

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**



New management: The Phoenix Cinema has been independent since 1985. Photo Mike Coles.

## Phoenix finds new future in Curzon chain

By John Lawrence

The independent Phoenix Cinema is on the point of becoming part of the national Curzon Cinemas chain. The charitable Phoenix Trust will retain ownership of the listed building but hand over the day-to-day operations of the cinema, to be renamed the Curzon Phoenix East Finchley.

Trust members say the deal, still to be finalised, is essential for the long-term survival of the 106-year-old picture house, run on a not-for-profit basis since 1985 but now facing dwindling revenues. Annual admissions fell from 100,000 to 75,000 in the last four years.

A Save the Phoenix campaign began as soon as the news was announced. Campaigners say the decision has been made without consulting staff or the community and claim there are better alternatives which would preserve the cinema's ethos. An online petition calling for the Phoenix to stay independent had gathered 3,000 signatures as we went to press.

### Why is the deal being made?

The ten members of the Board of Trustees, all volunteers, say general changes in cinema-going habits and increased local competition from the likes of the Everyman in Muswell Hill have hit ticket sales badly, leaving them with less money to invest in the future of the Phoenix.

Trustee Alison Gold told *The Archer*: "The cinema is at serious risk of insolvency and the trust is working hard to avoid that. We have considered other options, including remaining independent, but believe that a partnership with Curzon offers greater security as well as bringing some new benefits to the Phoenix staff and its community."

### What are the concerns?

Campaigners say the independence of the Phoenix is

being surrendered and Curzon will ultimately be able to make its own decisions about staffing and programming. They want the Trust to consider alternatives like community fundraising to keep the cinema going as an independent, pointing out that the Phoenix raised more than £1 million for its centenary restoration project.

Lauren Wright, from the Save the Phoenix campaign, said: "Rather than building on this, fundraising has been limited. Save The Phoenix is calling on the board to pause, listen to the community, and make sure they have exhausted all other options before going down this extreme path."

The campaign said the Curzon deal had been arranged without consultation with any staff or the local community for whom the Phoenix Cinema Trust was set up.

The Trust argues that it had to maintain confidentiality around the deal until it was secure enough to make public and states that the cinema will remain in local hands as the Trust will retain ownership of the building and continue to oversee community and education activities for local people.

### What impact will it have?

Phoenix staff have been told that their jobs will be transferred to the new operators and that they will be paid the London Living Wage for the first time. Save the Phoenix campaigners argue that there is no guarantee redundancies won't be made once the transfer is complete.

**Continued on page 2.**

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## Thieves steal from studio

A computer, monitor and several cameras were stolen from a studio in Huntingdon Road, N2, when opportunistic thieves spotted that keys had been left in a door.

The items were taken from the art and music studio in Huntingdon Works during the Friday night of the August bank holiday.

CCTV footage appears to show two people sheltering from the rain under the premises' arch and then entering after seeing the key in the door. They leave five minutes later with several items and then return at midnight to carry more away.

The burglary was reported when the owners turned up for work on the Tuesday morning. Police are currently investigating.

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## The Archer

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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.

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## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
<b>Haringey Council</b>	020 8489 0000

### Leisure

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

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MIND	020 8343 5700
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NHS	111
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### OAP's Advice

Age UK Barnet	020 8203 5040
Independent Age	0800 319 6789
Age UK (general advice line)	0800 169 2081

## Phoenix finds new future

From page 1

Curzon Cinemas told us the film programme at the new Phoenix will be in line with what it already screens. Director of Cinema Development Rob Kenny said: "We want to retain the identity the Phoenix has built up and show great films. We don't run homogenised cinemas. We will see what the East Finchley audience wants and programme accordingly. Maybe we'll take a few chances and see how people respond, learning as we go."

The Trust says the terms of its agreement means Curzon will continue to run a full range of festivals, Q&As and other special events. The Saturday morning Kids Club will stay, as will mother and baby screenings. The existing Phoenix Friends membership scheme is expected to carry on under the Curzon name.

The Save the Phoenix petition can be found at: [www.change.org/p/save-the-phoenix-cinema](http://www.change.org/p/save-the-phoenix-cinema)

## Phoenix and Curzon: how they compare

**Curzon's other London cinemas are in Aldgate, Bloomsbury, Mayfair, Richmond, Soho, Victoria and Wimbledon; it also runs cinemas in Canterbury, Colchester, Knutsford, Oxford, Ripon and Sheffield. Richmond is the only London venue to have a single screen like the Phoenix so The Archer compared programmes and prices between the two:**

In the cinema week beginning Friday 28 September, the Curzon Richmond was showing Cold War (15), The Little Stranger (12A) and Faces Places (12A) every day. The Phoenix was showing The Wife (15), including one screening for parents and babies, and a relaxed screening for viewers with sensory conditions or learning difficulties, The Little Stranger (12A) and Faces Places (12A), along with a Saturday Kids Club screening of The Lego Movie (U), a one-off Sunday screening of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (12A) for the East Finchley Arts Festival and a Tuesday toddler session showing Tee and Mo (U).

Ticket prices for the Saturday evening showing of Cold War at the Curzon were £16.50 for adults and £14 for seniors and students. Prices for the Saturday evening showing of The Wife at the Phoenix were £12.

Tickets for the Monday afternoon showing of Cold War at the Curzon were £12 or £11 while the Monday afternoon showing of The Wife at the Phoenix cost £7. Kids Club prices at both venues are pegged at £3.

## Phoenix and Curzon: first reactions

**Here are some of the comments on social media reacting to the news of Curzon Cinemas running the Phoenix:**

- "Let's hope they improve the seating, toilets and everything else."
- "Terrible news. We love the independence of the Phoenix."
- "What a shame. Tho if it's in trouble and that's the only way to keep it open... be even worse if it closed."
- "Mixed feelings about this. Curzon have great taste in films but can really see them cranking up the ticket price."
- "Love the idea of an independent cinema, but it just won't be able to survive for much longer... Let it stay open and I hope Curzon will recognise the history in some way."
- "Nooooooooooooooooo."

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 8 Abbots Gardens, N2

Non-material amendment to planning permission dated 19/03/18 for roof extension, side/rear extension with terrace, access steps and hard standing. Amendments include first-floor rear projecting box, one new rear window, one new side window, and one new skylight.

#### 96 Brim Hill, N2

Single-storey rear extension to existing converted garage, with new French door.

#### 49 Chandos Road, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for single-storey rear extension with three roof lights to side, and one roof light to adj. side, following removal of existing single-storey rear extension.

#### 2 Deansway, N2

Roof extension, including one rear dormer window, one side dormer window, and two front roof lights.

#### 8 Deansway, N2

New raised terrace area with glass balustrade and new access steps.

### 45 Durham Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 3m, eaves height 3.2m, maximum height 3.2m.

### 23 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

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

### Wellington Place, Great North Road, N2

Addition of two new floors at third and fourth floor level to four blocks of existing two-bedroom flats, to provide an additional seven two-bed duplex apartments. Associated parking, refuse and recycling store and cycle store.

### Viceroy Parade, 71 High Road, N2

Installation of 1 x 0.2m microwave dish link on the existing structure.

### 240 High Road, N2

Installation of storage unit to rear of shop (retrospective application).

