

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Lower speed limit and one way system for troubled roads

Residents plagued by dangerous driving and traffic congestion have been giving their opinions on a plan to introduce a new one-way system and a 20mph speed limit outside their homes.

Barnet Council is proposing to introduce the traffic control measures on Leslie Road and Leopold Road, N2, and invited homeowners to take part in a consultation, which closed at the end of March.

No room to pass

Both roads are often difficult to navigate, particularly during the school run hours, because parked vehicles on either side mean there's only room for one direction of travel, leading to frequent stand-offs from motorists unwilling or unable to back up. Drivers entering Leopold Road from either end have fairly good visibility to see whether a car is already coming towards them but those entering Leslie Road can see only as far as the bend halfway down, by which time it's a long way to back up if they do meet another motorist.

Two years ago, residents were consulted about adding the two roads to East Finchley's controlled parking zones, which might have preserved some passing spaces, but Barnet Council officers concluded at the time that there was not a large enough majority in favour of the move.

On top of the traffic congestion, residents complain of too many drivers travelling too fast, possibly to get to the end of the road before another car approaches. Separately, some report high-powered cars roaring past particularly on weekend evenings.

Residents react to proposals

The council plans will impose a 20mph limit on both roads and make them both one

way, with traffic only allowed to enter from the High Road end. The current right turn from Church Lane into Leslie Road would be made a no entry. Some residents who expressed their views on Facebook welcomed the lower speed limit but doubted whether many drivers would stick to it. "Making the roads one way will just mean people feel they can go faster," said one. Some questioned the wisdom of forcing all motorists all the way down the 20mph one-way Church Lane to get back out onto the High Road. We understand that residents of Church Lane were not invited to take part in the consultation. One said: "The end of Church Lane is a difficult enough junction as it is." Another said: "I can't see how forcing people to drive round in circles will do anything except increase pollution."

Funding a factor

Barnet Council said it will make a decision on whether to go ahead with the changes after reading residents' responses to the formal consultation and after assessing whether sufficient funding is available.

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Cold-shouldered: Children and parents protest outside the library against access restrictions. Photo Mike Coles

"Let us into our library again"

It was one of the snowiest and coldest days of the winter but that didn't stop dozens of youngsters and parents dressing up as their favourite characters on World Book Day at the start of March and gathering to protest at the cuts and changes to the service at East Finchley Library. Many waved banners saying 'Children need libraries' and called for children to be able to use libraries independently.

Since last summer, children under 16 cannot enter the library during the 35 unstaffed hours per week unless accompanied by an adult who is a registered user.

All the festival favourites

Planning for the East Finchley Festival continues apace as we get closer to the big day, this year on Sunday 24 June in Cherry Tree Wood.

There will be plenty of live entertainment, music and dance from two stages, and fun for children with a line-up of inflatable slides.

The feathered visitors from Jams Owls are back, along with the storytelling tent and the usual mouth-watering range of food, catering for meat eaters, vegetarian and vegan.

If you would like to be part of the festival as a volunteer, by taking a stall, sponsoring an area or by performing, please email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com.

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

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

Copy deadlines – **May: 13 April; June: 11 May**
July: 15 June

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Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000
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Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815
Gt North Leisure Park	0870 240 6020
Muswell Hill Everyman	0871 9069060
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789
Tourist Info Service	0870 128 8080
Warner Cinema Village	020 8446 9933

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EF Advice Service	0300 4568365
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Age UK (general advice line)	0800 169 2081

Search for foster carers

Barnet Council is asking for more potential foster carers to step forward as it tries to find homes for the 320 children and young people it currently has in care.

There are just 104 foster carers in the Barnet network and a growing need for those who can care for teenagers, sibling groups and children and young people with additional needs.

Carers may offer a spare room to someone who is nearing independence, supporting them as they navigate through to adulthood, or take on a long-term fostering where a child could be with them for many years. Councillor Reuben Thompstone, chairman of the Children Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, said: "Fostering is

a great responsibility but it is also incredibly rewarding as you can make a huge difference to someone's life. You don't need any special skills to become a foster carer, just an open mind and willingness to help improve the life of a child."

Barnet residents who become foster carers receive weekly allowances, a dedicated social worker, out-of-hours support and ongoing training. Find out more by getting in touch with the council's fostering team on 020 8359 6274 or visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/fostering.

Woman "ignored planning rules"

A woman has been fined £55,000 for illegally extending her home in the Hampstead Garden Suburb conservation area. Margarita Sofianova, 55, pleaded guilty to three breaches of planning enforcement notices at the magistrates court.

The notices demanded that illegally built single and two-storey extensions should be demolished and that her garden should be lowered to its previous height to protect trees and the privacy of her neighbours. The extensions were described by a government planning inspector as having a "harmful effect on the character and appearance of the host dwelling, neighbouring properties and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area".

Upon reaching a verdict, the court said Ms Sofianova failed to declare she owned a second home and failed to mention money was given to her by her partner and children to cover all outgoings and travel abroad, as well as living expenses, for a six-bedroom house off The Bishops Avenue.

The court found the third offence the most serious due to the extent of building work and the fact it had been carried out even though the other notices were in place and she continued not to comply with them. Magistrates ordered Ms Sofianova to pay £1,000 within 28 days and the remainder of the £55,113 total within 12 months.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

4 Baronsmere Road, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing rear extension. Roof extension, including one rear dormer to main roof and one hip to gable end dormer to existing rear projection, with one front roof light.

44 and 46 Brackenbury Road, N2

First-floor rear extension to both properties. Insertion of rear roof lights.

Oasis Restaurant, 1 Church Lane, N2

Submission of details of conditions 1 (Noise Mitigation) pursuant to planning appeal dated 16/01/18.

26A Church Lane, N2

Alterations to roof to form curved roof and installation of additional roof lights.

55 Church Lane, N2

Submission of details of condition 3 (Amenity Sub-Division) 4 (Refuse/Recycling) 6 (Parking) 9 (Cycle Parking/Storage), pursuant to planning permission dated 17/08/17.

Top Flat, 72 Church Lane, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer window with Juliette balcony and two front rooflights, to facilitate a loft conversion.

227 Creighton Avenue, N2

Roof extension, including two partial hip to gable ends, one rear dormer window, three front rooflights, and one rear roof light.

8 Deansway, N2

Single-storey front extension including new front porch. Part single, part two-storey side and rear extension, following demolition of existing garage. New raised terrace area with new access steps to garden level.

234 East End Road, N2

Amendments to planning permission dated 26/10/17 for roof extension. Amendments include change of position of front facing roof windows, and provision of additional front/rear windows, and alterations to rear facing dormer windows.

23 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

1 Hertford Road, N2

Alteration and extension to roof, including rear dormer window and extension above first-floor flat roof. Lawful Development Certificate.

Adamson Court, 7 Hertford Road, N2

Submission of details of condition 19 (Service Excavations) pursuant to planning permission dated 01/09/17.

