

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



Five-a-day: The Monkey Puzzle children and their carers shop at the N2 Food Centre in the High Road.

## You're never too young to support your local shops

**Monkey Puzzle nursery, based opposite the tube station, is getting its young ones into good habits early by taking them out on mini shopping trips, and making sure they shop locally.**

"Whenever our little ones do a cooking activity we take them to our local shops to buy ingredients and get to know our community and the lovely people in it," said the nursery's Jenny Eracleous.

"In early January we made pizza, so the children visited a local shop to buy all the ingredients they would need. As well as getting to know their community, it helps the

children develop their maths and communication skills and to learn about road safety and healthy eating."

## Playground pick-me-up

**There are hopes that the well-used but poorly maintained children's playground in Market Place, N2, close to Holy Trinity Primary School and The Archer Academy, could be freshened up.**

Members of the Grange Big Local regeneration group met Barnet Council last month

to discuss ideas and hope to follow this up with some positive changes this year.

The playground is a popular stop-off point for young families after school and is also used as a meeting point by teenagers. Some items of play equipment are missing after falling into disrepair and others will need replacing soon.

## Campaigners call for full inquiry into library cuts

**Campaigners fighting to reverse the cuts made to East Finchley library and Barnet's library service in general over the last two years are calling for a full inquiry.**

Barnet Council has already said it will be announcing a review of the changes it has made to the library service when the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee meets on Thursday 7 March.

### Dress up to protest

This happens to be World Book Day when children and other Save Barnet Library (SBL) supporters stage their annual protest outside East Finchley library against what they say has been a huge loss of access and facilities.

The campaign group is inviting residents, families, school groups and library users of all ages to dress up as their favourite book characters and join them to demand that the council's review is a thorough and independent public inquiry into the impact of the cuts.

### Failure to meet needs

Last year, SBL put forward evidence to the Minister at the Department for Culture (DCMS) to make the case for an independent inquiry.

Emily Burnham, of SBL, says: "The law says the council

must provide a library service that meets the needs of all users, yet we know that young people, people with disabilities and others are excluded by un-staffed libraries.

"This is discriminatory. Despite this, the council's recent annual in-house Equalities Assessment didn't even consider libraries. That's why we need a proper independent inquiry."

### Effects on children's library use

Changes to East Finchley library begun in 2017 have left it without professional staff for 53 of its 69 opening hours each week, and a PIN entry system. Nobody under 15 is allowed in during those unstaffed hours unless accompanied by an adult. Before the changes, fiction borrowing by East Finchley children had risen by almost a fifth between 2011 and 2015. SBL says that figures it has seen from Barnet Council show teen borrowing in our library has since fallen by a third, and across Barnet take-up of the children's Summer Reading Challenge was down by a half. The campaign group can be followed at [savebarnetlibraries.org](http://savebarnetlibraries.org), or on Facebook and Twitter @savebarnetlibs.

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## The Archer

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East Finchley Newspapers

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Sharman & Co Ltd

Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag and New Local Cafe for providing us with a meeting place.

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

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

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

Copy deadlines – **March:** 15 February; **April:** 15 March;  
**May:** 12 April

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
**Haringey Council** 020 8489 0000

#### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815  
Gt North Leisure Park 0870 240 6020  
Muswell Hill Everyman 0871 9069060  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789  
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080

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Lone Parent Centre 020 7021 4146  
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National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
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Edgware General 020 8952 2381  
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
Whittington 020 7272 3070

### OAP's Advice

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

## Falls clinic

A falls prevention service operates at Finchley Memorial Hospital in Granville Road, North Finchley, offering advice to help reduce the risk of falling.

It is available free to anyone who has a fear of falling, has a history of falls or near misses or lacks confidence with their balance and walking. This also applies to those who have been diagnosed with osteoporosis. Any health professional, such as your GP, can refer you or you can refer yourself.

A free 12-week programme

will give you information and advice, group sessions to help with balance, flexibility and stamina, and exercises to do at home • A check of your home to identify hazards • Plan strategies to help you cope if you do have a fall. Find out more by telephoning Finchley Memorial Hospital on 020 8349 7528 or emailing [icsbarnet@nhs.net](mailto:icsbarnet@nhs.net).

## Computers and a cuppa

Are you sometimes stumped when using your computer or do you need a bit of help in finding your way around the internet?

A free Computers and a Cuppa scheme can help you. Drop in at The Five Bells pub in East End Road, N2, from 2pm to 4pm on Tuesdays or alternatively drop in to Wilmot Close, N2, from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesdays.

## Gentle fitness

Anyone looking to keep fit without pounding away in a gym might be interested in joining the gentle keep fit and social group that meets on Thursdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2.

To find out more call Nina Gentry on 020 3828 4834 or email [Nina.Gentry@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Nina.Gentry@peabody.org.uk).



All together now: Last year's East Finchley Festival was a huge success and it returns to Cherry Tree Wood again this year. Photo by Mike Coles

## The summer festival is coming

The days are getting (gradually) longer through these winter months, and summer really can't be far away because the date of the East Finchley Festival has just been announced.

This year's free community event will take place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June. As always, it promises a full line-up of music, food, crafts, stalls

and children's entertainment.

If you're interested in applying for a food stall, please contact Miranda Levey [mirandalevey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mirandalevey@yahoo.co.uk)

We'll bring you more festival information over the next few months. Meanwhile you can follow the latest on social media [@eastfinchleyfestival](https://twitter.com/eastfinchleyfestival).

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

#### East Finchley Underground Station Car Park

Erection of a minicab office.

#### 3 Beresford Road, N2

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

#### 6 Brendon Grove, N2

Single-story rear extension including alterations to rear patio. Relocation of front door from side to front. Alterations to fenestration.

#### 28 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliette balcony, one roof light on flat roof of dormer and three front facing. New raised patio and associated access steps to garden.

#### 93 East End Road, N2

Conversion into three self-contained units, including first floor rear extension. Alterations to fenestration and first floor terrace. Associated refuse and cycle storage.

#### 230 East End Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing conservatory. Roof extension involving hip to gable, side/rear dormer window, two front roof lights and new side gable window.

#### 7 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliette balcony and three front facing roof lights.

#### 2 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension: depth 6m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

#### 2 Heath View Close, N2

New front porch, following demolition of existing one. Roof extension, including one rear dormer window, three rear roof lights and five front roof lights. New side doors and windows.

#### 332 High Road, N2

Change of use to rear from commercial A3 to residential C3 (studio flat). Addition of main door and windows on wall facing

street, and alterations to rear to insert a window and relocate an external door. New refuse store.

#### 3 King Street, N2

Change of use from class B1 (c) to class C3 (2 units). Use of Flat 4 in Second Floor Unit as residential.

