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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Call to control dogs after two cats die in street attacks

By Diana Cormack

Dog owners and dog walkers are being urged to make sure their animals are kept under control after a number of attacks on cats, two of which resulted in the death of much-loved pets.

Most owners keep good control of their dogs, of course, but a small minority do not. Most dogs are well behaved but some can be unpredictable.

Four local incidents

Residents of Cherry Tree Road are still distressed by an event which took place on 19 August. This was the killing of Murphy, a cat who for many years had been a welcome visitor to houses in the street. At around 7.30am he was attacked by two large dogs and savaged to death in the street.

One neighbour witnessed this from a bedroom window and took photos. Another

filmed the aftermath when the woman in charge of the dogs came to put them back on their leads. They do not live in the road and it is believed they came from the direction of Cherry Tree Wood, just south of Cherry Tree Road.

In a separate incident two weeks earlier, the same two large dogs were seen attacking a cat in Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, leaving it injured, and separately again at the start of August, a cat was killed by dogs off the leash in Steed Road, close to Muswell Hill Playing Fields and Coldfall Wood.

Continued on page 2



Deaths of mother and her nephew: man charged

By Nick Allan

A man has appeared in court accused of murdering Annie Besala Ekofo and her nephew Bervil Kalikaka-Ekofo in a shooting in Elmshurst Crescent, N2, early on Thursday 15 September.

Obina Ezeoke, 24, of no fixed address, was charged five days later. He appeared at Hendon Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 21 September and was remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on 19 October.

An unnamed 20-year-old man also arrested in connection with the two deaths remains on bail until a date in late October.

Annie Besala Ekofo, 53, a mother of seven sons and two daughters, was affectionately known to friends and family as 'Mamale'. Her nephew Mr Kalikaka-Ekofo, 21, was a second-year psychology student at the University of West London.

Family members speaking to *THE ARCHER* said the family were new to the East Finchley area and that they had moved to the UK with her family from Congo in central Africa some 26 years ago for a better life.

On the morning of their deaths, paramedics and armed police arrived at the flat in Elmshurst Crescent shortly before 6.30am. Four other people, including Mrs Besala Ekofo's husband Jean Pierre and a child,



Victims: Annie Besala Ekofo and Bervil Kalikaka-Ekofo were also believed to be inside the investigation, asks anyone with information to contact the incident room on 020 8358 0300 or, to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Detective Chief Inspector, Andrew Partridge who is leading

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Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700

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Employment Service 020 8258 3900

Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121

East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664

Gt North Leisure Park 0870 240 6020

Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007

Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789

Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080

Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

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NSPCC 0800 800500

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Relate 020 8447 8101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Refuge National Crisis Line

0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141

Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555

Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688

Cancer Support 020 8202 2211

Carers' Line 0808 808 7777

Drinkline 0800 917 8282

Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

Health Info Service 0800 665544

MIND 020 8343 5700

National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

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Police non-emergency 101

CrimeStoppers 0800 555111

Victim Support 0845 303 0900

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NHS 111

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Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792

Edgware General 020 8952 2381

Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500

Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343

Royal Free 020 7794 0500

St Luke's 020 8219 1800

Whittington 020 7272 3070

OAP's Advice

Age UK Barnet 020 8203 5040

Independent Age 0800 319 6789

Age UK (general advice line)

0800 169 2081

Call to control dangerous dogs

Continued from front page

THE ARCHER has also been contacted by a reader who witnessed a dog, this time on a lead, attacking a cat in the High Road, East Finchley, close to Finchley Youth Theatre. The bull terrier-type dog had the cat in its jaws for one or two minutes as the male owner and a number of onlookers desperately tried to free it. Eventually, the dog let go and the cat, badly injured, escaped. It is not known if it survived.

Control measures

The death of Murphy in the Cherry Tree Road incident was reported to the police at the time. Whilst his owners do not want the dogs who killed him to be put down, they feel something such as muzzling should be done to prevent this happening again. So what are the options?

Some Barnet parks have bye-laws dating from 1993 which designate special areas in which dogs are allowed to run free. Otherwise they must

be kept on a lead. Cherry Tree Wood is not one of these, though there is a sign barring dogs from the children's playground and the tennis courts.

The RSPCA told THE ARCHER that such upsetting incidents can be difficult to deal with and, should they involve dogs being out of control, need to be in the hands of the police.

The community police teams in East Finchley and Muswell Hill advise anyone who sees dogs roaming freely to contact them but to make no attempt to catch the animals.

Law firm move

Solicitors CG Naylor LLP have moved their head office from Regents Park Road, N3, to Buckingham Palace Road in Victoria. Based in Finchley since its launch in 2012, the company says its new offices will provide more space for future expansion.

New place to cross

By Nick Allan

The junction of Market Place and East End Road opposite the Bobath Centre has a new pedestrian crossing. The zebra crossing was promised by Barnet Council in May and finally finished in early September albeit with a stumbling start.

Work got underway on lowering the pavement followed by the fitting of a belisha beacon and the painting of the familiar zebra pattern in late August but the crossing remained barred for use. Pedestrians were confused by a seemingly complete crossing that they were unable to use because it was blocked on both sides. People tried to access the crossing in a number of ingenious ways or just crossed further down the road.

The crossing was eventually finished when a second team of workmen levelled the earth around the beacons and the barriers were removed. With no official opening date residents in the area have already started using it and are not expecting Her Majesty to arrive with scissors anytime soon.