105 and 107 High Road, N2

Two self-contained flats to rear of 105 and 107 High Road. Change of rear door at 105 first-floor level to window. Provision of basement area for use as A1 storage.

332 High Road, N2

Change of use to rear of property from commercial A3 to residential C3 (studio flat). Addition of main door and windows on wall facing street, and alterations to rear elevation to insert a window and relocate an external door. New refuse store.

56 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

Ferris Lodge, 62 Lancaster Gardens, N2

Change of use from Use Class B1 (office) to Class C3 (residential), to provide six units.

19 Leopold Road, N2

Roof extension, with one rear dormer plus Juliette balcony, and two front roof lights. Single-storey rear extension.

21 Leopold Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window and three roof lights.

32 Sylvester Road, N2

Two-storey rear extension.

57 Sylvester Road, N2

Use of property as two self-contained flats.

Haringey Council

24 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension, two-storey side extension, and enlargement of existing loft conversion.

26 Twyford Avenue, N2

Certificate of lawfulness for hip to gable roof extension, rear dormer and two front roof lights.

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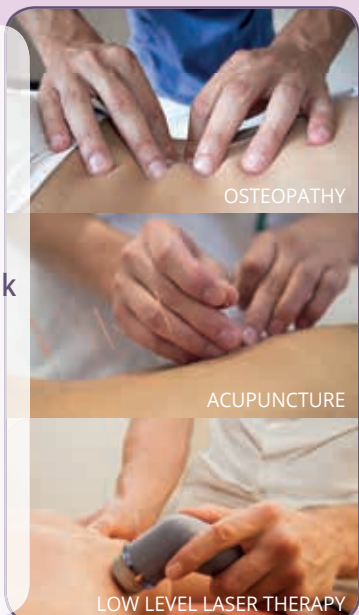
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Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROfessional & BUSIness men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3. Next meeting 18 April: **Nick Higham** talks about his career as a BBC correspondent covering news, arts & media subjects and also as interviewer on *Meet The Author*. But times are a-changing and now he asks "Is the Television Reporter an Endangered Species?" Details from Eric (8449 0566).



Serial burglars posed with their spoils hours after raiding house

Two men have each been sentenced to six years' imprisonment for a string of burglary offences in north London dating back to 2016.



Ill-gotten gains: Caulea poses with a cash haul the pair had stolen

Nicusor Anghelache, 33, and Alexandru Caulea, 24, stole cash and jewellery from homes in Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest. At one address, £50,000 in cash was stolen. A picture was found on both defendants' phones of Caulea posing with a substantial amount of cash, hours after one burglary.

They were arrested in January after police linked 14 burglaries through DNA evidence, CCTV enquiries and a vehicle used.

Appearing at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Thursday 15 March, Anghelache pleaded



Burglars: Nicusor Anghelache and Alexandru Caulea

guilty to six counts of burglary and one count of attempted burglary while Caulea pleaded guilty to ten counts of burglary and one count of attempted

burglary.

Both men, of no fixed abode, were sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Some of the victims were present at the hearing.

Invest in the community you love

Imagine an independent community magazine that tells the story of the people who are lucky enough to live, work or regularly visit East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Highgate and Crouch End: A beautifully designed magazine you can thumb through in your favourite coffee shop or pub to discover the mysteries of the area and dig deep into the soul of the places you feel most connected to. A new magazine, Village Raw, aims to be just that.

Raw talent

The brainchild of local filmmaker Dave Reeve and graphic designer Luciane Pisani, the printed magazine and online edition will be free and will be launched at the Crouch End

Festival in June if they get enough investment from the communities that Village Raw will serve.

See www.villageraw.com for more info and a link to their kickstarter appeal.



East Finchley Open Artists chair Peter Hale (centre) presents a cheque to Dr Roly Blumberg (centre right), consultant paediatrician at the neonatal intensive care unit at Whittington Hospital. Photo Mike Coles

A helping hand at the start of life

By Mike Coles

Every year the East Finchley Open Artists group supports a local charity and in 2017 it was Whittington Babies, which does essential work supporting parents at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the hospital in Archway.

Our picture shows Peter Hale, chair of East Finchley Open Artists, centre, presenting a cheque recently to consultant paediatrician Dr Roly Blumberg, centre right. Also there were two former Whittington Babies, Lukas Ingberg-Pearson, second left, and Elodie Jenkins, third right.

Of the 4,000 babies born each year at the Whittington

about 7-10% will be admitted to the unit, whether premature or needing extra help after a difficult birth. The main focus of Whittington Babies is to provide a networking and support facility via the Parent Support

Group.

Many parents find this support, from people who have experienced life on the NICU first-hand, very helpful at what can be a difficult time for themselves and their families.

Arts Festival 2018 dates announced

Dates are fixed for this year's East Finchley Arts Festival. Mark up your diaries for Saturday 29 September to Sunday 7 October.

Bookings are already confirmed for Pop Up Opera in a performance of Bizet's Carmen, Voxcetera and Paprika, and negotiations well under way with others. *The Archer* will bring you the full programme as soon as we know it.

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Get spinning: Cyclub founders Sharon Jaffe and Hilary Bentwood

Round and round for Multiple Sclerosis

A charity run by women joined forces with a spinning studio in Hampstead Garden Suburb also run by women for a very worthy cause and smashed their fundraising target.

MS Positive and The Cyclub in Market Place, NW11, wanted to raise £8,000 but in fact after four hours of non-stop spinning they managed to raise more than £12,000.

Toni Krok, founder of the charity and herself diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 10 years ago, was in the room and even got on the bike to inspire

the crowds. Three people managed three full hours of spinning while several also completed two hours, including three 15-year-olds.

The CyClub started as a pop-up established in only 12 days when a local gym closed. It now boasts in excess of 3,000 members from teenagers to grandparents and offers full classes seven days a week.

Parking ticket appeal after film crew failed to arrive

By Diana Cormack
An elderly resident of Fairlawn Avenue, N2, is appealing a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) imposed in questionable circumstances.

On 6 February, 24-hour parking suspension notices were put up in the road ahead of filming due to take place the following day. On attempting to move her car that evening she found it would not start thanks to a dead battery.

Being somewhat disabled and also unwell with bronchitis, she was unable to push the vehicle away from the suspension boundary, so called on a neighbour to borrow jump-leads. Unfortunately he was away so she decided to leave a notice on the dashboard stating that the car had broken down.

Whilst still in bed the following morning, she was alerted by neighbours to a group of traffic wardens who had "descended on the street". One knocked at her front door and, to deal with the situation, she left the house wearing night clothes and dressing gown but without slippers. Although she pointed out her Blue Badge and the note she had left clearly displayed, a PCN was issued and fixed to her windscreen.

Questions needing answers

The RAC (who had been inundated with emergency calls due to the cold weather at the time) subsequently confirmed the resident's diagnosis as to why the car would not move. But, she says, two things continue to annoy and puzzle her.

