

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Runner stunner as records tumble

Go, go, go: Hundreds of athletes set off on the annual Race the Neighbours 10K challenge in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 14 July. Turn to page 6 for our full report.

Speed limit of 20mph on all our roads

By John Lawrence

A blanket speed limit of 20mph on all roads in East Finchley will be considered by Barnet Council following a string of accidents in the space of four months. Two were fatal; another left a father and daughter with serious injuries.

A small package of measures to improve safety at the pedestrian crossing outside Martin Primary School at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane, N2, has been approved. The larger scheme to change the speed limit across the area will be decided by the council's Environment Committee.

Recent accidents

More than 2,000 people signed a petition backing a lower speed limit after the death in May of three-year-old Sonny Parmar, who was waiting at a pedestrian crossing on East End Road, N2. Two months earlier, Carole Jackson was killed as she crossed the High Road, near Beresford Road, and in February a Year 2 pupil and her father were injured on the crossing outside Martin Primary School after leaving an after-school club.

Local speeding problems and solutions

At a meeting in July, the council heard that East Finchley had particular problems with speeding, as vehicles leave the 20mph zone in Haringey and immediately speed up for the 30mph zone in Barnet. At the same time, vehicles coming off the North Circular and from North Finchley have travelled at higher speeds, and drivers take time to get used to driving more slowly.

East Finchley Councillor Arjun Mitra argued that existing isolated 20mph zones such as at Church Lane were not working as well as expected, and that a wider area of lower speed would encourage safer driving at key points.

He told *The Archer*: "We support calls for a blanket 20mph zone across East Finchley, as a piecemeal approach will not do. East Finchley is in a unique location and has unique challenges, and the Council should consider a bespoke approach here."

"Delays will cost lives. We have passed one stage in getting this done, but there is much more to do. In particular we need to consider how to fund this, given the severe cuts to Council budgets."

Money has been approved to investigate the feasibility of installing lights to filter traffic at the High Road and Church Lane junction. At the same time, road markings and the timing of the existing pedestrian crossing lights will be improved.



County roads petition

Separately, a petition has been launched to introduce a 20mph to the county roads, which some residents say are prone to speeding drivers. The petition can be found online here: bit.ly/petition20mph. Hertford Road resident Kellie Cory, who launched it, said: "I'd be very happy if it was the starting point for a campaign to bring in 20mph across East Finchley, not just the county roads. The whole area is heavily residential and pedestrians must be protected." *Letters, page 11.*

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Parking zone could be extended

Residents in Leslie Road and Leopold Road, N2, are facing the prospect of the East Finchley controlled parking zone being extended to their streets.

Barnet Council informed them that the extension was being considered, with annual charges for residents ranging from £15 to £182 depending on the type of vehicle. Some are welcoming the idea, saying it will give residents a better chance of parking near their homes on roads that are often used for all-day parking by tube commuters. Others claim it is too costly and wouldn't improve the availability of spaces.

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

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

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Benefits 0800 882200
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000
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East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815
Everyman, Muswell Hill 0872 436 9060
Garden Suburb Library 020 8458 3301
Muswell Hill Library 020 8489 8773
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Vue, North Finchley 0345 3084620

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Heathrow Airport 0844 3351801
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Consultation on flats plan for garage site in conservation area

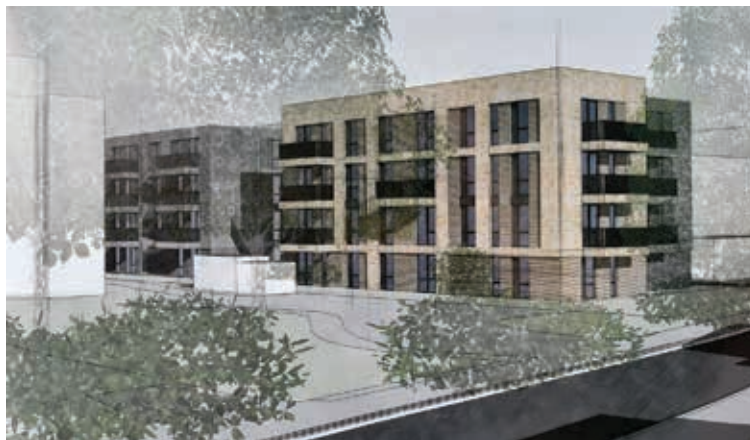
By Ann Bronkhorst

Fortis Green will see a change to its streetscape if a planned redevelopment goes ahead. At 90 Fortis Green, in a conservation area where Hexagon of Highgate's classic car servicing and related storage have been located since 2003, two four-storey blocks of residential flats in landscaped grounds are proposed, with the developers seeking early reactions to the scheme.

On two days in May local residents and businesses were invited to Muswell Hill Bowling Club to see a display about the proposed flats in advance of the planning application to Haringey by developer Obsidian Strategic. Large information boards showed aerial and architectural views, plenty of facts and figures were available and questions were answered.

Strengths of scheme

Key points for discussion were the residential context for this current 'brownfield' site, once a petrol station, close to the Indian Rasoi restaurant and opposite Eastern Road; the mixture of affordable housing and 'market' housing, 50 homes in all, in the two blocks; and the landscaping of communal and



First impression: Artist's drawing of the proposed development.

private open space, including a children's play area.

Architects ColladoCollins highlighted details such as window proportions and decorative brickwork intended to reflect styles in existing local architecture and claimed that

lining up the planned buildings with existing ones would fill a 'gap in the street frontage'.

Planning application delayed

At the consultation there was some concern about potential loss of light to flats in next-door Lynton Grange. Residents of Clissold Close and Coldfall Lodge, too, may not welcome such a large neighbouring development or the noise and disruption its construction would entail. Thirty-eight on-site parking places are to be provided but Fortis Green is a narrow, often congested road which may struggle with the extra traffic.

The developers say that they are "currently reviewing the scheme in the light of the comments received" before submitting a planning application. To find an aerial view of the site, oddly headed 'Finchley', visit www.obsidianstrategic.com/projects and to track the planning process once it starts go to www.haringey.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control

Tree-mendous

Nine hundred trees will be planted by Barnet Council every year for the next five years to improve air quality and support wildlife.

The new trees will be sited near major roads like the North Circular, A1 and A41, in the borough's parks and near schools. Barnet Council has

been awarded the 2019 London Borough Tree Award by the Greater London Authority and Forestry Commission for its planting programme.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

The Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2

Submission of details of conditions 7 (landscaping) and 19 (window/door details), pursuant to planning permission 18/4547/FUL, dated 16/08/18.

6 Brendon Grove, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4m, eaves height 2.4m, maximum height 3.2m.

87 Brim Hill, N2

Conversion of existing garage into habitable room. Removal, replacement and relocation of existing garden shed. Replacement of paving in garden, driveway and rear patio. Internal changes, including associated alterations to external doors and windows. New conservation type roof light to rear roof slope.

60 Deansway, N2

Conversion of garage into habitable room. New part glazed timber garage doors fixed shut. Existing waste pipes removed, and drainage re-routed internally on north side. Existing vent pipe above roof level removed on north side. Infill of doors and windows on north side. New window in north side. Relocation of electric and gas meter. Rear ground floor window replaced with French doors. Side lights and new soldier course. New SVP on south side.