#### 74 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension: depth 6 m, eaves height 2 m, maximum height 2.95 m.

#### Garden Lodge, 370 Long Lane, N2

Use as a single dwelling house.

#### 39 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension: depth 6m, eaves height 2.7m, maximum height 3m.

#### 19 New Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension with new patio area.

#### 5 Oak Lane, N2

Single-storey rear extension: depth 6 m, eaves height 2 m, maximum height 2.95 m. Single-storey side extension.

#### 21 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

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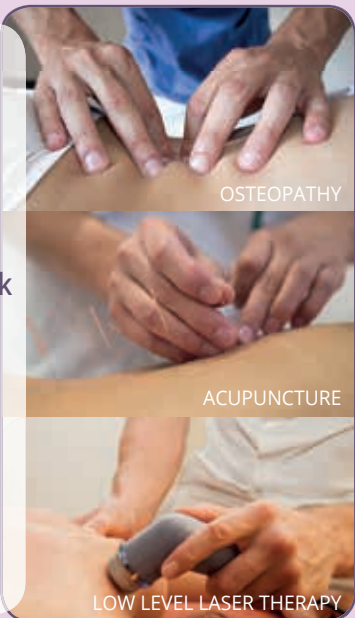
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Park by park: How the walk weaves through London.

## A walk through London's parks

More than 1,000 people are expected to join the biggest fundraising event of the year for the North London Hospice when the Big Fun Walk sets off from East Finchley.

The date for this year's walk is Sunday 5 May and registration is open now. Adults can sign up for £12.50 and children

for £7.50, with a requested minimum sponsorship of £25.

The 8.5-mile walk leaves East Finchley tube station and sets off through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood and on to Hampstead Heath, Regent's Park and Hyde Park before finishing at Westminster.

A free lunch, refreshments and goody bag are provided for everyone taking part. All the money raised supports the vital work of the hospice at its base in Whetstone and in family homes across north London. Find out more and sign up at [www.bigfunwalk.co.uk](http://www.bigfunwalk.co.uk).

### Advice service

A free citizens' advice service funded by the Grange Big Local project is available in conjunction with Citizens Advice Barnet at St Mary's Parish Centre, 279 High Road, N2.

The service is available by appointment at [grangeadvice@barnetcab.org.uk](mailto:grangeadvice@barnetcab.org.uk) or leave a message at 020 8629 5376.

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# Phoenix rising as raising funds goes full steam ahead

By John Lawrence

Fundraising activities are in overdrive at the Phoenix Cinema as staff, trustees and volunteers race to generate enough cash to keep the cinema independent. There is a target of raising £50,000 by the end of March to avoid the risk of insolvency. With the merger of the Save the Phoenix campaign and the Phoenix's own fundraising team, a new crowdfunding site has been launched and donations are welcome. The Phoenix Rising site is [www.justgiving.com/campaign/phoenixrising](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/phoenixrising).

### Big names on board

Phoenix patrons including Benedict Cumberbatch, Dame Judi Dench and Maureen Lipman are being asked to take part in fundraising events, and the cinema is asking for help from its celebrity contacts throughout the film and music industries. Potential events include film quizzes and jazz evenings.

A prize raffle in December got everything off to a good start, bringing in £1,850 in a short space of time and spreading the word about the Phoenix's activities. Winner of two free tickets for a year was Alison Horton, with Russell

Warman and Helen Minn winning two free tickets for six and three months.

### Can you help?

The cinema will be holding a fundraising weekend on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March and is keen to hear from anyone who wants to organise their own fundraising events. Contact lead volunteer Jacky Fairfax and her team at [phoenixvolunteers2018@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixvolunteers2018@gmail.com).

### Bargain prices

Reduced price tickets for young people have been introduced and the relaunched young adults' membership Neon has had better take up in the last two months than in the past two

years. There will be February half-term price reductions to £5 child and £20 family ticket prices from Monday to Friday.

Top films on their way include Cannes Jury Award winner Capernaum and romantic drama If Beale Street Could Talk. Also showing is All Is True, written by Ben Elton and directed by Kenneth Branagh, about Shakespeare's later life.

On Sunday 24 February, the Phoenix will also show The Ponds (Still Waters Run Deep) about year-round swimmers at Hampstead ponds. Swimmers were filmed over 12 months as they laughed, complained and sang.



Prize winners: Helen Minn and Alison Horton receive their free Phoenix tickets from trustee Margaret O'Brien and lead volunteer Jacky Fairfax in the cinema foyer.

## On the table

Table tennis is well known as a great way to keep fit and have fun at the same time.

There's a group that runs at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2, on Tuesdays from 2.15pm to 3.45pm and on Thursdays from 10.15am to 11.45am, costing £4 per session. Find out more by emailing [michael.jobling@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.jobling@ntlworld.com).