One is that other cars parked in the restricted areas were not penalised and the other is that the film unit did not turn up so the parking bays were empty for the entire day. All this raises another question: how much money is made by councils from parking suspensions and PCNs in places where residents have already paid to park?

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Fake texts

Please be aware of a flood of texts claiming to be from Lloyds Bank. The text says "Your account has been locked because we were unable to validate your information. To avoid suspension, validate your account here ... (with a link)." Don't click on the link, even if you're a Lloyds customer and just want to check if everything's okay. It is a fake link. If you have any concerns, telephone your bank using a trusted number, or go online and type their website address in the address bar.

Remember, a real text from a bank will never ask you to confirm personal or financial information, never give you a link to your internet banking log-on page, or a page that asks for security or personal details, never ask you to carry out a test payment online, and never ask you to move money to a new sort code and account number, even if it's described as a 'secure',

'safe', or 'holding' account.

Cashpoint thefts

Thanks are due to vigilant members of the public who helped police to trace a man who allegedly robbed people at cashpoints all over Barnet by distracting them as they were withdrawing money. He allegedly committed 42 fraud offences by using the bank cards he stole to withdraw cash and make purchases totalling £16,000. The man was arrested after members of the public reported suspicious activity and is now awaiting trial.

Distraction thefts at cashpoints have increased across Barnet. Look out for devices attached to the machine. If it doesn't look or feel right then steer clear and report it. Always be aware of your surroundings. Never take your eyes off the machine, especially if someone taps you on the shoulder or tries to speak to you. Put your card away immediately after you've finished.



Clearance event: The GoodGym runners tidy up at Long Lane Pasture. Photo courtesy Long Lane Pasture newsletter.

High-speed clear-out from visiting runners

Nine energetic members of Barnet GoodGym ran from their regular starting point at the Phoenix Cinema in the High Road to Long Lane Pasture, opposite the fire station, and spent a soggy afternoon clearing and composting huge amounts of bramble and wet scrub.

Pasture volunteers thanked the athletic visitors for accomplishing weeks' worth of hard work in one afternoon. Find out more about GoodGym at www.goodgym.org, where you can also suggest good deeds for their runners to do.



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Fraudster jailed for illegally subletting council flat

By Diana Cormack

A council housing officer has been jailed after illegally subletting a two-bed council flat in Prospect Ring, N2, for 10 years.

Barnet's Corporate Anti-Fraud team acted on information received about Julia Miah, 45, who had continued to claim she lived in the property despite handing over the keys to a family member in 2007 and moving into a house she inherited in Luton.

Miah worked as housing officer for another authority. When interviewed under caution she admitted her guilt to council counter-fraud officers and agreed to hand back the keys to the Prospect Ring flat.

She appeared at Harrow Crown Court in February, pleading guilty to three counts of fraud by failing to disclose information and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. She was also ordered to pay £20,000 in compensation and £3,174 in costs.

Abuse of housing system

Leader of Barnet Council Cllr Richard Cornelius said: "At a time of significant housing pressures, it is totally unacceptable for someone to abuse the system in this way for so long, without ever having any intention of living in the property. Council homes are there for people in genuine need of housing, not for personal gain.

"I hope the custodial sentence and order for compensation handed down by the court in this case sends out a very clear message about the consequences for anyone who might be contemplating something similar."

To report a fraud, email CAFT@barnet.gov.uk or call the council's fraud hotline on 020 8359 2007.

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Sixty years on: Hazel and Bob Astley in Melbourne

A white wedding at Easter and then a boat all the way to Australia

By Daphne Chamberlain

We send our warmest Diamond Wedding congratulations to Hazel Astley (nee Spooner) and her husband Bob who were married in East Finchley 60 years ago on 5 April 1958. Six months later they moved to Australia and have lived there ever since but Hazel still has fond memories of growing up in north London. She told us:

"I met Bob when I was 16. He lived in Hayes, Middlesex, but sometimes, when he was on leave from the RAF, we met in London. We got engaged when

I was 18 and he was 20, and married 18 months later. We had a white wedding at East Finchley Methodist Church on Easter Saturday, 1958, as the previous evening it had snowed!

"We had applied to emigrate to Australia and six months later we arrived at Station Pier in Melbourne as 10 Pound Poms! We got jobs, rented a furnished flat in Hawthorn, a Melbourne suburb, and saved up to buy a block of land in Doncaster, to build our first home together in 1965.

"We joined the local Methodist Church, making lifelong friends there, and have been blessed with 4 children and 10



White wedding: Hazel and Bob get married in East Finchley on Easter Saturday in April 1958.

grandchildren. In 1986 we took our children back to England, to see where we had lived and got married.

"We still read *The Archer*. It is sent to me by Brian Timms, who also lived in East Finchley. He shares it with other East Finchley-ites near him in New South Wales, and I in turn send it to my cousin in Tasmania, also from Finchley. When she's read it, she sends it to her brother, who lives in Melbourne, so it gets around!"

Local links

Hazel's grandparents settled in 50 Leopold Road soon after they were married. Her mother, her two aunts and her younger

brother, Philip Spooner, went to Martin School, and Philip went on to Alder School, then at the Church Lane end of Long Lane, N2.

When her grandfather died Hazel's immediate family moved back to Leopold Road from Wood Green but 12 year-old Hazel didn't want to change schools so went to school in Bounds Green. However, she did go to shorthand evening classes at Alder.

She told us that one of her special places to go to when she was young was East Finchley Library and she is disappointed to see the changes that are being made to the library service.



Highway robbery

Archer reader David Adams sent us this photo of a glaring gap in the pavement in Twyford Avenue where it looks as though several slabs have been neatly lifted and taken away.

David, who lives in Fortis Green, told us: "I've reported the problem to Haringey Council. It looks very much as if the missing paving slabs have simply been stolen. There are no works in progress and nothing to prevent the visually impaired from tripping or falling."

Happily, David reported

to us a few days later that the council had filled the gap with tarmac. However, has someone been repaving their front garden on the sly or is there a perfectly reasonable explanation? If you know, let us know by leaving a message on our freephone line 0800 6120748 or email us at: the-archer@lineone.net.

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Police and leaves: The dog walkers in Coldfall Wood. Photo Mike Coles

Eyes, ears, paws and tails

By Ann Bronkhorst

On any day there'll be a scattering of dog walkers in and around Coldfall Wood but on Sunday 25 February an organised group of them, with dogs on leads, plus two PCSOs in uniform, did a tour of the wood. No, they hadn't been arrested. This was a Haringey Dog Watch walk.

The idea came from Haringey's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Pauline Sydel, I was told by PCSO Stefanie Gibbs who is an enthusiastic advocate for the scheme. As police stations become fewer and neighbourhood policing faces new challenges, this simple idea recognises that dog walkers can be a source of local knowledge. It also helps to build good community relations.

