

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Patients rush to register as surgery shuts

Patients at the Cherry Tree Surgery in Southern Road, N2, have been forced to register with a new GP after receiving letters informing them that their doctor had resigned and the practice was closing by December 31.

With 3,268 patients listed on the surgery's website, they were given a list of 86 alternative practices "within a three mile radius of the Cherry Tree Surgery and close to where you live" (although some seemed rather distant).

Not surprisingly, people were soon queuing to register at their nearest surgery, East Finchley Medical Centre in Baronsmere Road. The professional way staff there dealt with the situation was admirable, some being specially assigned to assist applicants with the necessary form-filling.

'No option' but to resign

Many people were upset and in disbelief at the news that Dr Sergio De Cesare, their popular doctor at the Cherry Tree Surgery, had resigned. The letter they received from the Head of Primary Care NHS stated: "This has been a difficult decision for Dr De Cesare but due to the outcome of the inspections and changes to his status as a GP, Dr De Cesare feels he now has no option but to resign from his contract, to enable him to focus on returning fully to practise as a GP."

CQC reports raise questions

Last year's June and November editions of *The Archer* reported on two previous Care Quality Commission inspections which, despite time and additional support for improvement being instigated, did not result in a turnaround.

A rating of 'inadequate' was applied to categories of safety, effectiveness, responsiveness and leadership, and the caring aspect was judged to be 'requiring improvement'.

Some patients who read this and also the full CQC reports could not marry them up with the doctor they knew and respected. Dr De Cesare was regarded by many as one of the best in the area and people are puzzled as to why there is little mention of actual medical care. They also suspect that single-handed practitioners are no longer looked upon favourably.

Indeed, one of the conditions imposed on Dr De Cesare states that "he needs to be supervised by another doctor to continue practising". This has not proved to be possible at Cherry Tree Surgery.



Read all about it: Siobhan and Vasco D'Gama take *The Archer* to Easter Island.

Stone me! Is that a copy of The Archer?

This month *The Archer* celebrates 25 years of bringing news to readers in East Finchley but if this picture is anything to go by it seems our circulation area might be spreading beyond the boundaries of N2. Turn to our silver jubilee coverage on pages 6-7 to find out more.

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

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

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Independent Age 0800 319 6789

Age UK (general advice line)

0800 169 2081

Who keeps an eye on the planners?

Mary Hogben is an architect who has lived in East Finchley since 1975. Here she writes about her work for the Finchley Society monitoring planning applications for the N2 area.

As a committee, we discuss cases we might comment on, and aim to have a consistent approach. If they are to be considered at all, our comments must be strictly related to Planning Legislation and Barnet Council Policy. It has to be more than 'I don't like the look of that'! So there is a lot of checking drawings against all the official documents to see if there are contraventions. My many years as a practising architect certainly help.

'Urban' East Finchley

Being at the southern edge of the Finchleys, East Finchley has a more urban feel to it than the other, quintessentially suburban areas. Residents have worked hard to retain the varied and vibrant High Road and protect

some of our heritage. A rewarding aspect of my role is meeting members of the Community, and discovering East Finchley residents' huge range of talent and interest in local issues.

The pace of change has speeded up, however, and is being reflected in applications we are now seeing for prime sites along the High Road. Developers are trying to get as much as possible onto sites under the pretext of 'city centre' living.

GLH site proposal

The proposed development for the GLH site has received a lot of attention from both the Finchley Society and local people who will be directly affected.

With the support of our local



Monitor: Mary Hogben

councillor, we managed to have the application referred up from the Area Committee last January to Full Planning Committee in February. Then, when it was approved only by the Chair's casting vote, they referred it back for further discussion as there were serious flaws in the process. For the third time, on 26 July we spoke against the development and again it was passed only with the Chair's casting vote. We had full support from Labour committee members, but the Conservative members favoured the developer.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

Bishops Corner, 28 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing building and construction of two-storey building, with rooms in roof space and basement level to provide eight self-contained units. Associated parking

21 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing rear conservatory. Relocation of shed.

1 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Part single, part two-storey rear extension. Conversion of garage into habitable room, with changes to front elevation. Roof extension involving one rear dormer window, one rear roof light, and two front roof lights.

1 Hampstead Heights, N2

Change of windows. Repainting

existing cladding to mid grey.

54 High Road, fronting Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Five pop-up shipping containers for A1 use, and one internally illuminated fascia sign, to rear of property.

19 Sylvester Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window.

32 Sylvester Road, N2

First-storey rear extension, following demolition of chimney. Roof extension, including one rear dormer with Juliet balcony, following removal of one rear rooflight and insertion of two front roof lights.

Haringey Council

31 Church Vale, N2

Single-storey side extension, demolition of conservatory, and erection of single-storey rear

extension. Increased width of existing side dormer and new first-floor Juliet balcony.

25 Eastern Road, N2

Rear dormer, three front roof lights, new front porch roof, and ground and second-floor side windows. Demolition of existing front wall, and new asphalt finish to front driveway.

17 Lauradale Road, N2

Single-storey extension, extending beyond rear wall of original house by 4m. Certificate of lawfulness for rear roof dormer, three front roof lights, and minor alteration to rear elevation, for which maximum height would be 3m and eaves height 3m.

71 Twyford Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension with glazed roof lantern and modified glazing to existing rear door.

Call for Civic Award nominations

Nominations close at the end of this month for the 2018 Barnet Civic Awards, giving people a chance to reward individuals and groups who make a difference to people's lives. This year there are four categories: young citizen of the year, outstanding service to the community, business award and lifetime achievement award.

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Brian Salinger said: "If you know someone who is selfless, kind and dedicated to their community, then why not nominate them?"

To find out more go to www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards. Nominations close on 31 January.

Budget consultation

Barnet Council is seeking residents' views on its budget and savings proposals as part of the 2018/19 budget consultation. There is forecast to be a £6.7 million budget gap by 2020.

The council claims it has saved more than £144 million between 2010 and 2017 and points out that council tax bills have not increased in that time. Have your say on future budget proposals online at engage.barnet.gov.uk before Sunday 14 January.

