all six books. Children can register for free at East Finchley Library, where a member of staff will be happy to help.

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

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

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

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

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

### 'Royal' guest gets them guessing

A regal mystery guest arrived to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Queen. Dressed in red, white or blue and waving flags in the playground, the year two pupils had plenty to say after she left, including: "Was it really the Queen?", "I thought she would have had a bigger car" and "Was she wearing washing up gloves?"



VIP visit: The mystery 'royal' arrives at Coldfall Primary

### Are you the new Ariana or Shawn?

Reckon you could give Shawn Mendes or Ariana Grande a run for their money as a singing sensation? The Singing in London group has just launched a club for youngsters aged ten to 18 to develop their talents.

The club is free to attend and it meets at the Friday youth club at the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. To join, contact Maureen on 07931 586740.

The group will be aiming to perform a singalong at the Grange Big Local community festival which takes place this year at Bishop Douglass School, Hamilton Road, on Sunday 25 September.

Singing in London is also hosting a general open evening for its Monday classes for adults on Monday 18 July at 7.15pm. New members of all singing abilities are welcome to enjoy a repertoire of popular and contemporary classics. To book your place email [idit@singinginlondon.com](mailto:idit@singinginlondon.com).

### Get ready for Fortitude

Fortismere School is holding its annual summer fair and festival, Fortitude 2016, on Saturday 9 July from 12 noon to 6pm on its playing fields via the gates at Twyford Avenue, N10.

There will be waltzers and dodgems this year, as well as the ever popular inflatables, as well as a marketplace with stalls, a dog show ('Pawtitude'), musical and other performances, a raffle, bar and lots of food stalls from cakes and salads to hog-roast and burgers.



The event is run by parents who work in co-operation with many of the teachers and students. The purpose is not only to raise money for the school but also to increase the sense of community around the school. Everyone is welcome and it's a family event for kids of all ages, not just teenagers. Many local businesses are supporting Fortitude and it is being sponsored by local estate agents Martyn Gerrard.

The entry tickets are the same as last year: £4 at the gate on the day or for students at the

school £3 if bought in advance through the school library.

### Charity nails it

The Art Against Knives charity, which is active in North Finchley, has set up a training course for ten 'at-risk' women aged 17-30 to help them build positive careers.

The four-month course takes them through an accredited nail care programme, with a series of masterclasses from inspiring role models and industry professionals.

Organisers say the programme will support participants, all of whom face multiple risks in their lives, in finding jobs and making a long-term change for themselves by developing confidence and employable skills. Find out more about the charity at [www.artagainstknives.com](http://www.artagainstknives.com).



Role model: Ovie Soko, centre, with the CCF basketball team

### Ovie on court for surprise visit

Professional basketball player Ovie Soko surprised the Basketball Academy students at Christ's College Finchley by popping into their Thursday training session.

Ovie, currently playing for Italian team Enel Brindisi, is close friends with the school's head coach Neville Polson and grew up in Barnet before moving to the US and graduating at NCAA Division One college Duquesne in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

He spoke to the boys about his career to date and what it takes to make it as an elite basketball player, emphasizing the importance of succeeding with academic studies as well as in the sports hall.





Charlotte Newland at the sewing machine. Photo Mike Coles

## Charlotte still buzzing after Sewing Bee

By Sheila Armstrong

In early June *THE ARCHER* went to meet *Great British Sewing Bee* contestant Charlotte Newland, at the time of writing still in the frame on the primetime BBC2 show.

Charlotte said it was her children who made sure she filled in the forms and sent them off to the programme makers way back in February. It was quite a long process to get selected, with around 3,000 people applying. There were interviews, screen tests, and sewing auditions before the final 10 contestants were chosen.

### Taking the pressure

You need to be a good confident sewer who can work under pressure to last the course. And once you are on the show it is hard work, filming 80 hours over two weeks, with at least eight cameras filming all the time. But as Charlotte said: "It was amazing. I loved every second of it though it was physically and emotionally exhausting."