The zebra crossing in East End Road. Photo Nick Allen

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

28 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey rear/side extension.

24 Brackenbury Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 5.525 m, eaves height 2.8m, maximum height 3.35m.

20 Chandos Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 6m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 4m.

35 Heath View, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4.65m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

86 Hertford Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension. Roof extension, with rear and side dormer window and one front roof light, to facilitate a loft conversion.

336 High Road, N2

Single-storey rear/side extension. Replacing first floor window with doors and Juliette balcony. Infill of side extension.

426 Long Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 3.5m, eaves height 2.7m, maximum height 3m.

19 New Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

5 Oakview Gardens, N2

Converting garage into habitable room, involving replacement of garage door with low wall and window.

34 Oakview Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 5m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

Land at Tarling Road, N2

Details re contaminated land, pursuant to planning permission.

Haringey Council

4 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Certificate for single-storey ground floor extension and dormer loft conversion to rear, with front roof light.

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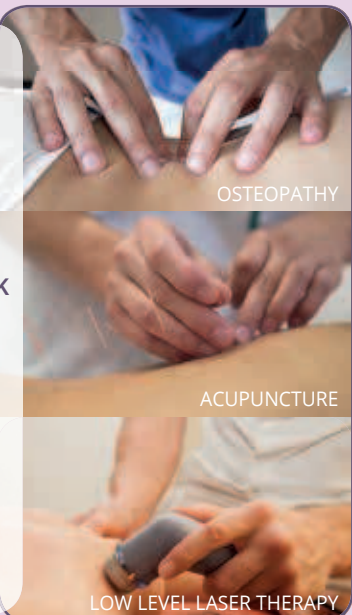
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The 2016 Big Local festival at Bishop Douglass School Photos Mike Coles

Everyone comes out to play

By Sheila Armstrong

Soccer skills and scrumptious cakes were on display at the fourth annual Grange Big Local festival held at Bishop Douglass School on Sunday 25 September. There was live music and a bouncy castle too, and a chance to talk to people involved in the regeneration project.

The Grange Big Local, bordered by the High Road, North Circular, East End Road and Church Lane, is one of 150 areas in the UK to receive £1 million from the National Lottery to enhance their communities.

It now has a paid worker, Jon Woolfson, and as reported in The Archer in August, has been instrumental in re-establishing

a free advice service run by the Citizens Advice Bureau at the St Mary's Parish Centre in the High Road.

Find out more about the project team's plans for the future and how you can get involved at www.grangebiglocal.org or email Jon at info@grangebiglocal.org.

Christmas festival to take a year off

After four successful, if occasionally windy and cold, events that have brought people out on the High Road in their hundreds, the East Finchley Christmas Festival is taking a rest this year.

The organisers at East Finchley Community Trust need a breather after a very successful summer festival in Cherry Tree Wood back in June, so Santa and his reindeer will be able to relax back home in Lapland in early December this year and get their strength up for delivering presents locally on Christmas Eve.

But the Trust still wants to mark the festive season this year and is hoping to stage an evening of late night shopping on the High Road with carols, music, mulled wine and good cheer.

They are working with the newly launched business network N2United to make it a fun event that encourages everyone to come out and dine and to shop for food and gifts. Watch out for more details next month.

A reminder that if you want

to get involved in helping to organise or find out more about the East Finchley Festival in summer 2017 there'll be a meeting organised by the East Finchley Community Trust on Wednesday 2 November starting at 7.30pm at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2.

Chair of the Trust Roger Chapman said: "The summer festival, organised entirely by local volunteers, is approaching its 40th year and always needs new blood to bring fresh ideas and keep it vibrant. If you'd like to find out how the festival works or help to make it happen then please come along or drop us an email to eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com."

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Food boxes fail to fool foxes

It's well known that East Finchley is home to many urban foxes. They share our green spaces and gardens, and can often be seen strolling the streets both day and night.



Now their strategy for survival in the suburbs has taken another step forward. Readers are reporting to us that their local foxes have learned how to break into the brown food boxes left out for recycling collections.

Even though these boxes can be locked by careful positioning of their black plastic handles, our visiting scavengers refuse to be foxed.

They've worked out how to release the lock mechanism, then tip the box over to open the lid, enabling them to take their pick

of any edible morsels inside.

One fox or family of foxes in the Cherry Tree Wood and Park Hall Road area is particularly adept at this trick. Neighbours there say they wake up some mornings to find a whole series of recycling boxes broken into.

Jeanette Levin, who sent us the photo of a visitor in her back garden in Church Vale, says the foxes up her way have done the same. She says one makes an appearance most days, often hanging around her bird feeders waiting for any food to drop onto the ground.



A funny thing happened: Father Christopher Hardy presides over the wedding of Bec Hill and Gavin J Innes.

Vicar has them rolling in the aisles

Fr Christopher Hardy, vicar of All Saints' in Durham Road, N2, kept the congregation laughing when he conducted a wedding at the Edinburgh Fringe arts festival in August.

He conducted the wedding of London-based Australian comedian Bec Hill and her fiancé Gavin J Innes. It was a first for Fr Christopher because the wedding venue wasn't a church but the stage of the Gilded Balloon, a theatre, comedy and cabaret spot in

the Scottish capital, where the groom proposed to the bride three years ago.

