



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



Tooled up: London's first all-female garage team Siobhan, Laura and Megan have opened for business in East Finchley. Read the full story on page 4.

## Phoenix Cinema looks ahead to the future as an independent

By John Lawrence

Six months ago the Phoenix Cinema was in crisis. Audience numbers were falling, staff and management had fallen out, and the venue was facing a £30,000 black hole in its balance sheet. The cinema, independent since 1985, came close to being taken over by the Curzon Cinemas group.

Now the picture is looking brighter. A huge fundraising drive including a £20,000 crowdfunding target has steadied the finances and a programme of special events has been playing to full houses. At the same time, a new executive director has been brought in to lead the Phoenix team and ambitious plans are being considered, such as building a second screen.

That man is Neil Couzens, who was director of marketing at the JW3 arts centre in Hampstead and CEO of the Wandsworth Museum. He told *The Archer*: "The Phoenix is a positive challenge and it's a good time to be joining. I'm aware that it's not going to be plain sailing and we all have to get to grips with the situation. It's about making changes across a wide number of areas to bring in more revenue." Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said staff, supporters and volunteers had come together to face the crisis. "It's tight whether we can fully

close the financial gap this year but we are already looking ahead to next year," she said. "We want to prove that we can break even and then plan more solidly for the future."



Big plans: New executive director Neil Couzens at the Phoenix Cinema.

Neil and Alison agreed that a second screen on a small parking area behind the cinema would be transformational. "We'd need to call on people for support again because that would require a massive fundraising drive," said Alison.

### Search for treasurer

The Phoenix Cinema Trust is looking for a qualified accountant who has a few hours available each week to act as the venue's treasurer. They will be responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the Phoenix and working with staff, official accountants and auditors to make sure the cinema is well run financially, starting this summer. Anyone who is qualified and interested is asked to email: jobs@phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Continued on page 5.

## New crossing on High Road days after pedestrian is killed

By David Melsome

A new pedestrian crossing is being built in the High Road, N2, near the spot where a 63-year-old woman was killed in a collision with a car.

Detectives continue to appeal for witnesses to the fatal collision which happened during heavy rain around 6.45pm on Saturday 16 March, between the junctions with Lincoln Road and Beresford Road.

The pedestrian's name has not been formally released but flowers and cards have appeared in tribute to her at the foot of a tree nearby. The driver stopped at the scene and there have been no arrests.

Anyone with any infor-

mation or dashcam footage is asked to call the Serious Collision Investigation Unit at Alpertown on 020 8991 9555.

Just 10 days after the accident, Barnet Council began to install the new crossing close to the junction with Beresford Road, halfway between the two existing crossing points on this busy stretch of the High Road. It will not be a zebra crossing but will have dropped kerbs and a central refuge where pedestrians can wait.

Continued on page 2.

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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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## In my Easter bonnet...



**Moss and lichen have made their home on the top of this postbox in Elmfield Road, N2, making it look as if it's wearing a particularly fancy hat for Easter. Or if you're tall enough to look down on it, you could fancy you are looking at a map of tropical islands and coral reefs in a Post Office red sea.**

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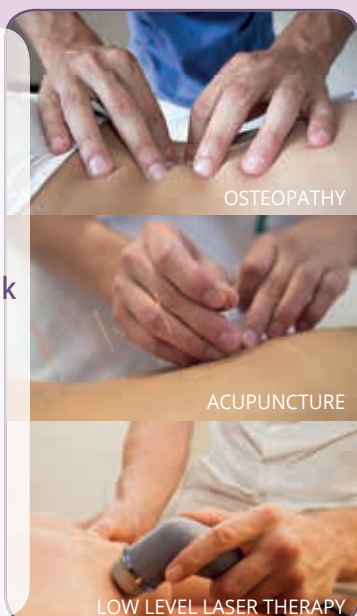
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Robin Kiashek | BSc (Hons) Ost Med., N.D., LicAc

## New crossing days after pedestrian is killed

### Continued from page 1

East Finchley councillor Alison Moore confirmed that the crossing had been planned for 18 months following a petition started by Paul Spencer-Smith, of Lincoln Road, N2 (*The Archer*, June 2017) and said the timing of its arrival so soon after the fatal accident was "heartbreaking". Saddened readers have also contacted *The Archer* (see Letters, page 11).

### Crossing safety

The fatal collision came after our front page article in last month's edition reporting on calls by staff and parents to improve safety at the pedestrian crossing on the High Road outside Martin Primary School.



Under construction: Work underway on the new crossing

A 42-year-old father and his young daughter had been injured when they were in collision with a car travelling up from the North Circular as they crossed there on the afternoon of Monday 4 February. Meanwhile, worried residents

who regularly use a zebra crossing at the Muswell Hill end of Fortis Green, close to the junction with Twyford Avenue, say that is not safe either and are calling for better lighting and traffic-calming measures (see report, page 3).

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### 89 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Alterations to roof, including relocation of one front rooflight and changes to Juliet balcony.

#### Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2

Details of historic building condition, pursuant to planning permission.

#### 67 Brackenbury Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer window and two front rooflights.

#### 23 Brim Hill, N2

Single-storey rear extension with glazed units and parapet flat roof. New patio. Alterations to fenestration.

#### 264 Creighton Avenue, N2

Removal of paving, drive and front wall. Alterations to landscaping, including planting of hedge.

#### 28 Deansway, N2

Part single (three metres), part two-storey rear extension. Roof extension, including rear dormer window, three rooflights and infill at rear. First floor bay window extension.

#### 2 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Lawful development certificate for roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window and three front rooflights. Replacement side windows. Rear outbuilding.

#### 25 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Variation to planning permission for roof extension. Amendments include larger openings at rear of dormer, addition of Juliet balcony and planter. Reduction of front roof lights from four to three.

#### 1 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Two-storey dwelling house with rooms in roof space, following demolition of existing garage. Habitable basement space with one lightwell. Associated amenity space and refuse/recycle store.

#### 113 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 76-78 Great North Road, N2

(Haringey Consultation) Demolition of existing properties, new building comprising seven self-contained flats, and new dwelling within rear garden, with associated car parking and landscaping.

#### Development site north of 215 to 223 High Road, N2

One three-storey and one four-storey building to provide 20 self-contained residential units with 20 ground floor parking spaces. Associated cycle storage, refuse and recycling store and amenity space.

#### 72 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

#### 316 Long Lane, N2

Details of turning and parking space, pursuant to planning permission.

#### 392 Long Lane, N2

Demolition of existing extensions. New part-single, part two-storey side and rear extension.

#### Land adjacent to 1 - 12 Norfolk Close, N2

Amendments to planning permission for four-storey detached building, including alterations to hard and soft landscaping and car parking layout.

### Haringey Council

#### 20 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for a single-storey rear extension

#### 63 Twyford Avenue, N2

Erection of single-storey side and rear extension, replacing existing.