The three main tasks are the pattern, the alteration challenge and the made-to-measure task with a real model. The latter is pretty challenging and contest-

ants are given a list of them in advance so they can practise at home beforehand.

### Try something new

Sewing has changed from the days of the big pattern books in department stores. There are many independent pattern makers now and lots of online help and "sew alongs". Sewing is more accessible so it is not surprising that the *Sewing Bee*, now in its fourth series, has become such a popular programme.

Charlotte's day job is as a scientific editor for a medical journal. But she also enjoys teaching dressmaking to adults and teaching children to sew. She makes all her own clothes and some for her children too, as well as being able to quilt and knit.

On the strength of her enjoyment of the *Sewing Bee* Charlotte's advice to any would-be contestant, and to anyone in general, is: don't be afraid to try new things.

## Shopping... off the back of a lorry

By Nick Allan

Choosing, buying and wrapping gifts can be tiresome and frustrating for some, but local mum Nadia Flanagan hopes to make it easier with her new retail concept serving East Finchley and beyond.

Meraki Gift is perhaps London's first mobile shop selling gifts you can't often find easily on the high street. Nadia and her strikingly painted and artfully adapted vehicle will attend local fairs, festivals and even customers' homes or offices to help people choose individual gifts.

Nadia hopes to bridge the gap between the high street and online by offering the ability to view, touch and take in the scent of specially chosen gifts at her customers' ease. Transformed to resemble a boutique, the mobile shop will carry a range



Harriet Scott from Magic FM, right, and Nadia Flanagan launch the gift van. Photo Mike Coles

of gifts including candles, cards and jewellery carefully sourced and selected from innovative and unusual suppliers.

As for the name, Meraki is a Greek word which means 'the soul, creativity, or love put into work' and Nadia says it sums up the last few months of hard work it's taken to prepare, stock

and open her business.

Launching it on 9 June at the Clissold Arms on Fortis Green, Nadia was supported by her husband James and their two sons McKenzie, ten, and Leon, six, and she made her first sales to some of the many guests and friends who witnessed the ribbon cutting.

## Grange Big Local gets started

By Nick Allan

The Grange Big Local (GBL) project is entering an "exciting phase", more than 30 local residents were told at the organisation's first AGM on Sunday 5 June at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2.

Over the next two years, the first £279,000 of the £1m Lottery funding will be used to transform the area bounded by Church Lane, East End Road, the North Circular and the High Road.

### Free from constraints

"This is a really exciting phase," said Jan Stobart who opened the meeting. "We can actually start on this resident-led programme. It's great that there's an elected board with a mix of new and existing members with a range of experience and interests. As we're outside the constraints of local authorities, government or a national organisation telling people what to do, the challenge will be to be big, bold and creative."

Pat Murphy, who has led the project from its inception in 2012, was re-elected Chair. She will lead a new, 17-strong board of people who live, work or volunteer in this area. The

board will drive initiatives for children and young people, open spaces and the environment, community hubs and inclusion, information and advice, employment and enterprise.

Pat told *THE ARCHER*, "The GBL was a vision for a thriving, engaged, diverse community where people can meet, talk and play to increase opportunities and enhance our surroundings. I'm so pleased that with the help and support of everyone we have got to this point."

### Getting involved in GBL

Anyone who lives, volunteers or works in the GBL area is entitled to become a member and vote at the AGM, which many of those attending did. Jon Woolfson, GBL partnership manager, said: "We continue to welcome volunteers to get involved in our various projects". For details of these, and of AGM minutes and other board appointments contact Jon at [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org) or on 020 8364 8400 ext. 241, or visit [www.grangebiglocal.org](http://www.grangebiglocal.org)

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

### Don't Instasnaptweet me

They say that in space no one can hear you scream. In cyberspace everyone can hear you scream, where you screamed, why you screamed and the name of the person you screamed at. Not just now, but for ever.