More than 200 guests attended, most of whom were comedians, including all the bridesmaids. Rather than being overawed by being in the presence of so many funny folk, Fr Christopher more than held his own and his 'performance' conducting the service even won him the Best Newcomer Award in Laugh Out London's Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Awards.

To quote Laugh Out London: "Magical stuff and we hope to see him back with a full hour next year."

A special summer

The Edinburgh wedding came at the end of a summer when Fr Christopher and his parishioners had plenty of reasons to celebrate.

At the start of July they

marked the silver jubilee of his ordination. Geoffrey Hanson, Director of Music at All Saints', and the choir, pulled out all the stops for a service, with the Missa Brevis by Gabrieli, and the anthem, Exsultate Jubilate by Ludovico Viadana.

In addition, Jennifer Bate, the well-known concert organist and a member of the congregation, played the Fugue in C minor by J S Bach at the end of the service. A number of old friends joined parishioners for the celebrations which continued after the Parish Mass with champagne and a presentation of a cheque to Fr Christopher.

A few days later, Fr Christopher celebrated 21 years in the parish and, when making his normal weekly visit to Holy Trinity School that day, he received thankyou cards from children in each of the classes there.



Paint job: The GoodGym gang redecorate the RSPCA clinic.

A good run and a good deed

A new fitness group has started meeting in East Finchley where runners harness all their energy to get fit and do good at the same time.

Instead of running nowhere on treadmills or lifting weights that don't need lifting, GoodGym members meet at the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday evenings for a short run followed by a physical task that helps someone out.

So far, the runners have raked hay at Long Lane Pasture and painted the walls at the RSPCA clinic in Park Road. The weekly runs are free and open to all abilities. Organisers say they build community cohesion and reduce social isolation.

Runner Rebecca says:

"Those lazy weeks when I just want to sit on the sofa, it gets me up, it gets me out there knowing that someone's waiting."

Turn up at the Phoenix at

6.45pm on Tuesdays if you want to join in. And get in touch if you have a good deed that needs doing. The website is www.goodgym.org.

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Pirates ahoy in new playground

Fancy dress pirates swung on board for the grand opening of the new playground at Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road, N3. Special guests Ella Kenion from CBeebies and Barnet Mayor Councillor David Longstaff declared the new facility open in front of a huge crowd of eager youngsters.

Parents sign up for free school close to home

By Neil McNaughton

Over More than 200 parents living in East Finchley, many of whom have children attending Martin Primary School, have supported the establishment of a new free secondary school in the southern part of the borough of Barnet.

The sponsoring academy is the Compton, situated in Summers Lane, North Finchley. The Compton held two information meetings at Martin School recently and found interest running high.

Demand for secondary places

It has long been acknowledged that there is a shortage of secondary places in the area surrounding East Finchley so such a new school would go some way to meet the demand. More than 500 parents across Barnet as a whole have signed up to support the Compton bid.

The prospect of a new secondary school within reach of N2 comes almost a year after public debate over the admissions criteria at the Archer Academy in Stanley Road, N2, which sought to protect feeder places for children at primary schools in neighbouring N3 and NW11, where parents are battling with equally high

demand for secondary places.

When and where

Approval by the Department for Education is imminent, with Compton deputy headteacher Malcolm McGlynn telling *THE ARCHER* he was confident that the new school would get the go ahead very soon.

Though it is unlikely that the site of the new school will be in N2 it could well be in neighbouring N3 so that many prospective East Finchley pupils will fall within the catchment. Once approval has been received, The Compton Academy will be working alongside the DfE to secure a suitable site, with one possibility on the very edge of N2.

This news comes hard on the heels of the expansion of Fortismere School in Muswell Hill (*THE ARCHER*, September 2016), again going some way to easing the chronic shortage of places.

Plant hope for a polio-free world

Richard Rosen, a member of Muswell Hill, Highgate and Islington Rotary, explains how you can get involved in his organisation's ongoing campaign to eradicate polio worldwide.

For over 30 years, Rotary has been working hard to help rid the world of polio, a terrible disease that can kill or seriously disable children. Polio has no cure but can be prevented with immunisation.

When Rotary started the campaign in 1985 there were 125 countries where the disease was endemic. Now there are just two: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Although cases are down 99.9% and over 2.5 billion children have been immunised, there are still remote and rural areas where it is hard to deliver the immunisation programme. To declare the world polio free requires at least three years with no new cases being reported, so by continuing to fund and support the immunisation programme in these areas together we will make history.

Five million flowers

The Purple 4 Polio campaign symbol is a purple crocus, its colour representing the dye used to mark the fingers of children who have been immunised. It costs just £1 to immunise five children and it protects them for life. Rotary has partnered with the Royal Horticultural Society to

plant more than five million crocus corms this November

123833 or email peter@pvro-liver.com.

which will flower in February 2017 to brighten up communities across Great Britain and Ireland. By covering our parks, gardens and green spaces with crocuses, we are aiming to demonstrate how the humble crocus can symbolise a colourful splash of hope for children everywhere. If you want to get involved in this mass planting event or to find out more about Rotary please contact local secretary Peter Oliver on 07787



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Time for bed at the station

Members of the N2 Gardeners group are putting the flower and vegetable bank alongside the Tube station to bed for the winter and they are inviting anyone to come along and help.

The station bank, running along the outside wall between the entrance and the car park, was taken on by N2 gardeners, a local group of volunteers, back in 2010 and has been managed by them ever since. Now in its sixth year the bank has matured and looks quite good for its age.