17 Lancaster Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth from existing living-room 5.6m, eaves height 1.93m, maximum height 4m. To be used as open kitchen-diner. Existing old kitchen enlargement to be demolished. Glazing alongside garden wall. One roof light on south side.

Garden Lodge, 370 Long Lane, N2

Demolition of existing lodge, and erection of new one on same foot print, with side and rear extension. **First Floor Flat, 24 Manor Park Road, N2**

Roof extension involving rear dormer window and two front facing roof lights.

5 Oak Lane, N2

Rear conservatory.

26 Oakview Gardens, N2

Installation of a PVCU casement window to the side of the property.

15 Summerlee Gardens, N2

New internal walls and associated drainage for proposed bathroom and kitchenette. Lawful Development Certificate.

15 Trinity Road, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormer window.

Haringey Council

Storage unit between Blae-navon, Fortis Green, and 60, Eastern Road, N2

Full planning permission for mansard roof extension and associated internal alterations to provide one three-bedroom flat.

OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

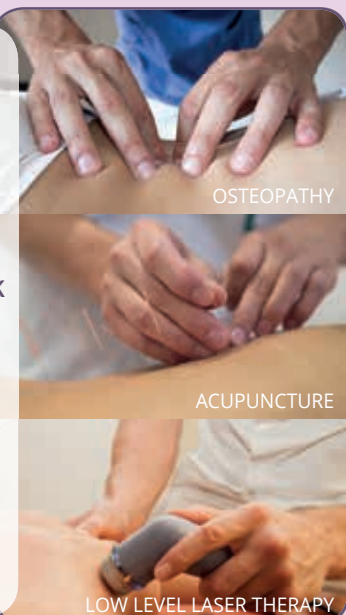
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Robin Kiashek | BSc (Hons) Ost Med., N.D., LicAc

Seeking David Francis Turner (born 20/01/63. Last known address - Park Road, N2), or any person knowing of his whereabouts please contact Caroline Lomax of Russell and Russell Solicitors - cl@russellrussell.co.uk - 01204 374887 regarding outstanding legal matters.



Police apologise over response to 'intimidating' rave on estate

By Janet Maitland

Police have apologised to residents of Foskett House on The Grange in East Finchley following a complaint about their response to an unauthorised rave in the car park.

A local resident, who asked not to be named, rang police several times on Saturday 15 June to report that 80 young adults had arrived at about 4.30pm and were playing loud music, drinking alcohol and taking drugs.

"It was incredibly intimidating," said the resident. But when he made his final call at 9.30pm, he was informed by the police that they had already attended and decided it was a community event.



"Worrying event": A Grange estate resident took this photo of the unauthorised gathering.

Dozens of nitrous oxide gas canisters were found by residents clearing up rubbish the following day. A handwritten notice warning people that six knives had been discovered in the bushes was allegedly pinned up in the car park.

"Worrying event"

The Archer asked the Met if the officers attending had any concerns about illegal activity or anyone's safety. A spokesperson said they asked the organiser to turn the music down, and this was complied with. "All was good natured, no offences," we were told. We asked what happened to the knives allegedly found in the bushes and were told that officers have spoken with a local resident who reported discovering and discarding a number of knives.

"I apologise that residents feel let down by the police response," said Chris Thompson, from East Finchley's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who has written to Foskett House residents. "I understand that this was a worrying event and there are concerns regarding the police response and any repetition of this incident. My team will be conducting enhanced patrols and weapon sweeps to deter further criminality. The organiser for this event has been spoken to and told that any future events need council authorisation and a notification to the police."

Barnet Homes' response

A spokesperson for Barnet Homes said no one had informed them in advance that any event was going to take place. "We work very closely with the police and the council's Community Safety Team to tackle anti-social behaviour. As a result of feedback given to us by local residents, Community Notice Warnings have been issued. Our anti-social behaviour officer and the East Finchley SNT have spoken to residents and given them phone numbers to use if they see criminal activities taking place."



Round of applause: BBC presenter Reeta Chakrabarti and customer services manager Nino Santos, both far left, welcome the station artwork with children from Martin Primary School. Photo Louise Goodey.

A reminder of how we all got here

By Daphne Chamberlain

There was excitement at East Finchley station on Friday 19 July for the unveiling of a special artwork display as a permanent reminder of an exhibition in the foyer two years ago. Destination East Finchley, a lottery-funded Martin School project, celebrates the different starting points of residents on their journey to N2. Look for the artwork to the left of the ticket barriers on the way in.

Transport for London area manager Toks Oderinde introduced stars of the show, with a great cheer for customer services duty manager Nino Santos, whose enthusiasm helped to bring about this collaboration. "He always does something extra," said Marcia Williams, head of Northern line customer service.

"The community is at the heart of what we say and do", said Martin School headteacher Rebecca Bakar, who was there with a large group of pupils. She thanked teacher and project leader Julie Taylor, who put together the artwork with "amazing hard work and dedication".

Three pupils spoke briefly about the project, valiantly fighting station announcements, and a choir of the children sang *Rainbow World* very

beautifully. Also present were Cllrs Alison Moore and Arjun Mittra, and the BBC's Reeta Chakrabarti, who lives locally.



Stories to tell: The display can be seen close to the ticket barriers at the High Road entrance.

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Obstruction: The car on its side in Creighton Avenue.

Car left on its side after collision

A car overturned in Creighton Avenue, N2, after apparently failing to negotiate one of the central islands in the 30mph zone.

No one was seriously injured in the incident on the morning of Thursday 4 July but a parked car was badly damaged. Thanks to *Archer* reader Mike Randall for the photo.

Fairness Commission to tackle inequality and deprivation

By David Melsome

A group of community organisations, residents and councillors have joined together to establish a Fairness Commission in Barnet to look at tackling inequality and to consider how best to achieve a fairer, more inclusive and more prosperous borough.

Figures recently published in a study by Policy in Practice, which Barnet Council participated in, show Barnet had the highest percentage (25%) of low income families in London whose income does not meet their outgoings.

Founders of the Barnet Fairness Commission say they will focus on building community infrastructure and a thriving social enterprise sector, strengthening community cohesion and tackling hate crime, and addressing gender inequality and ending domestic violence and abuse.

Commissioners who know the area

The Commission will be chaired by Lord Roy Kennedy of Southwark, shadow spokesperson in the House of Lords on Housing, Communities

& Local Government. The other Commissioners, all of whom either live or work in Barnet, are: Abdurzak Hadi, Barnet Citizens and Somali Bravanese Welfare Association; Rabbi Rebecca Birk, Finchley Progressive Synagogue; Cllr Ross Houston, Deputy Leader of the Barnet Labour Group; Anna Kyprianou, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Middlesex University; Richard Logue, resident and Liberal Democrat local election candidate in 2018; Julie Pal, Chief Executive of Community Barnet; Cllr Reema Patel, Barnet Labour Group Lead on Adults & Social Care; Imam Hamid Qureshi, Islamic Association of North London; Kate Salinger, resident and former Barnet Conservative councillor; and Christina Spybey, Christians Against Poverty.