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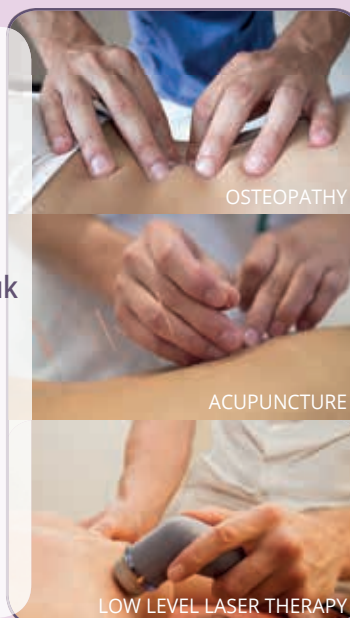
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Welcome to Probus!

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 17 January
Thomas Grant QC reviews defence lawyer Jeremy Hutchinson's most famous cases: Profumo/Keeler, Lady Chatterley, spies Vassall & Blake, *Last Tango in Paris* and Mary Whitehouse.
Details from Eric (8449 0566).



The Old Barn building site in November. Photo Mike Coles



How the new community centre might look when it's finished

Building work begins on new community centre

By Janet Maitland

Construction work has finally started on the new community centre in Tarring Road, N2. Its much-loved predecessor the Old Barn has been crushed and used in the foundations for the new building.

Despite the long delays, it is still not known who will run the centre, how the space will be used and how it will operate on a day-to-day basis. Barnet Council told us that the user group, which includes local people, will be consulted about all these decisions.

In December, the council sent out invitations to potential management organisations to express an interest in running the centre. We asked the council if it was still their intention to appoint a community group rather than a commercial organisation to manage the centre and pay a reduced rent. They said they were looking for an experienced organisation which would pay a rent "calculated to ensure the centre is self-sustainable".

We also asked if they still planned to lease half of the building to the Somali Bra-

vanese Welfare Association in order to restore the space they lost in the arson attack on their centre in Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, in June 2013. "This is the only commitment the council has made," said the spokesperson. "The chosen management organisation will be expected to fulfil it."

Community use essential

It will be up to the management organisation, in consultation with the user group, to

select who else can run services at the centre. Potential core users include a theatre group, an after-school club and a music school.

"By this time next year we should have a brand new community building, a real phoenix, on the site of the Old Barn," said East Finchley councillor Alison Moore. "It's important that as well as the core organisations who will underpin the centre's financial sustainability, there is

still space for local community use."

Julia Hines from the Grange Big Local also stressed how vital it is that the centre can be enjoyed by everyone, saying: "The Old Barn has been sorely missed, and we so need community space that is available for low-cost and free activities. We're really pleased that the council has included space for a community café. It'll be the heart of the centre."

Speed warning signs attempt to calm traffic on cut-through

New traffic control measures have been installed on Church Lane, N2, in response to the concerns of residents who witnessed two crashes in the space of one week in what is supposed to be a 20mph zone (The Archer, November 2017).

East Finchley's neighbourhood police team carried out a speed monitoring operation in the wake of the collisions. They reported that the majority of drivers were surprised to discover they were over the limit by driving at 25-30mph.

Councillors Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra took residents' concerns to Barnet Council, who



Take aim: A police officer monitors driving speeds on Church Lane.

responded by improving signage along the road that is heavily used as a cut-through between East End Road and the High Road. New signs reading '20' and 'Slow' were painted on the road surface at key points.

Church Lane has long been a problem thoroughfare. It turns from two-way to one-way, has a blind spot over the railway bridge, then runs for a long,

narrow downhill stretch to a difficult bend at the junction with King Street.

Parked cars have been damaged by speeding motorists and in some cases cars have demolished front garden walls. Residents and parents walking their children to and from Martin Primary School say they feel unsafe using the narrow pavements.

Search is on for little helpers

By Hilary Townley

Last month the East Finchley winter festivities that for five years have included carol singing, stalls and street entertainment took a rest and it's become clear that everyone, traders and community alike, really missed them.

In 2018 we hope to celebrate again but this time with a difference. To make it work we need to spread the festive load a little more, so it won't surprise you to learn that we are looking for volunteers.

To organise this year's celebrations we would like to form the Christmas 2018 Committee involving the N2United business network, traders and members of the community.

We are asking for one person from every five to 10 businesses along the High Road, East End Road and Church Lane to step up

and be festively counted. They would only be responsible for co-ordinating activities with the few businesses on either side. So, everyone will be involved, but with very little to do!

The more people who get involved, the easier the organisa-

tion will become and the more fun will be had. Please get in touch with us via *The Archer* if you want all of East Finchley's trading streets to become centres for celebration in December 2018. Email: the-archer@line-one.net.

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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.

Dark nights

Our Autumn Nights Operation had high visibility patrols throughout the evenings during the Halloween and bonfire night period to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime, and discourage burglars from our residential streets.

PCs John and Phil made several stop and searches during the evenings in Market Place and Cherry Tree Wood where advice and cannabis warning notices were given.

Home security

Residential burglary is our highest crime in East Finchley. Barnet police are working on a variety of operations to disrupt and catch burglars during this seasonal increase. Those of you who are considering getting a house alarm, do take a look at www.which.com for recommendations. The offer of Home Security visits is still open. If you would like one to email me with a phone number to arrange an appointment. Visits take between 15-45 minutes.

Keep warm and well

The Keep Warm and Well scheme run by Barnet Council can provide residents struggling to keep warm in their homes with essential advice as well as practical assistance. We would also like to encourage all Barnet residents to look out for their vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours. Make sure they are warm enough and have stocks of food and medicines so they don't need to go out during very cold weather.

If you know anyone who lives in a cold and draughty home, please ask them to contact the Keep Warm and Well scheme so we can provide them with necessary assistance. You can also contact the scheme on their behalf. It is quick and easy. Call 020 8359 7441 or email winterwell@barnet.gov.uk.



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Life savers: Volunteers registering two potential donors in Muswell Hill. Photo Jenny Hearn.

Desperate plea for stem cell donors to save 2,000 lives

By Diana Cormack

The plight of an 11-year-old girl, called Evie, who desperately needs a second blood stem cell transplant to save her life, inspired local parents to set up a special registration event. On 9 December in St James' Church, Muswell Hill, volunteers aged 17-55 had swabs taken from the inside of their cheeks to check for the all-important cells.

Searching for a match

To be considered a match, donor and patient must share the same tissue characteristics. Details of these are listed anonymously on a register, available for worldwide use, but a severe shortage of registered donors makes the probability of finding a match very low even between close family members.