However it has become a bit wild and unkempt round the edges over the summer and now needs a bit of work to tidy and clean it up for the winter, ready for new planting and flowering next year.

If you can spare some time to help out on the day then please turn up on Sunday 9 October between 10am and 12 noon.

To find out more about the



Down tools: How the station bank looked in 2010

work of the N2 Gardeners email n2gardeners@gmail.com and the group will keep you in touch

with its work and the dates when volunteers will be down at the station bank next year.

The story behind our newest community garden

In July, Martin O'Donnell wrote about the new Octavia Hill community garden next to the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale. Here he tells the story of the remarkable woman after whom it's named.

Our garden in Strawberry Vale commemorates Octavia Hill, a social housing pioneer and contemporary of George Peabody. Octavia Hill was also a founding member, in 1895, of the National Trust, helped save Hampstead Heath and Parliament Hill Fields from developers, and coined the phrase "the Green Belt".

She set up the Institute of Women Housing Managers, the forerunner of the Chartered Institute of Housing, and her ideas on building close relationships with residents laid the foundations for the beginning of social work. Not a bad legacy to leave behind and one well worth celebrating.

Octavia's family were from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire and moved to Finchley when she was a child. Their house was near the Strawberry Vale Brook (now culverted) which runs down to where the Strawberry Vale Estate now stands. Playing in the fields of Finchley gave her a love of the outdoors and as an adult she wanted everyone to be able to enjoy the benefits of open space, something hard to find in fast-growing Victorian London.



Inspiration: Octavia Hill in 1882.
Photo Wikipedia

Honouring Octavia

We were aware of the Octavia Hill connection to the area and The Finchley Society was very keen to see that link commemorated in some way. We arranged a coach trip for Strawberry Vale residents to the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum in Wisbech and the idea of using the land next to the centre as a community garden in her honour started to take shape.

The next steps for the community garden project are to develop some local history boards in collaboration with the Finchley Society and the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum, and to arrange a return coach trip to Wisbech for local residents. If you are interested in coming along please email community.events@peabody.org.uk.

Boxer wins on points

By Nick Allan

Boxer Josh Burnham won his second professional fight on points at York Hall on Saturday 17 September beating his Bulgarian opponent, 23-year-old Konstantin Alexandrov, a last minute replacement for Sonny Whiting who ironically broke his hand before the bout. Readers who saw our edition last month may remember that Josh had to postpone this fight, originally scheduled for May, for the same reason.

Describing the fight as "frustrating" Josh said would

have liked to have finished it earlier but didn't want to rush in and get caught with a silly punch or potentially get a cut. Josh added: "It was the first time I'd done six rounds and I felt I could have gone another six after. But I live well and train hard so I was ready."

He now looks forward to his next fight, hopefully in November, still burning with the desire to advance in the sport and eventually win the Lonsdale Belt, awarded to British boxing champions since 1909.

Loving the spin I'm in

Two busy women with families and other jobs were so sorry when their local gym shut its doors and their beloved spin classes came to an end that they decided to keep them going themselves.

First setting up a pop-up studio at Stephens House and Gardens, East End Road, back in January, Sharon Jaffe and Hilary Bentwood have now found a more permanent home in the Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Their new CyClub studio has Technogym spin bikes, an array of classes and instructors and a flexible timetable for people like them with young children and

full-time jobs.

Sharon and Hilary said: "The studio has attracted an audience from young to old, from teenagers to grandparents. There are many couples and parents with older children who come and spin side-by-side."

For further information visit www.the-cyclub.com or find The CyClub on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



Pedal power: Business partners Sharon Jaffe and Hilary Bentwood

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Decision time for the pavilion is coming soon

A new tenant could be found for the dilapidated pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood, or the whole building could be demolished, under a set of options being examined by Barnet Council.

At the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee Meeting in July the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood presented a petition, signed by more than 600 people in one week, to make the pavilion safe.

The Friends asked the council to report back on the reasons for the lack of progress on the development and why it had been left in such a poor state. An officer from the Estates Department stated that the current tenant had not carried out due diligence when taking out the lease and a major structural problem had subsequently arisen.

The Friends also raised health and safety concerns relating to the dangerous state in which the building had been left for many months. They were particularly concerned about increasing antisocial behaviour at the site and new serious crime escalating into the wood.

Friends anticipate full report

The Estates Department is to produce a report on the pavilion for the next Area Committee meeting. This should provide details of the structural problems and costs encountered by the tenant. It should highlight whether the council was aware of the structural problems at the outset.

The report should also update the committee on the terms of the lease and whether they have been breached, including whether the tenant can be evicted. Consideration is

to be given to the feasibility of the project and any areas where the tenant could be helped. The report will also update on possible alternative tenants or the demolition of the building.

This report will be presented at the next Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee Meeting



Dilapidated: The run-down pavilion

on Wednesday 26 October at 7pm at Garden Suburb School, Childs Way, NW11. Friends of Cherry Tree Wood will attend, and all members of the community are welcome. For more information you can get in touch with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood at info@cherrytreewood.co.uk.

Bonus for local autism charity

The CEO of a major telecoms company has donated her £220,000 bonus to Muswell Hill charity Ambitious About Autism, in Woodside Avenue, N10. Baroness Dido Harding, chief executive of TalkTalk, which suffered a major cyber attack last year, said it was her personal decision.