### 32 Howard Walk, N2

Alterations to fenestration, including replacement of existing double glazing with steel double glazed windows to front and side.

### 21 Ingram Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear infill extension.

### Unit 1, Ferris Lodge, 62 Lancaster Gardens, N2

Two new window openings to existing north west side.

### 338 Long Lane, N2

Alterations to front driveway to provide off street parking.

### Flat A, 386 Long Lane, N2

Use of front hard standing to provide new vehicular access and off-street parking.

### Haringey Council

#### 17 Aylmer Parade, N2

Change of use of ground-floor property from A1 (Retail) to D1 (Veterinary Surgery), including ancillary A1 (for sale of pet goods and accessories) and alterations to existing shop front.

## Boy trapped in locked car

**A mother was horrified when her two-year-old son locked himself inside her BMW car with her key fob, which fell onto the floor out of his reach. The car was parked on Northway in Hampstead Garden Suburb at about 5pm on Friday 7 September.**

Finchley Station Fire Brigade were on the spot quickly and smashed the car's rear window. A fireman climbed in and used the fob to open the doors and rescue the boy.

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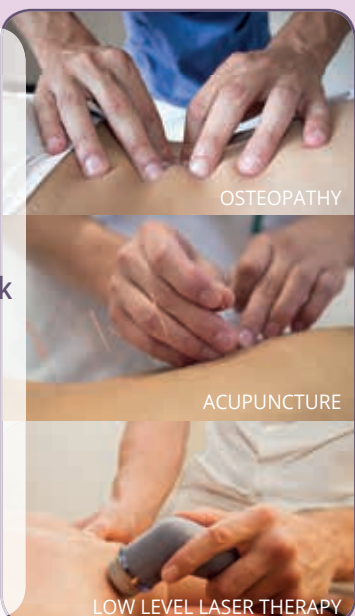
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# Nursery plans for Bobath Centre site

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Bobath Centre will leave its site at East End Road on 25 November. The new owners, 250 East End Road LLP, run by 13 investment companies and represented by international estate agency Savills, have submitted a planning application to Barnet Council which involves amendments to the Grade 2 listed frontage of the existing building, demolishing unlisted extensions and replacing with new ones, and creating an outside play area.

The application states that the new extensions will keep to the same roof line as the Grade 2 frontage. Barnet Planning and Conservation Officers visited the site in June, and original proposals for the western part have been amended.

The new owners state in their application that they have come to an arrangement with a children's nursery. This means they don't have to apply for change of use, as the Bobath Centre was used to assist children with cerebral palsy.

## Questions and concerns

However, the proposals do not cover the entire site. A large area of land at the back will be separated by a temporary boundary, "to ensure safety and security to nursery users". Many people are questioning the future of this unused land, and indeed the proposed nursery provision.

The plans indicate a nursery

for up to 170 children, with 26 staff. Storage, staff space and playground size appear to many to be insufficient, and it is not clear that a new nursery on these lines is needed in this area anyway. Existing nurseries Monkey Puzzle and Scribbles have both stated that they are not involved.

An extensive international nursery chain, actively looking for new sites, has requirements corresponding closely to the space in the planning application, but neither they nor Savills have answered enquiries from *The Archer*.

Neighbours also question the viability of the scheme. The plans provide only four car spaces and one disability space, but 12 cycle areas.

Dropping off times are estimated as three minutes, which seems unrealistically short, and there are concerns about traffic congestion around the entrance and exit to the site.

# Fun Palace for all

A reminder from last month's edition that East Finchley Library will be hosting a free festival of arts, music, sports, science and dance on Saturday 6 October.

The Grange Big Local Fun Palace will feature music MC'd by Benteki, of Repräsent radio, with football run by the Monday Club, cheerleading from Saracens, free manicures from Vales Nails, dance from SOTO CIC, art with East Finchley Open Artists, the chance to look for aliens with Mill Hill

Observatory and much more. Also on display will be information from the archives of East Finchley Library, and organisers are hoping to collect stories about it from people who have used it over the years. For more information check out the Fun Palace website [www.funpalaces.co.uk](http://www.funpalaces.co.uk)



Sword play: Matt Lewin fashions a foam blade in his garden workshop.

# Where superheroes buy their supplies

By John Lawrence

A whole fantasy world is coming to life in a garden shed thanks to the creative talents of props and costume maker Matt Lewin. Give him a little time and he can conjure up anything from a Viking chieftain helmet to a Wonder Woman shield.

You may have seen Matt, 26, and his Dragon Workshop stall at the East Finchley Festival back in June when he had much of his Star Wars, Marvel and Lord of the Rings-inspired armoury on show.

He uses cardboard and foil to build the templates for his creations and then makes the final products by cutting and moulding floor-mat foam, before giving them a realistic metallic or paint finish, all in a workshop shed in his parents' garden in Bedford Road, N2.

## From hobby to business

"I always loved making Airfix models and all sorts of things out of cardboard when I was young," said Matt. "I started making items from films like Lord of the Rings because I wanted them for myself. Now I'm hoping I can make a business out of my hobby."

Matt's customers are often comic and film fans who go along to massive conventions dressed as their favourite characters. He's also had orders for shop window props and even a request for a bespoke shield from his own prop-making hero Adam Savage, who has 3.9 million followers on YouTube.

Matt said: "A lot of orders



Battle gear: Helmets and a shield made by Matt.

come from America but I'm hoping to build up my business in this country too. The Scots Guards Association Band have asked me to make 13 bearskin helmets for them, using foam and fake fur. The real thing are too hard to come by, apparently."

Find out more about Matt's creations on Facebook and Instagram @thedragonworkshop and buy them by searching 'thedragonworkshop' at [www.etsy.com/uk](http://www.etsy.com/uk).

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Spacious: The new homes at Wilmot Close. Photo Mike Coles

## Holiday homes for life

By Daphne Chamberlain

**When The Finchley Charities announced their new development adjoining Wilmot Close and Thackrah Close, N2, they described it as tranquil, spacious, light and joyful. Joyful is an unusual description of housing. So did *The Archer* find joy when The Finchley Charities Chief Executive Susan Faridi showed us round?**

Listen to one of the new tenants. Mr Patel has moved into one of two adaptable properties designed for wheelchair users. In his previous home he was housebound. Now he told us: "I'm on holiday here! It was raining this morning, but I was out in my chair, zooming up the road!"

All paths are designed for wheelchair use, winding round attractive landscaping, including a 'wild' garden. Tree roots are smoothed over with permeable material, and there are seating areas and planters all around. Higher-than-usual walls block noise from the nearby North Circular.

### Careful design

Susan Faridi emphasised

that the aim is to encourage a community where residents can join in social activities, enjoy a neighbourly chat, or relax in comfortable homes.

The inside of Mr Patel's new home is impressive too. Spacious and light, it has been carefully planned. The kitchen features adjustable surfaces. Worktops, sink and hob can be lowered and raised with the turn of a key, making them accessible to him in his wheelchair as well as to his wife, who needs them at standard height.

### Facts and figures

The Finchley Charities set out to provide high-quality, easy-maintenance, rented homes for people over 55 years old who need sheltered

accommodation, but are able to live independently (if necessary with the support of a care package). Applicants should have limited financial means, and have lived in the Borough of Barnet for at least five years during their lives.