After an attempt with the Anthony Nolan Trust, it is hoped that Evie, from Surrey, will find a match with DKMS (Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei), an international non-profit organisation which is one of the world's largest donor centres. It was set up

by a German doctor in 1991 following his wife's death from leukaemia.

A gift of hope

Evie's mother wrote this moving appeal to would-be donors: "As a mum, when your child isn't well, we are supposed to kiss it better for them. Not being able to do that is the hardest thing in the world, the feeling of helplessness is huge, it's heart-breaking. The realisation that your child's life rests in the hands of a stranger is very difficult.

"I have had to accept that I can care for and love Evie with all my heart but only a stranger can save her life and

give her hope of a future, give her a chance of growing up and becoming a woman. What better gift is there to give? A gift of hope, a gift of life, it doesn't get bigger than that. Imagine the feeling knowing that by donating your cells YOU have given someone hope of a future."

Donors needed

Nearly 140 potential donors responded to the December DKMS event but every year there are around 2,000 people searching for a donor. You could still be a lifesaving match for Evie or someone like her by registering online at www.dkms.org.uk/en/donor4evie or visit www.dkms.org.uk/en.

Roadside signs for scooter owners

The Met Police have begun placing kerbside warnings in strategic positions to keep moped and scooter owners alert to thieves. One has appeared on the High Road at the end of Bedford Road.

Pavements seem to be a new canvas for public notices. In Muswell Hill, pedestrians have seen eye-catching signs stencilled on the ground urging them to keep their mobile phones secure from thieves, who often mount the pavement on mopeds or scooters to snatch devices.

Burglary rate plummets with new marking liquid

By Janet Maitland

A dramatic fall in burglaries across the capital is being credited to a new product called SmartWater. The Met Police say that after giving away free packs of SmartWater to 287,000 households over the last two years they can now prove that burglaries have reduced by 25.3% compared to 2.5% in areas that have not been given this product.

Police plan to deliver 108,750 more packs over the next ten months.

So what is it? SmartWater is an invisible property-marking liquid that glows under ultra-violet light. Each bottle has a unique forensic signature. The householder registers their bottle of SmartWater with the police thereby ensuring that any property found with that particular marking is immediately identifiable. Police say that to date, the use of SmartWater has

resulted in a 100% conviction rate in court.

Two smart methods

So far, 488 free SmartWater packs have been delivered to East Finchley residents and a further 592 will be delivered over the next few months. You can find out more by going to www.met.police.uk/mettrace. If you want to buy a SmartWater pack go to <https://smartwater.com>. You have to become a member to buy one, which costs £59 per year.



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War memorial finally finds a home

By Thalia Pellegrini

Keen observers at East Finchley Library may notice a recently installed plaque on the right-hand wall as they enter. It lists the names of local men who lost their lives in the First World War. The plaque has had quite a journey and it is thanks to the determined efforts of local Councillor Arjun Mittra that it is there at all.

Barnet planning requirements ignored

The plaque was formerly part of the Royal British Legion on Brackenbury Road, N2. When that building was bought for re-development in 2013, Barnet planning officers made clear that the works could not commence until the plaque had been placed with the local council.

The developers were asked

returned in 2014. It then spent three years in a cupboard at Barnet Council while Cllr Mittra lobbied for its re-installation in East Finchley. But where? With the dedicated support of Barnet archivist Hugh Petrie, he discovered that the men commemorated were members of a non-conformist and non-Congregationalist group, and so a church was not deemed an



The war memorial plaque now restored to East Finchley library.

to remove the plaque safely and find a suitable new home for it within the local area, approved by Barnet Planning, before redevelopment work could begin. Unfortunately, these requirements were not met. The plaque was removed and donated to a plaque collector.

Cllr Mittra told *The Archer*: "I had to get the planning department to intervene and threaten the developer with enforcement action, as permission for the development was predicated on the plaque being put in council custody."

The plaque was eventually

appropriate place. East Finchley Library was decided upon as the men were said to have had a strong ethos about learning and education.

When asked what motivated him to retrieve the plaque, Cllr Mittra told us: "We owe a lasting duty to those who gave their lives for our liberty. It has been a labour of love for me over these last few years to ensure that those on the plaque are properly respected and commemorated. I am pleased all residents will be able to see it in its new location, and we truly will never forget them."



Counter measures: The digital security team visiting Bike and Run. Photo Nick Allan.

On guard against cyber crime

Traders and small businesses in East Finchley have been urged to protect themselves better against the threats of hacking, fraud and other cyber crime.

Headscratcher

By Oliver Skanberg-Tippen

This grid shows the position of the number of dots on a set of ten dominoes, with the dominoes themselves removed. Your challenge is to calculate the arrangement of the dominoes. Each domino is a pair of numbers, and no two dominoes are the same. Answer on page 10.

0	2	3	2
1	3	0	3
0	2	2	1
1	3	3	1
2	0	0	1

The London Digital Security Centre (LDSC) is a free service funded by the Mayor of London which invites businesses to complete a short questionnaire to help identify their risk and offers tailored advice in return.

Andrew Dismore, London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden, along with police representatives and East

Finchley councillors Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra, helped spread the word in the High Road late last year.

Jack Lemon, of the LDSC, said: "Our mission is to help businesses by advising on how to operate in a secure digital environment that will help businesses innovate and grow." For more information visit www.londondsc.co.uk.



Fossils for sale: Enthusiasts browse the stalls at the Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show.

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A gem of a show

Fossils millions of years old and intriguing mineral formations dazzled visitors to the Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show staged by the Finchley branch of the Amateur Geological Society in Trinity Church, North Finchley.

There were sharks teeth for sale and any number of semi-precious rocks, many ingeniously incorporated into desirable jewellery. The friendly society is always on the lookout for new members. Find out more at amgeosoc.wordpress.com.

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The Archer hits 25 years of neighbourhood news

The first edition of *The Archer* 25 years ago this month was a four-page black-and-white A4 issue, pictured below, which quickly became the essential source of truly local news for East Finchley and soon turned into the 12-page monthly newspaper it still is today. When *The Archer* was born in 1993, East Finchley and the country as a whole was in the thick of a recession. These extracts from an article in our second issue explain the thinking that brought the paper into life... and they are as relevant today as they were 25 years ago.

Local News is Our Aim

THE ARCHER

January 1993 Number 1 (Pilot)

Policing East Finchley

What a dangerous area we live in, no wonder the Insurance Companies treat East Finchley as a high risk area.