The charity said the gift will be a great boost for its drive to raise £4.4m for Ambitious College, offering education to 16-25 year olds with complex autism.

TalkTalk has supported Ambitious About Autism for 14 years, raising more than £2m for the charity.

Baroness Harding said: "Throughout the cyber attack we

worked hard to put our customers first, and we know that they have appreciated our efforts and our honesty throughout.

"Nevertheless, last October was a challenging period for TalkTalk and its customers and, in recognition of that, I have made a personal decision to donate my bonus to our charity partner."

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Chance meeting: Rebecca and Vijay after bumping into each other

Fancy Siena you here!

This summer Siena railway station in the heart of Tuscany was the scene for a brief encounter when next door neighbours Rebecca Hawks and Vijay Patel bumped into each other by sheer chance. Neither of the Cherry Tree Road residents knew that the other was abroad, never mind in Italy.



A moveable feast indoors. Photo by Diana Cormack.

Sausages keep sizzling despite the downpour

By Diana Cormack

For only the second time in six years rain fell on Cherry Tree Road's annual street party which was held on Saturday 10 September. But it still went ahead because good neighbour Sara invited everyone into her house, despite having to leave early for a previous engagement.

The barbecue was put into action under umbrellas on the back patio. Sizzling sausages and burgers joined an impressive array of savoury dishes people had brought, along with a luscious selection of contributed cakes and puddings.

There were musical offerings on drums, guitar, mouth-organ and trombone with some singing adding to the talent on show. The children ran two competitions for charity. They got their reward when the person who guessed the number of Smarties in the jar donated it to them.

Then the winner of 'Guess the Weight of the Cake', a terrifically tempting chocolate concoction, donated it to a neighbour who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.



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YOUNG ARCHER



Together for festival in the blustery outdoors

Despite the blustery wind and rain, everyone who turned out for the Together as 1 Festival on Saturday 20 August managed to keep smiling and reflect the theme of harmony and love in the community. The free event took place on Martin Primary School field and was organised by the AAA Strike 4 Success group in association with East Finchley youth club The Monday Club.



Two homes: Archer Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison with students on their Beaumont Close site.

Academy in two places at once

The Archer Academy became a twin-site school when it welcomed pupils to both its East Finchley bases for the first time at the beginning of term in September.

The new buildings that opened last year on the Stanley Road site host the Lower School from years seven to nine. Then five or six minutes' walk away, the school's first home in Beaumont Close, off The Bishops Avenue, is the GCSE centre for years 10 and 11.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: "I'm delighted to have four year groups at the Archer Academy and to be working as a campus school for the first time."

Bishop Douglass converts

Bishop Douglass School has successfully converted into an academy and become a co-partner in a chain alongside two other Catholic secondary schools in north London.

The school in Hamilton Road, N2, is now part of the Cardinal Hume Trust in partnership with St George's School, Maida Vale, and St Thomas More in Wood Green.

Chair of Governors Michael Veal said: "Bishop Douglass has improved rapidly in the last two years and, on the back of the best-ever results this year, the school is ready to take its place as an equal partner in one of the most successful Catholic Academy chains in the country."

Director of Education for the Diocese of Westminster, JP Morrison, said the move to academy status would benefit the community. He added: "The Diocese is very grateful and appreciative of the outstanding leadership offered by headteacher Martin Tissot in achieving these results. This is a community the whole of Barnet should be proud of. The diocesan family of schools certainly is."



Fore! The CCF student golfers with Andrew 'Beef' Johnston

School has a fairway to go

Golf has been introduced to the curriculum at Christ's College Finchley for the first time and it's proving a big hit. Students taking PE visit the North Middlesex Golf Club in Whetstone on Wednesday afternoons for tuition and practice rounds.

On one recent visit, club member and recent winner of the Spanish Open tournament Andrew 'Beef' Johnston gave some of the students an inspirational talk and a demonstration of his skills.

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Cheers to 20 years!

By Neil McNaughton

It was back in 1996 that Kieran Madden took over Welch's in the High Road and turned it into Madden's. Since then this traditional pub has gone from strength to strength and become a local landmark.



Kieran Madden, celebrating his twentieth year in East Finchley. Photo Mike Coles

In that time it has survived two recessions, the gastropub revolution and the decline of small venue live music to come through with the thriving business it is today. What is the secret?

"A great selection of beers, Madden's is a free house, the homely atmosphere and the fact that 95% of my customers are regulars," says Kieran, the genial owner. "This is a pub that serves food and not a res-

taurant that serves drinks," he adds, referring to the popular Thai kitchen operating there to satisfy the hunger of the pub's denizens.

Above all, though, Madden's is very much a traditional pub. "East Finchley is like a village," Kieran says. "There isn't much passing trade so we rely on our regular customers. We are also lucky that there are not many pubs in this part of London so the competition is limited."

Live acts return

This is Kieran's fourth pub; having cut his teeth in the Dublin hotel business he ran establishments in Camden and Islington. Originally Madden's was a music venue but this gradually fell away, with live entertainment being largely replaced by big screen sporting fixtures.

Now as the pub celebrates 20 years in its present ownership the live music is returning more and more often. On the anniversary weekend itself last month, three live acts played, including former Foundations guitarist Derek Mandell. There are plans to have more live acts playing at least once a week. The next 20 years certainly look bright for one of East Finchley's more enduring businesses.