Why eat lunch when you can Instagram it to your friends, maybe as a kind of before, during and after the dining experience? Why meet someone when you can Snapchat sensitive parts of your body to your boyfriend/girlfriend/the rest of year 9? And that's before we get to Twitter and the world of trolls.

Twitter is meant to be the great new way to communicate. Well, the great new way to communicate last week, before everyone discovered WhatsApp. Why? Because it's the app that gives you everything your phone could want apart from a warning buzzer to stop you walking under a bus. So back to Twitter.

Twitter is great: for the first time ever you can electronically stalk someone. You can send threats to anyone you disagree with; it's the one site where you can get your insults and insanity down in 140 characters. Yes, folks, it means you can send death threats to the person who dumped you. Just think, if it had been around when Adele got dumped by her first love she wouldn't have needed to write songs and make three bestselling albums to get her revenge. She could have just trolled him instead.

Then there's LinkedIn, where anyone over 13 can post their CV and dream that they will get the job of their dreams rather than the dream of their nightmares. It's the best stalking site ever, because you can stalk companies as well.

Hey, this is the future, the way the world will be as we evolve bigger thumbs and lose the power of speech. So, as the world gets more online and out of sight, I'm going to. Yes, I'm going to stop tweeting, Instasnaptweeting and trolling, I'm going to start talking to people. Ok, I'll probably get arrested for not tweeting my lunch, but what the hell. It will be fun freaking people out.

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EAST FINCHLEY 

# ARTISTS' OPEN HOUSE WEEKENDS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
2/3 & 9/10 JULY 2016  
11am - 6pm Free Entry

In and around East Finchley Look out for posters and brochures  
[www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.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.
- **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.
- **Outdoor Fit Camp** Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2, 6.30pm Wed and 9.30am Sat. Call Martin on 07809 593952.
- **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 tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly 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.

## Look out for the pink banners!

East Finchley Open artists will be throwing open the doors to their homes and studios once again this year to welcome visitors over two weekends. Pink welcome banners will be posted outside a string of venues across East Finchley and Muswell Hill that will be open for viewing, browsing and buying art works including jewellery, photos, textiles, paintings, sculptures and more. The open weekends are on 2-3 July and 9-10 July, running from 11am to 6pm. A full list of venues is available at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk).

## All-new Talk & Walk

EFAB's Talk & Walk walking group (formerly known as Talkie Walkies) have got two new health walks up and running in the area, and want to welcome new members along for the summer.

The new walks include one for people who may not have walked or exercised much recently, who want to go at a relaxed pace and try to improve their fitness; the other walk is for those who are happy to go at a faster pace.

The 'beginner' walkers meet on a Monday at 9.30am outside the Cherry Tree Wood entrance opposite East Finchley tube. The walk lasts about one hour and attendees are welcome to break off around the other side of Cherry Tree Wood to attend the EFAB Coffee and Chat morning starting at 10.30am at the Clissold Arms, or continue and finish together back at the station.

The faster paced walk is on a Tuesday at 9.30am, meeting outside the Clissold Arms pub on Fortis Green. Walkers go around Cherry Tree Wood at a good pace, and end up back at their starting point.

The group is currently recruiting new members to get involved and new leaders to help strengthen the team. Anyone can join, and being a group leader simply means being at an agreed meeting point on the days mentioned.

If you'd like to join in with Talk & Walk, get in touch with Lisa Smith at EFAB on 020 3778 0228 or email us@efab.org.uk

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## Consultation on social care

Barnet Council is asking people for their views on adult social care as it tries to balance growing demand for the service with the need to make cost savings.

The council says there is a reduced amount of money available for social care so it needs to find new ways to organise the service and new ways to help people live independently. Amongst the ideas are encouraging more self-help, more assistance from friends and family, and centreing services on community hubs.