# Zebra crossing is “too dangerous”

By John Lawrence

A pedestrian crossing on the busy route between East Finchley and Muswell Hill is dangerous to use, say residents, and they are calling for better safety measures to be installed.

Karyn Johnstone is one of those leading a petition calling on Haringey Council to slow traffic and install improved lighting at the crossing close to the Muswell Hill end of Fortis Green, near the junction with Twyford Avenue.

“Drivers are taking advantage of the straight road and driving at an unacceptable speed during the day and particularly at night. It is particularly treacherous when it is raining or icy,” she said.

Fortis Green, where the speed limit is 30mph, is well used by schoolchildren, dog walkers and all ages of pedestrians. The campaigners say the crossing is often hard to spot from a driver’s point of view and people have been knocked down using it.

Their petition requests traffic calming measures, including speed cameras, and low-level lighting to illuminate the crossing, making it more visible. They cite good lighting at a pedestrian crossing round the corner in Tetherdown as an example of what could be done. Find the petition at [www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mge-PetitionDisplay.aspx?id=69](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mge-PetitionDisplay.aspx?id=69)

Their campaign coincides with calls from parents and staff at Martin Primary in East Finchley for better safety measures at the High Road crossing outside their school following an accident involving a father and his young daughter. A zebra crossing at the East Finchley end of Fortis Green, close to the junction with Durham Road, was installed nearly 20 years ago following

a campaign by people living nearby. Pedestrian Maria Bus-sandri had been killed in a hit and run collision with a motor-bike, the second accident on that stretch of road in three years.

## School seeks new chair of governors

The governing body at the Archer Academy are inviting applications for the role of chair of governors, following current leader Avis Johns’ decision to step down at the end of this academic year after six years in the role.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: “Avis is well known in the community as the driving force behind the Archer Academy, and her amazing energy and unstinting support have been a critical factor in our success as a school.”

Bryan Marcus, the governing body’s co-vice chair, said: “We are looking for a successor who has a passion for delivering the school’s vision, improving outcomes for our students, and contributing to the wider community. It’s a demanding, but extremely rewarding, voluntary role.”

Details of how to apply, as well as further information about the role, can be found in the Governors section of the Join Us pages at <http://thearcheracademy.org.uk>. The deadline for applications is 22 April, with the school aiming to appoint a chair-elect before the end of May.

# We’ll miss you so much, Miss

By Rachel Ellis

Ballet teacher Marjorie Millons has said a sad farewell to her pupils after an amazing 63 years of dance classes in East Finchley. Hundreds of local children, their children and grandchildren have passed through her doors to learn how to dance over the decades.



Treasured teacher: Miss Millons with one of her students, Kate Amos. Photo Rachel Ellis.

Known to her pupils as Miss Millons, she has taught everyone from toddlers to teenagers in her long career and, in recent years, ran classes for adults on a Saturday morning.

For the first 23 years she taught at Holy Trinity Church and for the last 40 years has been based at the Methodist Church on the High Road.

### Retiring from teaching...

Marjorie, 82, decided to retire after suffering health problems last year. Her last adult class was on Saturday 23

March, and the last children’s class was a week later.

“It’s time for me to retire but I will miss it dreadfully,” said Marjorie. “Ballet has been part of my life since I was four and has kept me going all these years.”

“I started out with three pupils and since then hundreds of children have attended my classes over the years. I am still in touch with one of my first pupils and she must be about 70 now.”

### ...but not from dancing

However, it’s not the end of Marjorie’s dancing life. “I intend to keep dancing when I can. It’s good therapy,” she said. And ballet classes will continue at the Methodist Church with Felicity. Rosie Margree, 18, from Bedford Road, who has been attending classes since she was three and has just taken her grade 7 exam, said: “Miss Millons is a constant strong presence. You really want to do well and try hard to please her, but also feel able to ask her for help. I’ll miss her loads.”

# Arrest after man stabbed on bus

By Janet Maitland

A 17-year-old boy has been charged with attempted murder after a man was stabbed on a 134 bus travelling down Colney Hatch Lane in Muswell Hill on a Saturday afternoon. Police and the London Ambulance Service were called to the scene at about 4.45pm on Saturday 9 March and found a 19-year-old man with a stab wound in his chest. He was taken to an east London hospital by Air Ambulance where his condition was later described as ‘critical but stable’.

In a crackdown on knife crime, Barnet police were given 12 hours of temporary extra powers starting at 3pm on Sunday 10 March. These extra powers, sanctioned by section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, allowed them to stop and search people and vehicles without reasonable grounds to suspect they were carrying weapons. Additional officers were also deployed in the operation.

The suspect was arrested over the same weekend and

formally charged on Monday 11 March.

### How to help or be helped

Detective Sergeant Jon Deans appealed for anyone who witnessed the incident or has information to call 101 quoting reference number 5259/9MAR or tweet @MetCC. If you want to pass on information

anonymously, you can also call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or go online at [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org).

If you need help or information to support someone you suspect is involved in knife crime, or if you need assistance yourself, then go to [www.knifefree.co.uk](http://www.knifefree.co.uk) and [www.london.gov.uk/content/london-needs-you-alive](http://www.london.gov.uk/content/london-needs-you-alive)

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# All-female team changing the garage experience

By John Lawrence

**"Some of the places I've worked at were awful in the way they treated a woman on the team. They wouldn't trust you or wouldn't show you anything. At the worst they were intimidating and bullying."**

So says Laura Kennedy about her experience of making her way in the male-dominated world of garages and car repair workshops. And, yes, there are still plenty of calendars of topless women hanging up in those places.

## Good for customers and workers

The way out of this world for Laura and her colleagues Megan and Siobhan has been to set up and run London's first all-female garage team, called Spanners With Manners. Now they have moved into the site

repairs on all makes and models.

"A lot of our customers have had bad experiences at other garages and feel they have been ripped off because they are women," says Laura. "When their male partner goes into the same garage to question a price or something, they get a different story. 'People who come in to us say it's a nice environment and it's friendly. That goes for men and women. And for us, working in an all-female team is good. It makes a difference when you're working closely alongside someone in tight spaces

and have to be in close contact with them."

Laura started out with an apprenticeship with Porsche 16 years ago and has worked at many places since. "The first five years were horrendous. It was so male dominated," she says. "One place told me they couldn't take me on because they didn't have any toilet facilities for women. Others were totally different, really encouraging and gave me

a great training."

## Inspiring

Tracy Gray is very happy to be handing over the business to Laura and the team. She says: "They are an inspiration for young girls who are mechanically minded and maybe don't want to pursue the academic route. Although it's supposed to be a gender-equal world, it's not really and it's not easy for girls to find their way into a business like this."



Under the bonnet: Laura Kennedy at Spanners With Manners. Photo Mike Coles

in Long Lane, N2, previously run by Glen and Tracy Gray as Glen Garage.