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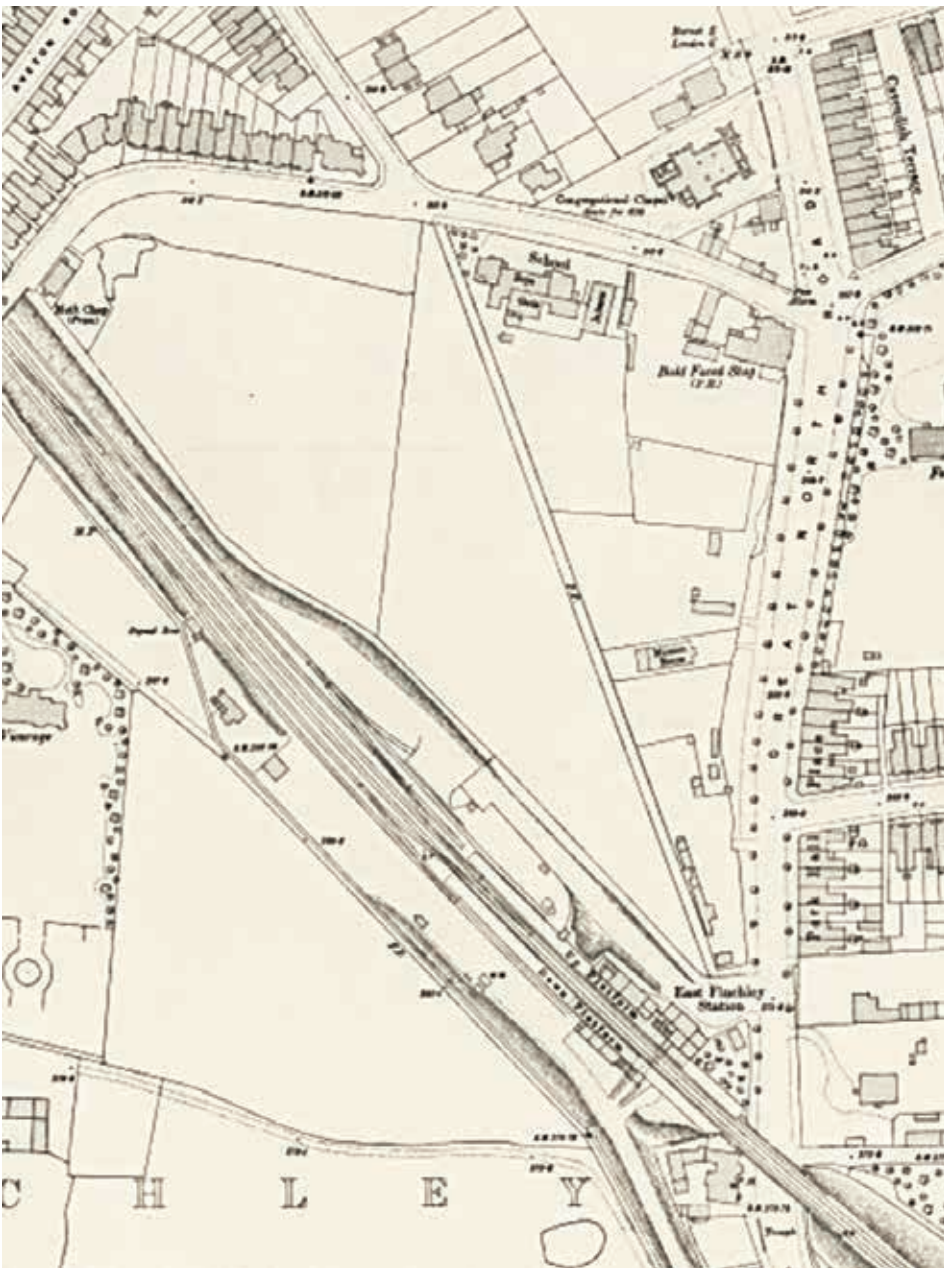
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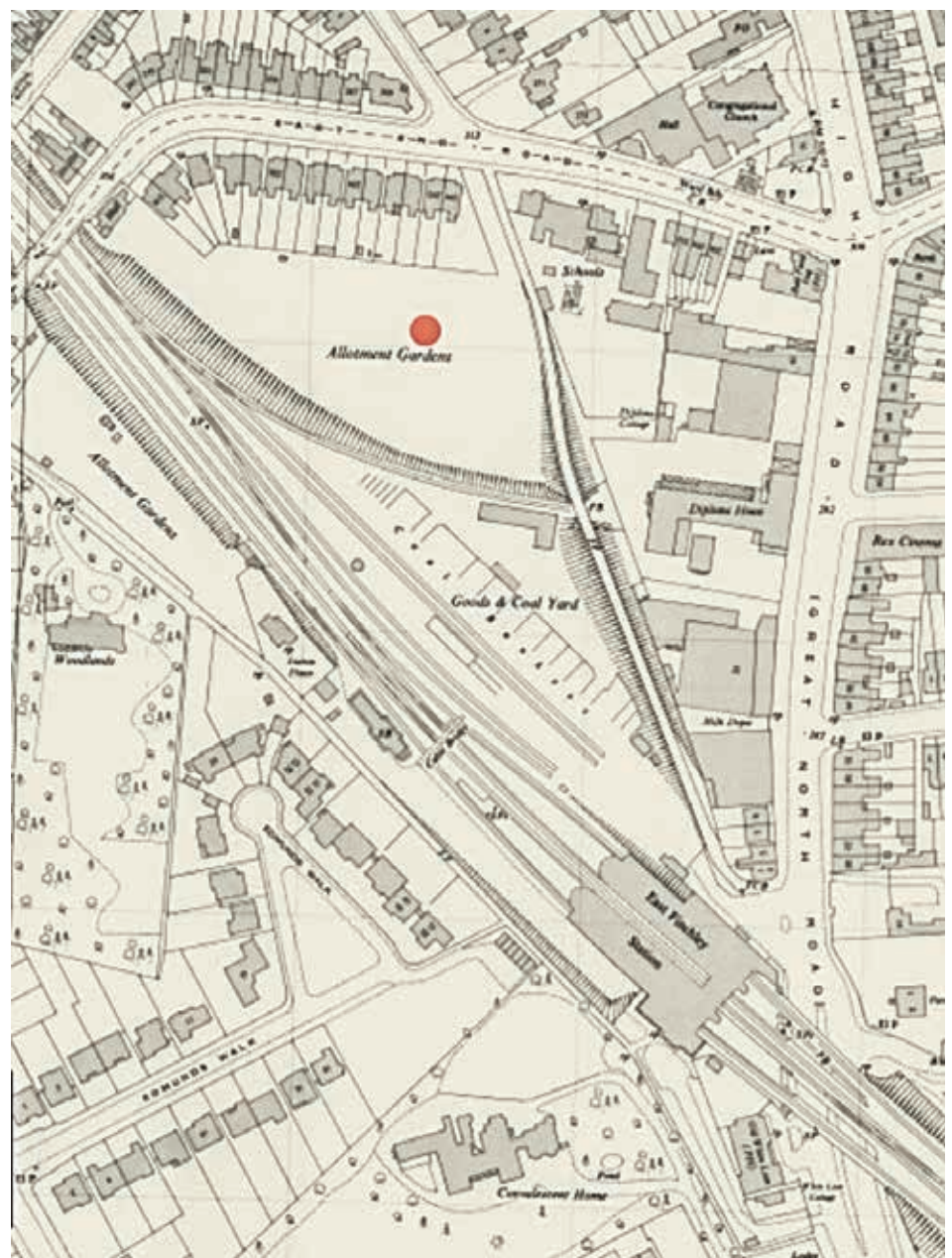
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1890s: The triangle of land in East Finchley bordered by the railway line, the Great North Road and East End Road, showing the old Holy Trinity School, top centre, close to the Bald Faced Stag, the Congregational Chapel where the Viceroy Parade shops now stand; taken from an 1893-1896 Ordnance Survey map on [www.layersoflondon.org](http://www.layersoflondon.org).



1960s: The same triangle of land 70 years later showing the influx of new houses where fields used to be, and the conversion of the land alongside the railway line into a goods and coal yard, now occupied by the station car park; taken from a 1940-1960 Ordnance Survey map on [www.layersoflondon.org](http://www.layersoflondon.org).

## Growing demand for private tutors is big business

By Katrina Roy

A survey by the Sutton Trust, a UK-based educational charity, shows that despite the uncertainty hanging over the UK's economy at the moment people are still, and increasingly, prepared to spend substantial amounts of money on tutoring their children of secondary school age.

### Rising market

Tutoring is big business. The Sutton Trust's 2018 research shows that the tutoring market has doubled in size in little over a decade. The private tutoring market is now estimated to be worth in excess of £2 billion.