Already all the accommodation has been taken, and there is a waiting list. Applicants are either referred, or can refer themselves.

The development is known officially as 22-25 Thackrah Close, though there are 16 homes in total.

For further information, contact The Finchley Charities at 41A Wilmot Close, N2 8HP, tel: 020 8346 9464, or email [info.thefinchleycharities.org](mailto:info.thefinchleycharities.org).



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](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk), or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

### Cashpoint crime

**We are currently experiencing distraction thieves at the cashpoints on the High Road, N2. There are two males operating, both light skinned, mixed race.**

One of them stays in a silver Honda while the male who distracts cashpoint users is 6ft 2ins, slim build, often wearing dark smart casual dress and a baseball cap.

He will employ different methods, always targeting the very elderly and frail, perhaps distracting them by speaking to them and putting a newspaper in front of their face and taking the cash as it is dispensed by the machine.

Or he tells them their car is wrongly parked and it will be cheaper to pay a fine now, leading them to a cashpoint where either the card and PIN number is swallowed by a device on the machine or by sleight of hand the card is taken and the victim tells them the PIN number.

This male is very skilled and versatile, moving from one area to another and back. If you see someone operating in this way, please call 999.

Please be aware of these scams, and stay on alert when you get cash from an internal or external machine at a bank or at the Post Office. Easiest and safest is to use your card to get cash back when doing grocery shopping or at the pharmacy.

## Police seek victims of late night assaults

By Janet Maitland

**Police believe that a series of sexual assaults on women in East Finchley and Fortis Green between May and August are linked and are asking women to come forward with information.**

A man has been charged with sexual assault (by touching) following an incident on the High Road, N2, on Friday 24 August when a woman was followed and grabbed from behind near the junction with Creighton Avenue. Police believe that other women have been assaulted in a similar way and would like to hear from them.

"It's important that we receive all available information about what I believe was a series of offences between May

and August this year," said DC Jacki McKenzie-Bell. "Some other women have come forward and I would urge anyone who has not yet reported any incidents to please speak to the police. I also want to hear from anyone who witnessed incidents in which a man appeared to assault a woman by grabbing her in this way."

Please call Barnet CID on 020 8733 4125 if you have any information, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.



## Summer festival 2019 starts here

After the success of this year's East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood back in June, pictured above, everyone in the community is invited to an open meeting to help start planning next year's festival.

Organisers are urging people to come along and have their say. What did you like? Do you have any ideas for the festival? Would you like to get involved?

The open forum takes place at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, on Monday 15 October at 7.30pm. Contact [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome.

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# Logo to spearhead plastics campaign

By Ruth Anders, No2Plastics co-organiser

**Hot off the press, we are delighted to share our No2Plastics campaign image with readers of *The Archer*. Designed by Vanessa Broomfield, this image will form the basis for all the campaign's collateral.**

On behalf of No2Plastics, Joanne Westgate updated the members of N2United at their meeting in mid-September and her passionate presentation was greeted with enthusiastic applause. A straw poll resulted in unanimous endorsement of the chosen campaign image from a number of designs suggested.

We have already seen some terrific support from enthusiastic volunteers who want to

cups and straws from shops, cafés and restaurants in East Finchley.

When asked about his shop's attitude to the cause, Chris Athanasiou from Tony's Continental said: "We'd be delighted to display a sign saying we encourage our customers to use their own bags. But this is only going to work if every shop on the High Road pulls together and we all join up."

Tony's is also going to make



EAST FINCHLEY  
NO2PLASTICS

work with us on the campaign. Ann Inglis, who wrote the original letter to *The Archer* in May, Joanne Westgate and I are currently heading the movement and developing roles for volunteers. We've been taking preliminary soundings from one or two shop-keepers on the High Road to gauge support, before an all-out drive to ask for their commitment to reduce single-use plastics.

## Pulling together

The campaign's initial aim is to banish plastic bags,

smaller cardboard boxes available near the checkout so that customers and their children can help the environment with some much needed recycling. Anything is better than plastic bags! Other retailers too are eager to lend their support.

*Would you like to assist in this initiative? Everyone in East Finchley needs to get behind No2Plastics. Email [no2plastics@gmail.com](mailto:no2plastics@gmail.com) to join the campaign, or join [www.facebook.com/groups/No2Plastics](http://www.facebook.com/groups/No2Plastics)*

# Join Grange Big Local

The Grange Big Local team will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 27 October and everyone is welcome to go along and hear about their activities and achievements so far this year along with their plans for 2019. The team is in charge of regenerating the area of East Finchley bordered by the High Road, Church Lane, East End Road and the North Circular, including the Grange, Font Hills and Thomas More estates, using £1 million in lottery grant money.

Local people are invited to join the project's partnership board. They will be trained and given the chance to develop skills to help them have a direct influence on the future of the Grange Big Local area.

The project's Jon Woolfson said: "Even if you do not want to join the board, do come along to the meeting to find out more about what we are doing, have

your say and find out about other ways of volunteering."

There will be children's activities and a free lunch and it all takes place on Saturday 27 October from 11am to 2.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre, High Road, N2 8HG. For further information text 'Grange' to 66777, email [info@grange-biglocal.org](mailto:info@grange-biglocal.org) or call 020 8364 8400 ext. 241.



Sense of humour: Ethel Mattison pictured in 2015. Photo Mike Coles.

# Ethel Mattison, 1912 -2018

By Daphne Chamberlain

**The *Archer* team was sad to hear of the passing of Ethel Mattison, at the age of 106. I interviewed her three years ago, and she was a remarkable woman. Family and friends describe her as open-minded, down-to-earth, a mine of information, and someone who laughed a lot. Apparently she loved satire and the absurd, and had a store of risqué limericks.**

In his eulogy, her son Charlie remembered her saying that what kept her going was curiosity about what would happen next.

Her friend Caroline Broome, also speaking at her funeral, said that her motto was "Adapt or Die". Caroline's first meeting with her was when Ethel employed her as a gardener. Then 100 years old, Ethel realised she could no longer climb the ladder to prune her honeysuckle!

At that time, she was still

living in Huntingdon Road, N2, her home for 53 years, after living and working in Hampstead as a nurse. Also at the age of 100, she gave a talk without notes to a large group of medical students about age and infirmity, and then invited their questions on her experience as a pre-NHS nurse.

The NHS was particularly important to her as a lifelong socialist. A Communist in the 1930s, she later joined the Labour Party, of which she eventually became the oldest

member. Always involved in the Co-operative Movement and the Women's Movement, she joined the Townswomen's Guild at 16.

She loved poetry, the classics and botany, and Charlie remembers her strong belief in the power of science and technology to do good.

For the last three years, Ethel lived in Spring Lane Care Home in Muswell Hill, where she got herself up, made her own bed, and walked to the nearby shops with her son for coffee. He paid tribute to the staff there for their care and love.

Ethel came from a large family, including an identical twin sister who died at the age of five.