Their aim is to offer a workshop where it's not intimidating for female motorists to bring their vehicles and where male and female customers can expect simple and reliable quotes for any servicing or



Moving on: Glen and Tracy Gray in their last week at their Long Lane garage. Photo John Lawrence.

# Garage duo hand over the keys

By John Lawrence

**Forty years have passed since Glen Gray first came to work at his garage in East Finchley. Then he rented the site between Long Lane and the Northern line tube tracks from an owner who in turn rented it from London Transport. His wife Tracy joined the business around the year 2000, which is when they expanded beyond a vehicle workshop into the van hire market too.**

Now Glen and Tracy have decided it's time to hang up their keys and make way for the next generation of garage owners. They will be Spanners With Manners, London's first all-female garage team.

## Right time to go

Glen and Tracy have never advertised the workshop side of their business, always thriving and surviving on customer loyalty and word of mouth. "We'll miss the interaction with the customers. A lot of them have become close friends over the years and we've got to know a lot about each other," says Tracy. Glen signals that it's the right time for him to be retiring. "The car business years ago was very

simple. You could look under a bonnet and find out what was wrong pretty quickly," he says. "Now cars are full of electronics and on-board computers, they're so sophisticated. You need a lot of tools and software and you need to keep up with training every year. The main dealers are making it hard for small garages like us."

## Friendly handover

The couple, who live in Elmfield Road, N2, were aware that their business site, between Chamberlin Road and Manor Cottages Approach, could be a prime target for property developers so they were keen to sell to another garage team. "I heard through our tool man that Spanners With Manners

were losing their lease in North Finchley with just a month's notice, so we invited them down and we all got on together straightaway," says Glen. "We decided to share the premises while we went through the handover period and it's worked out very well."

## Road trip ahead

Retirement won't mean Glen and Tracy will be entirely off-road. He will continue to polish and tinker with his beloved Jaguar Mark II 3.8 litre, which he's owned for 25 years, and together they plan a road trip in their camper van visiting their five children, eight grandchildren and other family and friends around the UK.

# Reach your local customers by advertising in *The Archer*

By John Dearing

**The Archer is the East Finchley community newspaper and is produced and distributed each month entirely by volunteers. We deliver it to over 9,000 East Finchley homes and businesses in N2, starting on the first weekend of each month.**

We regularly receive positive feedback from right across the community. Our paper is read from cover to cover by most of our readers, who welcome our unique focus on East Finchley events, issues and features, in contrast to the other North London local papers, so if you want to share in our success, why not consider advertising in *The Archer*?

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# Residents of Finchley Charities homes facing rent changes

By Daphne Chamberlain

From this month there will be a change in the weekly charges paid by residents of The Finchley Charities estates. There are two of these estates in East Finchley: Wilmot Close, Thackrah Close and Homefield Gardens.

The Finchley Charities state that maintenance charges will now distinguish between general service charges and utilities (gas, electricity and water), and that the complex rent system has been standardised to differentiate between studios, one-bedroom and larger one-bedroom accommodation.

They say some people will end up paying less, and that increases are still sub-market level, confirmed by estate agent Martyn Gerrard, and are in line with the Social Housing Regulator.

Chief Executive Susan Faridi has contacted all Barnet councillors to explain the changes, and has sent a detailed newsletter to all residents. East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra has posted on Twitter and Facebook about these changes. He said a resident invited him to a meeting last month at Homefield Gardens, but he was "thrown out".

Susan Faridi told TheArcher that the meeting was not about rent and utility charges, and that no Trustee or staff member knew he was coming. She said: "I informed him the consultation had ended and we would now meet residents on an individual basis, to support them

appropriately as individual circumstances are different and confidential. I asked him courteously to leave and to contact me (as he had already been invited to do) to arrange a meeting." This was being arranged as we went to press.

Cllr Mittra told us: "The new charge for utilities comes right out of their pockets and will hit some residents very hard." He said that there was no good reason not to stage the rise over several years, and that he did not believe there had been any proper consultation.

Susan Faridi said: "We ran a number of communal meetings, and in some cases individual face-to-face ones, to discuss the changes we intended to introduce." She said that the Trustees had discussed but decided against phasing phasing in the increases. They say they will support residents who feel they are in hardship.

**Speed humps**  
Speed humps have been installed along Church Lane, N2, where a 20mph limit and warning signs are already in place for motorists using it as a route between East End Road and the High Road.



Phoenix fans: Reece Shearsmith, left, and Steve Pemberton ahead of their audience Q&A at the cinema. Photo John Lawrence

## Sell-out crowd for comedy masters Steve and Reece

By John Lawrence

Fans of hit TV series *Inside No 9*, *The League of Gentlemen* and *Psychoville* packed out the Phoenix Cinema for a warm and funny evening of screenings and behind-the-scenes revelations with their creators Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith.

The award-winning comedy-drama duo were there as part of a special weekend of fundraising events, which also featured a Friday film quiz hosted by Time Out's Mark Salisbury and a Saturday screening of music documentary *Coldplay: A Head Full of Dreams*.

Steve and Reece were there on the Sunday night to answer questions from writer and broadcaster Dr Matthew Sweet and the audience. During the screenings of episodes from 2002, 2009 and 2018, the pair watched from the back of the cinema. "We can see ourselves age right there on the screen," joked Steve.

### Memories of the Phoenix

Both long-time residents of East Finchley, they are keen to support the campaign to keep the Phoenix independent. "The Phoenix is our local cinema and it's been a great source of entertainment for us," Reece told *TheArcher*. "We need to make people aware that they should come and watch films here."

Steve told us he had fond memories of hiring the cinema one Sunday morning some years ago to screen *Shrek 2* for his son's sixth birthday party. "Every time you come off the tube and see the Phoenix's

wonderful frontage it reminds you how lucky we are to have it," he said.

### Bouncing ideas

During the audience Q&A, the pair talked about their writing process (they work in a rented office in Muswell Hill) and their often grotesque cast of characters.

"Writing for the TV is quick. You can write something and it can be on within the year," said Reece. "We always write together. We like

to bounce ideas off each other and get an instant reaction, see if we can make the other one laugh," added Steve.

They have just finished filming the fifth series of twist-in-the-tail *Inside No 9*, including a week of night shoots at a north London cemetery. They told *TheArcher* that they had once planned to set an episode in a cinema or projection room just like the Phoenix's. "It could still happen, who knows?" said Reece.

## Phoenix looks forward to future as an independent

Continued from page 1.

### Phoenix Friends

Members of the Friends annual membership scheme at the Phoenix, costing £35 annually for one person or £60 for two, now get a range of discounts and benefits at many local restaurants and shops on the High Road in East Finchley.

They include the Bald Faced Stag, Meze and Shish, Nahling, Majjo's Restaurant, Josephines, Black Gull Bookshop, Kokos, Dan and DiCarlo, Bike and Run, Aliya J, the New Local Cafe, The Barber Shed,

East Finchley Electrical and La Boucherie.