Little surprise perhaps that London tops the list with 41% of secondary school pupils receiving private tuition. Across England and Wales this figure remains high, equating to roughly a quarter (27%) of pupils polled.

### Targeted help

There is also a trend for modifying tutoring to target specific exam goals. Results from the Sutton Trust report reveal that over a third of pupils are using tutoring explicitly to improve in a particular GCSE subject and exam.

This is something that Louise Goldsmith, a Muswell Hill-based tutor specialising in GCSE English language and literature, has noticed. She said: "I am tailoring my services in response to this demand from parents for more

targeted help for their children in deciphering the sometimes daunting requirements of the GCSE examiners."

Goldsmith, a former secondary school teacher with 15 years' experience and also a GCSE examiner, now runs both pre-GCSE booster sessions and 'supported GCSE mocks' alongside her regular tutor groups listed at [www.englishexamtutor.com](http://www.englishexamtutor.com).

"Parents want to know when their children walk into the exam room they are absolutely clear about the assessment objectives for each paper, knowing the format, number and value of each question and how to structure and time their responses," she said.

### State-funded private tuition

This sounds great for students fortunate enough to be able to afford this level of help but what about everyone else? More broadly, is it indicative of a failure in teaching standards at secondary schools? In fact the Sutton Trust, a charity set up with the explicit mandate of improving



Tutor: Louise Goldsmith

social mobility through education, is not calling for less tutoring but more.

Chairman Sir Peter Lampl said: "If we are serious about social mobility, we need to make sure that the academic playing field is levelled outside the school gate by the state providing funding for private tuition on a means-tested basis."

Possible solutions mooted by the foundation are some kind of means-tested voucher system, funded by the pupil premium for lower-income families and expanding non-profit and state tuition programmes.

## Back through the layers of history

By David Melsome

A treasure trove of social history has been opened online allowing you to dive into the multiple layers that make up the story of London.

Called Layers of London, the website is a free collaborative resource for researchers, schools and anyone interested in their local area. Maps, photos and documents are freely available and users are encouraged to upload their own items to add to the historical record.

Material has already been provided by the British Library, The London Metropolitan Archives, Historic England, The National Archives, the Museum of London Archaeology and a wide range of national and local archives, institutions and community groups. Over time, the website's creators hope it will grow into a rich source of detail on London's people and places.

East Finchley is featured on the

site in two sets of Ordnance Survey maps, one from the 1890s and one from the 1960s. Using the interactive layers, it is easy to see how the area developed in these decades. To see the archives for yourself and to start adding items to the social record, go to [www.layersoflondon.org](http://www.layersoflondon.org).

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# Two hundred years of history under their feet

By John Lawrence

This year marks two centuries in the same family for one East Finchley company, years that have seen the firm rub shoulders with Clementine Churchill, the Kray twins and every rank of society from the rag trade to the Ritz Hotel.



Two centuries in the same family: Richard, left, and Alan Myers in their current shop in East End Road, N2. Photo Mike Coles.

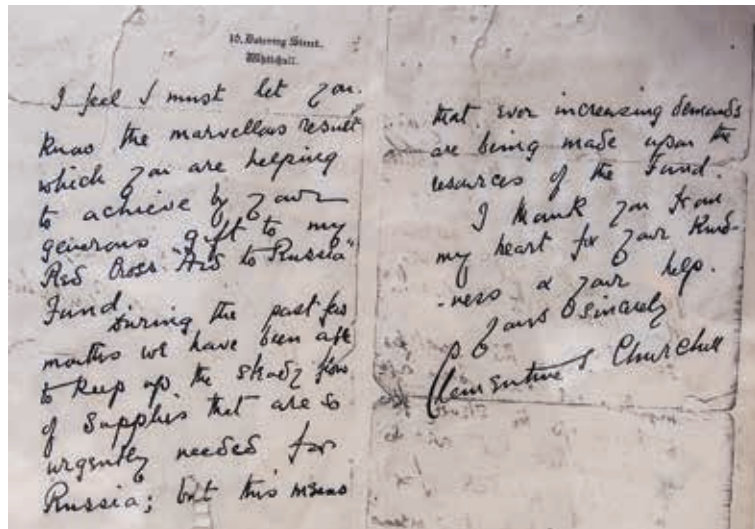
Myers Carpets has been trading in East End Road, N2, for almost 25 years but it traces its history back eight generations to the East End of London itself in 1819 when Morris Myers set up as a rag merchant. Over 200 years the business has adapted to survive, moving into government surplus and more latterly carpets.

## Rag cleaning and surplus goods

By the early 1900s it was being run by brothers Jack and Samuel Myers, Jack being the great-grandfather of Richard and Alan Myers, who are in charge today. Jack handled surplus goods from the major shipping lines such as Cunard

and P&O, including carpet which he sold on in Blackburn, Lancashire. At the same time, their rag cleaning business was thriving, with huge bales

arriving in London Docks from as far away as Japan for their workers to clean, cut and recycle as wiping cloths for factories or carpet underlay.



Handwritten: The note of thanks sent to Jack Myers by Clementine Churchill during the Second World War.

## Clemmie sends thanks

During the Second World War, Jack Myers received a handwritten note from Clementine Churchill, the wife of Britain's prime minister Winston Churchill, thanking him for donating surplus goods to her aid campaign, which sought to relieve the worst privations of the war in Russia. "I feel I must let you know the marvellous result which you are helping to achieve by your generous gift to my Red Cross 'Aid to Russia' fund," she wrote. "During the past few months we have been able to keep up the steady flow of supplies that are so urgently needed... I thank you from my heart for your kindness and your help."

## Concentrating on carpets

An auction catalogue from

joined the family firm under their late father Gerald in the 1970s, helped him set up shop in East Finchley, close to where they had grown up in Hendon and an ideal base for selling to suburban homeowners. What changes have they seen in the last 40 years? Richard says: "When I remember the swirling carpet patterns of the 70s, I'd say people's tastes are much more restrained these days, with huge demand for beige and grey shades. And carpets and rugs are becoming more popular again after wooden and laminate floors were favoured for a period."

## The future

At its height in the 1940s and 1950s, Myers employed upwards of 50 workers. Now



Cut to size: Richard, left, and Alan Myers in their carpet warehouse in Holloway Road in 1989

December 1969 reveals the Aladdin's cave of ex-government goods that Myers traded in: filing cabinets, motorised fans, telephone sets, lamps, chairs and nuts and bolts by the hundredweight.

During the 1960s, however, carpets became more important to the firm. They bought them secondhand from high-end establishments like the Ritz Hotel and foreign embassies and sold them on at auction or to East End market stalls, including one run by Charles Kray, the father of the notorious Kray twins Ronnie and Reggie.