Today I attended a press briefing for the first time at Golders Green Police Station given by DO Ron Laveric and Sgt Bernard Forbes. And very hospitable they were too, gave each of us a cup of something hot from the canteen, there wasn't any string hanging out so I believe it was coffee.

Festival to go ahead
Despite Funding Problems
East Finchley Community Festival could lose its grant in 1993 in line with Barnet Borough Council's newly adopted policy on the funding of carnivals and community events.

However the event is planned to go ahead on June 19 next year and, weather permitting, will be successful yet again.

The event was cancelled two years ago. Mocked by the council, who claimed that it had become "political". After an initial court hearing, and subsequent appeal, the festival was cleared of the charges made and awarded costs. Last year the event went ahead on a fine day and many local residents thoroughly enjoyed the day.

If Barnet withdraws its support, organisers will have to make up the £600 awarded last year (of which the council effectively deducted £300 for "indemnity costs").

Bookies Pay Out As Crime Business Booms
Golders Green police warned residents to be extra-vigilant this Christmas as they told of how a branch of William Hill the bookmakers in East Finchley were unwitting hosts to unwelcome punters who had decided to have a gamble last month, and as a result paid out to the tune of £3,220 in cash.

One of an increasing number of local victims of crime, William Hill on the High Road, suffered a forced entry through their front door. Once inside, the perpetrators were able to place the firm's safe onto a trolley and simply wheel it out of the rear entrance, along with its contents.

In the same week, Walters the greengrocer in the High Road had a charity box stolen by "two

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Alot of the information was given as background and can't be printed because the people concerned have still to be tried. However I can give you some excerpts and, remember, all this was over one week, not an entire month.

Rape in East Finchley - Trial soon in Harrow
Domestic violence - death may occur - N2
Causton Way, two fifteen year olds were smited at by a fat 60 year old man in a woolly cap who was holding himself with both hands.

Nail Close: Racist telephone calls, RT changed the number
Charity Box stolen by two pimply faced youths from Walters the Green grocers in the High Road.

Angry drunk refused service by Shillipi Indian Restaurant punched and shattered the plate glass window as a farewell gesture.
Sedgemere Avenue N2 - ground floor flat in broken into. TV, video, telephone answering machine, and microwave stolen. Sash window forced.

Dennison Close N2 - ground floor flat broken into, tv, silverware and jewellery stolen. Kitchen window smashed. Front door locked so thieves had to leave by the broken window.

Cornwall Close N2 - Window forced, cash, computer, video camera stolen, forced window for entry whilst owners slept.

Durham Road N2 - Top floor flat broken into, pushed in door, camera's lenses etc stolen to the value of nearly £3,000.

Tait Road N2 - Sub 10 broken into 5.10am, thieves took £300 cash, cigarettes and lighters to value of £100 whilst owners in flat upstairs.

High Road N2 - Andrews the chemist, ground floor window panned below window smashed. Passer by saw pair of legs disappearing inside and called police who turned up within three minutes. Nothing stolen but £100 damage.

Kitchener Road, N2 - Bogus waterboard official stole £200 from unsuspecting pensioner. Home help called police, not caught.

Creighton Avenue N2 - Ashler Court, forced entry by using plimply youths", who also matched the description of youths who attempted to steal a similar charity box from Finchley Wines opposite.

Police also warned the public to check the identity of officials who call at the door after confidence tricksters, posing as Water Board inspectors, gained entry into the home of a Kitchener Road pensioner and made off with £200 cash.

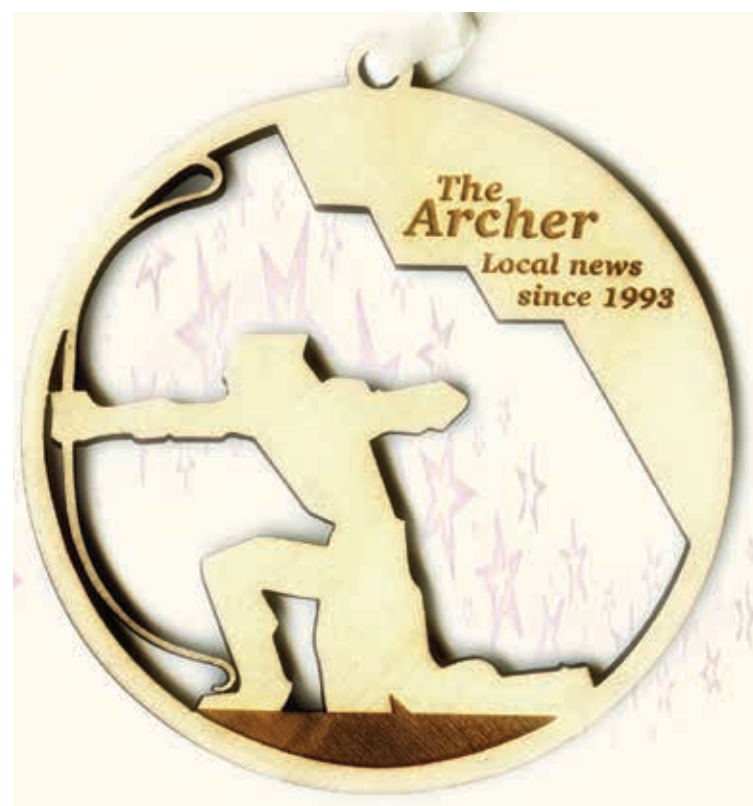
Other crimes in the same week include one rape, a serious assault that could result in death, two cases of indecent behaviour including one towards children, seven burglaries and numerous reports of vandalism, criminal damage, theft and other crimes.

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On sale for charity: Our 25-year medallion

Archer 25th souvenir in support of young carers

You may be shocked to know that around 4,000 young carers, many of whom are hidden and unacknowledged, are estimated to live in Barnet. A young carer is one who gives regular care and emotional support to a parent, brother, sister or someone else in the family.

This means that a lot of people aged under 18 are looking after someone who cannot manage without their help, a situation which may be detrimental to the young person's own circumstances.

Find your medallion here

The Archer has produced a souvenir birthday medallion which is kindly being sold for £5 by High Road outlets Aliya J, Black Gull Bookshop, Budgens, Cherry Tree Gift Shop, The Phoenix, Ryker Kids and Tony's Continental plus East End Road's Margot Bakery.