### Free film education

The Phoenix is launching the second of its Making Images courses, designed to introduce 16 to 19-year-olds to the film industry, including production, distribution, exhibition and audience development, with access to industry professionals in each area.

The course runs for nine months from this spring and is fully funded by a charitable grant, meaning there is no cost to students. The Phoenix team say they are keen to offer places to students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about film making. For more information and an application form, email: [education@phoenixcinema.co.uk](mailto:education@phoenixcinema.co.uk).



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Going, going, gone: Walkers duck beneath the leaning tree at the entrance to Cherry Tree Wood; council workers go in for the chop; the shorn trunks left behind. Photos Mike Coles

## Cruellest cut for the 'limbo' tree of Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack

For many years the High Road entrance to Cherry Tree Wood has had the added attraction of a canopy arching over the footpath. This was provided by two boughs of a mature Hornbeam tree growing at the edge of the path on the High Road side.

Gradually these have been getting lower and lower, presumably with their weight pulling the trunk and the rest of the

tree down at an awkward angle, and leading to a risk of the tree uprooting altogether.

Eventually the low branches

became a danger to park users and were the subject of many

comments in the East Finchley community Facebook group including jokes about having to limbo under them.

The situation was reported to Barnet Council. While many

hoped the tree could have been propped up in some way and the branches preserved, they were sawn off in mid-March, leaving what some feel is a rather stark result.

## Park gates to stay locked at night

Cherry Tree Wood in East Finchley will remain locked overnight for the immediate future following a cross-borough campaign led by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

In November 2018, Barnet Council agreed to review whether to continue to lock parks overnight in order to save £75,000 (*The Archer*, March 2019).

At the Environment Committee last month the Council decided that for Cherry Tree Wood, along with 14 other parks, "there are currently no proposals... these sites would be considered following a review of any impacts following phase 1 and 2 and would be reported to a future committee for decision prior to implementation."

The parks in phase 1 will be left unlocked from 1 April and those in phase 2 will be subject to consultation in the coming

months. It is likely that Cherry Tree Wood and the other 13 parks in phase 3 will be looked at again early in 2020.

Roger Chapman, Chair of the Friends, said: "We need to remain vigilant. The Council are likely to bring forward proposals in 2020 to cease locking Cherry Tree Wood overnight. "The Friends Group mounted a borough-wide petition, which raised over 1,300 signatures in the few weeks prior to the Committee meeting. It shows the strong opposition to these proposals from local people rightly concerned about the potential increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour."

## Traders hope shoppers will put a spring in their step

By Charles Haydn

Traders and small businesses in East Finchley are hoping that the spring weather will encourage more residents to use the variety of services available to them from their local shops and businesses, reports local business network N2United.

Trade is still difficult up and down the High Road but businesses say they want to thank the local community for their loyalty and trade.

Over the coming months N2United and other East Finchley focused communities and the businesses they represent will be discussing how they can work together more closely to create an even stronger network and build on the strengths and special characteristics of N2.

They believe a united voice from local businesses, backed by support and loyalty from customers, can avoid the area's collection of shops, cafés, restaurants and small businesses turning into a wasteland of deserted premises and poorly maintained public spaces.

N2United meet regularly on the second Thursday of every month and local businesses, shops and enterprises are always welcome. For more information see [N2United.co.uk](http://N2United.co.uk).

## Join the clean up

By Debbie Linton

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are holding a litter pick on Saturday 27 April from 10am to 12 noon. Meet at the Summerlee Avenue entrance to Cherry Tree Wood. All equipment such as bags, gloves and litter-pickers will be provided. Both adults and children welcome. Come along for a bit and help keep your wood tidy.

Also on Saturday 27 April there will be an hour-long guided walk in the wood. This will provide information about its history and activities from ancient times to when it was purchased by Barnet Council in 1915 to the modern day. Meet at the Summerlee Avenue entrance to the wood at 2pm.

### Contact and membership

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood is a registered charity and has a new membership scheme which is free of charge. If you would like to be updated about activities in the wood or to just get in touch, email the Friends at [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com). There is also a new website [friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog](http://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog) and a new Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cherrytreewooddef](http://www.facebook.com/cherrytreewooddef).

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## A café all year round

By Diana Cormack

The café in Cherry Tree Wood opposite the tennis courts opened in its present form in 2005, the previous wooden kiosk having been burned down in 2002.

This latest metal construction has stood the test of time and is now under a third lessee, Pepe Dostezad. Regular readers may recognise his name, for Pepe was mentioned on the front page of our January issue with the news that the pavilion in the park is to be demolished. He had long been hoping to renovate that larger building place, with the intention of opening a café there.

However, Pepe is not too downhearted as he now wants to extend the kiosk café, making it somewhere that people can

sit and enjoy the park whatever the weather.

He intends to keep the existing counter and canopied area at the front for outside service. Indoor service would be available on the eastern side, with seating and tables on the paved area surrounded by clear windows.

"I really want to give something back to the community," he said when telling *The Archer* of his plans. "People could enjoy the park from here throughout the seasons."

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**Easter Sunday:** Parish Eucharist @ 10:00 am



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# I'm running the Marathon for my aunt... and people like her

The capital is getting ready for the London Marathon on Sunday 28 April and here Archer reader Stephany Clark explains why she will be pounding the streets on the day.

When I was in my teens, one of my aunts went from being fit and healthy to losing the use of her legs in a very short space of time. She went from walking with a limp, to crutches, to a wheelchair and nobody knew why.

Her whole home had to be adapted for someone who needed a wheelchair to go anywhere. It was a very distressing time for the family especially as the reason was unknown. It later emerged that she had multiple sclerosis.

## Damaged nervous system

MS is a disease of the central nervous system where the protective covering that insulates the nerves is damaged so nervous impulses can't travel down

them any more.

Doctors stabilised her condition with medication for nearly 30 years. In the past year her MS sadly progressed again and she has now also lost the use of her arms and requires full-time care at home. However, she remains one of the most cheerfully upbeat people I know.

MS presents itself differently in each person, both in symptoms and severity, but most sufferers need support. I am privileged in my job as an osteopath to meet a wide array of people, some with life-altering medical conditions, but the randomness of MS has always felt disconcerting.

## Fund-raising for MS-UK

My aunt's tenacity and good

humour have always struck a chord with me so when I took up running three years ago I knew I would eventually run for MS-UK. This year MS-UK gave me my first ever place running the London Marathon 2019.

The charity is all about supporting the patient, be it through counselling, advice on medication or even support groups. They give sufferers the information and support needed to have independence, choice and control over their condition.

If you would like to sponsor me and help raise funds for this wonderful charity I would be most grateful. Just search for Stephany Clark at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com).