PCSO Stef says: "There are fairweather dog walkers and everyday dog walkers" and it is the second group who are

potentially most useful: the ones who go out, rain or shine, often on familiar routes where something 'wrong' is easily spotted and where an alert, nosy dog can lead to information that helps solve a crime or save a life.

Welcome to Dog Watch

For a Dog Watch walk there are few formalities and some nice incentives. The dogs must be on leads and they get (whisper it) treats; their owners are asked to fill in a form and are given useful items like dog-poo bags or panic alarms. After a brief introduction to the park or open

space the group sets off for a walk lasting no more than an hour. There's a lot of chat as walkers get to know each other and the two friendly PCSOs, Stef and Avra, while the dogs are busy networking too.

The next Dog Watch walk is scheduled for Saturday 21 April at Alexandra Palace, meeting at 10.30 a.m. at the Farmers' Market entrance, Alexandra Palace Way. Look out for Haringey Dog Watch walks in our What's On section in future issues of *The Archer*.

School spring fair

Holy Trinity Primary School in Eagans Close, N2, is inviting everyone along to its Spring Fair on Saturday 12 May from 12noon to 3pm. There will be plenty of traditional attractions, including face painting and hook-a-duck, as well as pocket money goodies and home-cooked food to buy. Entrance will be £1 for adults, free for children.

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A house of rare distinction

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Finchley Society's February meeting featured an illustrated talk by Frank Kelsall about Hawthorn Dene and its role in local and national history. Hawthorn Dene is the Georgian house at the entrance to Strawberry Vale, down the slope from the Green Man Centre.

Some people still call it 'the Captain's house', after its occupant when it faced demolition, Captain Harcourt Kitchin. It is Grade 2* listed, meaning it is particularly important, being of more than special interest. Only 5.5% of all the 500,000-plus listed buildings in England have this grading; 2.5% are Grade 1 and 92% are plain Grade 2.

Unusual construction

Why is it so special? At the time of its listing in 1969, it was said: "No other known examples have so far been found of this type of construction in so

resistant. The square rooms form a circular plan on each floor, with each room leading into the next.

Betjeman on board

However, in the 1960s and 70s it was threatened with demolition when the North Circular could have become a motorway, and it was in danger of being swallowed up by the new slip road.

Jean Scott, then the GLC member for Finchley, and founder of The Finchley Society in 1971, fought a long battle to save it and to get it listed.



Hawthorn Dene at Strawberry Vale. Photo Mike Coles

small a house."

It was built in the 1820s by James Frost, one of the first builders to make bricks from local clay. He had just invented a new type of cement, and was also eager to show how new materials like concrete and cast iron could be used in construction. The ceilings in Hawthorn Dene are supported by fluted cast iron ribs, and the stone stairs have fretworked iron railings. They are all fire-

She was supported by local residents, including architect Bill Tyler and comic Spike Milligan, and a petition to save the house was signed by poet John Betjeman.

This campaign was one of the precipitating factors in the formation of The Finchley Society.

Editor's note: Helen Fletcher's Childhood in Hawthorn Dene is in The Archer archives for May 2004. Find it online at www.the-archer.co.uk.

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Three bins outside the tube station, East Finchley

By Kate Brown

The story of 'Three Bins Outside the station, East Finchley' might not have the ring of the Oscar-nominated film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* but it does share one common theme, namely: "Who will take responsibility?"

If you use the station every day you might not have noticed, but to any new visitor to East Finchley the squalid condition of the area outside our Grade 2 listed tube station is making a big statement about the neglect of public space in East Finchley.

The story so far

Bin number one was attached to the wall below the station bank garden some years ago by Transport for London for safe disposal of cigarette butts. Since it was attached to the wall, it has never been emptied and now hangs precariously by its hinges at just the right height for a child to swing from it.

The other two bins were functional but have been in decline for some time and in the current state (see picture) for some weeks. First, they lost half of their outer casing but still had innards and whilst looking very scrappy, they did function as bins.



One bin: An overflowing cigarette depository on the station wall. Photo Roger Chapman

More recently they have lost their innards and no longer serve as bins at all. However, in a surreal way, the passing public still dispose of their cigarette butts into the imaginary bin.



Two bins: Commuters still try to use these bins just outside the station entrance, even though they are just shells. Photo Roger Chapman

Presumably if it half looks like a bin, it must be a bin.

Step up, TfL

The problem is clear but who will take responsibility for the solution? When I enquired at the station, I was assured that the bins belonged to Barnet Council and were nothing to do with East Finchley Station or Transport for London (TfL). But then our local councillor Arjun Mittra and our MP Mike Freer correctly identified it as a TfL responsibility. Cllr Mittra has contacted them and is awaiting a response.

Just as the beautiful spring bulbs and hellebores are blooming on the station bank community garden, the N2 Gardeners are having to spend time with litter pickers harvesting empty drink cans. Is there any chance of a common-sense solution of a temporary bin being installed immediately and a permanent solution very soon indeed? Please.

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Ways to overcome loneliness

By Morgan Saunders

"Are you lonesome tonight?" asked Elvis Presley. According to a Gransnet poll last year, three quarters of older people in the UK would answer yes. Loneliness may appear trivial when compared to life-threatening medical conditions. In reality, it can be a silent killer.

During periods of loneliness, more stress hormones are released, which amplifies the risk of arthritis, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, dementia and suicide. Researchers from Brigham Young University found that social isolation increases your risk of death by up to 60%. So what can be done?

Befriending

"Inclusion is key to addressing loneliness. Befriending offers a vital lifeline," says Sian Jones, who helps run the successful face-to-face befriending scheme at Age UK Barnet.

Over 70 local volunteers visit older house-bound people in their homes for a cup of tea and a chat. Volunteers have also accompanied their senior friends to doctor's appointments and theatre performances. A telephone befriending service is also offered.

Varied activities

Group-based activities, many run at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, also help tackle loneliness. Age UK Barnet runs weekly Tai Chi classes, which have been proved to help prevent falls, reduce stress and offer arthritis pain relief.

Sixth form pupils from Bishop Douglass School and Christ's College Finchley run digital literacy classes. The teenagers teach web surfing, e-commerce, e-mail, and online scam prevention. As a result, the digital divide is narrowed and the opportunities for inclusion dramatically expand.

Engaging known groups in the community is another way to combat loneliness. Opening Doors and Age UK Barnet have collaborated to run advice sessions and social events for LGBT people aged 50 and over.

For more information on Age UK Barnet's activities call 020 8203 5040 or email info@ageukbarnet.org.uk. For more information on Opening Doors call 020 7239 0400 or email info@openingdoorslondon.org.uk



Peter Barnett (right) with Paul Jones. Photo Mike Coles

Fishmonger hooks London accolade

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley fishmonger A Scott and Son has been rated as one of the best in the capital by Time Out London. For the last seven years it has been run by Peter Barnett with his assistant of 25 years Paul Jones.