The money raised from this will be donated to Barnet Young Carers. Coincidentally, on 25 January, in the same month as your local community newspaper celebrates its 25th birthday, there is to be a nationwide Young Carers Awareness Day.

Practical local support

Challenges for young carers can include problems with school attendance, poor educational attainment, bullying, social isolation, low self-esteem, feelings of anxiety,

guilt and anger as well as difficulties with health.

Individual support, with mentoring and counselling, is available for all young carers living in the borough, whatever the amount of care they give. It is provided by a specialist Young Carers Support Team and Outreach Officers. They involve the wider family if necessary with a full assessment of everyone's needs and devise plans providing on-going support which is subject to regular reviews.

More support is offered by the Barnet Young Carers and Siblings (BYCAS) project, which includes giving young people the chance to find time to relax away from home with clubs and outings, where they can meet and chat to others. At present approximately 350 youngsters are registered with them.

All the above services are based at Barnet Carers Centre at 303 Ballards Lane, North Finchley. Contact them on 020 8343 9698 or find more information at www.barnetcars.org/young-carers.

This copy of *The Archer* comes to you as the result of one man's idea being bounced off a friend. The inspiration behind it was the feeling that although East Finchley is at present a friendly community with the atmosphere of a village, it seems to be in danger of slipping into the oblivion of a London suburb.

Perhaps, we thought, if we

had our own truly local paper we could not only preserve but possibly enhance the community atmosphere that without a shadow of a doubt already exists.

Many of us, when we were younger, received copies of a parish magazine or similar publication. These were really enjoyable. People actually looked forward to receiving

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Print ready: James Sharman holds one of the Archer printing plates as team members Daphne Chamberlain and John Dearing look on. Photo Mike Coles

Smooth operators keep us rolling off the presses

For the last eight years, *The Archer* has been printed at the family firm of Sharman & Co in Peterborough, using 100% recycled paper.

Brothers James and Mark, the fifth generation of Sharman to run the company, spend about two hours setting up our pages digitally and creating the printing plates. Then our run of nearly 10,000 copies takes little more than 20 minutes to be printed, sorted into sheaves of 50 copies each and bundled up ready to be driven to East Finchley.

Recycled paper

The newsprint used for *The Archer* comes from Palm Paper in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, one of the largest paper mills in the world. It comes in giant rolls measuring almost two metres in diameter containing 15km of tightly wound paper.

"All the paper we use for *The Archer* is recycled from consumer waste, possibly even

old copies of *The Archer*," explains James, who used to live in Muswell Hill. "The environmental cost in terms of energy used is far lower for recycled paper, compared to chopping down even a sustainably planted tree."

Near and far, little and large

The world of printing is changing and a firm like Sharman has to move with the times. *The Archer* is one of its closest newspaper customers, along with the Essex Enquirer and the Thurrock Independent, but it has also gone out and found new clients as far away as France and the United States.

Mark says: "A decade or two back there were 56 newspaper printers in the UK, now there are only 24. There's still

a healthy future for printing but a lot more of our business is digital and on demand, so we have to be set up to handle shorter runs with quick turn-round times."



Hot off the press: Papers are checked as they come off the line.

The company's five-year-old colour presses are currently kept busy with orders starting as low as 500 copies, through regular jobs like *The Archer's* in the thousands, up

to an enormous promotional print run once a year for a leading supermarket, when they go full pelt to produce a cool one million copies in just a few days.

The Archer read in the Pacific

Continued from page 1

When Siobhan and Vasco D'Gama made an exhilarating but exhausting visit to the world's most famous statues on Easter Island, they found time to chill out with their copy of East Finchley's favourite newspaper.

The couple, who live in Chandos Road, N2, were in the middle of a whistlestop tour of Chile based in Santiago and taking eight flights in 16 days to reach the region's far-flung highlights.

It was a five-hour flight to reach the iconic Moai heads on Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, almost 4,000km out in the South Pacific. Siobhan told us: "There are about 900 of them, dating from around 1000AD. They're about 10m high and up to 80 metric tonnes in weight, and when you are in front of them they certainly are impressive."



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YOUNG ARCHER

Students sow seeds of a new garden

A team of six students from Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road, N2, created the winning design in a Royal Horticultural Society challenge to develop a new school or community garden.

The 12 to 14-year-olds worked alongside a landscape architect for 10 weeks to create an imaginative three-dimensional design, including plants with sensory, therapeutic and wildlife-friendly properties. They were competing against youngsters from 11 other schools across London, including The Compton School in North Finchley.

Teacher Dr Sue Williams

said: "What a transformation ten weeks can make! From very simple or no gardening knowledge, our six students have grown and developed in a wonderful way. Our mentor Dave Hine, a landscape architect at Thomson Ecology, passed over his enthusiasm and mastery to them. They are now so excited about design and growing, and can't wait to start putting their design into reality."



Design win: The Bishop Douglass garden team with their award

Art fills space where Sainsbury's should be

Two years after taking over the High Road properties once occupied by the Mama Jack restaurant and Bike & Run, Sainsbury's still shows no signs of moving in. We recently reported that their plans for the adjoining shops on the corner of Leicester Road were being reviewed.

Thankfully, the blight of having these prime sites empty for so long is being partly fended off by the East Finchley Open Artists group who are using the windows as a pop-up art gallery for their latest collection, called 'Reflections'. Good for them, but when will Sainsbury's make a decision to open shop, or pass them on to someone who does want to trade in East Finchley?



Prizes are a real winner

The Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association, which represents over 750 residents, held a charity tombola at the Very Merry Muswell festival in St James's Square in early December, raising more than £450 for the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen.

Spokesman George Danker said: "We were extremely lucky to have been given a fantastic range of generous donations from local shops and businesses who are our corporate members. We would like to thank everyone involved, but particularly our committee member Zoe Norfolk who came up with the idea and helped to make it such a success."

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

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(11.00 a.m. on Wednesdays)

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The Parish has a *flourishing* social life.

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

New singers are always welcome.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315

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



Young voices: The Holy Trinity Choir sings at the school's fair. Photo James Vernon.