Stephany Clark training for the London Marathon. Photo Mike Coles

## Library toilet is a real inconvenience

Library users in East Finchley have had to get used to some major changes since the introduction of a self-service system and reduced staff hours. Campaign group Save Barnet Libraries has warned of disadvantages for children under 15 who can no longer go there without an adult, limited access which prevents teenagers visiting to study, people with disabilities only being able to attend when the library is staffed and some users being afraid to go when there are no staff present.

This situation has been aggravated by a decrease in the hours when there is a security guard in the building, provided by the borough.

But there is one essential provision needed in such a building which is used by a large cross section of the community: a toilet. However, when there are no staff available, the large

library loo is locked.

The Archer was told that the toilet is kept locked at these times for safety reasons, for instance in case someone is hurt in there or is unable to get out for some reason.

Local mother Erini Rodis says the out-of-bounds toilet has become part of the Save Barnet Libraries campaign because,

even library users who can get in during unstaffed hours are forced out as soon as nature calls.

She said: "It is particularly discriminatory to those looking after children or whose bladders aren't the size of sports bags. As part of the whole fiasco of library staffing cuts, it is yet another nail in the coffin of the dignity we used to enjoy as Barnet residents."

## What to do when urine trouble at the library

The reduced levels of service in our libraries are the subject of much comment and concern. Causing particular strain is the lack of toilet facilities when there are no staff present. But some employees can offer a crumb of comfort, as did one of the security guards in East Finchley library recently.

A reader told us that, about to go off duty, he came in and announced that he was going to lock the toilet, and asked if anyone needed to use it before he did so? Three old ladies quickly formed a queue.

Health and safety concerns (including someone getting trapped inside) are a major factor in the decision to keep it locked shut out of staff hours. But this leaves library users between the devil and the deep blue sea. Do they have to organise their visits only when staff are available or risk having to make a hasty exit and find somewhere else to spend a penny?

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Could this unisex urinal bottle, pictured, be a somewhat undignified but possible solution to getting



caught short? Made from sturdy robust plastic, it has a snap on lid to avoid spillages and a scale for measuring volume. A unisex adaptor is included.

## Pools closed

The two swimming pools at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre have been closed until early June while refurbishment works are carried out.

Their closure will give GLL in partnership with Barnet Council up to 12 weeks to replace the changing cubicles and floor tiles and introduce new shower facilities and replacement lockers. Improvements will also be made to the ventilation system to provide better air quality. Gym facilities at the centre in North Finchley will remain open as normal while the pools are out of action.

## East Finchley Baptist Church

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Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: John Lowrie)

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

Visitors always welcome

## Finchley history

Barnet's heritage development officer Hugh Petrie is giving the first of two talks about the origins of Finchley, called 'From a Forest to a Common'.

Hosted by the Finchley Society, it takes place at Stephens House and Gardens at 7.30pm on Thursday 25 April and everyone is welcome. Non-members pay an admission fee of £2.

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## YOUNG ARCHER



Well read: Coldfall Year 3 pupils Amelia, Isaac, Isobel and Noah.

## Books that mirror the world for children

By Josie Dobrin

Approximately 3,200 new children's books are published in the UK every year. Did you know that fewer than 100 of these feature black characters and that fewer than 70 will feature Asian characters?

Coldfall Primary School has tried to address the disproportionate representation by working in partnership with the Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop to purchase new books for their class libraries that better represent their diverse community.

Amongst the selection are adventure stories that feature lead characters from Jamaica like *Big City Butter Finger* by Bob Cattell and non-fiction titles that celebrate the achieve-

ments of black women like *Little People, Big Dreams: Maya Angelou*.

Deputy headteacher Ewan Marshall says: "This issue of diverse representation is so important because children's books can act like both mirrors and windows on the world. Mirrors in that they can reflect children's own lives, and windows in that they can give children a chance to learn about someone else's life."

## Now is the time to take action to tackle climate change

In February, a mass protest against the effects of climate change was conducted by more than 70,000 children across the country. Bella, a Year 9 student at the Archer Academy in East Finchley, reports on how her school took part.

The protests were urging the government to do more about how we tackle climate change and make everyone aware of the impacts it could have not only on us but for future generations. This is an issue that affects everyone and one where we should all fight for action to be taken. It should be our priority, not something that is left behind.

This movement is inspired by a phenomenal 16-year-old named Greta, who held a solo protest outside Sweden's parliament last August. She summed up nicely why I think as a school we should show our support when she said: "You don't have to school strike; it's your own choice. But why should we be studying for a future that may soon be no more?"

### Ideas for action

At the Archer Academy, we supported the campaign at school by holding workshops during the day and we had a message board outside where students could jot down ideas. I feel as though this topic

should be addressed more in schools.

All of us would benefit from learning more about how we can make small changes which are easy to do. For example, you could switch your web browser to Ecosia; it works in the same

way as Google but for every 45 searches it plants a tree. It has recently surpassed a milestone of planting over 50 million trees. We are also planning to hold a recycled uniform sale and are thinking of other ways we can all help with climate change.



Acting up: Archer Academy students celebrate their win at the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival.

## Dream drama

Congratulations to all the drama students from The Archer Academy who early in March won the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival for the fourth year running.

They performed performance. Head of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was also given an award for her direction of the piece and for 'all aspects of vision in technical award for their creativity'.

## Girls sing out

Girls at Christ's College Finchley had a sing-through of a charity song to mark International Women's Day in March, pictured. The song is raising money for charities which give more girls access to education.

Pupils at the secondary school off East End Road, which accepted girls into its youngest year for the first time last September, performed *Twenty-First Century Woman* in the company of Emma Kershaw, one of its original singers.

Choir mistress Ms Dean said she was especially pleased that some of the school's boys came to listen and asked whether they could join in when they repeated the song. Christ's College has plans to put together a singing project for girls and boys next term.



## Dip the pond at the pasture

Everyone is welcome to come along to Long Lane Pasture, opposite the fire station in Long Lane, on Saturday 13 April from 10am to midday for a free pond-dipping day.

There are likely to be plenty of tadpoles, newts, rams horn snails and other aquatic wildlife to discover. Nets, trays and identification charts will be available.

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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 3QE. Next meeting 17 April Lucy Whitaker, Senior Curator of Paintings, talks about the Royal Collection and her recent exhibition on Canaletto and the Art of Venice.

Reduced sub for new members. Contact Eric (8449 0566).

**All Saints' Church, Durham Road,  
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**Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.**

(11.00 a.m. on Wednesdays)

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

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14 April - Palm Sunday - 10.00 a.m.