Involving the public

The Commission is being launched at a public meeting at 6pm on Thursday 18 July at the Trinity Church Hall in Colindale, with guest speaker, Catherine West MP, who set up the first Fairness Commission in Islington. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Commission will run for a year and hold public sessions to take evidence from independent experts, local authorities and members of the public. Anyone can submit written evidence to the Commission by emailing office@barnetfairnesscommission.co.uk or by completing the online questionnaire at barnetfairnesscommission.co.uk.

Outcomes

The Commission will produce an interim report in early 2020 and a final report in summer 2020. The findings of the commission will be used to try and influence local and national policy, and suggest practical solutions that could be implemented by the community as well.

TV licence fight goes on

Age UK have given us more news of the fight to retain free TV licences for over-75s. At the time of writing, they told us that over 36,000 campaigners had written to Tory party leadership contenders Jeremy Hunt and Boris Johnson, asking them to stick by their manifesto promise to defend the free licences.

Their statement continued: "Our petition has reached over 600,000 signatures and we're continuing to get stories in the papers every week. We're also

trying to make sure a question is asked about TV licences at all the Conservative leadership hustings. Thank you for all of your support."

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Neighbourhood team

We are pleased to announce we now have a third ward officer, PC Sally Starling. We now have a full team for the first time in over a year, and with the support of PS Thompson we are off to a good start.

Sally had an early baptism of fire when she went with the three Finchley ward constables to execute a Misuse of Drugs Warrant, along with Barnet Gangs Unit. A quantity of drugs and a prohibited weapon were seized, a great result for East Finchley, taking these items off our local streets.

Scam warning

People in East Finchley have been getting phone calls from thieves claiming to be police officers or bank officials. One local lady almost handed over £2,000. To make you withdraw your money they tell lies such as the following examples. There's been fraudulent activity at your bank by bank staff; a business such as a currency exchange or jewellers is fraudulent and they require your assistance to help secure evidence by purchasing jewellery or exchanging currency to hand over to the police; or your card has been compromised and used to buy goods so you're requested to withdraw money to keep it safe or to hand over your bank card to the police.

You will be told to lie about why you are withdrawing the money as bank staff are involved in the fraud. A courier will be sent to your address to collect the money and card the same day.

Remember that the bank or police will **never** ask you for your PIN or bank password, or ask you withdraw money and hand it over to them for safe keeping, or send someone to your address to collect cash or cards.

Van security

We're still experiencing a rise in thefts of or from vans. If you need to keep a van loaded with tools, have a look at forensic property marking kits such as Select DNA, SmartWater and Selectamark, which are all approved by the police. You can also buy extra locking devices from thatcham.com which are especially designed to secure work vehicles.



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Extinction Rebellion group urges action at a local level

By Daphne Chamberlain

*Emergency, emergency
Can you understand the urgency
Of the climate threat to humanity?
It's hard for us to comprehend
The reality
Of the end.*

These words came out of the East Finchley Festival in June, when visitors to the Extinction Rebellion (XR) stall took up the offer to write something about the climate emergency. XR then challenged the festival bands to set the lyrics to music and perform them. Kate Galston, Rob Thom and Miss Havisham's Digital Clock all took part enthusiastically.

Getting involved

Our festival was just one of the fairs and fetes that the Barnet XR group have been visiting during the summer. Their aim is to raise people's awareness of what climate emergency means: namely desertification, wildfires, water shortage and crop failure. Nationwide protests targeting governments and financial and commercial organisations are currently keeping the subject in all our minds.

Hazel Mason, a long-standing East Finchley resident, told us last month: "I've joined the Barnet XR branch. It started in mid-May with a handful of people, but we now have about 70. I've never been involved in any protest before, but I thought I must do something about the threat from climate change. My daughter camped out in a tent at Marble Arch, and she told me there were demonstrators who were more than 80 years old."

Over 1,000 demonstrators arrested in April are facing prosecution, but Hazel said, "The last thing we want is to alienate people. Nobody wants to get arrested, but if that happens and we are charged, it gives us a chance to speak out".

Emergency action now

The local group acknowl-

edge that Barnet Council have already taken some good initiatives on environmental policies, with help from funding from the London Mayor. Barnet supported the recent London Climate Action Week, which emphasised cutting carbon emissions to keep global temperature increases within the Paris agreement of 1.5°C.

XR believe, though, that there is more to be done, and much more quickly. They say that if Barnet Council declared a climate emergency, people would be more likely to work together to achieve higher goals.

Their website quotes scientists as saying: "We are in the middle of a mass extinction of our own making." Former and present UN Secretary Generals say: "Act now to save our planet and our future. We need emergency action." XR Barnet can be contacted at Barnetrebels@gmail.com.

Can you deliver?

The Archer needs volunteers to deliver papers to Great North Road (west side - The Bishops Avenue to Noblefield Heights).

Papers are brought to your house each month and these rounds typically take 30-40 minutes. Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.



All Shook Up: Dan Leclerc on stage as Elvis. And (inset) all dressed down: Dan as you might see him in daily life.

Fun finding out facts about East Finchley

By Diana Cormack
This summer families can have fun following a trail and finding out facts about East Finchley.

Sheila Quinton has devised a fold-up clue card with script and pictures to guide you around the area from the start at the tube station to the finish at Cherry Tree Wood.

There are instructions along with 20 questions to be answered en route. By marking off your answers a secret code is revealed which can be entered into the N2 postcode breaker prize draw. The clue card costs £3 and is obtainable from Sheila at stomping.ground@yahoo.com



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The King lives... in King Street!

By Diana Cormack

Elvis Presley fans from all over the world will gather at Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, this month to commemorate the death of the King on 16 August 1977. Among the activities to be held there during Elvis Week is an event to find the best Elvis tribute artist and one of the main contenders for this crown lives in East Finchley.

Dan Leclerc has lived in King Street, N2, for seven years but hails from Tennessee, having been brought up in Pigeon Forge (of Dolly Parton's Dollywood fame). Now in his thirties, at age four Dan was already singing Elvis songs and later got to know musician Charlie Hodge, a long-term close friend and confidant of Elvis who had lived with him at Graceland and stayed on there to help sort out things after his death.

Sounding and looking the part

Dan played the guitar, piano and violin and at 15 began to enter talent shows at school. His first proper Elvis contest at 17 was in Tupelo, Elvis' birthplace, where he came second in a group of experienced impersonators.

Like Elvis, he joined the army, leaving at the age of 26 and wondering what to do next. A nine-to-five job did not

appeal, so he became a session musician but kept up his Elvis tribute appearances. From these various contracts came his way.

Sounding so much like Elvis, to look like him Dan uses a wash-out hair colour and wears outfits made by B&K in Indianapolis, embroidered there by Gene Doucette, the original decorator of the King's costumes and jump suits. These really complete the picture for the touring legends shows that Dan performs in.

Being a contender

There are a surprising number of contests in the Elvis tribute world, many of which offer large prizes. Aside from competing in Memphis, Dan will also be heading off to competitions in Las Vegas, Germany and Poland. This talented, thoughtful man donates any money he wins to charity, the most recent recipient being Great Ormond Street Hospital.