Originally set up 70 years ago at 94 High Road, the shop's current name derives from the owners who ran it in the 1980s. It reached a height of popularity not long after that, much of it due to parents of children attending a nearby Japanese school. This trade was lost when the families followed the school's move to west London.

Mouth-watering praise

However, the establishment did not lose its reputation as a fishmonger of distinction, which has been underlined by this latest accolade from Time Out London.

The guide commented: "From its maritime blue awning to its ice-bedded displays of flappingly fresh seafood, Scott's is an archetypal neighbourhood fishmonger with years of experience under its collective apron."

"An ever-changing line-up covers everything from oysters, mussels and clams to monkfish,

red snapper and sashimi-grade tuna, while jars of pickled herrings, frozen fishcakes, undyed smoked haddock and bundles of fresh samphire bulk out the shop's wide-ranging offer."

Community involvement

As well as keeping customers happy, Peter plays a prominent role in community affairs. It was because of his long-term persistent badgering of Barnet Council that pizza delivery scooters were no longer allowed to park for free in the bays outside Budgens, thus freeing up parking for potential customers to shops and traders.

Peter is a founder-member of the local business network N2United and is a regular supporter of local school and community events. He told us that he is on first-name terms with many of his customers. "I've had a very happy time here," he said. "East Finchley really is a lovely place to be."



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YOUNG ARCHER



Celebrations: The Archer Academy upper school dancers won first prize...

Students sweep the board in creative and performing arts

Teams of students from the Archer Academy in East Finchley came home with all the top prizes from two major dance and drama competitions. Two teams from the upper and lower school won first place in both their categories in the Barnet Dance Competition for the second year running. The judges noted that "the mixed gender casts stood out against the mainly all girl dance groups".

The teams will now go on to represent Barnet in the London Youth Games at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in east London. At the same time, The Archer Players were among 18 schools who took part in the prestigious Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival, again with two teams representing the upper and lower school. Both teams took first place and will now go on to national competitions in the summer.

The drama teams both

focused on feminism, issues of equality and the significance of one's own actions. The adjudicators said the junior players performed "a spectacular piece of theatre" and the senior players "held their audience in a silent state". Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: "I am so very proud of all the staff and students involved in the drama and dance competitions. I can't wait to see what the teams do next in the London and national finals."



... and so did the school's lower school drama group.

Comic on stage for cerebral palsy

Comedian James Acaster will perform a one-off show on this month in aid of the Bobath Centre's early intervention scheme that provides free clinical assessments and therapy for babies at risk of cerebral palsy.

The Bobath Centre in East End Road, N2, provides specialist physio, occupational and speech and language therapy to reduce the effects of the condition.

James is a TV regular on *Have I Got News for You*, *Mock the Week* and *8 Out of 10 Cats*, and has toured extensively with his solo show. He will be appearing at the Jackson's Lane, Archway Road, N6, on Wednesday 25 April at 8pm. Tickets priced £20 are available from: www.jacksonslane.org.uk/whats-on/james-acaster or by contacting the box office on 020 8341 4421.



James Acaster

Find your way into film

The Phoenix Cinema is launching a new project called Making Images: Art into Industry designed to introduce young people aged 16 to 19 to all aspects of the film industry.

The students will have an opportunity to make and exhibit their own films, meaning the project is particularly suitable for students of Film, Media, Art and Photography. They will learn about production, distribution, exhibition, and audience development.

It will run for nine months starting on 24 April. The course is fully funded and there will be no cost for the students taking part.

The course will include sessions with experienced tutors, access to a professional filmmaker, workshops with film industry professionals, expert advice from the Phoenix and an exclusive opportunity to curate a screening at the Phoenix.

If you'd like to get involved email education@phoenixcinema.co.uk or call 020 3074 1967.



Silver medallists: The Coldfall Primary table tennis team finished second in the regional finals.

Young players among England's best

After a very successful year of training and competition, the table tennis team from Coldfall Primary School in Muswell Hill have finished in the top eight in England for players under 11. The team members were Sam Gabriel, Noah Hacking, Josh Tiley-Hill, all from year five, and Ishay Haim, from year six.

They fought their way through the London finals in January and the South of England regional finals in Bristol in February to earn their place well inside England's top ten. Ishay Haim said: "Although we didn't finish first and were disappointed, we had a lot of fun and tried our best."

Evelyn Davies, head-

teacher of Coldfall Primary School, said: "It wasn't long ago that we invested in three outdoor tables and four indoor ones and the response has been phenomenal, engaging so many pupils who had never previously picked up a bat. We are super proud of the team for their phenomenal achievement."



Special effects: The Popcorn group youngsters sing while on a green screen 'magic carpet'.

Screen magic for young performers

A new Saturday morning film and theatre workshop is proving popular with its young members who get a chance to practise their performance skills for stage and video.

POPCORN is aimed at children aged five to 11 and runs at the Archer Academy in Eagans Close for two and a half hours on Saturday mornings during term time.

The young performers sing songs from musicals, read poems, play games, dance and film themselves with exciting special effects like a green screen.

Eden Edlin, aged six, said: "When my mummy told me about POPCORN Film and Theatre Workshop, I thought

it sounded like it would be so much fun and I was very excited. We are going to make a film of us all performing which will be shown at the Phoenix Cinema during the summer. I cannot wait to see myself on the big screen."

POPCORN Film and Theatre Workshop is running a 12-week Film Stars Workshop starting on Saturday 21 April. Find more information at www.popcorn-workshop.co.uk or contact group leader Debs on 07932 686139.

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My childhood in the world of the RAF

The centenary of the Royal Air Force this month is evoking many memories for our writer Diana Cormack. Here she shares a few with us:

When people ask where I'm from, it's not a question I can really answer. My mother was a former member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and I was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, her home town. As a teenager I ended up in west Wales when my father retired from the Royal Air Force to his original village. The time in between was spent at various RAF bases. We lived for approximately two years on each, both here and abroad.

In those far off days, before league tables and suchlike, we were sent to the nearest school. At some, RAF children were regarded as gypsies and my brother was bullied because of this. I just sailed through it all, making new friends and developing the ability to find my way quickly around unfamiliar settings.

Pfennig for the guy

In Germany, when I was eight, my mother used to send me shopping for vegetables in the local market. For Bonfire Night we British kids would collect the then customary 'Penny for the guy'. This included German houses where our 'Pfennig for the guy' request was rarely refused, though I doubt they knew what it was all about!

We were used to our father flying off to various parts of the world, often for indiscriminate lengths of time, with Mum left in charge. Once my baby sister didn't recognise him, he'd been away so long. Dad brought back interesting presents and talked



Diana's father Flight Sergeant Jack Boyd in 1940, home after being evacuated from St Nazaire. Taken in his home town of Llandeilo.

about the places he'd been, so we learned their names and looked for them on the globe. Some are now international airports.