Voices pure and clear

Beautiful young voices in the Holy Trinity Choir kept visitors entertained during the primary school's winter fair in December, which also featured gingerbread decorating, games and farm animals to pet. Stalls and refreshments at the fair raised more than £5,000, including a raffle with prizes donated by local sponsors Amici Delicatessen, A. Scott & Son, Campbell & Syme, Galaxy Drugstore, Jennie Mann, La Rugoletta, Nail Studio, Phoenix Cinema, Tomato Tutors and Tony's Continental.

Sam is numero uno

Sam Gabriel, a Year 5 pupil at Coldfall Primary School in Muswell Hill, has become the country's Number One Ranked Player in U10's table tennis.

Sam started playing the sport in the playground at school before joining the after-school table tennis club and then moving on to Barnet Table Tennis Club. He has competed in four tournaments this season, winning one U11 and coming runner-up in another, as well as reaching the semi-finals of the U13 competition.

This has pushed his ranking to national number one in U10s. His aim is now to qualify to the National Championships in June and try to win and become the National Champion.

Mitchell Browning, PE teacher at Coldfall Primary, said: "We are all unbelievably proud of Sam for his hard work and commitment. We can't wait to see how he performs at the National Championships and will be cheering him on all the way."



Top spinner: Table tennis champ Sam Gabriel

A welcome connection

By Sylvie Clarke

The Archer Academy has secured a partnership with the Wellcome Collection in Euston which will offer the secondary school in Eagans Place many learning opportunities for students in all year groups.

The Wellcome Trust run a wealth of imaginative free workshops and creative exhibitions and has an extensive library which will be available to Archer students. The Archer Academy will also be welcoming scientists, historians and psychology lecturers to the school to deliver bespoke workshops for students.



Fortismere reaches out to former pupils

Fortismere School is setting up an association for former students, including those of its predecessor schools, Creighton and William Grimshaw, to rebuild memories of 50 years of education there and to help with future fundraising.

Many of the old school records have been destroyed, so the school is hoping to establish a new network of alumni using Facebook, Twitter and word of mouth.

Life before Fortismere

The history of schools on the Muswell Hill site began in 1879, when William Brown founded Tollington School. Tollington School went through several changes, before becoming a mixed grammar school in 1958.

With the introduction of comprehensive education in 1967, Tollington Grammar School and William Grimshaw Secondary Modern School were merged to form Creighton School on Creighton Avenue. Sir William Grimshaw was a local councillor.

In the early 1970s, Creighton School became the centrepiece of a Labour Party educational experiment integrating ethnic minority children into the school

from other parts of Haringey.

After further reorganisation, Creighton School and Alexandra Park School were combined under the new name of Fortismere School. It opened in September 1983 and gained Technology College status in 1997, which lasted until it became a foundation school in 2007.

Join the celebrations

Ms Jo Davey, co-head-teacher and herself a former pupil, said: "We are keen to catch up with any alumni of the school to help us celebrate this landmark occasion. Fortismere has a long and interesting history and we are proud of all our students past and present."

If you would like to reconnect or to find out about how to organise a donation or legacy for the school, please contact Mrs Clark, Head of Fundraising and Development at alumni@fortismere.org.uk or call her on 020 8365 4400.

Badge of honour for police volunteer

Metropolitan Police volunteer Maureen Hajdu, who has lived in Muswell Hill for more than 40 years, has been honoured for her long service. She was presented with a Gold Award badge by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick at New Scotland Yard.

Maureen Hajdu began volunteering for Haringey Police by working on the front counter desk at Muswell Hill Police Station in Fortis Green in 2005. After the closure of those premises in 2013 she took a break from volunteering but returned to staff the new Met Police Contact Point at Planet Organic in Muswell Hill every Saturday afternoon. This contact point maintains a police presence in the local community which she feels "has been much appreciated by the public".

Maureen added: "It has been very rewarding and a huge privilege to work with the Met Police, and I hope to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. I have so much enjoyed working



Short arm of the law: Maureen Hajdu, right, receives her award from Cressida Dick.

alongside uniformed colleagues my fellow volunteers on the who have all accorded me and front counter every courtesy."

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Le Roi est mort

These are tragic times. The king of rock 'n' roll is gone, the voice of the nation is lost, all across the land there is sorrow. Sorry, I bet none of you know what I'm going on about. Why should you? I'm talking about the biggest star you don't know about, I'm talking about Johnny Hallyday.

From his first hit in 1960, *Viens Danser le Twist*, to his final tour in 2016, Johnny was the king, the star, the man who all of France loved. There were tours playing to huge audiences, 50 studio and 29 live albums and record sales of over 100million. He was like Elvis, The Beatles, The Stones, Led Zep and all the others rolled into one. When Jimi Hendrix played in Paris in 1967 it was as Johnny's support act.

So how come over here no one cared about him? Well it's my twisted duty to put a man who loved fast cars, drink and drugs and spectacular shows into words you can understand.

Imagine a world where Cliff Richard, fresh from *Move It*, didn't turn into a family-friendly light entertainer. Suppose Cliff hadn't discovered God hiding in the back of his tour bus in Australia, but had discovered R'n'B. Suppose he'd covered Sam Cooke records and that *Bachelor Boy* had been about staying single to get more girls rather than staying pure for Miss Right.

In this world Cliff would have changed his music with the times, moving from sounding like Elvis to making records that out-did the Stones, got into heavy metal in time to eclipse Led Zeppelin, before shifting through every style from Bruce Springsteen to Jon Bon Jovi.

This parallel Cliff would have given tennis and Sue Barker a miss and done the full rock dream: fast cars, film stars, drink and drugs. He'd have looked good in leather, come on stage on his Harley and been the real rebel without a cause. And guess what, he might be almost as famous as Johnny.

The night Johnny died his wife phoned the president of France with the news. His funeral was a lavish state occasion, but came complete with hundreds of bikers following the hearse. The current president was joined by the last two, the great and the good, the not so good. Paris stopped, the country wept. It was a kind of state funeral. And we'd never heard of him because he sang in French for the French. English is the language of rock 'n' roll everywhere but France. What a shame!



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History of the Suburb



Organisations

Hampstead Garden Suburb, near London's Hampstead Heath, is a vibrant community set within a unique mix of open spaces, planned street scene, and internationally recognised architecture. Welcome to our Virtual Museum. See Guide



People



Places



Suburb News



Collections

Found in the Suburb: Historic artefacts are preserved in the virtual museum for posterity.

Virtual museum for the Suburb

Hampstead Garden Suburb now has its own 'virtual museum' that can be visited by anyone across the world at any time of day or night.