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Fastest N2 woman: Ana Alves Wood.



First home: Overall race winner Iain Yates

Records smashed as neighbours race again

By John Lawrence

It was a day of individual records and collective best times when the annual Race the Neighbours 10k challenge returned for its fifth year. The course started and finished in Cherry Tree Wood, reaching as far as Alexandra Palace.

Faster than ever

Despite a wet start to race day on Sunday 14 July, conditions were ideal for the 344 runners. The fastest time posted was a course record of 36mins 43secs by visiting runner Iain Yates. And it was N10 who reclaimed the Cherry Tree trophy after its 99 runners recorded a faster average time than the 150 who declared for N2. Overall though, both areas beat their average time for last year. N2 knocked about a minute off last year's time, while N10 came in a huge three and a half minutes faster than last year.

Organisers are already looking ahead to next year's race when they hope to extend the race invitation to runners from our other neighbouring area of N6.

Avi Freeman, from the organising team, thanked all the volunteer stewards who had made this year's event a success, along with local businesses who had donated services or prizes, including Tony's Continental, Bike and Run, Sweaty Betty, MighTeeFit, Fierce Grace Muswell Hill, Stuweb and N8 Health. The race donates to All People All Places, a homeless charity based in the N2/N10 area. Avi told *The Archer*: "The race has become a real fixture in the local calendar and the big surge in numbers we had this year is testament to that. The feedback from runners on Twitter is always positive."

Official results

99 finishers declared for N10, with an average time of

56.44; 150 finishers declared for N2, with an average time of 57.12; Fastest Female in N10, Nicola Vallins (50:54); Fastest Female in N2, Ana Alves-Wood (51:39); Fastest Female Visitor and overall fastest female, Genevieve Ogle (47:52); Fastest Male in N2, Simon Fraser (36:55); Fastest Male in N10, Ed Boden (37:46); Fastest Male Visitor and overall fastest male, Iain Yates (36:43, a new course record).

Emma lifts herself into the world's best

Strongwoman Emma Whiteman faced her toughest competition yet when she took part in the World Drug-free Powerlifting Championships in Kentucky, USA.

Emma, from Chandos Road, N2, faced current world record holder Mary Anderson, from Team GB, and Kyle Reel, from Team USA, in the final round of lifting. The lightest of the three, she lifted a new personal best of 175kg (27st 7lbs) and was only narrowly beaten into second place by Mary Anderson, who claimed a new world record with a 180kg lift.

Emma pulled a 10-tonne truck for 8.7m, won an overhead press medley, won the deadlifts, placed third in the yoke walk and then won the classic atlas stones lift challenge, making her the overall winner of the event.

Empowering

"I was thrilled to win, it was very unexpected," said Emma,



A lorra lorry: Emma hauls a heavy load.

Two weeks later, the ex-police officer took part in her first strongwoman event, competing in the UK Strongest Police Officer competition in North Lincolnshire. Events included pulling a 10-tonne lorry as far as possible in 60 seconds, an overhead press medley, a deadlift, a yoke walk and then picking up and placing the classic atlas stones.

a mother-of-two and a qualified personal trainer with Middlesex Cricket Club's women and girls teams. "I am passionate about getting people into strength work as it is so beneficial. I don't think everyone should be pulling lorries, but I really encourage women to brave the free weights. It's very empowering and you feel such a sense of achievement."

Nick steps out in the struggle against dementia

By Diana Cormack

On one of the hottest weekends this year, *Archer* team member Nick Allan set out to attempt the Cotswold Way Challenge, a 50km trek with climbs equivalent to the height of Britain's highest mountain Ben Nevis.

He was accompanied by his friend Mike along with hundreds of others, all walking for their chosen charities. Nick was doing it in aid of the Alzheimer's Society in recognition of his father's many difficult years of living with dementia.

"I wanted to help continue the work such charities do to transform the lives and prospects of those living with dementia, as well as to honour my father's ongoing struggle," said Nick.

Challenging conditions

Nick himself found he was facing quite a struggle when he got to the Cotswolds. "I was expecting a gentle amble across the English countryside and didn't appreciate how hilly and challenging the terrain would be," he said.

Armed with a rucksack, copious amounts of water and a head torch he spent 14 hours taking 86,000 steps and using up 8,000 calories in energy-sapping weather conditions, raising nearly £1,500. In thanking those who sponsored him Nick said: "The fact that I had so much support and encouragement ensured that I completed the challenge."

As current chairman of N2United Business and Community Group, Nick knows that the Alzheimer's Society is one of a number of East Finchley initiatives providing assistance



Last legs: Nick at the end of his 50km walk.

to people living with the disease and hoping to eradicate it ultimately. If you want to help defeat dementia, donations are still being accepted at www.justgiving.com/NickAllan-London



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Just bananas! Holy Trinity pupils ask why fruit has to be wrapped in plastic.

Simple steps to save our planet

By Y4 Eco Club, Holy Trinity Primary School.

We are very concerned about the environment and we are sure that you are too! If you want to help, then here are a few ways to join in:

1. When going shopping, always take your own bag with you to be eco-friendly.
2. Instead of throwing your empty plastic containers in the bin, use them for junk modelling or donate them to a local school for them to use.
3. Remember to always compost your food waste.
4. Try to walk more than you

use the car.

The 3 Rs

One of the most recognisable eco phrases is the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. But there is an additional R, which is Refuse. For example, Refuse could be if you are at the shops buying bananas. Which would you buy: a banana wrapped in plastic or a banana on its own?

Buying a banana on its own would be refusing the banana wrapped in plastic, which would help our fight against waste.

Not only will most plastic be on the planet for millions of years to come but animals will end up dying because of it!

Memory Walk to defeat dementia

Archer deliverer John Michaeloudis is again taking part in one of the annual Memory Walks organised by the Alzheimer's Society to raise money to fight dementia.

The walks are spread across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with each walk taking



a different route through either city, woodlands or a park.

On the morning of Sunday 29 September, John will be at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, setting off at 10am, walking in memory of his mother and close friends.

Fundraising

In advance of the event John, of Lynmouth Road, N2, will be seeking sponsorship locally. He will be knocking on doors to ask for your support in the form of a cheque made out to the Alzheimer's Society. Help him to raise more than last year's amazing amount of over £2,000! For more information visit www.memorywalk.org.uk

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Creative writing for young minds

Local teacher and award-winning children's author Anne-Marie Conway is starting a creative writing club in East Finchley for children aged 7-12 years. It starts in September and will be held for an hour each week after school.

Children attending in a maximum of eight per group will have the chance to develop a story, or experiment with poetry, to add illustrations, design a front cover and write a blurb.

"We often hear parents bemoan the fact that children don't read enough for pleasure these days," says Anne-Marie, "but what about writing for pleasure?" For further details, contact Anne-Marie on 07958 409863 or shawconway@btinternet.com

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Tony's leads the charge against plastic bags

By Ruth Anders of No2PlasticsN2

Following the success of our No2Plastics stand at the East Finchley Summer Festival, we were thrilled to hear that Tony's Continental is joining the groundswell of support for our campaign by introducing a 5p charge for plastic carrier bags.