By the 1990s, government surplus, the ultimate recycling trade, was dying out under a wave of company privatisation, so Myers took the decision to concentrate on carpets. Richard and Alan, who had

the East End Road showroom is run by just three or four. Richard and Alan have four children between them but none shows signs of wanting to carry on the family business. Richard says: "I'm not sad about that. They are great kids and they all have their own careers they want to pursue. Even after 200 years, everything comes to an end at some point."

"In our heyday just after the war we were a prestigious London warehouse with a reputation for being able to get hold of items that others couldn't. Now we have a quieter but steady trade in carpets, and that's fine. There's a good 10 years left in the business and, who knows, someone might take over the name when we eventually move on."

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# Top 10 sculptures in East Finchley

*What do you mean, you didn't know we had any sculptures in East Finchley? Oh yes, we have plenty, and here our photographer Mike Coles ranks them for star appeal.*



**10:** Not so much a sculpture as a relief. This wall plaque celebrating Queen Victoria can be seen on a house in Bedford Road, very close to the High Road on the northern side. It's dated 1897, probably the date the property was built.



**9:** This reproduction Greek statue is in the exterior terrace of The Clissold Arms pub in Fortis Green. It doesn't say who it is but possibly Aphrodite or Venus. Other candidates might be Hera, Iris, Hebe, but probably not Cupid. Can any scholarly reader shine a light?



**8:** The Islington and St Pancras Cemetery on the High Road. Not so much a sculpture as a Sculpture Park. One of the biggest cemeteries in London, it has thousands of memorials and headstones ranging from the traditional to the eccentric.



**7:** Western Road. This private house has an open garden at the front, only a few feet from the pavement, in which is this striking life size metal sculpture of a disabled man. Whilst the owner may not welcome too much attention it would be fascinating to find out more about it

**6:** The 'Thing' in Cherry Tree Wood. Whilst notionally a thing for kids to clamber over, when not being used for that it has distinct pretensions as a piece of exotic modern sculpture with hints of whales or lions. It would have been installed by Barnet Council but we'd love to know who designed it.



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**5:** The White Lion (or lions, since there are a matching pair). These are at the entrance to the Old White Lion pub next to the tube station. There has been a pub on that site for hundreds of years and its pair of big cats stand ready to welcome drinkers every day of the year.



**4:** The steel globe at McDonalds. This is in front of the main entrance to the McDonalds headquarters (next to the tube station) and incorporates a fountain continually running over the globe, no doubt somehow representing perfection in the hamburger experience.



**1:** At No 1, it had to be Archie, the iconic symbol of the neighbourhood above the tube station, shooting his arrow down the Northern Line southbound tunnel to distant Morden. The 10 foot tall statue is by English sculptor Eric Aumonier and was unveiled on 22 July 1940, a few years after the current station was opened.

**2:** The mechanical horse at the Hexagon car showrooms. Just 100 yards south of the tube station this sensational life-sized horse is made entirely of old car parts and is well worth a look



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**3:** The Stag at the Bald Faced Stag pub at the junction of the High Road and East End Road. This proud beast has been there as long as anyone can remember. The pub has changed hands many times over the years but the stag has remained standing proud over the rooftops



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## No room for scams, says decorator

By David Melsome

**It was a chance meeting at a bus stop that gave painter and decorator Michael Dudman the idea to go it alone with his own business.**

Michael, 41, who has been in the trade for more than 20 years, was told by his mum and dad about an elderly lady they'd met at the 143 bus stop near East Finchley Cemetery in East End Road.

She'd mentioned the terrible experience she was having with a decorator who was repeatedly failing to turn up to work on her house and, when he did show up, taking her to the cashpoint to draw out money for work he hadn't done.

"It was so sad and shocking to see somebody being put through this kind of ordeal," says Michael. "So I took over the job and after completing it

the lady was so happy. It was such a good feeling to see."

That's when Michael decided to set up his own business called Painting for Pensioners. He says: "I've lived here all my life and want to stop people being exposed to that kind of criminal practice. Working for myself, I can give that kind of time and commitment."

Based at his home in Thomas More Way, N2, Michael will carry out all work himself while his mum will be answering the phone and staying in charge of the admin side. For enquiries, telephone 020 8349 3902 or 07756 916845.



Lick of paint: Michael Dudman at work.

## A way to keep healthy handed down through thousands of years

**In these days of compulsive gym-going, weight-lifting and get-fit-quick programmes, it may be comforting to know that there is still a form of exercise that can be as gentle or as demanding as you wish.**

Qigong was originally created by Chinese monks as a method of keeping themselves healthy. Developed over many thousands of years, it is still practised by people of all ages and abilities.

Qigong has close connections with traditional Chinese medicine and is used extensively in that country as a therapy to complement other types of medicine.

### What is Qigong?

Qigong falls into two types of exercise. 'Static' qigong requires that you hold postures, whilst 'moving' qigong consists



Slow and strong: James Drewe practising Qigong

of short exercises where you move into and out of a particular position whilst using the breath.

These latter exercises might involve some stretching and

twisting, because one of the aspects of Qigong is to enhance the body's potential, whilst simultaneously trying to repair the body.

James Drewe, who teaches the exercise in East Finchley, as well as in central London and Kent, said both types of qigong were said to be particularly beneficial for the heart, but in reality they are good for all the organs of the body.

"Qigong can help to increase your energy, your balance, and coordination, as well as helping with your breathing," said James. "Moving qigong falls into sets of exercises for individual organs like the liver, lungs, heart and digestive system, and helps relieve problems with bones, tendons and joints, and problems such as diabetes."

James can be contacted via [www.qigonghealth.co.uk](http://www.qigonghealth.co.uk) or 07836 710281.

## YOUNG ARCHER



All abilities: The North Middlesex CC girls' teams last season

## Cricket practice ahead of new season

**North Middlesex Cricket Club Girls' teams will have indoor practices in the run-up to the 2019 outdoor season, splitting them by age groups in order to provide coaching appropriate to everyone's abilities.**

Practice sessions will take place in the Archer Academy gym hall on the Stanley Road campus, off Eagans Close, N2. Under 12 Girls meet on Saturdays from 5pm to 6.30pm starting Saturday 2 March, and Under 13 and older Girls meet on Saturdays from 6.30pm to 8pm, again from Saturday 2 March.

Part of the cost of hiring the gym is being paid by a Jack Petchey Award so the cost is only £5 per session, which can be paid on the day. New members are welcome. Contact [nmccgirlsccricket@gmail.com](mailto:nmccgirlsccricket@gmail.com) for more details.



## Drama in the sky

Thanks to Harry, aged 12, for sending us this photo of a monumental cloud, rather like an enormous sandstorm, that moved over East Finchley as the sun went down on New Year's Day. Harry took the photo from the attic window of his home in Bedford Road, N2, catching the cloud as it reflected the warm glow of the sunset.