The HGS Heritage Virtual Museum is a collection of artefacts and documents that tell the story of the Suburb's foundation, development and everyday life. They have been gathered over many years by various organisations and individuals.

Run entirely by volunteers, with grants towards set-up costs from the HGS Residents Association and individual donors, the web-based museum is the first time this material has been curated in one place for researchers and visitors at home and abroad to explore. Visit for yourself at www.hgsheritage.org.uk.

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- **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 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

- **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
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk 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.



Artist Natasha Williams with one of her paintings on show at Knidos restaurant on Fortis Green. Photo Mike Coles

Outback colours in the heart of the city

By Diana Cormack

Abstract paintings inspired by the amazing scenery of the Australian Outback have been on show at the Knidos restaurant in Fortis Green. Artist Natasha Williams, who lived in Melbourne for three years, told us her city scapes were heavily influenced by the colours of the landscapes she saw in Northern Territory.

Natasha's skills developed in her native East Finchley. As a five year old at Tetherdown School she loved art work and considers herself lucky to have gone on to Fortismere, where her skills were brought out and developed, particularly through her A-level studies.

During that time her work was chosen to represent north London schools at the Serpen-

tine Galleries along with that of fellow student and now Game of Thrones actor Edward Skrein.

An art foundation course at Middlesex University was followed by interior design in Leeds, where she joined an art collective. But it was travelling in Australia which contributed hugely to her distinctive style. Take a look at her work at www.natashakwilliams.com.

Local poetry that takes you round the world

By Daphne Chamberlain

The sixth edition of N2 Poetry is now in circulation. This is an independent magazine with three published poets on its editorial board and a wide range of life experience among its writers.

In this latest edition you can travel around the world, even reading a Chinese sonnet composed on a bridge in Cambridge (translation supplied!).

The poets have a North London connection in one way

or another, though not all live in the area. Some, though, are well known in East Finchley: for example, Ruby Joseph, tutor and manager of East Finchley Advice Service.

N2 Poetry aims to publish at least once a year, and welcomes contributions. Submissions (maximum four poems) should be sent for consideration to n2poetry@outlook.com, including name and contact details.

If you are unable to use email, please type your poem or poems on white A4 paper, and send to Shereen Abdallah, Managing Editor, N2 Poetry, 3 Leslie Road, N2 8BN, with a covering letter and stamped, addressed envelope. N2 Poetry issue 6, ISSN 2047-2242, is available for £5. Find out more at n2poetry.com.

Headscratcher

Solution from p5

0	2	3	2
1	3	0	3
0	2	2	1
1	3	3	1
2	0	0	1

The power of nature changed my world

Artist Denise Wyllie, who lives in Long Lane, N2, wanted to throw herself out of her comfort zone and find new inspiration so she bought a ticket to Japan and travelled solo to the land of cherry blossom. Here she describes how it changed her art.

I got rained on for three weeks trying to paint cherry blossom. I felt the power of nature so strongly I couldn't help but take a bow to it. Rain washed away my sorrows and gave me strength.

In October I had an exhibition in the Sugino Gallery, Ginza, the stylish area of Tokyo. There was rain and more rain and something new to me: typhoons.

On my way there I stopped off to see Yoshihisa Shida, an expert photographer of Mount Fuji. I was up at 4am, driving up scary dark, steep, narrow roads into the mountains with cameras and tripods. The rain suddenly cleared for the first sunny day in weeks and majestic Fuji was in full view.

I saw a secret hidden temple high in the mountains where monks still live a life of quiet solitude. I also revisited a family

of friendly tea farmers at their beautiful traditional home, decorated with kimonos and ancient framed letters of thanks from the Emperor and Prime Minister for their tea.

Climbing high

Even though I had planned my trip daily, with a heavy schedule ahead, the power of nature made me stop and rethink my journey. The temples and the mountain were symbolic. I had to climb high in order to get a better view of my life and career.

My mixed media prints from a series called 'The Cherry Blossom Front' are inspired by my first experience of Japan. Rain gave me a refreshed focus. All I needed to do was trust in nature.

Denise is exhibiting at the *Espacio Gallery in Shoreditch in March*. Follow her on Twitter @ArtistWyllie and Instagram: [denise_wyllie](https://www.instagram.com/denise_wyllie).



Artist abroad: Denise with her exhibition at the Sugino Gallery in Tokyo.

What's On... E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Sunday 14 January

• **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, EN5 5PP, at 11am. More details from Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Saturday 20 January

• **Kav Kavanagh presents rock 'n' roll social Jonny B's** at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, at 8pm, and on the third Saturday of every month. Everyone welcome.

Until Sunday 28 January

• **Strictly Come Dancing** champion Joanne Clifton stars in **Irving Berlin's classic musical Top Hat**, an all-singing, all-dancing

show featuring songs like *Cheek to Cheek*, *Puttin' on the Ritz* and *Let's Face the Music and Dance*; Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, N6. Details and booking at www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com.

Thursday 30 January

• **The Start of North London Hospice: talk** by Harriet Copperman, one of the founders; 2.30pm at Avenue House (Stephens House and Gardens), 17 East End Road, N3 3QE. Finchley Society meeting. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 7 February

• **Meet friendly club North London Meet Your Neighbours** at its monthly pub social at the Woodman pub next to Highgate tube, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Look for an 'NLMYN' sign.



In the chair: Ozzie looks after a customer in his shop in Church Lane. Photo Mike Coles.

Ozzie sharpens up for new hours

Ozzie Akalin has been cutting hair at his barber shop in Church Lane, N2, for more than seven years and he's starting this new year by expanding his booming business in more ways than one.

His Barbers in the Village shop will now open on Mondays, taking it to a six-days-a-week operation, and Ozzie will also be joined by a fellow barber on Saturdays and other busy days.

"I'm really grateful to all my loyal customers," said Ozzie. "At first I thought I'd be tucked away here on Church Lane but people come back regularly and I get a surprising amount of passing

trade as it's a busy road. Now the time has come for me to put a lot more into the shop."

Ozzie's door will be open on Monday-Friday 9am-7pm and on Saturdays from 8am-6pm.

How hospice found a new home

By Mary O'Toole

Last month's edition of *The Archer* gave the exciting news that at long last building work has started on Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. The article reported that the site chosen to be its home was on a nature reserve and I thought readers might like to know how it was chosen.