The High Road greengrocers launched their initiative in July with some apprehension. They had been suggesting to their patrons for months that they should bring their own bags rather than add to the plastic mountain. Most customers were sympathetic and supportive, but a small number resisted, arguing that the shop could lose customers as a result.

changes like this, but everyone should get behind this endeavour, whether they're shops or individuals."

You'd need to be a hermit to be unaware of the problems facing our planet and our future. Even so, Radio 4's *World at One* reported last month that only a small percentage of small and medium businesses like Tony's are honouring the nine very basic suggested measures to decrease single use plastics.

Tony's has been selling unpackaged fruit and vegetables and supplying brown paper bags since 1971. Their alternatives to plastic carrier bags include bags for life and cardboard and wooden boxes. They also offer a refill service for liquid soap, detergent and fabric softener, alongside Sicilian and Cretan olive oil.

Memory Lane

Some readers of *The Archer* will remember shopping in the 1950s, when there wasn't a scrap of plastic to be seen. Pasta was wrapped in blue waxed paper, cheese and butter in greaseproof paper, fruit and veg popped into paper bags, and we carried everything home in our own string bags and baskets.

No2Plastics is working alongside Tony's to change current shopping habits in East Finchley. Won't you join us? Find us on Facebook and Instagram: @No2PlasticsN2.



Carrier charge: The sign at Tony's Continental discouraging the use of single-use plastic bags and encouraging other forms of recycling.

Making ethical changes

Explaining why they had introduced the charge, Tony's Chris Athanasiou said: "It's a positive move for Tony's and for East Finchley as a whole. As a small business, we are not legally required to make ethical



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YOUNG ARCHER

Festival foursome get a taste of hard rock fame

Young rock band Nameless are certainly getting noticed after wowing the crowd at the East Finchley Festival and being liked by two of their musical inspirations.

Brothers Mikail, 12, and Zac Ahmed, nine, with brother and sister Isaac, 12, and Annie McMahon, nine, followed up their appearance on *The Archer* Newspaper Community Stage at the festival in Cherry Tree Wood in June by playing two school summer fairs.

The foursome, who met at nursery school, put their rehearsal video of *Smells Like Teen Spirit* on Twitter and it was retweeted by the official account of Nirvana, the band who wrote and recorded it in 1991.

Since then, the video has had more than 50,000 views and more than 2,000 likes, including one from American rockers Foo Fighters, who still tour. Comments on Twitter included: "Rock is not dead but being reborn", "Faith in humanity restored" and "Hope for the future, R'n'R will never die!"

Car Fest coming up

Their school music teacher Gabi Brais managed to get drummer Zac on the Chris Evans Break-



Next stop, Glastonbury: Nameless in Cherry Tree Wood.

fast Show on Virgin Radio to talk about their performance at the Barnet Music Festival, also back in June. He cheekily asked if Nameless could perform at the DJ's Car Fest South in Hampshire later this month and Chris Evans said yes, which means they could be performing in front of their

biggest audience yet. Vocalist Annie said of the East Finchley Festival: "It was the greatest feeling being up on stage doing what you love the most." Guitarist Mikail added: "We're gaining in confidence with all the performances. We're really looking forward to Car Fest. Next stop, Glastonbury!"

What can you make from a fiver?

By Cassidy Collins

In the summer term, Year 5 at Holy Trinity Primary School took part in a national competition run by Young Enterprise UK called The Fiver Challenge. This gave us the opportunity to become young entrepreneurs and learn about the world of business. We were split into small groups and each group was given £5 to create a business.

In the first week of the competition we had to choose a product or service and conduct surveys to ensure our ideas would be successful. Some of our ideas were handmade bookmarks, slime, milkshakes, coloured lemonade, cactus plants, a dance battle, stationery, door signs and a guessing competition.

In week two, we all had to prepare a business plan and perform sales pitches to convince Young Enterprise that they had made the right decision investing in us. We also had to purchase the materials required for our business using only the £5 we received, so we had to find the most cost effective options available.

During week three, those of us selling products had to produce as many items as possible, to ensure we had enough stock to sell at our selling events.

In the final week we added the finishing touches to our products and services and were now ready to launch our businesses. Some of us had the opportunity to display them at the East Finchley Festival on in June. This was very exciting and attracted interest from lots of local people. During the following week, we set up stalls and held a selling event at school,



Young entrepreneurs: Holy Trinity pupils show off some of their business ideas at the East Finchley Festival in June.

which was extremely successful and each group made a profit.

Participating in the Fiver Challenge was a lot of hard work. We had to create a business idea, produce a product or

service, price it fairly, market it and then sell it, but we all rose to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed it. We made over £500. All profits went to our chosen charities and a future school trip.

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Owzat! Matilda is bowled over by the World Cup Final

The heart-racing, nail-biting, can't-bear-to-watch end of the Cricket World Cup Final on Sunday 14 July was watched by millions around the globe, but for one young East Finchley resident it was unfolding before her eyes at Lords. Matilda Meier, aged nine, was invited to attend the match as a mascot, along with 29 other lucky members of the Highgate Cricket Club Under-10s class.

Matilda's main man

The day started early for the mascots, who were each given the kit from the day to keep and instructed in what to do during the momentous opening ceremony. The young cricketers were assigned a team to accompany onto the pitch and Matilda was delighted when she was put in the England group.

When the moment came it was none other than Adil Rashid who took her hand and they walked on to wild cheering before the national anthems of both countries were played.

Matilda remembers the intense experience: "It was exciting and scary. I was pleased I got Rashid because I'd seen him bowling on TV before and I knew he was good." The pair chatted briefly: "He asked me if I was excited for the match and I said yes then wished him good luck." The mascots then spent the match cheering the players on with gusto.

Recruitment soars

Matilda, who lives on Leslie Road, N2, and attends Holy Trinity Primary School, has been playing cricket for two years with All Stars. Coach and organiser Johan de Silva was awarded Coach of the Year last November for his work leading Highgate CC's All Stars Cricket and Schools Recruitment, taking the number of young



Bats for cricket: World Cup mascot Matilda Meier practises at home.

players at the club from 18 to 226 in recent months.

De Silva is very proud: "It's an honour to be recognised for the work we've done at Highgate by both Middlesex CC and the ECB by being offered the opportunity to provide the anthem kids for the World Cup final."

The unforgettable experience of watching England squeak to victory in the Super Over has certainly made a lasting impression on Matilda as it doubtless has on countless other young players, the Adil Rashids, Jofra Archers and Ben Stokeses of the future. Cricket, it seems, is coming home.

Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired Professional & BUSINESS men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3. Next meeting 21 August Professor Mary Evans, LSE, considers the changing roles and aspirations of women in the 1950s, and onwards into the Swinging Sixties and strident Seventies. Details from Eveleen (8455 6431)

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Farewell to friend and family man Francis Coulson

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Francis Coulson, the renowned kilt wearer of East Finchley and a former member of *The Archer* newspaper team.



Francis on a family holiday.