Memories, not memorabilia

To us, living in married quarters on a military base meant being part of a separate society with access only via the Guard Room. Everything each household needed was provided and our frequent moves meant regular clear-outs, so I have no memorabilia from those days.

But I do have many memories, particularly of those things which added to my character in a number of ways. I still feel affinity with the RAF Family and am grateful for what it brought me. So happy 100th birthday, RAF. Over and out!

Phoenix Film Club flies again with Hedy's bombshell story

By Neil McNaughton

After a long period in 'hibernation' the Phoenix Film Club restarted in March with a highly successful meeting organised by East Finchley resident David Gritten, the celebrated film critic and writer.

Screening biopic *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story* proved to be an excellent choice as the lively discussion, which followed in the cinema's café, had about 50 film enthusiasts packing in to share their thoughts about the film and the ultimately sad story of Lamarr's life.

It revealed the way in which the Hollywood 'star system' worked in the 1940s, how the story resonates today in the light of the Harvey Weinstein revelations and concerns about how women are still treated in the entertainment industry.

Pioneer work in WW2

It was not all doom and gloom, however, as the film was a fascinating and at times entertaining insight into Lamarr's life, full of rare, unseen footage and interview material. Many members of the audience commented that they had no idea about her 'other' career, as an engineer and inventor, especially the fact that she was a pioneer in the field of secret codes and encryption during the Second World War, work for which she received little recognition or monetary reward.

It was generally agreed that, had Lamarr been a man, and had her career been managed more effectively, the full story of her contribution to both film and technology would be better known. Others commented that they had not realised how exploited she was. Her story proved to be all too familiar in that period as the tragic experiences of Marilyn Monroe, Greta Garbo and Jean Harlow proved.

Film Club to be a fixture

Meetings of the Film Club will now become a monthly feature of the Phoenix's programme. *The Archer* and the



Double life: Phoenix Film Group members discussed *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*

cinema itself will keep residents informed about future events. The Hedy Lamarr story was a great start and it is to be hoped

that word will spread that East Finchley is once again at the centre of north London's cultural life.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Lost leader

It's that time of year again. Formula One is back complete with the roar of racing engines, the squeal of brakes and the whine of prima donnas making excuses. They've got through the first race and now they are soaking up the money in Bahrain. But how many of them realise it's 50 years since a Scottish sheep farmer crashed in the rain, in a German forest, and how many of them will even know his name? The thing is, I do and it's about time you did too.

Back then Jim Clark was one driver everyone reckoned was simply the best, the man to beat. He might have been a self-effacing Lowland Scot from a farming family, but behind the wheel of a car he was lightning quick. He'd started in club racing, then drove sports cars and was signed to drive for Lotus in 1960.

Over the next eight seasons he competed in 72 Grands Prix, won 25 of them, along with two World Championships, the Indy 500, the British Saloon Car Championship and much, much more. This may not sound like much today, but it took 25 years for anyone to beat his record of seven GP wins in a season. And when Clark did it in 1963 there were only 10 races. Eat your heart out, Lewis Hamilton.

But there was more to Clark than wins. He was never arrogant, there was none of the Senna out of my way bullying or Schumacher and team orders. Jimmy didn't need them, he was just too good for that.

Back then it was a different world, one where motor racing was genuinely dangerous. There were no run-off areas, no crash barriers and drivers didn't wear seat belts until 1969. But Jimmy didn't have accidents... until Sunday 7 April 1968 at Hockenheim in Germany, that is.

It was a Formula Two race, it was raining, the tyres weren't working and one of them failed. And out in the damp woods, amongst the pine trees, the greatest driver of his age slid off the road and hit a tree. Not even his monumental skill could save him. As Ferrari driver Chris Amon said at the time: "It seemed that we'd lost our leader." So a minute's silence before the flag falls, please. It's the least Clark deserves.

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- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **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. 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 beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.
- **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
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
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- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
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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.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
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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**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Dave Herbert



Martyn Peters



Paul Tomlinson

Live music on stage at the Stag

This month sees the first birthday of the popular open mic sessions at the Bald Faced Stag in the High Road. Photographer Judit Varga took these photos of some of the performers who have entertained there in the last 12 months.

They happen on Thursdays from 8pm but there was a specially extended first birthday session that kicked off at 6pm on Thursday 5 April with another great line-up of musicians and plenty of celebratory cake.

Actor Shereen Roushbaiani organises and hosts the sessions and has performed herself. You can get involved by emailing her at shereen16@hotmail.co.uk or find more information on Twitter @ Stag_Sessions

Shereen Roushbaiani: "Stag Sessions gave me a platform to face my fears and enjoy singing again. It's very exciting having so much talent in one room and the crowds are growing each time."

Dave Herbert: "I love performing at the Stag Sessions because of all the

fabulous musicians and talent we get to hear. And it's in such a great environment, hosted by Shereen who has so much enthusiasm and energy it seems to bring the best out of all the performers. Plus there's great food and it's only a hop skip and a jump from the tube."

Paul Tomlinson: "I'm a hobbyist folk player interested in the craft of playing and focused on improving technical and performing ability. Stag Sessions are great because they attract strong musicians, which is an incentive to practise, and because of the friendly party atmosphere."

Martyn Peters: Originally from North Wales, singer, song writer and multi-instrumentalist Martyn Peters is now firmly a resident of London and is currently promoting his debut album



Shereen Roushbaiani

Veins. "It was the first time I played at the Stag but I'll definitely be back; a lovely, lively atmosphere, fantastic acts with a wide variety of different styles."



Women shine through

Creators Denise Wyllie and Clare O'Hagan built a printed textile artwork called *Whitework* to celebrate Women's Day last month. The exhibition, entitled "Threads", was curated by Renee Rilexie at Espacio Gallery in Bethnal Green. It invited participants to choose a thread from the wide tapestry of their lives and gently unravel it. Denise, from East Finchley, and Clare shone a light on Rosalind Franklin, a British scientist who contributed to our knowledge about the structure of DNA. Franklin died at the age of 37 in 1958 without ever learning of the importance of her contribution.

The Threads exhibition drew to a close on 18 March but you will be able to see "Whitework" at the Black Gull bookshop in the High Road, East Finchley. Find more information at www.wyllieohagan.com.

White work: Denise Wyllie with her textile creation

What's On...