Riding to Edinburgh... the hard way

By Nick Young

How does the idea of cycling from London to Edinburgh grab you? That is what Thomas Orr, of Howard Walk, N2, has been doing in order to raise money for the Prince's Trust.

Thomas calls it "a great charity, supporting vulnerable people in the UK, and providing opportunities they wouldn't otherwise be afforded". He has set himself a target of raising £1,500 for the charity.

The ride itself is an organised event that takes five days, averaging at 110 miles per day. "We don't go straight up the country," Thomas told *THE ARCHER*, "The organisers wanted to throw in some of the trickier hills."

Luckily, it's an organised event with hotels and food provided so he doesn't have to carry everything with him!

Thomas, whose experience of long-distance events has hitherto consisted mainly of

running marathons, prepared for this by riding in Hertfordshire, Yorkshire and the Alps, often with 5am starts – not that he minds those: "It's a great feeling being out riding in great scenery before the world's woken up."

Thomas's ride began just before we went to press, so we hope to bring further news next month of how he managed and how much he was able to raise.

Can you deliver?

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Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Turns out we ARE good at games

Well, that's it, it's over. The long hot summer of sporting overkill has had its closing ceremony and the last athletes are coming home with a shed-load of cheap souvenirs. Most of them should be wearing t-shirts reading 'I went all the way to Rio and all I got was a lousy medal'.

Once upon a time, when the best the British could manage was a couple of bronze medals, the Olympics was for other countries. You know, the ones who are good at running, jumping and falling in the water, like Russia, the USA and anyone else who took the recreation out of narcotics. Not anymore, as like some kind of 21st century East Germany, but without the drugs, GB Sport PLC has been hoovering up medals like a supercharged Dyson. And that means spending a whole summer watching Clare Balding getting over-excited, especially when horses are mentioned.

And why not? Horses are something us Brits are pretty good at. Whether it is jumping over things, dancing the tango or putting them in a lasagne, no one does horses quite like the British.

So what next, now that it's over? All across the land the same cry goes out that now is the time to get involved. The Wrath of Khan is descending across the bus lanes of London with a whole new world of cycle superhighways, or pavements as the rest of us call them. Now is the time to squeeze into Lycra and hit the road.

There are cheaper ways to embrace the medal-winning spirit and most of them involve water. After the boy Daley in his micro trunks excited both boys and girls beyond decency it has to be time to try falling in the water for yourself. You may not be able to do a double pike, but you can sure as hell make a bigger splash.

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- **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 Bootcamp** 9.30am & 10.30am every Sat; **Boxing and Kettlebells**, 6.45pm Weds, Victoria Park, N3. Contact Sarah 07956 589902.
- **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. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

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- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
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- **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 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.



Intriguing story of a socialite spy

Rebecca Dunn is bringing her one-woman show *Agent of Influence: The Secret Life of Pamela More* back to north London following a critically acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Festival in August.

Written by Sarah Sigal, the show tells the story of Lady Pamela, fashion columnist and socialite, who was recruited by MI5 to keep notes on Wallis Simpson and Edward VIII, suspected to be colluding with the German Embassy in the shadow of war in the 1930s.

Former Fortismere student Rebecca attended the East Finchley Youth Theatre and, like her father Robin, was involved in many performances at The Incognito Theatre in Friern Barnet before training at

Drama Studio London in 2003.

Frustrated by the gender imbalance in theatre, she and fellow actors set out to create more work for female casts, setting up Fluff Productions. This latest show is one of their commissions.

Agent of Influence: The Secret Life of Pamela More is playing for one night only at JW3, Finchley Road, NW3 6ET on Sunday 9 October at 5.30pm. Tickets are priced £12. To book telephone 020 7433 8988.

What's On...

Sunday 9 October

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; Organ Recital by Robert St John, playing popular classics including works by Bach, Brahms, Vivaldi, Satie and Vaughan Williams; free admission with collection in aid of North London Hospice. Venue is fully accessible.

Sunday 16 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. Details and bookings: contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 October

• **Garden Suburb Theatre performs two fascinating one-act plays** in one evening. *No Exit (Huis Clos)* is the story of two women and one man in a claustrophobic room from which there is "no exit". *The Regina Monologues* is a modern-day retelling of the story of the six wives of Henry VIII; 7.30pm, (plus 4pm on the 23rd

only), Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village. Tickets £12/£10 concessions. See www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com for more details.

Sunday 23 October

• **Fungus Walk** with local field mycologist Andy Overall, a 'fungi to be with'; hunting for species in Coldfall Wood, Creighton Avenue, 2.30pm. More details and bookings at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk.

Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October

• **Half-term Halloween activities at Stephens House and Gardens**, East End Road, N3, every day from 1–4pm. Visit the Spooky Basement or venture outside for the Ghosts in the Trees garden ghost hunt. More details at www.stephenshouseandgardens.com.

Thursday 27 October

• **A Taste of Autumn: seasonal fashion show** in aid of North London Hospice, organised by the personal styling team at John Lewis, Brent Cross; Hendon Golf Club, Devonshire Road, NW7, at 8pm. Tickets £20 from Anne on 020 8905 5249 or Vivienne on 020 8203 5131.