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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 20 February Esther Samson (aka Esther Cheo Ying) talks about early life in Shanghai, upbringing in the Midlands, returning to China aged 17 during the 1949 Communist Revolution and on to Mao's Cultural Revolution in 1960. Reduced sub for new members. Contact Eric (8449 0566).

### Holy Trinity Church Church Lane, East Finchley Church of England

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





# Start-up company pioneers solution for squeeze on living space

By John Lawrence

A young company based in the top floor of a house in Durham Road, N2, is hoping its revolutionary method for creating affordable garden basements will help to ease the growing pressure on living spaces in big cities like London.

Buzz Technology is pioneering an excavation technique to create sunken pods or rectangular room-shaped basements to work and live in, using its own electrically powered robot that is faster, quieter and more environmentally friendly than traditional diggers. The robot works by having a number of excavation arms that rotate around a central pole. Earth is dug and simultaneously transported away by in-built conveyors

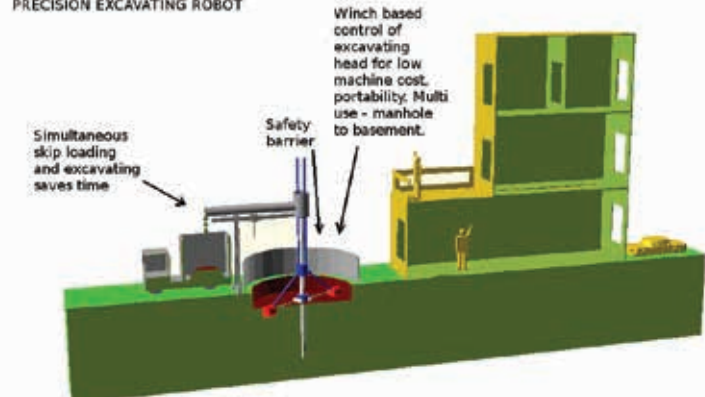
on materials.

## Natural light

Senake said: "I was lucky enough to work on an innovative 52 town house project in New Jersey in the US. Those properties featured full height atriums and glass floors that we have adopted in our design, to allow natural light to flood into even the multilevel below-ground spaces that our robot will create."

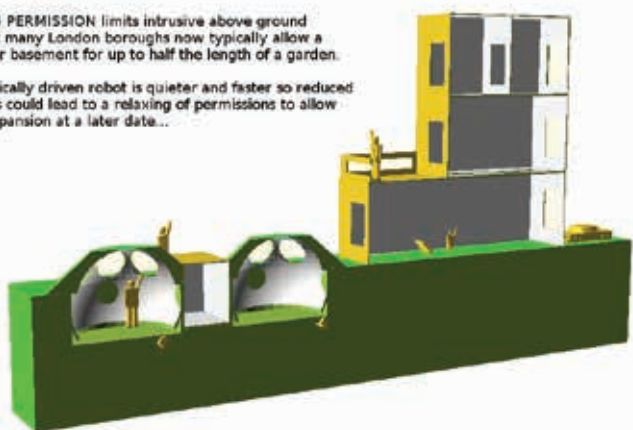
He believes the garden living and bedroom spaces

PRECISION EXCAVATING ROBOT



PLANNING PERMISSION limits intrusive above ground builds, but many London boroughs now typically allow a single floor basement for up to half the length of a garden.

Our electrically driven robot is quieter and faster so reduced complaints could lead to a relaxing of permissions to allow further expansion at a later date...



Basement living: How the sunken areas could look.

to waiting skips, saving time and eliminating the need to backfill.

## Be the first

Buzz Technology was founded by electrical engineer Senake Atureliya and three colleagues. Specialist advisors to their idea include two architects, a firm of structural engineers and a property developer.

The company hopes to contact homeowners in the East Finchley area who might be interested in being a pilot site for their first project. In return for using the finished result as a showcase, the company will offer assistance through a mortgage finance provider and significantly reduced costs

created could be rented out as affordable, self-contained accommodation and are also ideal for young people who have returned to live with their parents.

Senake added: "Whilst we aim to record the build on film, ideally we would also like to work with someone who would be happy to open their garden basement to visitors, say once per fortnight in the year after the build completes, so that we can use it as a showcase site to onboard more customers and investors."

Find out more about the company at [www.buzz-technology.co.uk](http://www.buzz-technology.co.uk) or contact Senake directly on 07958 933248.



Best cellar: The new interior of the Finchley Wine Store

# No sour grapes from long-standing wine merchants

By Diana Cormack

With Sainsbury's Local opening opposite the long established Finchley Wines on the High Road, it was rumoured on the grapevine that the off-licence would close. However this proved to be untrue, with the family run business established by Mr H S Virdee in 1993 deciding to rebrand itself instead.

The interior now has a thoroughly modern look and the business is concentrating prin-

cipally on wine, having shelves well stocked with produce from a variety of vineyards. The exterior is taking on a new look with a change of name sign on the off-licence.

Brothers Pup and Raj offer wine-tasting sessions and have other interesting ideas on tap to enable their clientele to appreciate, enjoy and learn about the drink. There is also enough

space for the linked pop-up events they envisage holding in future.

Pup told us he was not put out by the arrival of Sainsbury's. Indeed he is pleased that both sides of Leicester Road and its corner with the High Road have been given a new lease of life by the opening of the supermarket and their own Finchley Wines revamp.

## Free music on a Sunday evening

Keep an eye (and ear) open for the regular series of free music concerts hosted monthly by East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, N2.

This month's concert takes place on on Sunday 10 February (see What's On, p10 for details). There is always free admission, usually with a voluntary collection in aid of charities and good causes. The church is also a fully accessible venue.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **1-2-1 boxing and Pilates** training with Martin Carroll at home or private studio, call 07809 593952
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. [www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk](http://www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk). Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or [james@taiji.co.uk](mailto:james@taiji.co.uk)
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on [tennisgift@gmail.com](mailto:tennisgift@gmail.com).
- **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** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **Bridge Club**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.

## An awfully big adventure

This February half-term, Garden Suburb Theatre is bringing a cross-generation production of *Peter Pan* to the King Alfred Phoenix Theatre in Golders Green.

A kids' ensemble will tread the boards with adult actors, taking the audience into the magical world of Neverland to tell J.M Barrie's classic tale of lost boys, pirates, mermaids, braves and fairies.

Performances take place at

King Alfred Phoenix Theatre, NW11, from Wednesday 20 to Saturday 23 February at 7.30pm and two matinees on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 February at 3pm. Tickets £13/£11 can be booked at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre).



Forever young: The cast of *Peter Pan* in rehearsal

## And now something completely absurd...

East Finchley's very own A&B Drama Club are putting on their next Evening of Conceptual Absurdity at the Finchley Youth Theatre later this month and into early March.