A 12-week consultation began in May and runs until 8 August, inviting views on a set of proposals drawn up with input from residents and interested organisations. The online questionnaire can be found at <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>

## A woodland dream comes to life

In a year of Shakespearean celebrations, Garden Suburb Theatre presents a joyous open-air summer production of the bard's best-loved play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A mixed-age cast will bring Shakespeare's sparkling verse and madcap story to life. With music, dancing and plenty of laughs, this lively show is suitable for young and old alike.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed in

Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre, NW11 6QS, on 1-2, 6-9 July at 7.30pm and 2, 3 and 9 July at 3pm.

Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions). For further details, see [www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk) or call 020 7723 6609.



*Dream cast: Shakespeare's youngsters, played by Maya Mills, Daniel Kohn, Oscar Maddocks and Zoe Street.*

## What's On...

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

### Friday 1 July to Saturday 9 July

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** performs *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre, NW11 6QS, on 1-2, 6-9 July at 7.30pm and 2, 3 and 9 July at 3pm. Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions). Details: [www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk) or call 020 7723 6609.

### Saturday 9 July

• **Brookland Infant School's summer fair** promises an afternoon of family fun including fairground rides, face painting, kids' Zumba, street dance, goal action, food, stalls and live music; Hilltop, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11, 12 noon - 4pm.

• **Fortismere School hosts its annual summer fair** and festival Fortitude 2016, 12 noon to 6pm, on its playing fields, via gates on Twyford Avenue, N10. Fairground rides, activities, stalls and food. Everyone welcome; £4 entry.

• **The Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Explore the famous battlefield from 1471 (The Wars of the Roses). Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. Details from Paul on 07506 761294 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

• **The North London Sinfonia's** summer concert at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2: works by Austro-German Romantics: Mahler's ebullient *Symphony No. 4* and Wagner's passionate *Wesendonck-Lieder*, with prize-winning Australian mezzo-soprano, Lotte Betts-Dean. Further

information at [www.nlsinfonia.org](http://www.nlsinfonia.org).

• **Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Chamber Orchestra** present a complete *Creation* by Haydn, sung in English and rarely heard; Trinity Methodist Church, Nether Street, near Tally Ho corner, 7.30pm. Ticket prices £15 full, £13 concessions and £6 for under-18s.

### Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July

• **East Finchley Open artists open homes and studios** for viewing, browsing and buying art works including jewellery, photos, textiles, paintings, sculptures and more; free entry, 11am to 6pm. Full list of venues available at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk).

### Sunday 10 July

• **Race the Neighbours**: friendly 10K race between East Finchley and Muswell Hill, starts Cherry Tree Wood 9.30 am. Runners' places sold out but come and enjoy the atmosphere.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; piano recital by Beatrice Nicholas of works by Haydn, Liszt, Chopin, Bach and Philip Spratley. Free admission with collection in aid of East Finchley Methodist Church Development Fund.

### Saturday 16 July

• **Moth and Dragonfly morning** 10am-12noon at Long Lane Pasture, opposite Fire Station in Long Lane, N3. As part of National Moth Count a moth trap will be set overnight; those caught will be identified, then released. Come and join the count.

### Things That Go Bump in High Barnet!

**Ghost walk** through High Barnet and Monken Hadley, second-most haunted village in England, with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside High Barnet tube station at 7.30pm. Details from Paul on 07506 761294 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Friday 22 July

• **Fantastic Voyage: a Bowie Circus Cabaret**, at Jacksons Lane, Highgate, 8pm. Jacksons Lane pays its respects to the late David Bowie with a night of spectacular sound and vision. Global performers celebrate Ziggy, the Thin White Duke, and maybe even Jareth the Goblin King and choose their favourite Bowie look and song. Tickets: £14/Pay What You Decide. Book at [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

### Wednesday 3 August

• **Ramblers Association walk** around Hendon Central; meet 10.30am, Hendon Central station, for six-mile linear walk ending at The Gate, Arkley. Refreshments at the end but you can bring a mid-morning snack. 107 bus at Arkley returns to High Barnet tube station. Contact leaders John and Julia Haynes on 020 8906 0563.