She is survived by Charlie, daughter Trish, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

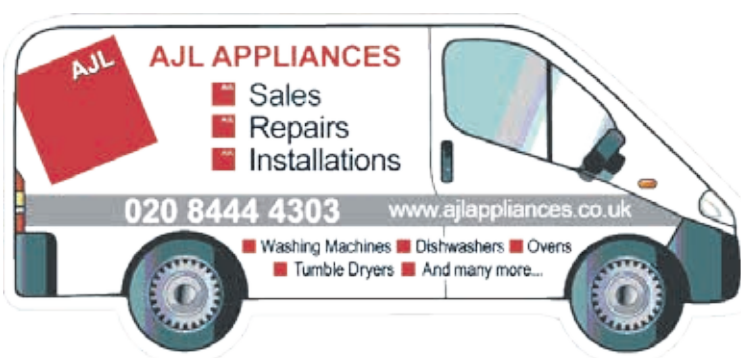
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Let's talk about death: Facilitator Stephen Weaver leads a meeting at the Old White Lion pub. Photo Mike Coles.

## A lively afternoon at the Death Café

By Diana Cormack

**"We shroud death in silence," said Grayson Perry in his recent Channel 4 programme *Rites of Passage*. However those attending a meeting of Death Café could challenge that statement.**

The Old White Lion was the venue for the meeting run by East Finchley resident Stephen Weaver, who organises north London sessions where "people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death".

Unfortunately there was no tea and cake this time, but the small group of interested and interesting participants provided plenty of food for thought. Nor was there a mood of doom and gloom, for much laughter was heard during the two-hour afternoon discussion along with a lot of intriguing suggestions and alternative ideas.

### Making the most of life

Death is our last task in life and a Death Café offers an opportunity to explore and discuss issues, attitudes to and expectations of the process of dying and death. The group has no agenda, objectives or themes and is not for grief support or counselling. The objective is "to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives".

It began in Hackney in 2011 when Jon Underwood and his mother developed the ideas of Swiss sociologist Bernard Crettaz and has since spread to 56 countries in Europe, North America and

Australia. They have happened in a range of places including people's houses, funky cafes, cemeteries, a yurt and the Royal Festival Hall.

It is well worth looking into and the stimulating meeting we attended can lead you to thinking that death and its ramifications does not need be a wholly grim experience.

For details of future meetings visit [www.meetup.com/North-London-Death-Cafe](http://www.meetup.com/North-London-Death-Cafe) and for general information visit [deathcafe.com](http://deathcafe.com).

## Distress at plans to double the height of maisonettes

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Wellington Place consists of 16 maisonettes in four two-storey blocks, situated on the Great North Road, N2, close to the junction with The Bishops Avenue. In August, residents and neighbours were distressed to hear of an application to build two extra storeys on top of each block.**

They say they had no prior consultation from the freeholder, Safeland plc, who have submitted the application to Barnet Council. In addition, several people are saying they didn't receive the customary letter from Barnet inviting their comments.

### All features of scheme raise concerns

The proposal would add seven two-bedroom duplexes, a roof terrace, dedicated off-street parking and cycle and bin stores. All these proposals are being questioned.

The residents are concerned about security and safety when their roofs are removed to build the extra storeys, worried about whether the foundations can support them, and threatened by external metal stairs giving access to the new maisonettes, too close to their bathroom windows.

The added height of the buildings is concerning neighbours, including allotment holders at the back.

All the buildings would be covered in cladding, though some properties were bought because of their attractive brick exteriors.

Residents and neighbours



Doubling in size: The homes in Wellington Place. Photo Mike Coles.

say they have been refused visitors' parking permits, and the new development would make the parking situation even worse. Some proposed bays would block access to existing garages, with no turning space into driveways.

New bin storage would remove disabled access to one of the existing maisonettes, block gas and electricity meters, and mean a difficult uphill walk for the elderly.

One resident described Wellington Place as "an established community with a village feel". Now they feel threatened by this major disruption. Another remarked

that redevelopment might take years, and would make it difficult to sell their properties.

### Council and architect respond

Barnet Council told *The Archer* that they sent out 66 letters and that all comments would be considered before making a decision. They are also passing on information to Haringey Council, because its boundary is so close. The architect of the scheme told us that he held a presentation in the Old White Lion in late July, but apparently not everyone was aware of this, and Safeland had not carried out a prior consultation.

## Corner shop has licence revoked

By David Melsome

**An East Finchley convenience store has had its licence to sell alcohol revoked for repeatedly selling alcohol and tobacco to under-age customers.**

Barnet Council's licensing sub-committee heard evidence against Crazy Corner Shop, on the corner of the High Road and Baronsmere Road, N2, from police and trading standards officers in August.

Committee members heard

that the shop had been the subject of three separate undercover shopping operations in response to concerns raised by members of the public and each time it had failed.

During the operations, police cadets aged under 18 were able

to purchase either alcohol or cigarettes from the shop without being asked to provide any form of identification.

### Persistent problem

Sergeant Jane Tuffin, from the Barnet Police licensing team, said: "Crazy Corner has been coming to the attention of police and the community for a number of years for the sale of alcohol to minors.

"We have made every effort to support, educate and to bring about change. However, as this problem persisted we had no alternative but to review their licence. The licensee repeatedly failed to meet the licensing objectives to protect children. I would like to thank the community for engaging with us and bringing their concerns to our attention so that we could act upon them."

Councillor John Marshall, Chairman of the Barnet Council Licensing Committee, said: "I hope this also sends a strong message to other businesses of the importance of taking very seriously their licensing responsibilities."

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# Academy makes changes to its admissions rules

Early in 2016 consternation about the rules for admission to The Archer Academy made headlines in this newspaper and filled the 'Letters to the Editor' pages. There were strong objections to the decision to name four 'feeder' primary schools, chosen because they were in the academy's priority postcodes and within 1.5 miles of the school.

Brookland Junior and Garden Suburb Junior in NW11, along with Manorside Primary and Tudor Primary in N3 fitted with the academy Trust's founding commitment to serve families from those areas, as well as N2.

The secondary school had been heavily oversubscribed in its first three years and, after public consultation and weeks of debate, this was regarded as the fairest way to give all three postcodes fair access. At the time, East Finchley parents were upset that the choice of feeder schools seemed to overlook N2 primaries Holy Trinity and Martin Primary.

## Adjudicator decides

Following complaints by three objectors in May this year, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator issued a detailed judgment in August. It stated that the aim to serve all three postcodes was lawful but the use of feeder schools had in fact proved ineffective in promoting the admission of children from N3 and NW11, and produced unfair results. Final admissions in 2018, for example, were 68% from N2, 16% from N3 and 16% from NW11.

The adjudication directed the academy to make changes for 2019. The school states: "We are therefore complying with the adjudicator's determination by removing the feeder schools mechanism from our oversubscription criteria, and replacing it with a quota-based allocation of places to each of the three priority postcodes."

## Future arrangements

From 2019, once siblings of existing pupils and a number of other priority groups have been offered places, 45% of places will be offered to children whose home address is within N2, 35% to children whose home address is within N3 and 20% of places to children whose home address is within NW11. Any places that remain after that will be allocated to applicants in the N2 postcode.

Places will be offered to those children who live closest to the school, based on a straight line from the front gate of the Lower School Stanley Road campus to their front door. Fuller details on the admissions criteria are available at [www.thearcheracademy.org.uk](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk).