Connect four: From left to right, Claire Tregellas, Martin Szalla, Alfie Positano, Charlotte Jennings performing at the Finchley Youth Theatre last October.

The group, which was founded last summer (*The Archer*, July 2018), comprises friends of strange and absurd theatre from N2 and surrounding areas, as well as some artists from the famous Actors and Writers Club London (AWL).

Their short plays, written by Martin Szalla and other people in the group, are a blend of either strange and Kafkaesque stories set in a nowhere world of Beckettian style or absurdist comedy plots reminiscent of Monty Python. Additionally, the show will be seasoned by some music, written by Alfie

Positano, an actor and musician from Highgate.

"The audience liked our first Evenings of Conceptual Absurdity last October," says Steven Dark, actor and stage manager, "but we also experienced a bit too much of backstage drama. This time we are aiming for absurdity only on stage."

The shows at the theatre in the High Road, N2, can be watched on Sunday 24 February, Saturday 2 March and Sunday 10 March. Tickets are available from [www.abdrama.com](http://www.abdrama.com), at the Black Gull Bookshop, 121 High Road, N2, or at the door on the night.



Winners: Holly Ketchell and dad Nick with their Archer medallion prize.

## Christmas card competition winners

Thank you to everyone who entered our competition to identify the East Finchley signs used in our 2018 Christmas card.

It wasn't an easy challenge, but your detective skills were impressive. And who can be surprised when there was an Archer 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary medallion to play for as the prize? No one named all 27 signs

but three entries managed to find 25. After pulling a name from a hat, we are delighted to announce that the winners are Holly Ketchell and her dad Nick, from Hertford Road. Congratulations!



And for all those who were stumped, here are the correct answers: H, Phoenix Cinema; A, Fairlawn Avenue road sign (although there are many similar); P, David Hillel opticians; P, Poseidon; Y, Tony's Continental; C, Chorak; H, Haven estate agents; R, Alan's Records; I, William Hill; S, Costa Coffee; T, The Exchange; M, Maddens; A, Cootes Pharmacy; S, Prickett & Ellis; E, Meze & Shish; A, Black Gull Bookshop; S, Ladbroke's; T, Sorbet beauty shop; F, KFC; I, Iceland; N, Pristine Dry Cleaners; C, Coffee Bank; H, William Hill; L, Black Gull Bookshop; E, Caffe Nero; Y, Subway.

## What's On...

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

### Sunday 10 February

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; Helen Cooper, cello, Junko Ishigaki, violin, and Caroline Soresby, piano, play piano trios by Martinu, Josef Suk and Dvorak, and Hungarian Folk melodies by Bartok; free admission, collection in aid of Action for M.E. Fully accessible venue.

### Sunday 17 February

• **Jazz at the Bohemia**, North Finchley, with Eriko Ishihara, vocals, piano, Julie Walkington, bass, Ailsa Gudgeon and Lisa Feldman, guest vocals; 7.30pm; £10 entrance. Tel: 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more details.

### Wednesday 20 to Sunday 24 February

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** brings a

cross-generation production of *Peter Pan* to the King Alfred Phoenix Theatre in Golders Green, NW11; 20-23 February at 7.30pm and two matinees on 23 and 24 February at 3pm. Book tickets priced £13/£11 at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre).

### Saturday 23 February

• **Muswell Hill Indoor car boot sale**, 10am-1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; info: 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

### Sunday 24 February, 2 and 10 March

• **A&B Drama** present *An Evening of Conceptual Absurdity series 2* at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road, N2 9ED. Tickets from Black Gull Books or [www.abdrama.com](http://www.abdrama.com)

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**Visitors always welcome**





## Letters

### Pavilion should have been saved

Dear Editor,

Regarding your front page story on the demolition order on Cherry Tree Wood pavilion (*The Archer*, January 2019) I grew up in Lynmouth Road when the wood had a park keeper who lived in the cottage by the gate.

The pavilion was used as football changing rooms then. Later, I and many hoped that the pavilion would open as a cafe or community space with cafe. Up the other end the small kiosk struggled with space and security so a more substantial building would have been better.

The battle to get Tory Barnet Council to do anything dragged on and on. Then I understand materials to renovate it were stolen. There are so many well-off people who live in and use the park I feel they could have come together to help. I moved away many years ago but my mother, now 90, still lives nearby.

Yours faithfully,  
Barbara Crowther,  
Address supplied.

### Thanks for the party

Dear Editor,

Maybe there are other N2-ers whose main contact with Bishop Douglass School is feeling rather overwhelmed by over-exuberant students getting on the 143 bus after school. However, I took the opportunity of responding to their November invitation and attended the school's Christmas party for elderly residents.

I cannot praise enough their warmth, hospitality and generosity. There was a traditional meal, crackers, carols and bingo. Lovely cheerful pupils acted as hosts, waiters and 'back staff'. They were interesting, bright, polite and delightful.

It was such a pleasure and humbling to enjoy with them this annual event and to hear about their hobbies, GCSE and A-level and post Bishop Douglass plans. Very many thanks to all.

Yours faithfully,  
Name and 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).

### Phoenix is favourite

Dear Editor,

A visit this week to the Everyman cinema in Muswell Hill made me realise how much more welcoming the Phoenix is. People keep going on about how the Phoenix should be improved, but it's so much more customer-friendly than these glammed-up local rivals.

It does have a lift, even if it's a bit ramshackle. The Everyman doesn't, even though there are many more stairs to climb. This was a real ordeal for one of my friends. One of the staff said it was because the building is listed, but I know of other listed buildings with lifts.

Such a shame that we had to visit on a day when the film was showing at the Phoenix at a time we couldn't make. I'm a loyal fan of the Phoenix, and always make it my first choice.

I'm not impressed by the seating at the Everyman either. It's so low that some people with mobility problems have a struggle to get up. What's more, not everyone wants to share a sofa with a stranger, or have someone else's drink by their elbow.

I'm really hoping we keep our lovely little local cinema.

Yours faithfully,  
Eveline Nicholas,  
High Road, N2.

### Phoenix could be a theatre too

Dear Editor,

The need for the Phoenix to continue as a cinema is paramount. However, I wonder if consideration could be given to it being used for other productions and performances, which has already happened on isolated occasions in the past.

Could the orchestral pit be reinstalled, so that it could be used for operatic and musical productions by visiting and local companies? Likewise it could be used for plays.

In this way it might have a wider audience appeal and serve as a local arts centre. Such a renewed plan might attract funding more readily.

It is, I believe, the largest public performance area in East Finchley and an extension of its use and facilities would enhance its value to the community.

Yours faithfully,  
Geoffrey Hanson,  
Director, East Finchley Arts Festival.