### Saturday 6 August

• **Blackberry picking** officially begins at Long Lane Pasture, opposite the Fire Station on Long Lane, N3. The pick may last through to September. Bring your own containers and make a donation at entrance. Please take care with brambles and avoid trampling hedges as they are a habitat for birds and mammals.



Letters to the editor



**Refuse refusal**

Dear Editor,

I was so pleased to see your recent highlighting of all the rubbish in East Finchley (*THE ARCHER*, May and June 2016). I have been taking photos, above, and sending them to the council for the past two years.

They sent someone to inspect the piles of rubbish at the High Road end of Huntingdon Road where a shopkeeper is refusing to use a commercial bin.

I have spoken to many of the shopkeepers and they are concerned and dismayed at how dirty the High Road has become generally. Thank you for spreading the awareness. We all have the power to keep things tidy.

**Yours faithfully,  
Lucie Ormerod,  
Address supplied.**

**No badger but an owl**

Dear Editor,

I fear your reader asking about the stone badger on East End Road (*THE ARCHER*, May 2016) might indeed be dreaming! However, if we were talking about the enormous fibreglass owl on the High Road circa 1974 that would be another matter! I'm sure many other readers know what I'm talking about!

**Yours faithfully,  
Helena Gless,  
High Road, N2.**

*Editor's note: Has anyone got any memories or photos of this owl of which Helena speaks? Please send them our way by email to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), leave a message on freephone 0800 612 0748 or send them to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.*

**Consider our council**

Dear Editor,

Surely there must come a time when some improvements will come at Barnet Council. Consider these facts:

Barnet is going ahead with plans to emasculate its libraries, including East Finchley's, where children from the nearby council estate will be prevented from doing their homework. This contrary to all measures of local opinion, and contrary to everything expected of a council.

It has outsourced its library administration to Capita, who crashed all its library systems over a month ago and have only now managed to repair them. They never took backups.

Polling stations were issued with outdated voting lists, disen-

franchising voters in the recent elections. The top official has left his job as a result.

In Cherry Tree Wood, a disused large building is in a state of collapse and a danger to park users, but the council let it out over a year ago for re-development (to save the cost of demolishing it). It remains a wreck and no action to develop it has taken place. Furthermore, the park is regularly covered with litter due to lack of adequate rubbish bins.

If you park your car in Barnet for longer than three minutes without paying, you are likely to get a parking ticket. The parking wardens say that this is what they are told to do. Cash is no longer acceptable at meters but a cumbersome pay-by-phone system is in operation (taking up to 10 minutes a time for newcomers) This is the council's policy, which is adding to pressure on local shops to survive.

**Yours faithfully,  
Barry H White,  
Address supplied.**

**Driver with attitude**

Dear Editor,

On Sunday 15 May at 2.15pm I was on the 143 bus to Brent Cross from East Finchley. At the busy Hendon Way, one desperate minivan driver went in front of the bus signalling for help. His van was full of football fans, and one of them was a 55-year-old man having a heart attack. Our bus driver immediately asked for help by radio. He was very clear while passing all the information. He then drove just a few metres, leaving his passengers in safety and not disturbing the traffic as he parked on the bus retreat. It meant the ambulance would reach the man faster as the bus was not disturbing the busy Hendon Way. Our driver apologised to us, as he was given instructions to support the van driver. He was perfect in all his attitudes. My grateful respect for this very special driver, hopefully he saved a life!