Page turner: Almar Hafliðason with Emilia, left, and Lilja, engrossed in their reading at Laufás in Iceland.

## Love (of *The Archer*) in a cold climate

Hot on the heels of Paulina and Edwin Spencer-Lugtenberg taking *The Archer* to the Arctic in last month's edition, Almar Hafliðason has sent us a photo of himself and daughters Emilia and Lilja reading their copy 60 miles from the Arctic Circle in the north of Iceland.

Almar and his family were escaping the ferocious heat of East Finchley's summer by visiting Laufás, outstanding examples of traditional turf farmhouses from the 1840s, near Akureyri.

He told us: "I love Iceland but then my parents are from there, although I was born in London and raised in Scotland. I'm settled in London now but the summer heat is not for me."

"Akureyri is a little town

up north, well away from the hordes down south in the country and is a lovely escape. I can let the kids run free, sit in

a coffee shop and they can go out and play outside well out of my sight. Those two weeks keep us all sane."

## East Finchley Medical Practice GP Receptionist Vacancy

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Or email to: [eastfinchleymedicalpractice@nhs.net](mailto:eastfinchleymedicalpractice@nhs.net)  
Telephone enquiries: 020 8883 1458



## Girls start Y7 at Christ's College for first time

By David Melsome

After 160 years of educating boys, Christ's College Finchley welcomed girls into year 7 for the first time in September as part of its largest ever cohort of new students.

The new intake of 11 and 12-year-olds will move up year by year until the school in East End Road, N2, is fully co-educational. Until now, girls have only been admitted to the sixth form.

Many parents facing a shortage of local places, particularly for girls, have welcomed the new Christ's College admissions policy. Staff say the term has started positively with talented and enthusiastic year 7 students looking smart in their new and distinctive uniform.

Headteacher Samson

Olusanya said: "The girls and boys have settled in straightaway which is testament to our detailed transition and induction programme. We look forward to growing into a school where boys and girls work, study and collaborate to develop their talents and interests and achieve excellence as they transition into adulthood."

Christ's College Finchley is now accepting applications for its September 2019 cohort. More information can be found on its website [www.christscollegefinchley.org.uk](http://www.christscollegefinchley.org.uk).

Back to school: Isobella Scott-Goulding, left, and Deborah Ugochukwu on the way to their first day at Christ's College Finchley as part of the new intake of year 7 girls. Photo Karen Pierce-Goulding.



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# YOUNG ARCHER



All ears: McFly's Tom Fletcher and his author wife Giovanna, both left, feature in the book with Noah's Ark family Aga, Lucas, Borys and Wiktor.

## Hospice hand-in-hand with Disney

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice families from across north London have joined some of the world's most famous faces in a new book celebrating 90 years of Mickey Mouse. *Mickey Mouse & Me* by celebrity photographer Rankin features over 30 well-known names such as Kate Moss, Mark Hamill and Phillip Schofield alongside families of children with life-limiting conditions.

Three hundred collector's edition copies went on sale on eBay in August, with all proceeds going to children's hospice charity Together for Short Lives, who invited Noah's Ark

families to take part. And last month Noah's Ark was awarded £15,000 from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation to support its drama and music therapy sessions for 65 seriously ill children

with complex individual needs in their own home, hospital or the community.

Its new hospice building, The Ark, opens in spring 2019 to families in north and central

London. Visit [www.noahsark-hospice.org.uk](http://www.noahsark-hospice.org.uk) for info.

## School waves the green flag

Pupils and staff at Coldfall Primary School have been awarded a Green Flag award by global programme Eco-Schools for their work in looking after the school grounds and raising awareness of environmental issues.

Children at the Muswell Hill school have learned about air pollution and global warming as part of the school curriculum and take part in the Star Squad, which meets every week to discuss how the school can be more sustainable.

## My camping trip

By Tom Evans

This summer holiday I went camping with my brother, my daddy and my Highgate Primary school friends. My daddy and another daddy of my friend helped put up our tent. At first it was quite empty inside but then there was less and less room because my daddy put up our blow up mattresses.

In the night I rolled off the bed and ended up sleeping on the floor lying on a duvet with lots of rugs over me, so it was quite cosy!

During the day I had breakfast, got dressed and played with all my friends. But the night was the funnest part of all because I prowled around with torches and got to stay up very late. There was a camp fire and we had chocolate digestives, marsh-

mallows and hot chocolate. One night we watched a film called Lego Ninjago Movie in one of my friend's tents. That was fun.

The best bit about camping was finding a tree that could be a tree house and the night times when we had our adventures. The worst bit was waking up early in the morning and having to wait so long until night time came again!

## Hallowe'en humour

Here are some witch jokes for Hallowe'en chosen by Tom Evans, from Highgate Primary School.

Q: What happened to the naughty witch at school?

A: She was ex-spelled.

Q: Why do witches wear name tags?

A: So you can tell which witch is which!

Q: What do we call a witch who lives on the beach?

A: A sand-witch.

Q: What did the witch's cat have for breakfast?

A: Mice Crispies.

Q: What is the favourite lesson at witch school?

A: Spelling.

Q: How do you make a witch itch?

A: Delete the W.

## How we used to do Hallowe'en

By Diana Cormack

Children used to try to spook their neighbours long before dressing up and knocking on doors for a trick or treat took over as the main activity on 31 October. We did it with a home-made Hallowe'en lantern.

I can remember carefully slicing off the top of a swede or turnip before hollowing out the inside of the vegetable to create a head. That wasn't easy, but more difficult was cutting out the three triangular shapes for the eyes and nose plus a mouth if we could manage it.

Then two holes had to be carefully made near the top edge and another two through the sliced off top, which made a covering lid. String was poked through these holes to make a handle. Finally a candle had to be fitted inside.



### Kids only

Outside in the dark (without our parents) when the candle was lit we would wave the 'head' about. With its eyes, nose and mouth glowing, we would moan and scream eerily as we tried to scare passers-by. That didn't always work and neither did the lantern.

Firstly because there was often an autumn wind which blew out the match as soon as we struck it so we couldn't light the candle. Or the wind blew out the candle if we did manage to light it for a while. The candle itself would often topple over because fixing it inside was never wholly successful, nor was the string handle very stable. The holes for the string would sometimes split and the lantern would end up rolling away in the dark with us running after it.

Hallowe'en is now a much more organised and full-on occasion. What we did would probably not be tolerated today mainly because it was full of health and safety issues. Read this again and see how many you can find!

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

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

## Get your hands on the talent trophy

North London's Got Talent is set to return for a fourth year and applications are now being taken from acts hoping to win the coveted glitter ball trophy.

So whether you're a dancer, a singer, a magician or a comedian, like to perform solo or as part of a group, organisers are looking for a stellar line-up of performers to appear on stage at the North Finchley artsdepot on Saturday 2 February 2019. Twelve acts will be shortlisted to entertain the audience at the event, which is run by North London Hospice with all proceeds going towards funding patient care in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. Applications can be submitted online at [www.northlondonhospice.org/nlgt](http://www.northlondonhospice.org/nlgt) or by calling the fundraising team on 020 8446 2288 and must be in by the closing date of Monday 22 October.

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# What will Tarling Road offer us?