## New vet service for pet owners who need a helping hand

By David Broome

**A new veterinary service to help the pets of owners who need a little financial assistance has been launched by the RSPCA in collaboration with a Finchley vet**

The service will be hosted by Andrew Monchar's Two by Two Veterinary Centre at 178-180 Long Lane, N3, providing a range of services at reduced prices for animals belonging to clients who would otherwise be unable to afford basic veterinary care.

### Need for change

The RSPCA took the decision to partner with Two by Two after finding that its existing Small Animal Clinic in Park Road, N2, was no longer able to meet the needs of local pet owners.

A spokesperson for the RSPCA Finchley branch said: "The RSPCA East Finchley Small Animal Clinic has been open in the area since August 1963, but it became clear that due to falling demand the service needed reviewing. Additionally, tighter regulations, along with limitations due to the size and age of the building in Park Road, made developing the service onsite difficult."

### Good facilities and parking

Two by Two Veterinary Centre, founded in 2017 as an independent practice, has oper-



Pet remedy: Vet Andrew Monchar tends a patient with the help of RSPCA clinic manager Michelle.

ating and X-ray facilities, a large waiting area and consultation rooms, and also benefits from easier parking. The new facilities means routine procedures can also be carried out onsite, at a lower cost to the client than would usually be offered at a private surgery.

The RSPCA said its relative proximity to the existing clinic means that it should be easily accessible to those already using the branch facilities. This new

service also complements the existing C4 free cat neutering scheme supported by the branch and veterinary surgery.

Appointments can be booked by calling 07928 628771 and further information on eligibility can be found on the RSPCA branch's website at [www.rspca-finchleygoldersgreenhendondistrict.org.uk](http://www.rspca-finchleygoldersgreenhendondistrict.org.uk). Appointment times will be Tuesday from 10.30am to 12pm and Thursday from 4.30pm to 6pm.

## Joyce Arram, 1935 – 2018

The Archer team was saddened to learn of the death of Joyce Arram who passed away at the Whittington, the same hospital where she was born 83 years ago, following a fall at her home in Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Joyce will be much missed in the Gardens, having been the power behind many communal events such as the annual firework party and trip to the pantomime. Her involvement in East Finchley activities included the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood and Neighbourhood Watch and she contributed her views on local and borough issues with letters to the editor of this paper, where her picture often appeared in reported events.

Raised in Kentish Town, Joyce was evacuated to Wales when she was six, developing a lifelong friendship with the junior school deputy headteacher Olwen Harler, who took her in. In later years Olwen left Joyce her cottage in Carmarthenshire, a place she dearly loved and visited often. Joyce fully embraced the Welsh culture, joining many societies there and participating in village life.

After attending Camden School for Girls, Joyce began a long career in the legal profession, starting as a Managing Clerk and becoming a Legal



Good neighbour: Joyce Arram

Executive. She was an Honorary Vice-President and Council Member of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, a deputy president of the Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association and an executive member of the Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel Committee. Joyce was one of the first women to be admitted to the National Liberal Club and stood for the Lib Dems in local council elections.

A keen gardener, Joyce belonged to the Royal Horticultural Society as well as the

National Trust, English Heritage and was on the council of the Royal Society of Arts. Her charity and voluntary organisation work led to her meeting many well-known people. A devoted daughter, Joyce looked after her mother until she died.

Joyce was a remarkable and distinguished woman and an ace networker who attended City Women Network events into her eighties. She enjoyed spending time with her family and is much mourned by them and her many friends.

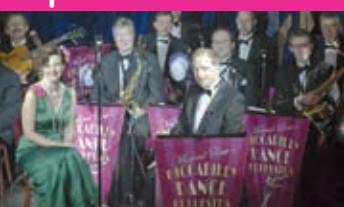
## Coming soon to arts depot



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# The Archer

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 2DE. [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)



## Our year looking after a guide dog puppy

**David Tossell, of Bedford Road, N2, volunteered as a puppy walker with Guide Dogs UK. Here he describes how their four-pawed lodger changed daily life for him, his partner Helen and children Hannah and Marcus.**

We received Fisher, a small seven-week-old Labrador puppy, and our task was to provide a temporary home and undertake basic training with the aim of initially preparing

him to become a guide dog for a none-sighted person.

Fisher was to stay with us for 12 to 14 months before moving on to stage two of his training with professional trainers. However, as he was considered to be potential breeding stock, there was a chance that he would be selected for breeding only and not become a guide dog.

### Fisher gets socialised

The role of puppy walker is mainly to look after and socialise the dog. This involved some training based on positive reinforcement so Fisher received treats for successfully completing tasks. For instance, sitting, standing on all fours and lying down to command. As Labradors are devoted to food, constant rewards of kibble dog food were essential.

We also had to walk him regularly for exercise and to familiarise him with traffic, the noise of police cars and fire engines, other people and other dogs. Being a pup, he was interested in everybody and everything, including the baby fox we sometimes came across.

Fisher also became used to travelling by car and all forms of public transport. We experienced first-hand how inaccessible many tube stations are for disabled people with dogs.

### Fisher becomes adventurous

As he grew, we needed to take more precautions. He could reach work surfaces so food had to be kept out of his reach, following the disappearance variously of bread, butter and



New arrival: Fisher as a pup

biscuits. He needed to be taken out more and for longer walks.

I often met with other puppy walkers and their dogs on Hampstead Heath where the pups could free run together.

There is a supportive network of puppy walkers with regular dates for coffee mornings and group training.

### Fisher goes to pastures new

After successfully completing medical tests, Fisher was finally accepted to be a stud dog. He has been placed with another family in Leamington Spa near the guide dog centre.

Fisher was a responsibility and a commitment. There are reminders of his stay in the chewed furniture and the memory of ruined pairs of shoes. Our cats are more relaxed and must be glad he is no longer around. But we miss him.



Walkies: Fisher in the High Road with Marcus, Helen, Hannah and David.



Feet first: A meeting of the This Mum Runs group.


## Running at the speed of chat

**This Mum Runs is a network that provides free, social runs for mums in London, Bristol and Bath, with new runs coming in Cardiff and Brighton.**

The Muswell Hill and East Finchley group is already well-established, running on Sunday mornings at 8am (meet at the Nature Hut by the cafe in Highgate Woods) and on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm (meet at the junction of Creighton Avenue and Ringwood Avenue in the winter and in Cherry Tree Wood in the summer).






Runner Tricia Dixon says: "We start with a gentle warm up, which is crucial on these cold days, and then run together for 30 minutes. Pace is not important, we tend to run at the speed of chat."

The group welcomes all levels of running experience, placing the emphasis on running as a group and supporting each other. If you are a faster runner, you can still join in as the group uses looping to ensure that everyone stays together. To find out more, go to [www.thismumruns.co.uk](http://www.thismumruns.co.uk) or follow @thismumruns\_muswellhill on Instagram.


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