Francis met his wife Carole at the Coolhurst Squash Club in Crouch End and the couple lived in the area for 34 years with their two children, Tilda and Ollie.

Francis loved the East Finchley community and could often be found striding the county roads, admiring stained glass windows and greeting the various feline locals or watching the world pass by from a bench

on the High Road. You could also often spot him reading a book or doing the crossword in Gertie Browne's, or enjoying lunch in a local restaurant.

As a younger man, Francis was an accomplished fencer, captaining the school team at Westminster and going on to fence for Cambridge, where he studied Modern Languages and Law at St John's College.

Francis had an incredible gift for languages and could converse in French, Italian, Spanish, German and Scottish Gaelic. He would often engage with waiters and others around East Finchley in any of these.

He loved reading, especially historical fiction and the work of Terry Pratchett, and also bird-watching, particularly watching keenly each summer for the arrival of the first swifts.

For four years from 2003, Francis volunteered as legal advisor to *The Archer* and provided the team with much valuable guidance thanks to his own training in law. He was always generous with his time and unfailingly good company.

In his later years Francis suffered from a balance disorder called Ménière's Disease, which restricted his movement and caused him to require a walking stick. His family would be happy for anyone so inclined to donate to the Ménière's Society charity in his memory to support research into this little understood condition. More details at www.menieres.org.uk/support-us/research-supporter.

We'll miss you, Francis.



Kilt wearer: Francis as he was often seen around East Finchley.

All that's missing is the sea



Seaside special: John Mehmet and assistant Jan Pekozkay
Photo Mike Coles

Shoppers strolling down Long Lane, N2, this summer could easily imagine themselves beside the seaside after trader John Mehmet made over his mini-supermarket with rubber rings, water pistols... and even a palm tree.

He wanted to give his grocery the look of a seaside store in a traditional English resort like Southend so there were also water wings, hula hoops and a row of ice cream signs on display.

Happy look

John, whose family have owned the Long Lane Supermarket store on the corner of Trinity Road since 1952, said: "It's summer, it's a happy look and it puts a smile on everyone's face. I just wanted to make people feel good and show them why it's fun to support local shops."

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Poop, poop

This is my kind of climate change world. I'm not talking about some eco-festival in a field in Wales complete with free car parking. I'm not talking about polar bears being forced to hibernate in Iceland, somewhere between the frozen peas and the alligator steaks. No, I'm talking cars, that's where the real weirdness starts.

The Great Khan is extending his ultra-low emission zone to East Finchley in two years, which means no old cars, no diesels more than two years old and lots of silent eco-buses, electric family saloons and scooters.

At least in the old days when Routemasters sounded like pigeons with lung disease, you could hear them long before you saw them. Same with cars: the rumble of a V8 would disturb the neighbours long before it roared into view.

In the new hush-hush electric world of the Pious and eco-buses, you'll need a sixth sense and a telescope because the creeping death, in all its bright red glory, will have totalled you long before you heard it coming.

But there is a solution: Mayor Khan wants buses to make a noise, maybe something like a 1990s' ring tone. And guess what, the Maybot's legacy is making electric cars go 'poop, poop' like Toad from Toad Hall. Now that sounds a bit more like fun.

Never mind the ring tone, buses should be made to sound like tanks, and cars should sound like cars. If your new eco beast is quieter than a hairdryer, you should be able to download an app to give it a real sound. How about a Ford Mustang? Maybe a Ferrari V12? Or Lewis Hamilton's Grand Prix car? And if it's an app, then why not hack it so that the flash git's Porsche sounds like a 40-year-old VW Beetle heading for the scrap yard.

But let's not stop there, how about music instead? You could have Led Zep's *Rock'n'Roll* or Steppenwolf's *Born to be Wild* blasting out from an electric scooter heading down the Holloway Road. Either way, get the sound right and, as the Beatles used to say, "Baby you can drive my car".



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- **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. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or 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.
- **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
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: 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
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **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.



Open house: The artists' event is a chance to chat and browse original works. Photo Mike Coles.

Musical memories will live forever

Students from East Finchley's Archer Academy put on their first whole-school production when they took to the stage at artsdepot in North Finchley as the Kids from FAME. All three performances in July were sold out and the audience was treated to a spectacular adaptation of the musical.



Big moment: Archer Academy students performing at the artsdepot. Photo Kathleen Holman.

Be seen in The Archer

Is your charity, school or organisation planning a public event? Tell everyone in East Finchley about it with a free listing in our What's On column on page 10 of every issue.

Send brief details by email to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. You can also reach us on Facebook and Twitter at TheArcherN2.

Deadline for submissions is always the middle of the month ahead of the issue in which you'd like your event included. Full details of deadlines are always at the top of page 2.

What's On...

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

Sunday 11 August

• **Ramblers Association walk** from High Barnet to Finsbury Park (10 miles/16km); meet 10.30am at High Barnet station (Northern line) for linear walk through part of Dollis Valley, Highgate Woods and Parkland Walk. Plenty of drop-off points, some road walking and possibly some muddy sections. Bring packed lunch. More information from leader Penny Revitt on 020 8368 9594 or 07985 254038.

Saturday 17 August

• **Butterfly Morning** at Long Lane Pasture, opposite the fire station, 10am - 12 noon. In warm dry weather visitors should see many of the species already recorded at the Pasture. Booklets available, also help with identification. Free entry.

Sunday 18 August

• **Open garden** at 5 St Regis Close,

Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DE, 2pm - 6.30pm; admission £4 (children free) in aid of KSDP Humanitarian Aid to Burma; wheelchair access, dogs on leads welcome.

Sunday 25 August

• **Ramblers Association walk** from Finsbury Park to Alexandra Palace (7 miles/12km); meet 10.30am at Finsbury Park station main entrance for linear walk along Parkland Walk, through Queens Wood and Alexandra Park, finishing at Alexandra Palace station. More information from leader Jill Stedman on 07929 437604.

Saturday 31 August

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

Up close & personal

Twenty homes and studios across East Finchley, Muswell Hill and Finchley Central welcomed visitors on two weekends in June and July for the popular East Finchley Open Artists' Open Houses event. Visitors could browse and buy paintings, ceramics, jewellery, photos, textiles, glass works, sculptures and other art works as well as take the chance to talk to the 70 exhibiting artists who created them.

Sure sign of success

My name is Daisy and I've just turned 14 years old. I live in Muswell Hill and started painting road signs when I was around ten. We'd recently left West Hampstead and to remember where I'd grown up I thought it would be fun to paint a copy of the road sign.

Soon I did another for a friend. Then I had the idea to paint some N10 roads and, with the help of my dad, go and see if I could find somewhere to display them in Muswell Hill.

Walking through Muswell Hill we noticed a new cafe next to the Everyman cinema and they had blank walls, so we popped in. Oliver in North and Ten let us put up six paintings which were kept on exhibition there for ten months.

ing to her and to have her say that *she's* a fan of my work!

Some N2 people might have seen me at the East Finchley Festival in June where I was on a stall with my dad. I have painted a handful of commissions for people in N2 and from the photo you can see how much the road signs vary in any given area. I love East Finchley too - it's my nearest tube.

