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The Archer

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A view of the festival from 400ft up

It's a pigeon's perspective of the East Finchley Community Festival! From high in the sky, we see the crowds gathered round the entertainment stages either

end of Cherry Tree Wood in June, and in the middle the stalls are getting busy with long queues already forming for the inflatable slides and climbing wall

over the far side.

The photo was taken from a drone hovering just under 400ft above the Summerlee Avenue back garden of *Archer* reader James. He's a surveyor and uses it as part of his job to inspect clients' properties from the air.

"It's a terrific bit of kit," said James. "It was very windy on the day of the festival but the drone has a gimble underneath that keeps the camera steady and stops any blurring. It was only flying for a few minutes and I was really pleased with how the photo came out."

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New short courses on offer

The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution has announced its largest-ever range of autumn two-day courses at its premises in South Grove in Highgate.

Rachel Malik will lead sessions on Jane Austen and *Pride and Prejudice* which will include lectures, workshops and film clips, while Isabel Raphael, the former Head of Channing school, will share her enthusiasm for the Classics with a look at Homer's *Odyssey* in translation. Later in September, there will be courses on contemporary architecture, the Pre-Raphaelites and many more.

The HLSI is North London's hidden secret but it is easily accessible by public transport, with regular bus services from East Finchley stopping only a few yards from the front door.

Courses at the HLSI, founded 175 years ago, are open to anybody although members receive reduced rates. Further information can be found on its website www.HLSI.net.

Too good to forget

Assiduous readers of the Saturday edition of *The Times* may have noticed that *The Archer* was given an honorary mention in Tory peer and north Londoner Daniel Finkelstein's Notebook column on 1 July.

With an amazing memory for something we printed more than 20 years ago, he wrote: "When living in East Finchley, I enjoyed *The Archer*... In one edition they ran: 'We must apologise that there is no gardening column in this copy of *The Archer*. This is because the Lauradale Road neighbour of our gardening editor has refused to provide her with further information following the failure in our last edition to spell chrysanthemum correctly.'"

This was, of course, a joke of ours in the first place. The gardening column was a spoof written by then editor Paul Savill. Good to see it has stuck in someone's mind. When we contacted Lord Finkelstein afterwards via Twitter he said: "Once read, never forgotten!"

tebook

pinnacle. My wife requested Johnny Cash's *A Boy Named Sue* to be played at her 50th birthday party. My boys, who made up the band, were willing to do most requests but they decided if we were going to do that one, I'd have to sing it.

All I'll say is that I sang better than Bono did at his Q and A.

Local difficulty

I love local newspapers so I'm glad to read in today's *Times* that they're enjoying a comeback. When I first started reading papers I never missed an edition of *The Hendon Times*.

I particularly enjoyed its take on the scandal involving Harold Wilson's secretary and his resignation honours list. The front page once

carried the headline: Lady Falkender's hairdresser lives in Golders Green.

When living in East Finchley I enjoyed *The Archer*, a slightly less professional effort.

In one edition they ran: "We must apologise that there is no gardening column in this copy of *The Archer*. This is because the Lauradale Road neighbour of our gardening editor has refused to provide her with further information following the failure in our last edition to spell chrysanthemum correctly."

Laced with regret

While queueing to pay at a petrol station this week, a man called out to me: "Your



Cutting: Finkelstein's column

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