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

Thursday 12 to Saturday 14 April

- **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents **A Woman of No Importance**, Oscar Wilde's classic play about a family secret; King Alfred Phoenix Theatre, North End Road, NW11. Evening performances 7.30pm with matinee on 14 April at 2.30pm. Tickets £13/£11. Book tickets at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.
- **Saturday 14 April**
- **Pond Day at Long Lane Pasture**, opposite the fire station, Long Lane, N3, 10am to 12 noon. Discover tadpoles, newts, water beetles, pond skaters, caddisfly larvae and water snails. Pond trays, nets and help with identification available.
- **Captain Calamity Science Show**, a fun performance of magic, science and bubbles suitable for children aged three

and above; Lauderdale House, Highgate, 10.30am. More information and tickets at www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Sunday 15 April

- **The Solarek Piano Trio** plays works of great but forgotten women composers, including Johanna Senfter and Lili Boulanger; 6pm at St Cuthbert's Church, West Hampstead, NW2 3TN; tickets available at door, priced £10 (£8 concessions) including glass of wine/fruit juice.
- **Saturday 21 April**
- **Haringey Dog Watch walk**; enjoy an informal hour's walk in the company of community police officers Stef and Avra, and other dog walkers; meet 10.30am at Farmers' Market entrance, Alexandra Palace Way, N22.
- **Until Tuesday 22 April**
- **Happy Warriors**, new play by James

- Hugh Macdonald. As war rages in Europe in 1944, Evelyn Waugh and Randolph Churchill are billeted in a Yugoslavian farmhouse with a belligerent young housekeeper. What could possibly go right?
- **Upstairs at the Gatehouse**, The Gatehouse pub, Highgate; Tuesdays to Saturdays 7.30pm, Sundays 4pm. Tickets from www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com
- **Thursday 26 April**
- **The Finchley Society** hosts **Don't Lose your Way - The Campaign to Save our Footpaths**, a talk by Roger Chapman; 8pm. Venue to be decided. Everyone welcome. £2 for entry and refreshments for non-members. Find out more at www.finchleysociety.org.uk
- **Age UK Barnet Spring Quiz** to raise funds for local charity. Enter a team of eight or join

one of the Age UK Barnet social teams of staff, volunteers and clients; 7pm at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. Entry £10 per person, which includes a home-made lasagne. For more information call Wendy on 020 8432 1415 or email community@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

• **Clark Tracey Quintet celebrates 40 Years in Jazz**; Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8.30pm. Clark Tracey won Best Drummer award at the British Jazz Awards 2017. More information and tickets at www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Sunday 6 May

• **Dawn Chorus at Long Lane Pasture**, opposite fire station, Long Lane, N3; meet at Gazebo 4.45am - 5am. Come and hear the symphony, help identify the birds and watch the sun and mist rise over pasture and pond.



Ian Stone



Geoff Norcott



Hal Cruttenden



Jo Caulfield

Stand-up night will be laugh a minute

Tickets are on sale for what promises to be a night of first-class comedy when the Archer Academy secondary school transforms the Phoenix Cinema into a stand-up venue again.

Ian Stone, a parent at the school and voted as one of the top ten UK stand-up comedians by *The Independent*, will host the evening for the fourth year running on Monday 14 May, raising funds for school activities and equipment.

This year he will be joined by Hal Cruttenden (*Mock the Week*, *Live at the Apollo*), Geoff Norcott (*Live at the Apollo*, *The Mash Report*) and Jo Caulfield (*Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, *The Stand-up Show*).

Ian Stone said: "There is always such a great atmosphere at this event at the Phoenix. It's a

great night to be involved in and hopefully we'll bring people some great comedy."

Lucy Harrison, headteacher at the school in Eagans Close, N2, added: "This is one of the highlights in the Archer Academy's calendar and we are delighted to be working with Ian Stone to bring this fabulous event to the local community again."

Tickets cost £25.00 plus booking fee and are available at tinyurl.com/archercomedy2018. Doors open at 8.30pm for a 9pm show. Please note that the event is for over 18s only.

Coming soon: Proms at St Jude's 2018

Proms at St Jude's, the annual music and literary festival in Hampstead Garden Suburb, has announced an impressive programme for its 2018 season.

Classical music lovers can choose from the Aurora Orchestra, which plays from memory, Nevill Holt Opera performing *The Marriage of Figaro*, award-winning local mezzo-soprano Grace Davidson with the renowned Academy of Ancient Music, the Kanneh-Mason Piano Trio, featuring Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year, and a traditional 'Last Night of the Proms', with singing of *Jerusalem* and sea shanties.

If you prefer something different, the line-up this year also offers a tribute to Bob Dylan, a Gilbert & Sullivan evening, a brass septet, and a jazz-influenced concert, including songs from the Great American Songbook and cabaret songs by Kurt Weill.

There are free lunchtime concerts and some special events for children and families. The festival also offers Heritage Walks, a two-day Literary Festival and, for the first time this

year, a stand-up comedy night.

Proms at St Jude's is run almost entirely by volunteers, with all surplus going to charity. It runs from 23 June to 1 July,



Young musicians: The Kanneh-Mason Piano Trio

at St Jude's Church, Central Square, NW11 7AH. Tickets go on sale from 23 April, but you can get priority booking earlier by becoming a Friend. More details at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk.



Playing from memory: The Aurora Orchestra. Photo Nick Rutter

Letters

Make the most of our library

Dear Editor,

When I visit East Finchley Library, I often see library card holders turned away for not having a PIN number allowing them to enter in 'unattended hours'. Last Saturday afternoon a mum and her two young daughters were only allowed in due to my insistence.

Yes, the system is wrong, the hours are too short and evening hours are minimal. Can I urge *Archer* readers to come in during staffed hours and register for a PIN number to use during the unattended hours? So many people seem not to be aware of the need to do this.

East Finchley Library is alive and open, I am pleased to report, in many ways unchanged, and with new toilets, excellent books and great librarians. I've been critical of the library changes in Barnet and still am but do visit and enjoy yourself, with your PIN number.

Yours faithfully,

**Brian Ingram,
Brookland Rise, NW11.**

Editor's note: East Finchley Library staffed hours are: Monday 9am-12.30pm, Wednesday 2pm-8pm, Thursday 2-5pm and Saturday 9am-12.30pm.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"

**The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 2DE or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.**

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

Insights into an unexpected rise to power

By Daphne Chamberlain

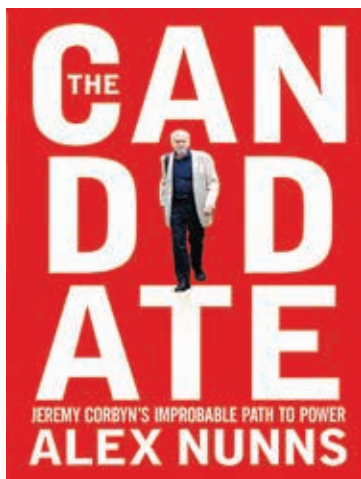
Young, old, and stages in between, all crowded into the Black Gull bookshop in the High Road last month to hear author Alex Nunns talking about his updated edition of *The Candidate: Jeremy Corbyn's Improbable Path to Power*.

The first edition, winner of the Bread and Roses Award, was published in November 2016 and covered Corbyn's rise to leadership of the Labour Party. This new edition obviously includes last year's snap General Election.

Questions ...