I start my GCSE Art course



Urban art: Daisy with some of her street signs.

I set up @urbanartgirl on Instagram and began shouting about my work. From then to now I have painted close to 100 commissions. One cafe customer was Jodie Whittaker (Doctor Who, no less!) and she bought one of my paintings. It was amazing to deliver a paint-

at Fortismere in September and can't wait to see how I might develop my ideas and paintings. If you would like to commission me, or have an exhibition space I could use, then please do get in touch via my Instagram: UrbanArtGirl or on Etsy: UrbanArtGirlShop.

Be our eyes and ears

The Archer is your newspaper and we rely on you to tell us what's going on in and around East Finchley. So if you have a story that you'd like others to know about, please get in touch. You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.



Nine lives well spent for friendly Tiggy

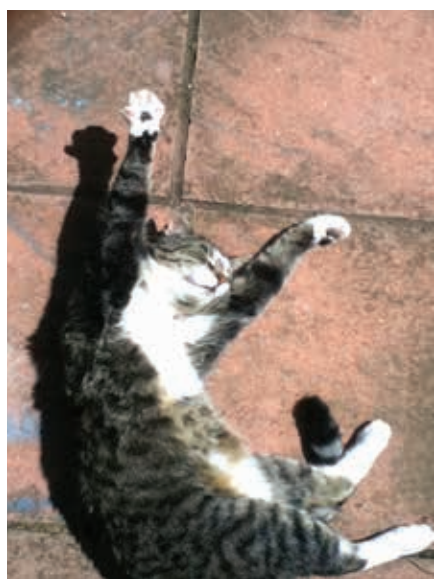
Affectionate and mischievous, Tiggy the cat was a firm favourite with many neighbours on his patch around the Durham Road and Huntingdon Road area. Owner Abigail Downer-Wills pays tribute to the big personality who lived with her family for 14 years.

Since Tiggy passed through heaven's cat flap in May, we have been encouraged by many people who knew him to share stories and conversations that have taken place at the corner of Tiggy's domain. Over the years, folks passing by appreciated his engaging, trusting and friendly nature. He was a regular catalyst for conversation. I would often joke: "This is a cat who thinks he is a dog."

Stories abound of Tiggy's neighbourhood house calls, rounds with the postman, exploits in car boots, stand-offs with foxes, and games of hide and seek as my husband Bob, son Ted and I tried to get to work or school without him following us up to the High Road.

Our vet commented that we cared for an extraordinary creature with oriental genes: long curly tail held high in a question mark, slimness of build, full toned meow, and a questioning interest and engagement with everything and everyone.

Tiggy, a tiger with socks, was an East End moggy born in Bow, so we like to think that some generations ago, when the London Docks were in operation with vessels docking from



Open arms: Tiggy was a friendly character. Photo Bob Wills.

far and wide, each with their own ship's cat, that one such oriental four-paws sauntered down the gangway, liked what he discovered up some back alley and so, generations later, we shared 14 years with Tiggy!

The postie, whom Tiggy accompanied, summed it up: "Tiggy was so trusting and generous with his affections that everyone looked out for him." Folks made sure he didn't rush across the road, carried him home if he was found too far from his corner patch and scooped him up when he was outnumbered by foxes. Nine lives well spent in a caring community.

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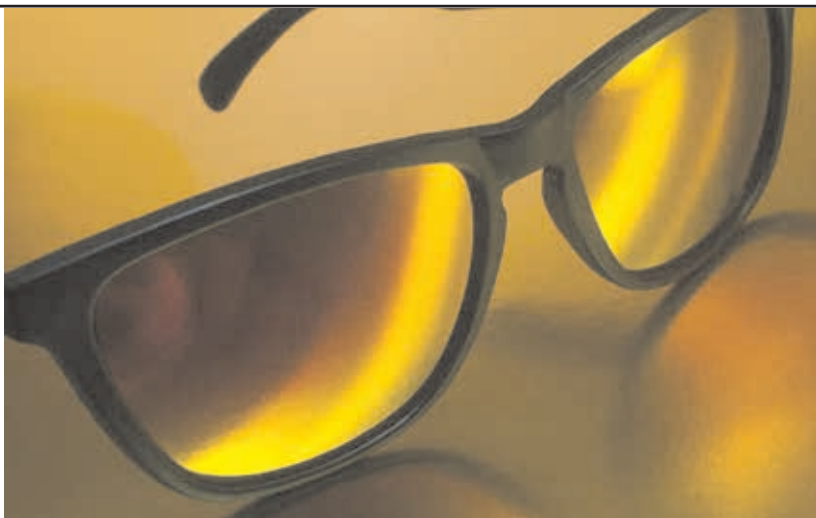
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Letters



'Overgrowth: Vegetation blocking the pavement off Long Lane.



...and a bin taking up the pavement in Long Lane.

Obstacle course

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to highlight an issue of pavements being obstructed by overgrowth and bins. I'm 100% for biodiversity and encourage as much greenery as possible to be planted in our homes and urban spaces. However it should not be at the sacrifice of public safety.

I ditch the car as much as possible and aim to walk with a buggy and two small children but in certain cases, as pictured, we're just forced into the road. Bins left on pavements can cause the same obstruction. I suggest the council should carry out a survey of bins on pavements and maybe give three strikes and a fine for leaving them out beyond collection day.

But I endeavour to be a 'solutionist'. If the household with overgrown hedges in this case has the tools, then I will gladly lend my hands and help trim it back. In fact, if any of my neighbours need a hand I'll be there!

**Yours faithfully,
Shan Magnusson,
Address supplied.**

What a waste!

Dear Editor,

Earlier this year, you kindly wrote a piece about the 200th anniversary of our carpet business S&M Myers in East Finchley. Until the end of last year, we could, unofficially, take our broken cardboard tubes to the dump. Now, we aren't even allowed to do that.

The council are quite happy to collect domestic waste at great environmental expense, as it's in

the public eye, whereas there is no provision to recycle commercial waste, like our cardboard tubes. Each one is equivalent to a couple of months of a typical household's weight of cardboard waste, and is solid, clean, compact and needs no sorting.

It is scandalous. And the same can be said for all the clear, clean plastic sheeting we get from each of the carpets, which are wrapped when they come in.

Surely something needs to be done about it and the sooner the better.

**Yours faithfully,
Richard Myers,
S&M Myers,
East End Road, N2.**

Bus sails past

Dear Editor,

There is a hail and ride section on the 143 bus route along Squires Lane and Manor View, N3. Earlier this year, I tried to hail a bus on two separate occasions, only for it to sail past me to the next bus stop, to which I had to hurry while the bus waited there (at least the drivers waited).

The drivers on both occasions told me that hail and ride had been discontinued. When I contacted Transport for London, they assured me this was not the case and that the drivers would be interviewed and advised of the correct procedure. I wonder if any other readers have had this problem?

**Yours faithfully,
Charles Thomson,
Address supplied.**

20mph zones don't work

Dear Editor,

While it is a terrible tragedy that a small child was killed in East End Road (*The Archer*, June 2019), it is not rational to jump to the conclusion that a 20mph limit would improve the accident rate, and the petition so far signed by 2,700 people, while meant for good reasons, is not really taking account of the facts.