By Janet Maitland

The new community centre on Tarling Road is finally becoming a reality after years of delays and disappointments. While GRAHAM the building company kits out the inside and landscapes the outside, City YMCA are busy talking to community groups about how it will operate the centre.

Although City YMCA have not yet signed a management contract with Barnet Council, the council has commissioned them to identify community organisations interested in hiring rooms so that momentum is not lost.

Several community groups expressed an interest long before work on the new building even started, but the council wants to make sure that every potential group has been given the chance to make a case.

"A range of community organisations working with children and young people, as well as those providing activities for older residents, attended a meeting on September 11th," said Octavia Findlay from City YMCA. "Our feedback so far

is that youth provision is a key priority."

## Access and affordability

We asked the council whether the contract to run the centre has any requirements about access to the centre for everyone in the local community. For example, does it specify that the leaseholder should offer free and low cost activities? Will they be required to allow local people to hire a room at the centre, for, say, a birthday party?

A council spokesman told us: "The council intends for all the community to be able to hire the centre at a price that covers the running costs of the community centre. The council will not be making a surplus from the centre. However, the council is unable to subsidise the centre's running costs."

## Café space

We also asked the council whether the leaseholder would be required to open a café at the centre. The spokesman said that the council will be advertising the café space and will respond to the interest that they receive.

For more information about hiring space, contact octavia.findlay@cityymca.org.

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# The long struggle to settle after fleeing Cyprus

Review by Diana Cormack

Soulla Christodoulou's second novel *The Summer Will Come* was published earlier this year. It is one of the few written against the background of the 1950s troubles in Cyprus which involved the EOKA movement against British rule and the fight for unity with Greece.

Many families fled their beloved island, hoping to find a better life in this country. Soulla tells the story of two families and the challenges they face trying to settle in London.

## East Finchley setting

For the most part they struggle through life, frequently recalling the loveliness of Cyprus. In contrast this city seems a bleak and unwelcoming place and it is quite a shock to realise that the families are living in pretty poor housing conditions in East Finchley.

Cherry Tree Wood plays a part (fittingly Soulla sold signed copies of her book there at this year's community festival). One character has a shoe repair business in Lincoln Road, as did Soulla's paternal grandfather, whilst her father had an electrical shop nearby. Other familiar names and places in the vicinity are mentioned too.

## Friction between generations

Born in London to Greek Cypriot parents, Soulla often visited family in East Finchley. She describes the customs and traditions they brought with them, along with the disapproval and cultural conflict raised when the younger generation wanted to emulate the behaviour of their British peers. This features strongly in the story, where the many threads introduced eventually knit together to form a happy and hopeful ending but which sometimes seemed a long time coming.

Some sections could have been omitted as they did not add to the plot in general and a couple of rather gruesome events stretched my credulity somewhat. A word of warning: do not read the book when you are hungry as the most delicious food and its preparation are described throughout!



Author Soulla Christodoulou

Soulla was the first of her family to go to university and, after a variety of jobs, has spent several happy years teaching. She is now involved in many interesting projects. To learn more, visit [www.soulla-author.com](http://www.soulla-author.com)

# RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

## Off the rails

Back in days of old there was a glorious golden age of trains. Back then you knew that the 2.45 from Much Wittering to Paddington, changing at Bickering Junction, would be on time. There'd be cheerful whistling porters to carry your bags and a little old lady sitting in the corner knitting a howitzer.

Back then smiling school boys were at the end of every platform hoping to get the number of the new Wombat class as it puffed its way north to York. It wasn't just boys, you knew that if there was an accident ahead young girls would wave their red knickers so that the driver could stop the train in time. And when you got home you could get out your train set and relive the whole thing in the comfort of your front room. Except it never was like that.

The French, the Germans and even the Belgians planned their railways, but in Britain they just happened until we had a mishmash of conflicting routes crisscrossing the land. All was steam powered, dirty, smelly and pumping the kind of toxic rubbish out that took away the joy of travel. The cheerful driver who greeted small boys with a wave was probably under paid and destined to die of some nasty lung disease about a week after he retired.

By 1945 the whole lot was broken, out of date, losing money and in dire need of nationalisation. This should have been good, but somehow it took 30 years to get there. Then we got modern trains, new stations and an attempt at decent transport. After another 20 years, John Major decided to flog the whole lot off when he should have invested in modernising it further.

So now we have Great Northern Incompetent, Southern Cancellation, Western Ripoff and Verging on the Ridiculous. All with different fares and the style and charm of road kill. When my Incontinent Express ground to a halt outside Milton Springsteen, the driver was right when he blamed it on decades of under investment.

But at least the Wittering to Bickering line has reopened. It's run by retired bankers, an architect and a former teacher, all hooked on some weird nostalgia trip. I'm not using it though, because great aunt Edith was right when she said that if God had meant us to take the train he'd never have given us the Ford Cortina.

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## Regular Events

### Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**  
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **1-2-1 boxing and Pilates** training with Martin Carroll at home or private studio, call 07809 593952
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. [www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk](http://www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk). Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or [james@taiji.co.uk](mailto:james@taiji.co.uk)
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on [tennisgift@gmail.com](mailto:tennisgift@gmail.com).
- **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](mailto:info@yogalogy.co.uk)
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk)
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

### Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: [archercommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.boldbodies.co.uk).
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **Traditional tunes @ TOC** Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

### Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **Bridge Club**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Ready to roll: Sound of the Suburb are returning to Madden's

## Homecoming rockers

Rock 'n' roll favourites Sound of the Suburb return to East Finchley on Saturday 20 October to play live at Madden's in the High Road.

The band started out at the venue nearly 10 years ago and it will be their first gig there in 2018, although they've been kept busy playing other pub gigs and private parties around London and the Home Counties. Band member Chris Berlingieri said: "It's free entry for a fun night of great music and terrific food and drink."



Dinner guests: The cast of Muswell Hill in rehearsals

## One night in Muswell Hill...

Garden Suburb Theatre's production in October is *Muswell Hill*, a modern drama with local and global themes. It is January 2010 and one night an earthquake in Haiti results in the death of around 100,000 people and almost two million are left homeless.

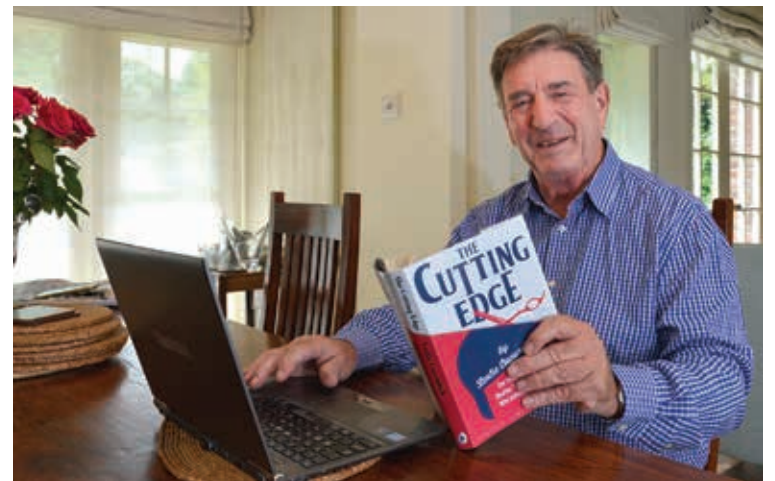
At the same time, in leafy Muswell Hill, six friends meet over avocado, prawns and a monkfish stew. They worry about their mortgages, careers, phone tariffs, Facebook friends, diets, love lives, alcohol intake... and whether or not history will remember them.