Bravura performance by skilled quartet

Review by Andrea Whittaker

The new season of East Finchley Methodist Church's popular monthly concerts got off to an excellent start on 11 September with a bravura programme given by Saoko Blendis and Yuki Osedo (pianists), Sanae Honda (violin) and Ruth Cohen (viola).

The considerable skills of all four performers were well-demonstrated in major pieces such as Mozart's *Violin Sonata in B flat major*, Schubert's *Fantasy for Piano 4 Hands* and Halvorsen's *Passacaglia* for violin and viola.

On the lighter side, it was an enjoyable surprise to hear *Jealousy*, the well-known song from the 1930s, in its original instrumental form, known as *Jalousie Tango* by the Danish composer Jacob Gade.

The large, appreciative audience gave generously to the performers' chosen charity Spread A Smile", which works with seriously-ill young people in hospital.

EFM, on the High Road opposite Creighton Avenue, hosts its next free concert on Sunday 9 October at 7.30pm when organist Robert St John will give a recital of works by Widor, Bach, Brahms and others. There will be a collection in aid of North London Hospice.

No exit for Henry's queens

Garden Suburb Theatre performs two fascinating one-act plays in one evening. *No Exit (Huis Clos)* is the story of two women and one man in a claustrophobic room from which there is 'no exit'. *The Regina Monologues* follows six women, each of whom has been married to the same man called Henry, in a modern-day retelling of the story of the six wives of Henry VIII.

The plays are performed from 20–22 October at 7.30pm and on 23 October at 4pm at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate Village. Tickets cost £12/£10 concessions. See www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com for more details.



Six wives: The director and cast of *The Regina Monologues*, who will perform *Upstairs* at the Gatehouse in Highgate.

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Mallindine on 020 8883 8190.

Saturday 12 November

• **Geology walk**, led by Diana Clements, local geologist and a recognised expert in London's geology, through Coldfall Wood, once covered by the southern limit of Britain's ice sheet; Coldfall Wood, Creighton Avenue, 10.30am. Details and bookings at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk.

• **Holy Trinity Church Autumn Fayre**, Church Lane, N2, 12 noon to 3pm; free entry, all welcome; children's games and activities, tombola, raffle, books, used clothing, homemade cakes and chutney, bric-a-brac, hot dogs and refreshments.

• **Finchley Chamber Choir** presents a programme of music on the theme 'Let There Be Light', including John Rutter's *Hymn to the Creator of Light*, *O Nata Lux* by Morten Lauridsen, and works by Jonathan Rathbone and Eric Whitacre; Trinity Methodist Church, Nether Street near Tally Ho corner, North Finchley, 7.30pm. Ticket prices: £15 full, £13 concessions, £6 for under-18s.

Thursday 27 October to Monday 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. Prizes for the spookiest costumes! Details and bookings: contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Friday 28 October

• **Memory Lane Singing Club celebrates 23 years of singing** in the community with 'It's Showtime!' at St Mary's Parish Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley Central, N3, 11am to 12.30pm. Carers, friends and family welcome. Free entry. Spacious venue with wheelchair access. Tea and biscuits will be served. To attend, please contact Valerie in advance on 020 8458 4508 or email v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk.

Sunday 6 November

• **Ramblers Association walk** from Finchley Central; meet at tube station at 11.30am for a linear six-mile walk to Barnet church hall, the venue for the association's AGM. Bring a snack. Contact leader Tony



Letters



Good old days: Sippy Azizollah performing at the Bunjies club in the 1970s

Remembering Sippy

Dear Editor,
I was most sad to read in *THE ARCHER* of the passing of Sippy Azizollah. I first came across Sippy when I was in my twenties as a frequent visitor to Bunjies in Soho where she performed as a member of the audience and then as a floor singer.

I still can recall how much the audience loved her and her performances there. Her songs weren't all about serious stuff, some were very funny. Sippy had a great sense of humour. Bunjies was a very cool place to be hanging around in the 70s and folk personalities who performed there included Al Stewart, Paul Simon, Donovan, Bert Jansch, Long John Baldry, Sandy Denny, Dave Cousins (of The Strawbs) and even Bob Dylan.

On a visit to London apparently Dylan happened to hear the music coming from the cellar, headed for the entrance and was told he'd have to pay to get in. So Dylan pays and though he does a few songs later doesn't get his money back.

Ten years ago I happened to be walking along East End Road and coming towards me I saw a familiar face. Could this be the Sippy Azizollah who I used to watch as a member of the audience singing and playing the guitar at Bunjies? Yes, it was. So we reminisced over the good old days and to my delight she said she would let me keep a copy of the official limited edition Bunjies Coffee House LP that includes not only a concert of professional music but audience involvement recreating the ultimate and unique atmosphere of the cellar itself.

One of the tracks on it is 'YOU' (vocal and guitar, Sippy; vocal harmony and guitar, Jez Wenham), an unabashed love song. Amongst other artists' photographs on the reverse of the album sleeve is that of the young Sippy herself. How time flies. Needless to say the album is one of my most treasured possessions.

Sippy will indeed be sadly missed but her memory will live on through her music and the good deeds that she did.

Yours faithfully,
Derek Harris,
Address supplied.

Animal statues

Dear Editor,

I think your correspondent asking about large animal statues in the area may be thinking of the massive sandstone owl which stood just off the High Road for many years and was called Huxtable for reasons I don't know.

It fell over in 1981 and the head came off. I remember it well as it was the year of the royal wedding and I had broken my leg!