I have been a Trustee for Noah's Ark for over 10 years and helped in the search for somewhere to build. More than 40 sites had been rejected as unsuitable or far too expensive for a charity to buy. You can imagine my excitement when I saw a piece in a local newspaper saying that the Borough of Barnet wanted to sell the lease on the nature reserve in Byng Road, High Barnet.

Some of you may remember my daughter Helen buzzing

around East Finchley in her wheelchair. I had accompanied Helen when her class from Holy Trinity School spent an afternoon there learning about trees, wildlife and pond dipping.

The right place

I knew at once that this peaceful place would be right for families to relax and for their children to experience the excitement Helen felt on her visit. Schools will continue to be offered visits led by an inspiring teacher and the reserve will

be maintained by volunteers, including my husband Charlie.

It has been a long journey to obtain permission to build and to raise enough money to start. Our public appeal aims to provide funds to finish the Ark and to employ the staff needed to open.

Helen did not live to see the Ark built in the wonderful setting she helped to find, but with your help it will not be too late for other children. For more information visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk.

Letters

Speed signs not enough

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see you bringing attention to the issue of speeding on Church Lane (*The Archer*, November 2017) and then impressed that Barnet Council took the matter seriously by painting some prominent 20mph signs on the road itself.

My feeling is that Church Lane needs even more speed signage before it can be considered safe. The problem is that it's used as a cut-through from East End Road to the High Road and probably has a high proportion of users who don't know the road and its tricky bridge and awkward bend.

On top of that, it's the only 20mph road in the area so by the time drivers realise they shouldn't be doing 30mph it's too late.

An even better solution would be to reduce all roads in East Finchley to 20mph to make them all safer. I often see people barrelling down Long Lane at unreasonable speeds and I know from friends that the same happens in Leopold Road and Leslie Road.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Finnemore,
Long Lane, N2.

End of a hard year

Dear Editor,

Here's a nice story for you. I was in Maddens last night with my wife when an older chap shuffled over with his Guinness and asked if he could take a seat at our table. He looked very tired but managed a smile. He said he'd spent most of the day in the pub because it was so warm.

We chatted. He had been an electrician. He lost his wife this year and he had suffered a stroke too. He struggled with recall. Then, out of nowhere, he announced that his favourite writer is Oscar Wilde and recited word perfect the first few and closing verses of *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. He had tears in his eyes... and I did too.

Yours faithfully,
Mel Glass,
Address supplied.

Housing prospects

Dear Editor,

I have sympathy with the people whose homes are to be demolished to make way for a new tower block in Prospect Ring, East Finchley (*The Archer*, past issues). I assume, however, that they will be offered new accommodation and not be left homeless.

What I can't understand is the opposition of other residents to new flats for people who need them. Young people and families are desperately short of affordable

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homes in London and we need to be considering every available plot of land for building them.

East Finchley and London in general will gradually choke to a stop unless we can find space for the teachers, firefighters, nurses and whatever of the future, and we need to be doing something about it now.

A new tower block in Prospect Ring may change the views that the current residents have out of their windows but I'm sure they will adjust. After all, where would they be living now if people in the past had opposed tower blocks in Prospect Ring?

Yours faithfully,
Joan Merritt,
East End Road, N2.

Cycle spares

Dear Editor,

If any of your readers are sorting out their garage or shed and find some unwanted older cycle parts or tools in good condition, please can I ask them to consider donating them to the UK's National Cycle Museum, Llandrindod Wells.

The museum is the UK's main cycle museum, displaying over 250 cycles spanning 200 years of cycle history. We are very lucky to have a museum of national importance during the bicentenary year of the bicycle.

It is run as a charity and to help raise funds it will be selling surplus cycle spares on Saturday 3 March. The store manager there is Steve Griffith, who lives in Finchley and visits mid-Wales frequently.

He would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has cycle spares. Steve can be reached on 07740 923 630 or email griffith531@hotmail.com. Find out more about the museum at www.cyclemuseum.org.uk. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Freda Davies,
National Cycle Museum trustee and volunteer.

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School of rock and roll for the young at heart

By Neil McNaughton

Kav Kavanagh fell in love with rock and roll at the age of 14, and dancing in particular. Now, many years later and after winning European and World titles in dancing, he is passing on his knowledge and love of the music to a new generation.

When he had to move from the Jacksons Lane arts centre in Highgate he was delighted to find a new home for his school of rock and roll at the Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2. He holds classes there every Wednesday, welcoming participants of all

ages and backgrounds.

"We often see parents dancing with their children," he told *The Archer*; "and there is no age barrier to who can learn how to rock and roll." Apart from his teaching, Kav is a DJ and was the main production trainer on

the stage version of *Grease* in the West End.

Anyone can turn up to his Jive Night lessons which cost just £8 for a session starting at 8pm and lasting over one and a half hours. Kav also runs a monthly social event at the Con-



Swing your partner: Kav Kavanagh leads his jive class at the Constitutional Club. Photo Mike Coles.



In step: Dancers practise at the Bishop Douglass club. Photo Geoff Kaiser.

Take your turn on the dancefloor

By Gail Norcliffe

If you watched *Strictly Come Dancing* and thought you'd like to try ballroom or Latin dancing, the opportunity is on your doorstep in East Finchley. Just head to Bishop Douglass School on Hamilton Road on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday evening to give it a go.

Dancing Club LA runs classes at Bishop Douglass School for all levels, from absolute beginners through to advanced, along with social sessions so you can practise what you've learnt in class. I've been going regularly for about four years and am completely hooked. Not only is it wonder-

ful fun, but it's also really good exercise and a great way to meet new people.

Linda and Geoff Kaiser, who run the club, and their other fantastic teachers ensure that everyone has a warm welcome and the atmosphere is extremely friendly. You don't have to turn up with a partner, as there are

plenty of other people to dance with, and the teachers always make sure you have the chance to try out what you've learnt with them.

Upping your game

An hour's class is £7 or, for an extra £2 (so £9 in total), you can stay for more advanced classes (Mondays) or the two hour social practice session (Wednesday and Friday). Payment is on a drop-in basis. A social party dance is held on the last Saturday of the month and, again, all are welcome. Beginners' classes are for an hour on Monday (7.15pm), Wednesday (7.30pm) and Friday (7.45pm). Full details are available on the website at www.dancingclubla.net or by phoning Geoff on 07885 292973. No need to book.

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