The play is being performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6, from Wednesday 10 to Sunday 14 October. Tickets priced £13/£11 are available from [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com) or from the Box Office on 020 8340 3488.

# Getting better all the time for hairdresser to The Beatles

By Diana Cormack

In September 2017 an article in *The Archer* revealed that, after an eight year project, the memoirs of Leslie Cavendish had been published. Leslie is the manager of the All Aboard charity shop on the High Road but, in a previous life, he was hairdresser to many of the top stars of the 60s and 70s, including The Beatles.



Paperback writer: Leslie Cavendish, with his book, *The Cutting Edge*.

Photo by Mike Coles

*The Cutting Edge: The Story of the Beatles' Hairdresser Who Defined an Era* was co-written by Archer team member the late Neil McNaughton. The book raised international interest and has led to Leslie travelling all over the world to talk about it. He embarked on a series of Q&A sessions and book signings at shops and literary festivals all over the country, including the Henley Literature Festival last month.

### Spanish connection

Having had successful trips to Chicago and New York, Leslie is going to Florida next April for a Beatles music weekend. Closer to home, he has a book lecture in Seville in December, but before that he will be setting off from Barcelona sailing round the Mediterranean on the first ever Beatles-themed cruise.

Leslie has had good reason to visit Spain, for he signed a publishing deal for his book to be released in paperback there

on 10 September and it will be out in all Spanish speaking countries by next year.

But it's getting better all the time because the English paperback version will be out in the UK in February 2019. The book is available on Amazon and [almabooks.com](http://almabooks.com). To learn more visit [www.beatleshairdresser.com](http://www.beatleshairdresser.com) or take your book into All Aboard for Leslie to sign.

## Sing, Sing, Sing

If you love to sing, The Archer Community Choir is the place for you!

We meet on Tuesdays at 7pm at The Archer Academy, Lower School Campus, Eagans Close, N2 8GA. We would love to welcome more singers to expand our choir. You do not have to be able to read music but only to enjoy singing a range of light popular songs. Come and try a session for £5. A term's fees cost around £80. Contact: [archercommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:archercommunitychoir@gmail.com)

## What's On...

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

### Saturday 6 October

• **Grange Big Local Fun Palace** hosted by East Finchley Library, High Road, N2. Music MC'ed by Benteki, of Repräsent radio, football run by the Monday Club, cheerleading from Saracens, free manicures from Vales Nails, dance from SOTO CIC, art with East Finchley Open Artists, the chance to look for aliens with Mill Hill Observatory and much more. Information at the Fun Palace website [www.funpalaces.co.uk](http://www.funpalaces.co.uk)

### Sunday 7 and 14 October

• **A&B Drama** presents *An Evening of Conceptual Absurdity*, featuring short plays by Tadeusz Rozewicz, Tom Jensen, Richard Fitchett and Martin Szalla. 7pm at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road. Tickets from Black Gull Books or [www.abdrama.com](http://www.abdrama.com)

### Wednesday 10 to Sunday 14 October

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents

*Muswell Hill*, a modern drama with local and global themes set around a dinner party in N10; Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village. Tickets priced £13/£11 from [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com) or 020 8340 3488.

### Sunday 14 October

• **Piano Recital by Robert St.John** to include works by Bach, Brahms, Schubert, Debussy, Mozart, Haydn and Chopin; East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; free admission with collection for North London Hospice. Fully accessible venue.

### Monday 15 October

• **Open meeting** to start planning the **East Finchley Summer Festival 2019**; everyone welcome to come and offer ideas and support for next year's festival; Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, at 7.30pm. Contact [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com).

### Friday 19 October

• **Memory Lane Singing Club** presents its **25th Anniversary Showtime**, 11am in St Mary's Parish Hall, Hendon Lane, N3. Free admission and all welcome.

### Saturday 20 October

• Rock 'n' roll local favourites **Sound of the Suburb** play live at Madden's, High Road, N2. Free entry for a fun night of great music and terrific food and drink.

### Saturday 27 October

• **Grange Big Local's Annual General Meeting** 11am to 2.30pm at St Mary's Parish Centre, 279 High Road, N2 8HG. Hear about the regeneration project's activities and achievements in 2018 and plans for 2019. Children's activities and free lunch. For information text 'Grange' to 66777, email [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org) or call 020 8364 8400 ext. 241.

### Saturday 27 October

**Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale** at

Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10, 10am to 1pm; admission 50p, refreshments available. For information contact 020.8368 8180 or 07708152354

### Saturday 27 to Wednesday 31 October

**Halloween Walks** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside High Barnet tube station, 7.30pm, for an introduction to ghosts of High Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Prizes for spookiest costumes. Information from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit [www.barnet-walks.co.uk](http://www.barnet-walks.co.uk).

### Sunday 28 October

Join a **Ramblers' Association** morning walk at 10am from **Finchley Central** station, taking circular route via Dollis Brook, Totteridge Lane and Burton Hole Farm (six miles or 10km); expect muddy patches sometimes. Contact leader Peter Sand on 07858 374 980.





# Need for vigilance over High Road flat building

By Mary Hogben

**In July last year, Barnet Council approved a controversial application for development of the former GLH minicab site opposite East Finchley Station. The application was to demolish historic Valona House and build two blocks accommodating 21 flats, office space and two car parking spaces.**

## Dumped rubbish

Fifteen months on, Valona House is still standing, and the land is being used to dump rubbish up to the garden walls of neighbouring Ingram Road. However, the developer, Safeland plc, recently put in an application to dig basements below both blocks, adding four subterranean dwellings and making numerous changes to the approved plans. This was submitted as a "non-material amendment".

## When is a change 'material'?

An application for 'non-material amendment' does not statutorily require any public consultation. There is no definition of 'non-material change' in planning regulation guidance, and it is left up to the discretion of the local authority. Luckily for East Finchley the application was published on the council's planning website so that we could all see it.

Most people would agree that adding 20% more dwellings, creating basements, changing elevations and adding to the density on the site is 'material change'. Luckily the application has now been withdrawn so hopefully we can assume that

Barnet's planners agree.

## Developers should observe rules

The original application was vigorously opposed by residents and The Finchley Society, and after

18 months of critical monitoring of documents and three appearances at committee, the number of dwellings was reduced and some changes made to the elevations, particularly those overlooking the houses behind. This became the scheme which was finally approved.

Approved documents include a set of drawings and descriptions by which the built product will need to be compared. If there is a significant difference then the council can use its powers of enforcement to request change, or even demolition.

Developers are required to work on their plans, and make a formal application to illustrate how they will be dealing with conditions attached when their schemes were approved. However, Safeland plc submitted a radically changed plan. We all need to keep vigilant, as this practice by developers to slip changes through is commonly exploited.



Early Sunday morning on the High Road Photo Mike Coles

# A busy night for the rubbish raiders

Our photographer Mike Coles was out buying a newspaper early one morning when he spotted signs that foxes had been busy in the High Road overnight. Bags of recyclable rubbish left out by traders for their scheduled roadside collection had been raided, creating a fair old mess across the pavement.