Solemn Mass with Blessing of Palms and Procession

18 April - Maundy Thursday - 8.00 p.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Watch until Midnight

19 April - Good Friday - 3.00 p.m.

Sung Celebration of the Lord's Passion

20 April - Holy Saturday - 8.00 p.m.

The Easter Vigil

21 April - Easter Day - 10.00 a.m.

Parish Mass of Easter Day

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

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For more details, contact the Vicar,  
Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315  
<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>





Local filmmaker Ian Harding working on his feature film. Photo Mike Coles

## Movie debut muscles in on world of bodybuilding

By Angela Martin

**East Finchley filmmaker Ian Harding last month achieved a milestone after 25 years in photography and film by releasing his first feature film *These Are The Ones That Count*.**

Made with his school friend Shane Ackroyd, it chronicles the agony and the ecstasy experienced by Shane's brother Simon as he prepares for the biggest competition of his life.

The camera follows Simon through a gruelling eight-week training process as he gets himself in shape to compete for the

title at the pinnacle of amateur bodybuilding, Mr Universe.

Ian told *The Archer* it is "an entirely honest look into a world of dedication and sacrifice where every repetition, calorie and carb matter and which highlights the commitment and focus that bodybuilders apply."

Ian's interest in film and photography started as a boy growing up in Manchester. His father, a keen photographer, had his own darkroom where Ian began experimenting with his own footage and found that he had a keen eye. It wasn't long before he was filming his friends on their skateboards and, after some clever editing with two video recorders, he would achieve great action films.

Now running his own company Crispy Dog Productions making corporate videos, Ian told *The Archer* that filming *These Are The Ones That Count* required a completely different approach to his day job. You can see the trailer on YouTube and find the film itself on Amazon.

## Roof repairs to start after £250k cash boost

By David Melsome

**Urgent conservation work begins this month at All Saints Church in East Finchley after it received a £250,000 injection of cash from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.**

Stonework and interior roof repairs will be made at the Grade II-listed church in Durham Road, which is nearly 130 years old, finishing by the end of September. The total cost of the work is expected to be £400,000.

Fundraising will continue while the work is carried out. The church congregation has already raised just under £25,000 from fundraising events and donations from individuals and businesses in the area.

### History project

Some of the Heritage Fund money will be put towards a project fully exploring the history of All Saints and making educational materials available to school visits and everyone in East Finchley. One part of that will be the completion of research into the casualties listed on the church's war memorial.

Fr Christopher Hardy, vicar of All Saints, said: "We are thrilled to have received this support, and our grateful thanks go out to National Lottery players. We are confident that the



Looking up: The vaulted roof at All Saints.

project will enable the local community, schools, amateur historians, lovers of art and architecture, and all people who look for a centre of friendship, meaning and identity to appreciate the heritage represented by our beautiful building."

All Saints was granted listed status by Historic England in 2011 in recognition of its high-quality stonework and detailing, notably the window tracery and panelling of the chancel, and its hammer-beam roof.

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

*"The voice of social irresponsibility"*

### Hall of Yawn

**Welcome to spring, welcome to Easter, welcome to chocolate and bunny rabbits and welcome to musical sedative time. Why? Because it's time for Classic FM's annual Hall of Fame, that chance to listen to the 300 'best' bits of classical music 'as voted for by you'. But in the nice world of Classic FM I know they won't be as voted for by me.**

From the moment it started Classic FM has been the station for people who like the sound of classical music, but don't understand it. That's why on Saturday nights, when Radio 3 is live streaming an opera from Covent Garden, Classic FM plays film music. And not just film music; they've expanded it to include TV so that those who don't go to the cinema can hear something calmingly familiar. That means the theme from *Poldark*, something from *Inspector Morse* and a bit from *Game of Thrones* that sounds almost like Wagner, but isn't.

The best way for a piece of music to make the Hall of Fame is for it to be used to advertise toilet paper, cat food or car insurance. I mean people really love *The New World Symphony* because it was used to sell bread. Either that or get it into a film so that when people hear Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* they think of helicopter gunships, not The Ring Cycle.

And once a year they allow the Horlicks to completely take over the airwaves. As with any sedative this is all so boringly familiar. Yes, there will probably be the Elgar Cello concerto because the cello is pretty cool this year, Nicola Bernadetti will be there because she just got a gong. But don't expect anything you need to think about; so no Arnold Bax, not much Mark Anthony Turnage, but lots of Mozart, Beethoven and the easy bits of Vaughan Williams and Elgar.

Classical music can be weird, wild, strange and challenging as it struggles with angst and the human condition. If that's your style you'd better retune because Classic FM isn't like that. It's there for people who don't really understand music, but just love a nice tune.

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#### Easter Services

- 18 April 6.00p.m. Maundy Thursday United Service (at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane N2)  
- Holy Communion
- 19 April 10.30a.m. Good Friday "Reflections on the Cross"
- 21 April 10.30a.m. Easter Day Celebration Service  
- Holy Communion

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- **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)
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- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on [tennisgift@gmail.com](mailto:tennisgift@gmail.com).
- **This Mum Runs**: Free social runs in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, Sunday 8am and Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact trishy.dixon@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: [archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com](mailto:archercommunitychoir1@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.
- **Jazz Club** at the Bohemia, North Finchley. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information
- **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** friends of cherrytreewood.home.blog 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.

# Global stars perform at Proms in the Suburb

By David Melsome

**North London summer music festival Proms at St Jude's has built up an impressive reputation since it began 27 years ago. Last year 5,500 people enjoyed its programme of concerts, talks and walks.**

This year, organisers are promising another spectacular line-up of talent running from 22 to 30 June. Highlights include Miloš Karadaglić performing music from Bach to the Beatles; Nevill Holt Opera performing *Così fan Tutti*; Fantasia Orchestra with pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 on C minor; world-renowned vocal group The King's Singers; and Liza Pulman singing the songs of Barbra Streisand.

The Festival closes with the North London Symphony London Orchestra in a programme including Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto No 1* plus traditional Last Night themes.

There are events especially for children, including the BBC Elstree Concert Band playing favourite music from space movies, Junk Orchestra workshops where children build instruments and Teeny Proms for three to five-year-olds. There are also five free lunchtime concerts for all audiences.

Aside from the concerts, there are nine guided walks covering Hampstead, Golders Green and Holborn Viaduct. And for the second year, there will be Late-night Stand Up on Saturday 29 June with rising stars Jim Daly, Athena Kugblenu and Zahri Barri.

Surplus money from the Festival goes to support two charities, The North London Hospice and Toynbee Hall. To book tickets online and to find out more about the Festival visit [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk). General enquiries can be made on 020 3322 8123. Public booking opens Friday 19 April.



Pianist: Isata Kanneh-Mason



Guitarist: Miloš Karadaglić.  
Photo Andy Earl

## A magazine for poets of every kind

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Every year, a new edition of an excellent poetry magazine is published, with East Finchley's famous Archer firing his bow on the front cover. It's called N2 Poetry, and its aim is to publish "interesting, thought-provoking and accessible poetry for its readers".**

Not all the poets or poems have an N2 connection though. So why the title? The magazine's founder and original publisher is Dennis Evans, who definitely lives in N2. Dennis's poems have been published both here and abroad in translation. He is also a helpful and intuitive teacher, and the magazine's first editions featured people who attended his local workshops.