**Yours faithfully,  
Melina Oliveira,  
Address supplied.**

**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.

**Parking zone comes under review ...again!**

By Diana Cormack

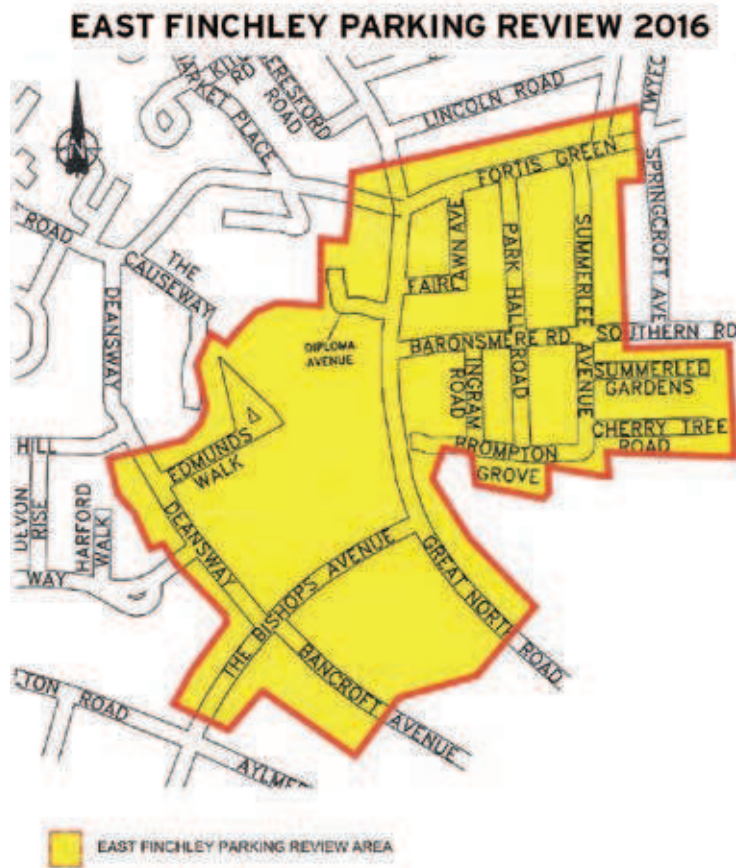
In 2004, when the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute moved into Park House opposite East Finchley tube station, surrounding streets saw a swingeing change in their Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) hours.

Barnet Council, envisaging an increased demand in parking by Institute users, instigated a change aimed at ensuring residents had adequate on-street parking whilst still allowing permit holders to park elsewhere in the East Finchley CPZ. So a one-hour-a-day restriction from 2pm-3pm Monday to Friday became an all-day restriction from 10am-6.30 pm Monday to Saturday.

Many objected to this, particularly local shopkeepers who are still affected by the Saturday controls even though the Institute is no longer in East Finchley. Some residents recall an 18-month review being mentioned at the time, but that never materialised. Over the years there have been reviews, none of which led to any changes, but they did show how the differing opinions in the community still remain.

**Open-ended consultation**

At the beginning of June a letter signed by 'Traffic and



Development' delivered to roads in the selected area (see map) stated: "The Council has been made aware of a request from residents of the Cherry Tree Wood Area within the existing all-day East Finchley CPZ for a change to the operational hours/days of the CPZ. In response to this, the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee decided that an informal consultation with residents of the area should be carried out."

This could be done either on-line or by requesting a paper copy by email or telephone. At the time of writing, neither the original letter nor the on-line survey provided a closing date for the consultation. A phone call to Traffic and Development revealed that it was 22 June. Hopefully the response to the questionnaire will not be skewed by this omission.

**Libraries campaigners call off legal challenge**

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Library campaigners have decided not to make a legal challenge to Barnet Council's reorganisation of the service at the moment. The decision came after advice from lawyers.**

Polly Napper, of East Finchley Library User Group (EFLUG), issued a statement explaining that going ahead with the challenge would have meant spending all their energy in fund-raising. This does not mean, however, that they are giving up the fight.

**Battling on**

Even though judicial action is on the back burner, campaigners are officially complaining to the Culture Secretary, using the 1964 Museums and Libraries Act to demand an inquiry into Barnet's plans. Unstaffed libraries are still a main focus. Maybe because of pressure from EFLUG, young GCSE pupils will now be admitted on their own, even if they have not reached 16, and all unstaffed libraries will have live CCTV cameras.

The users' groups are also backing Unison, the union for local government workers, in their fight to save staff jobs. Barnet's library reorganisation means many job losses, as well

as cutting professional help to library users.