Bath and North East Somerset Council found that reducing the speed limit to 20mph has caused a rise in deaths and serious injuries. The Council spent £871,000 bringing in the 13 new speed zones just 12 months ago. But one year on, a report has found that the rate of people killed or seriously injured has gone up in seven out of the 13 new 20 mph zones.

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

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

The review of the traffic control measures warns that this is a problem nationally, adding: "There is no simple explanation for this adverse trend but it could be that local people perceive the area to be safer due to the presence of the 20 mph restrictions and thus are less diligent when walking and crossing roads, cycling or otherwise travelling."

Meanwhile, Manchester City Council plan to halt their flagship 20mph limit roll-out after finding it has made almost no difference to speeds or accidents. Council chiefs say speeds have not changed significantly where the new limit has been introduced and on some roads they have actually gone up.

The other considerations are the high costs of setting up the zones, and the fact that at 20mph a journey takes 50% longer than at 30 mph. This means that the pollution emitted by a vehicle is increased by 50%. Add to this that by taking longer, roads are more crowded and there is a cost to business in lost time. These factors together suggest that, in spite of an emotional reaction, a lowering of the speed limit is not justified.

**Yours faithfully,
Barry H White,
Fordington Road, N6.**

Road users must pay attention

Dear Editor,

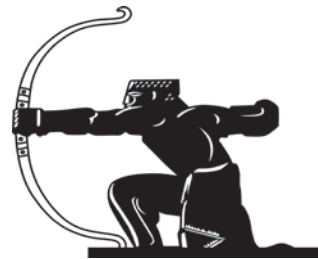
What a terrible tragedy for the family of the three-year-old boy killed on the crossing on East End Road (*The Archer*, June 2019). The whole question of road use needs to be carefully analysed.

It is all too easy to oversimplify the problem in the heat of the moment. A blanket 20mph ban is unnecessary, uneconomical and potentially dangerous. It also adds to pollution when vehicles are deliberately driven 'on the brakes' in an effort to hold back.

Anyone who drives from East Finchley to Highgate will have experienced the frustration of keeping to 20mph on a wide empty residential road, trying to achieve enough acceleration uphill and hold back downhill, all the time concentrating on the speedometer instead of the traffic conditions. It is always a relief to be back in Barnet with more sensible speed limits suited to the particular road.

All road users have responsibilities. Many cyclists weave in and out of traffic and claim the privileges of both drivers and pedestrians. Is it time for cyclists to be licensed and insured? In the past there were clear rules, and children and their parents observed the Green Cross Code. Mobiles on the move are a menace, whether used by drivers or pedestrians.

**Yours faithfully,
Valerie Jablon,
Gurney Drive, N2.**



Another archer joins Archie in Northern line vigil

By John Lawrence

Anyone who happens to look up the driveway of a house near the fire station in Long Lane could be forgiven for doing a double take when they see East Finchley's famous Archie statue apparently a mile away from his usual home.

It's not the tube station's celebrated Archie himself but his new left-handed little brother, lovingly handcrafted by Long Lane Pasture trustee Wayne Armsby. He has named him Alf in tribute to his father, and also "because he's about 'alf the size of the original".

Alf's arrow

From a distance, and even up close, the detail on Wayne's Alf is an exact match for sculptor Eric Aumonier's Archie, right down to his golden bow and his expression of fierce determination as he looks down the Northern line. But Alf has something that Archie has never had... the fabled golden arrow (which may, or may not, have



Big brother: Sculptor Eric Aumonier works on Archie in 1940. Picture courtesy London's Transport Museum © TfL.

once been displayed in a glass case at Morden station).

Wayne said: "When I was a kid, I remember being driven

through East Finchley from our home in Barnet, and my first question was 'Dad, why hasn't he got an arrow?' So when I had my chance at long last, I gave him one, and a string."

A dream realised

Wayne worked from a reversed version of the famous 1940 photo of Aumonier on a ladder next to his statue. While Archie is carved from beech and lined with lead, his younger brother has been made from layers of plywood, painted and then sealed with polyurethane.

He said: "Archie is a marvellous creation. I've always loved the look and the detail of him and for years I'd had it in my head to make my own version. This year I finally did it as a winter project. I started in January and he was up by the end of May."

So now East Finchley has a kind of archer relay, with Alf aiming down the Northern line from Long Lane directly at Archie on top of the station... in time for his 80th birthday next year.



Little brother: Wayne Armsby and Alf. Photo John Lawrence

Gold standard among green spaces

Long Lane Pasture, opposite Finchley Fire Station in Long Lane, N3, has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the UK's very best green spaces for the eighth year running. The volunteer-run Pasture is the only Barnet Council owned green space to be awarded this recognition.

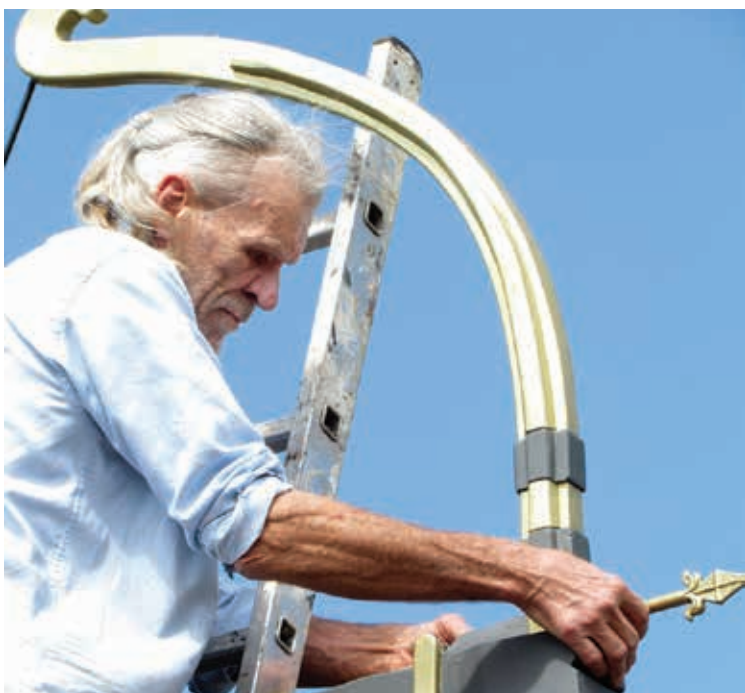
Donald Lyven, Chair of the Long Lane Pasture Trust, said: "We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the effort that goes into maintaining the Pasture to such a high standard."

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Missing piece: Wayne gives Alf his golden arrow. Photo John Lawrence

Spot the odd one out again

The third successive Odd One Out competition organised by the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is taking place during the school holidays.

Open to youngsters of 12 years and under, participating shops will have an 'Odd One Out' sign on display in their window where there will also be an object which does not belong in it; for example, an Oxo cube in a bookshop.

Entry forms are available in Muswell Hill library and at www.mhfga.org along with the competition rules. The winner/s will be those who identify all of the objects correctly.

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