Since then, a growing number of people have contributed. Editor Sue Reardon Smith reports in the latest edition: "There were so many poems for us to discuss before we came to a final decision. The subjects were wide-ranging as well. We enjoyed all the very different topics written about. Please keep on sending them!"

Each edition is launched in East Finchley Methodist Church, when contributors have the opportunity to read their own work. This really adds another dimension.

Copies of *N2 Poetry* Issue 7 are still available and can be ordered by email at [n2poetry@outlook.com](mailto:n2poetry@outlook.com)

or by post from Steph Bramwell, *N2 Poetry*, 35 Pember Road, NW10 5LT. They cost £5, plus 90p for post-age/packing.

### New submissions

Submissions for Issue 8 are now being accepted and new poets are always welcome. Many contributors have been published elsewhere, but don't let that deter you. Everyone has their own voice, and inclusivity is what this magazine is about. The current edition includes the words of prize-winning poet Natalya Anderson: "Just knowing that someone will read and acknowledge those words may release you in ways you could never have imagined."

A maximum of four poems should be sent for consideration, preferably by email, to [n2poetry@outlook.com](mailto:n2poetry@outlook.com). Please include your name and contact details. If you are unable to use email, please submit your poems, typed on white A4 paper, to Shereen Abdallah, Managing Editor, *N2 Poetry*, 3 Leslie Road, N2 8BN. Please include a covering letter and SAE.



Watching them, watching you: The cast of Audience

## Two for the price of one

**Garden Suburb Theatre is bringing two one-act plays to the King Alfred Phoenix Theatre in Golders Green this month.**

In Michael Frayn's *Audience*, you can see what an audience is actually thinking and doing when they ought to be watching the play. In *Jeeves and the Song of Songs*, one of P.G. Wodehouse's classic Jeeves and Wooster stories is given a brand new staging.

Performances are from Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 April nightly at 7.30pm with a matinee on Saturday 13 April at 2.30pm; tickets priced £13 and £11 can be booked online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre).

## What's On...

### Sunday 7 April

• **Jazz at the Bohemia** presents the Peter Matthews Songbook with Lily Dior, vocals, Bob Stuckey, piano, and Andy Hamill, bass, plus guest singers; 7.30pm. The Bohemia, 245 High Road, North Finchley, N12 9QH. Tickets £10. More information: 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411.

### Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 April

• **The Guild Players** present *A Murder Has Been Arranged* by Emlyn Williams. Performances at 7.45pm. Tickets £10 on sale online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/theguildplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/theguildplayers)

### Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 April

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents two one-act plays: *Jeeves and the Song of Songs*, one of P.G. Wodehouse's classic Jeeves and Wooster stories, and Michael Frayn's *Audience*, where we see what an

audience is actually thinking and doing when they ought to be watching the play. Performing at King Alfred Phoenix Theatre, Golders Green, NW11, nightly at 7.30pm, with matinee on 13 April at 2.30pm. Tickets £13/£11 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre)

### Sunday 14 April

• Free concert at **East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, N2; Celebrating Birds and Spring, Caroline Hunter, soprano, Paula Downes, soprano, and Richard Black, piano, perform works by Handel, Mozart, Brahms, Hahn,

Poulenc and Ireland; 7.30pm. Admission free, collection in aid of World Wildlife Fund. Fully accessible venue.

### Thursday 25 April

• **'From a Forest to a Common'**; Hugh Petrie, Barnet's heritage development officer, gives part one of a talk on the origins of Finchley, hosted by the **Finchley Society**, Stephens House and Gardens, 7.30pm. All welcome, non-members £2. Part two will be in November.

### Saturday 27 April

• **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH. Information from 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354. Admission 50p; refreshments available.

### Saturday 27 April

• **Litter pick and guided history walk** in

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

Cherry Tree Wood, N2, organised by the **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood**. Meet at Summerlee Avenue entrance 10am for litter pick; all equipment (bags, gloves, litter-pickers) provided; adults and children welcome. At 2pm, starting from the same entrance, join an hour-long free guided walk through the wood covering its history from ancient times to the present day.

### Thursday 2 May

• **Age UK Barnet Quiz Night** at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. Price: £15 per person, includes two-course supper. Enter a team of up to eight or join an Age UK Barnet team. Doors open 6.45pm for 7.15pm start. Bar available serving wine, beer and soft drinks. Raffle with fantastic prizes. Booking essential. Call 0208 2035040 or email [wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk)





## Letters

### We need another crossing

Dear Editor,

In a horrific incident on Saturday 16 March, a woman was hit by a car on the High Road. Since she was in the middle of the road, I assume she was crossing it at the moment when she was knocked down.

That stretch of road between Fortis Green and Kitchener Road has a row of shops on both sides, so anyone who is out shopping naturally needs to cross over. However there are no crossings at that point, and it is a long walk to the traffic lights at one end or the zebra at the other.

It's completely unrealistic to expect people to walk all the way to the zebra and then the same distance back on the other side, so of course they just cross the road wherever they can.

It is time that the council put a zebra crossing in that stretch of road, or at the very least a traffic island.

Yours faithfully,  
Anna Lowenstein,  
High Road, N2.

### Time to reclaim our streets

Dear Editor,

I read with interest in the March *Archer* about the stretch of the North Circular west from Colney Hatch Lane being one of the most congested roads in Britain. The article, however, didn't mention the air pollution that is caused by this amount of slow-moving or stationary traffic.

The impacts of diesel emissions on health have been widely reported over the last 12 months, with exhaust fumes being linked to heart and lung disease, increased risk of dementia and likelihood of premature death. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable.

On the front page was also the road safety campaign launched following a father and daughter being hit by a car outside Martin Primary School. The Fortis Green junction with the High Road, where a secondary school girl was hit by a car recently, regularly has a dented lamp post outside Domino's. No doubt there will be coverage of the tragic news of a recent pedestrian fatality on the High Road.

Is it time then to think about how we can reduce the dominance of cars in East Finchley? The A1000 has become increasingly busy and the risk of accidents and the likelihood of unsafe levels of air pollution are only set to grow.

Don't we want a High Road that is a clean, healthy and safe place to visit, where pedestrians are the priority and we don't need to worry about accidents and air pollution? East Finchley is a wonderful neighbourhood. We need to prioritise our community, rather than the traffic that passes through it. Time to reclaim our streets!

Yours faithfully  
Frances Buckingham,  
Elmfield Road, N2.



Felled: A chopped tree on the Grange estate.

### Tree tragedy

Dear Editor,

Barnet Homes, a subsidiary of Barnet Council, has been cutting down trees which have just survived the recent storms intact. Just as articles write of the need for cleaner air and the positivity of access to nature in the urban environment they are removing these ancient trees.

This is an abuse of funds which could either have been used to look after the trees or carry out essential maintenance, a programme which continues to lag behind. I hope but doubt replacements will be planted.