Reviews calling it "a really riveting read" and "like a political thriller" are not wrong. It's well written and carefully referenced. Alex Nunns takes us behind the scenes as

the UK's political world was turned upside down. How did a man who was a very well-liked and respected, but personally unambitious, backbench MP for 32 years, suddenly become his party's leader? How did he then survive a coup, a leadership challenge and a 25-point opinion poll deficit to lead that



party to a 40% share of the national vote?

... and answers

Nunns has a three-part answer to his questions: the national Party membership had turned against New Labour, the unions had moved left, and there was a great surge of energy in society against economic austerity. People wanted to take an active part in politics, and could do that easily now with social media. New legislation allowed non-Party members to register to vote, and limited MPs to one person, one vote.

All this produced results which completely confounded the expectations of Westminster, political commentators and most of the media, who were shown to be completely out of touch. People voted for



Alex Nunns talks about his book *'The Candidate'* at Black Gull Books. Photo Mike Coles

the "unelectable".

Alex Nunns spoke well at the Black Gull, giving intriguing glimpses of life

behind the headlines.

The Candidate is published by OR Books. ISBN 9 781682 191040.



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Emma unleashes her hidden power

When your mum is the British national champion at deadlifting incredibly heavy weights, there are some questions that must be answered. First among them is: "Mum, could you pick up my teacher?" Yes, definitely. Followed by: "So could you pick up my whole class?" Er, not quite.

This is what five-year-old Martin Primary school pupil Eliza wanted to know from her mother Emma Whiteman, who recently lifted 160kg or 25st 3lbs to win her weight class at the British Drug Free Powerlifting Association national championships.

Fitness plus

Emma, of Chandos Road, N2, also has a three-year-old son Noah. She says: "Eliza and

Noah see what I do and I hope it shows them what you can do when you keep yourself healthy and fit. For me personally, deadlifting gives me a huge amount of confidence and a real feeling of power."

Emma entered the sport only three years ago when she got a taste for weightlifting as part of a general fitness programme at Funxion Junction, off King Street in East Finchley. She loved it so much that she found a coach who introduced her to a dedicated training programme.

"I wanted to get fit so that I could keep up with the kids," says Emma. "I'm generally average in everything I do but I found something in deadlifting that I can do well. Now having the chance to represent my country is a dream come true."

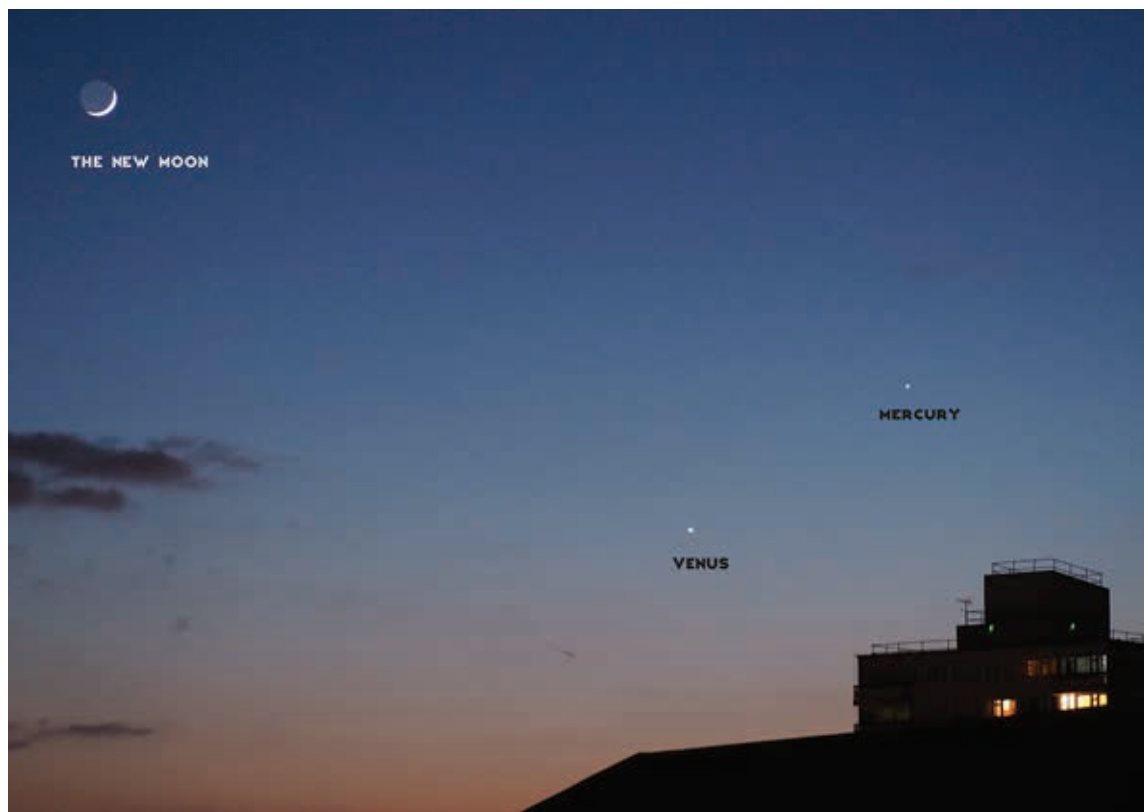
World Championships

Emma, who trains at 5am before the school run, will be lifting for Britain at the World Championships in Malta in June. There she will be aiming to lift 170kg but her ultimate aim is to beat the world record, which currently stands at 192.5kg or 30st 4lbs. Follow her on Instagram @north_london_lifter



Weight for it: Emma prepares to lift 160kg

Emma adds: "I'd encourage anyone to try powerlifting for themselves as long as they learn the proper technique. The great thing now is that weights rooms are no longer just full of men. At least a third of the people in there these days are women."



Venus and Mercury rising

The new moon in the old moon's arms, top left, sails above the planet Venus, lower centre, and the planet Mercury, above and to the right of Venus, in this magical shot of a twilight sky above East Finchley. The roof of the Jamatkhana in East End Road

and the top of one of the Prospect Ring towers are in the foreground. Thanks to John Dearing for the photo taken on at 7pm on 19 March from the second floor balcony of Viceroy Close above Budgens.

A shameful family secret

The Garden Suburb Theatre company will perform Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* at a new venue for them, the King Alfred Phoenix Theatre on North End Road, near Golders Hill Park, NW11.

This classic play is as fresh and relevant today as it was over 100 years ago. A house party is in full swing at Lady Hunstanton's stately country home. One of the guests, Gerald Arbuthnot, is overjoyed when the suave Lord Illingworth offers him employment as his secretary. His mother, however, implores him to refuse this opportunity.

Should she reveal the shameful secret that she has kept hidden for 20 years and possibly destroy her beloved son's happiness forever? How can she tell Gerald that, contrary to appearances, Lord Illingworth is a 'man of no importance'?

Performances take place from 12-14 April at 7.30pm, with a matinee on 14 April at 2.30pm. Tickets at £13/£11 are bookable at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

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