Yours faithfully,
Peter Lobe,
Address supplied.

Signs of trouble

Dear Editor,

We have noticed some shops on the High Road in East Finchley have taken to placing a few rather large cumbersome advertising swing-type obstacles all across the breadth of the pavement. These constrict flow considerably. The pavement does not appear to have any kind of property outline of any rights of way for the placement of these huge things and I wonder why this is being allowed. It is making it awkward to pass with our baby in the buggy and our toddler alongside. Can we all place these large obstacles in front of our premises I wonder, as I have one I would like to add outside my property?

Yours faithfully,
Josh King,
Address supplied.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"
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London N2 2DE or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.

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



Pushing boundaries: Gabriella's designs. Photo Carl Ryan

Fashion with a darker edge

Designer Gabriella Gambetta showed her collection at the Millennium Hotel in Mayfair during London Fashion Week last month. Her designs were based on the famous Bodies exhibition created by Gunther von Hagens in which he displayed plasticised versions of human anatomy.

Gabriella, 29, pictured right, who grew up and still lives in East Finchley, said: "My work is relatively dark. I am truly passionate about creating and pushing the boundaries of fashion. I don't believe in following trends. I like to see fashion as a form of art and

expression."

It was a second appearance at London Fashion Week for Gabriella and the House of Ikons show she took part in raised money for The Prince's Trust. Follow her on Facebook and Instagram at Gabriella Gambetta Fashion.



Douglas Turner

The family of Douglas Frank Turner, who died on 3 September, have asked us to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all the residents of the Strawberry Vale estate who attended his funeral and say they are grateful for the floral tributes. His sons and daughters say he will be sadly missed by everyone.

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.



Tube noise has us all screaming

By Tessa Campos

I've lived behind Cherry Tree Wood for 23 years. A prime location in estate agent speak. A peaceful oasis, just 20 minutes by tube into central London. Indeed it is, was, a peaceful oasis. Sounds of birdsong, children playing in the park, the gentle chug-chug of the Tube. I love to see the lights of the Tube disappearing into the tunnel on winter nights. Familiar and comforting sights and sounds.

Until a Sunday morning three weeks ago when I was awoken by a strange, screeching noise. A child's toy in the park, I thought. Then it came again and again. A car or house alarm, I thought. After some time and frustrated efforts to go back to sleep I had the awful realisation that the noise was, in fact, the southbound Tube as it sped up before entering the tunnel.

Over the next couple of days we exclaimed every time we heard it: "It's awful, I can't stand it", and tried to reassure each other that *surely* it would go away.

Days later, no improvement. In the station I asked a TfL staff member about it. I was not, she told me, the first person to complain. She took my details and said she would pass my concerns on. I took to social media to try to get an answer. None forthcoming, only similar tales of woe from further up the line.

Eventually I filled in the online complaint form, which elicited the following (abridged) response:

"The screeching is a result of smoothing down the tracks to prepare for the upcoming Night Tube Service. While smoothing the tracks does alleviate noise and vibration levels in the long term, a temporary consequence is a short period of noise immediately after the work is carried out. However, this normally subsides within a few weeks."

How many weeks is a few? After three weeks I am still woken in the morning and find getting to sleep difficult. The event I was hugely looking forward to, the Night Tube, I am now dreading.

If you too have been affected by the noise you will find TfL's contact details online at <http://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/>

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Well suited: John Hauxwell examines his hives

Bee enemies

John explained that the main problem for beekeepers since the 1990s has been the varroa mite, a parasite that transmits diseases to honey bees and is the biggest single cause of their worldwide decline. Like many beekeepers, John uses strips of formic acid to deal with the mites and our visit coincided with these strips being removed. "The treatment is for seven days," he explained.

A future threat to British bees is the Asian hornet, which preys on bees and has been spotted in France. "I understand that they cannot enter a five millimetre-high entrance," said John. "Some of my entrance blocks have cut-outs of this size in the hope that if they arrive, my bees will be safe!"

You can buy the honey from John's bees at Tony's Continental and find more information about the North London Beekeepers on their website at: www.beekeeping.org.uk.

Buzz builds around honey from local hives

By Nick Young

Shoppers may have noticed that Tony's Continental in the High Road is now selling honey from East Finchley's very own bees. But who keeps them and how is it produced?

The answer to the first question is a master beekeeper by the name of John Hauxwell. He lives in Kentish Town, has been keeping bees since the 1970s and is a former chairman of the North London Beekeepers, affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association.



John's honey on sale in Tony's Continental

Bee-friendly site

John has two apiaries, the main one of which consists of eight hives located somewhere in the wilds of the Islington (St Pancras) Cemetery, the third largest cemetery by area in the country, at the top end of the High Road.

The site is full of natural flora, giving rich pickings to bees in search of pollen; they also travel further afield into local gardens and parks.

"The cemetery authorities have been very helpful," explained John, who was happy to show *THE ARCHER* around his working hives. Once he had

donned his beekeeper's suit he set to work checking the hard-working communities inside.

"There are about 40,000 bees to a hive," said John, "although it can be as high as 60,000". Each hive is in two parts, a honey box above a (larger) brood box; each of these consists of eleven panels. The boxes are separated by a metal grid to ensure that the queen bee doesn't lay any larvae in the part that will be harvested for honey. Queens are larger than the worker bees and are usually marked so that they can be easily identified.

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