Trees (other than walnuts) need to grow together as their roots share defences against disease in a kind of network. A new sapling can fit in to this network (even street trees like to be connected) and grow in time to replace the older trees.

It would be better to leave the older trees. We need to retain current trees while adding new ones. They too are our heritage. Once an old tree has gone it takes a generation for a replacement to grow.

Yours faithfully,  
Name and address supplied.

### Clearance fail

Dear Editor,

In mid-March, on two mornings running, a mini road sweeping vehicle brushed its way up and down my road. I live in a cul de sac where the parked cars are usually in the same position daily with a few gaps in between giving limited access to the road side. So, for the most part, only the centre was swept (twice!). This is, of course, where debris does not gather.

Has Barnet Council read page 5 of the March *Archer* ('Cost cutting is leaving us all with dirty streets')? Here the council says that in instances where its sweepers couldn't reach under parked cars, manual litter picking is carried out. I have yet to see this in my street (where I clear the area in front of our house myself, which not everyone is able or willing to do).

Does Barnet deserve a point for trying but nul points for organisation and financial forethought?

Yours faithfully,  
L C Ward.  
(Address supplied)

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).

# How to clear your space of all that 'stuff'

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Never mind Brexit! The popular question today is are you a minimalist or a maximalist? East Finchley professional declutterer and organiser Arianna Steigman is a mediamalist. She says: "My father hung on to things, my mother threw everything out, and I suppose I am somewhere in between."**

Organisation is her key. When she spent a good part of her life with a young family knee-deep in toddler stuff, everything was stowed away in its own place at the end of the day.

### Managing clutter

Pointing out that clutter is subjective, she remarks that some people are embarrassed by a few carrier bags on the floor, while others collect much more around them before they feel overwhelmed. Some people are naturally disorganised; others are too old or ill to manage as they would like; and clutterers who are also hoarders are too emotionally attached to their stuff.

Arianna says: "Don't talk about throwing things out. Instead, we can let things go; pass them on to other people to enjoy. And we can keep things particularly important to us. I keep some of my children's drawings. A client overwhelmed by hoarded baby clothes chose one pair of tiny shoes, framed and displayed them. If you have 150 similar things, keep two, for example, and treasure them."



Clear head: Decluttering guru Arianna Steigman. Photo Mike Coles

### Taking action

Arianna doesn't want anyone to feel embarrassed, and certainly not overwhelmed. After a session or sessions in her company choosing what to keep and what to let go, the vital thing is to act on your decisions. Those sacks of things that you've let go have to actually go, but for the physically frail or non-drivers that can be another problem. Arianna is happy to

take bags to charity shops on her way home.

She also advises on selling and advertising, and will help with packing for a house move and setting up in your new home. As well as home visits, Arianna gives consultations by phone or Skype. For more information, visit [www.reclaimyourspace.co.uk](http://www.reclaimyourspace.co.uk), call 07564 192780 or email [arianna@reclaimyourspace.co.uk](mailto:arianna@reclaimyourspace.co.uk).



Art lovers at the Private View of East Finchley Open Artists exhibition at the Barbican Library. Photo Mike Coles

## N2 artists storm the Barbican

By Mike Coles

Art lovers from all over London gathered at the Barbican Library in the City last month for the private view of *Prima Vera*, the latest exhibition by East Finchley Open Artists. The exhibition featured 2D and 3D work from more than 50 artists.

The East Finchley Open Artists group formed in 2004 and has become very popular locally with its annual Open House events, art fairs, regular shows at the Phoenix Cinema and other local galleries. This was the first time members had taken their work into the centre of London and they hope the exhibition's popularity will lead to further shows at the Barbican Centre.

## Quiz time

Age UK Barnet is hosting a quiz night on Thursday 2 May at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2. You can enter a team of up to eight people or go along and join an Age UK Barnet team.

Doors open at 6.45pm, with a raffle and bar. Tickets cost £15 per person and include a two-course supper. For tickets and information, call 020 8203 5040 or email [wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk). Booking is essential.

## The Archer online

Did you know you can catch up with past issues of *The Archer* online? Every edition since the start of 2000 is available on our website [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk).

The site also gives information on advertising in our pages and how you can contribute to the paper.



# The Archer

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## Our 300<sup>th</sup> edition and still going strong!

The Archer has been called 'the glue of the community' and we are often told by local people how much they love and value their monthly paper. As we enter our 26<sup>th</sup> year and our 300<sup>th</sup> edition hits the streets, **Diana Cormack** has been taking a look back at our other landmark issues to discover how much has changed in East Finchley over the years.

### 100<sup>th</sup> edition, September 2001

Tenders were invited for the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood to be made into a café. No agreements were ever reached and now in 2019 the pavilion is scheduled for demolition.

Barnet Council launched a new recycling service which did not include food waste then. Brown bins for food waste were introduced in the intervening years and then scrapped last year. Now we hopefully await their reinstatement.

We printed an article about Manor Park Road shoe repairer John Omar, then in business for more than a decade. Recently we have carried the news of his retirement after 30 years.

### 200<sup>th</sup> edition, June 2010

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood announced their revival in 2010 in an effort to look after our glorious local park. In 2019, they are having another recruitment drive and launching new activities.

The Phoenix Cinema was closed for refurbishment after raising more than £1 million for a massive refurbishment and renewal programme. Nine years on, the cinema is urgently fundraising for its survival and continued independence.

Problems about the crossings at the junction of the High Road and Fortis Green were raised in 'Letters to the Editor'. These are yet to be resolved.

It is gratifying to see the Young Archer page still thriving and to realise that babies born in the year of our 100<sup>th</sup> edition could soon be off to university or entering the world of work!

You can time travel back to East Finchley in any year since 1993 by browsing through the archives on our website [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk) where you can read all our available editions.



Issue numbers 100 and 200



## Summer courses for people with little time to spare



A new summer initiative is being launched by the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution (HLSI) for people who would like to sign up for its popular courses but can't commit because of their holiday plans or work commitments. The Institution's new collection of short summer courses lasting just one, two or three days includes a crash course in Italian for holidaymakers, a two-day course on Samuel Pepys, and hands-on art and craft classes.

The programme which ranges through literature and science to garden history, music and embroidery will run throughout June at the HLSI in South Grove, Highgate. It includes London walks and gallery visits.

Chair of the HLSI Education Committee Anne Jamieson said: "We know that many people don't want to commit to long courses in the summer because of their holiday plans, and others can't take more than a day or two off work.

So as an innovation we have reorganised our programme and devised a wide palette of short courses, which we hope will appeal to all tastes."

The courses are open to all with general enrolment open now. Details are available online at [www.hlsi.net](http://www.hlsi.net) or from the HLSI office on 020 8340 3343 and there is also a printed programme.

Above left: Inspiration: An art course at HLSI.

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