**Goodbye to Polly**

EFLUG is now officially joining forces with Barnet's other library campaigners, and Polly Napper is stepping down from her co-ordinating role. She sends "an enormous thank you" to everyone who has helped in her 13-year campaign.

Library lovers owe a tremendous amount to Polly. She was one of the two people responsible for securing a Grade 2 listing for our library in 2003 and has worked with unflagging energy and enthusiasm ever since. In her final newsletter she said it was horribly sad to see the state of libraries now, but knows that many of the "wonderful people she has met will carry on the fight".

Erini Rodis will be taking over administration of the EFLUG/Save Barnet Libraries mailing list going forward. Follow developments on Facebook.

**Serial flasher on the heath**

By Janet Maitland

**Police are looking for a man who indecently exposed himself to several women on Hampstead Heath in separate incidents during April and May.**

The man, who is in his 30s or 40s, hides behind a bush waiting for women walking alone or in pairs to go past; then he emerges and exposes himself. Police are investigating six separate reports between 2 April and 10 May.

A police spokesperson said: "Most of the incidents have occurred in the middle of the day. The man doesn't say anything to the women. He is described as a white male, around 5ft 11ins tall, with average build, who often wears a hat. One victim described him as wearing a shiny black jumper with a zip and shiny black tracksuit bottoms. If you are approached by this man, call 999 immediately."

Any witnesses or anyone with any information should contact the police by ringing 101 and quoting reference number 2311184/16. To give information anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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# THE ARCHER



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Ladder to the treetops: The tree stairs in Highgate Wood.  
Photo by Alison Roberts

## That's the way to climb a tree!

Families and walkers in Highgate Wood were thrilled when this spiral staircase materialised on one of the trees near the café to mark London Tree Week at the end of May. Called a CanopyStair, it lets people reach to the top of the tree on steps which are strapped on independently without damaging the trunk. Those who climbed up were treated to a view of the cricket and football fields from a lofty vantage point some eight metres up.

## Allez, Archie!

By Daphne Chamberlain

Is it really four years since the London Olympics? We're hoping you all remember that our friend Archie, kneeling above the Tube station, represented Barnet on the official 2012 badge.

Archie, who is 76 on 22 July, was created by sculptor Eric Aumonier. It's too late to influence the EU debate, but Eric was descended from immigrant refugees. As you might have guessed, the Aumoniers were originally French. They were Huguenots (French Protestants), and at least one ancestor was massacred and another was persecuted before fleeing to London.

That was in 1685. Thanks to a copy of the family tree, kindly donated to *THE ARCHER* by Doreen Aumonier, we can see that the family were mainly craftsmen: weavers, jewellers, wheelwrights, and later carvers and sculptors.

As fans of Archie, we've run several articles about him. Here's a quick factfile on him:

- Archie is the only completed statue of several planned for new London Underground stations. The Second World War put paid to the rest. Other Aumonier statues are around St James's Park station and the LU headquarters.

- Archie weighs just over 300kg and cost £245. Nearly twice natural size, he is made of six hundredweight of beech around steel, covered with five hundredweight of sheet lead. His timber came from the former Czechoslovakia and gold from South Africa. His bow is English ash, bent by steam and coated with copper and gilt.

- He was probably constructed in three main sections and reassembled on site.

- Over the entrance to the canteen in London Underground's Acton Works are two stone reliefs made by Eric Aumonier. One is a pie and a knife and fork; maybe what's in the pie was shot by Archie!



Finishing touches: Eric Aumonier works on Archie in 1940

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## New mayor

Councillor David Longstaff became the 52<sup>nd</sup> Mayor of Barnet when he was officially sworn in during the annual meeting of the council at Hendon Town Hall on 24 May. He takes over the role from Councillor Mark Shooter.

Councillor Longstaff has represented the High Barnet ward since 2010. Gillian Griffiths will be the Mayoress while Sury Khatri and Tara Khatri will be the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress respectively.