We can't blame the foxes, who after all are scavengers, but perhaps incidents like this are a reason to rethink the way business waste is left out for collection.

## Letters

### Too few 263 buses

Dear Editor,

My husband and I have recently moved to St Pancras Court, just off the High Road. We are very happy with the neighbourhood, except for one thing: the very infrequent bus service.

The only bus which serves this part of the High Road is the 263 which only turns up every 7-15 minutes, but sometimes it is necessary to wait even longer. This is a densely inhabited area, and there are always people waiting at the bus stop.

In May I wrote to the Mayor of London to suggest that the number of buses should be doubled, or that there should be a shuttle bus running between North Finchley and Highgate. I received a reply saying that my suggestion had been passed on to Transport for London and that I should receive a response within ten working days. You won't be surprised to hear that I am still waiting.

In any case, I don't expect a single letter to get results. I'm sure that many dissatisfied users of the 263 bus must be readers of *The Archer*. I would like to suggest that if other people also wrote to TfL to complain about this infrequent service then perhaps TfL might consider putting more buses on this route.

Yours faithfully,  
Anna Lowenstein,  
St Pancras Court,  
High Road, N2.

### Library worse by the week

Dear Editor,

An article in September's *Archer* was headed 'Library turns into a palace'. We don't need a palace. What we desperately need is a proper working library. Under the control (?) of Capita, the library service becomes worse by the week.

Phoning to carry out basic transactions is completely unpredictable. Sometimes it is impossible to reach a person, but you can renew on the automated line; another time there is no automated renewal and your books are renewed by a human.

The latest is that my renewal was blocked. I have used East Finchley Library for decades and have no outstanding fines or blots on my record. No reason was given, but the supervisor graciously authorised the renewal.

I then attended the library and found – surprise, surprise – staff in attendance, but unable to issue books as the system was not operating properly. I am now waiting to be fined for books that are already returned!

It is difficult not to draw the conclusion that Barnet Council want to use the difficulty of borrowing books as an excuse to close the library. Need one look further for a suitable purpose for lottery funding?

Yours faithfully,  
Valerie Jablon,  
Gurney Drive, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

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

### Schooling and shopping

Dear Editor,

I was sorry to read David Smith has retired as governor of Holy Trinity School (*The Archer*, June 2018). I have such fond memories of his mother, who was our playground and welfare lady. My grandson Jake was the fifth generation in our family to attend Holy Trinity. I hope it keeps the high standard it always had.

Also, I was interested to read Andrew Bryson's comments about banks and shops in the High Road (*The Archer*, July 2018). Andrew and his big brother Gary would remember the lovely shops we had in the High Road were Sainsbury, W Brothers, Tesco, Corn Merchants, shoe shop, Glovers and the Co-op. We had everything. No need to go further. But East Finchley still has the friendly village atmosphere and is the best place to live.

Yours faithfully,  
Margaret Cartwright,  
Leicester Road, N2.

# Parking time limit at leisure park

New parking restrictions have been introduced at the Great North Leisure Park in North Finchley. Free parking is now limited to four hours for visitors using the leisure centre, cinema or restaurants, with no option to pay to stay longer. Number plate cameras monitor your entrance and exit times and there is a £100 fine for those who exceed the time limit, £60 if paid within two weeks. Look out for the (small) signs that are positioned around the car park.

Follow us!



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# Crash, bang, wallop, N2United is back!

By Charles Haydn

**The September meeting of the N2United business networking group certainly started with a bang. Just before the start of the meeting at the Clissold Arms on Fortis Green, two cars collided right outside, stopping the traffic between East Finchley and Muswell Hill.**

The collision was soon attended by not one but three fire engines and two police cars. With the assistance of Clissold manager Lee the fire and police officers quickly cleared the damaged vehicles to allow the traffic to flow again. A quick check by the N2United team to make sure no one was seriously injured, and the meeting commenced, albeit with a few frantic calls from members caught in traffic.

## Down to business

Host for the evening Ruth Anders steered a lively discussion on a range of business topics which included a presentation from Sophie Fleming, North London Regional Director for The Athena Network, who gave valuable tips on networking. After this, Octavia Findlay, Project Manager for the City YMCA and lead community consultation for the Tarling Road Community Hub project, tempted everyone with the various business opportunities available when the new centre opens. There was an update by Joanne Westgate on the campaign to

rid East Finchley of single use plastics as well as a discussion on a Christmas campaign along the High Road.

Since 2016, N2United has been steadily building its membership with these monthly meetings to help grow N2 businesses and connect them to a dynamic, supportive local network. It meets on the second Thursday of each month and attendance costs £10 for non-members. For more details visit [n2united.co.uk](http://n2united.co.uk) or search #n2united on Facebook or Instagram and come along to a meeting. You will be made most welcome!

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[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

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# The Archer

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Forever in our hearts: Ruth Kersley, above, with the first Grenfell mosaic and, right, the three others in the playground at Avondale Park Primary School. Photos Michael Greisman

## A way to remember

By John Lawrence

**When fire took hold of Grenfell Tower in west London, it claimed the lives of 72 people, many of them children. Families, schools and communities in the area were left traumatised.**

Four months after the tragedy, glass and mosaic artist Ruth Kersley approached one primary school in the shadow of the tower with the idea of creating a permanent memorial to two families including six children and one staff member who lost their lives.

### Mosaics of memory and hope

The project she started resulted in the four beautiful mosaics that today take pride of place in the playground of Avondale Park Primary School. The first panel shows Grenfell Tower placed among the ter-

rored houses and streets that cover the North Kensington area. The second and third represent portraits of the two families who died, and the fourth depicts a garden of hope filled with flowers created by one of the victims' classmates, now in year 2.

Ruth, of Abbots Gardens, N2, involved Avondale's children and staff every step of the way. Each class from nursery to year six created the drawings and helped to cut and stick the ceramic and glass tiles that form the mosaics. Ruth also ran an art club for older children once a

week after school and welcomed the offers of help from mothers and staff.

### Shocked community

"I think it was a cathartic experience for them," said Ruth. "Here was something constructive to do in a situation where they felt so powerless. Some of those I worked with had lost their homes in the fire.

"For me it was an extraordinary experience. I've lived in East Finchley a long time but, through this, I got to know and care for a whole different community in W10 and W11 that I previously knew nothing about. They are lovely people."

It was a community still in shock. "I was both saddened and moved to spend time with the children and hear their stories whilst working in the shadow of the building," said Ruth. Avondale Park is just 300m from where the shell of Grenfell still stands.

"I could not have done this project without the support of staff, especially the wonderful headteacher Katy Blackler. She showed extreme fortitude at the time of the fire, keeping the school open from the immediate aftermath, ensuring that children had a safe environment and some normality in a traumatic situation."

### 'Forever in our hearts'

After six months of hard work, the four mosaics, created by the whole school, were unveiled at a moving commemorative assembly on the first anniversary of the blaze. The inscriptions they bear in English and Arabic read: "Forever in our hearts". Find out more about Ruth's work at [www.ruth-glass.com](http://www.ruth-glass.com).



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