



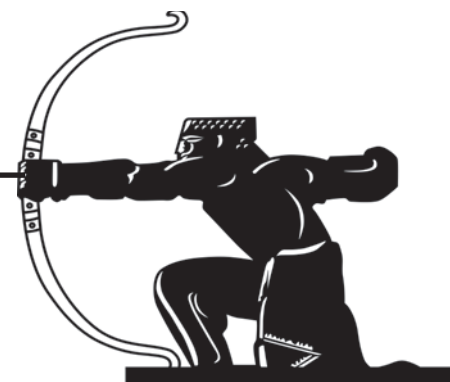
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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



June 2019 No. 302

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



**EAST FINCHLEY FESTIVAL LINE UP - PAGE 6**



Setting off: Walkers take the first steps through Cherry Tree Wood at the start of the near nine-mile Big Fun Walk. Photo North London Hospice.

## Biggest Fun Walk ever snakes through London's parklands

By David Melsome

**It was a record-breaking year for the annual Big Fun Walk with 1,635 people trekking the 8.5-mile route through north London's parklands from Cherry Tree Wood in East Finchley to Westminster Abbey.**

The long string of walkers stretched out through Highgate Wood, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, Hyde Park and St James's Park. Supporters walking in memory of someone special or just in support of the North London Hospice (NLH) raised in the region of £140,000 for patient care.

At the Westminster finish line each participant

received a medal and was entertained by music from New River Dixielanders and the Finchley Steel Orchestra.

## Boy dies in collision

**A three-year-old boy died after being in collision with a car at the crossing close to the Five Bells pub on East End Road, N2. Despite the best efforts of paramedics and the London Air Ambulance, the youngster was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at hospital.**

Police interviewed the driver

of the car, a Toyota Rav4, who stopped at the scene. No arrests were made after the accident at about 7pm on Wednesday 22 May.

Police are appealing for information. Anyone who witnessed the accident first-hand or has dashcam footage is asked to contact the Met's Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 020 8246 9820 or tweet @MetCC, quoting CAD 7373 or May 22.

Local residents responding to the death on social media are calling for the speed limit on East End Road to be cut from 30mph to 20mph. A petition has been started at [www.thepetitionsite.com](http://www.thepetitionsite.com) (search 'East End Road') and local councilors have asked for a briefing with the police Borough Commander.

## New centre stands empty as opening is delayed again

By Janet Maitland

**The long-awaited opening of East Finchley's new community centre has been delayed until the summer. Originally scheduled to open late last year, it was postponed until this spring; now it has emerged that no prospective tenants of the building in Tarling Road have yet signed leases.**

Nor does the centre yet have anyone to manage it. City YMCA were selected to run it last September, but their contract, which will include leasing office space at the centre, is still being negotiated.

### Frustration

East Finchley councillor Alison Moore said: "It's really frustrating for everyone to see a fantastic new building on their doorsteps standing more or less empty. As local councillors we're as frustrated as everyone else. We're pressing the council hard to get the issues sorted out and the centre fully open. Let's hope our much needed new centre will be starting to thrive by the autumn, but it's proving to be a slow start."

Barnet Council says the delays are because it has taken them "longer than expected to draw up leases". The Somali Bravanese Welfare Association was able to use the building during Ramadan but this was only a temporary hire.

### Difficult balance

The key issue is the level of rent and service charges. The council has made it clear that they will not be making any profit from the centre, but cannot pay for the cost of running it. If the level of rents and service charges is set too high, they will not be affordable; too low, and the running costs will not be met.

"While some community groups would get a subsidy in their rents, the level of service charges has meant it's simply unaffordable for many local groups," noted Alison Moore.

This dilemma may affect the availability of low-cost and free activities to local people. Community groups will struggle to be flexible about what their activities will cost, if what they pay to provide them is too high.

The cafe space is still empty. "It will be advertised once the building is fully open and the daily footfall is better understood," said a council spokesperson.



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#### Barnet

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
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

### Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950  
City Airport 020 7646 0088  
London Transport 020 7222 1234  
National Express 0871 781 8181  
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

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Citizens Advice Barnet 0300 4568365  
Cruse Bereavement Care 0870 167 1677  
Disability Info Service 020 8359 7637  
EF Advice Service 0300 4568365  
Lone Parent Centre 020 7021 4146  
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
Rape & Sexual Abuse helpline 020 8683 3300  
Relate 020 8447 8101  
RSPCA 0300 1234 999  
Samaritans 08457 909090  
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

### Health Advice

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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555  
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211  
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777

Drinkline 0800 917 8282  
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
Health Info Service 0800 665544  
MIND 020 8343 5700  
National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Police non-emergency 101  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0845 303 0900

### Hospitals

NHS 111  
Barnet General 020 8216 4000  
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

## Car charge points lean on lamp posts

By John Lawrence

**New electric car charging points could soon be springing up across East Finchley as Barnet Council rolls out a system that taps into existing street lamps.**

One such charging point has already been installed on a lamp post at the High Road end of Bedford Road and residents there have received a letter saying more will follow in other locations.

Barnet Council says the installation of other points will be guided by demand from residents and by how accessible a lamp post is. Priority is likely to be given to roads where there is very limited off-street parking.

The council is working with engineers Buoygues UK and charger manufacturers City EV to install the plug-in 3.5KW chargers, with funding from the Go Ultra Low Cities Scheme. Forty points have been installed in Barnet this spring.

"More charging infrastructure is scheduled to be installed in other locations in 2019/20. As cleaner vehicle technologies

continue to develop rapidly, we will continue to review and assess options suitable for the borough," said environment committee chair Councillor Dean Cohen. He added that the council could not guarantee to fulfil every request for a charge point.

## Flats coming to car park

**There has been considerable activity in the car park behind Budgens recently. The freight container that has graced the centre of the car park for months has gone, the central car parking spaces have been cordoned off, and surveyors have drawn blue lines and inserted boundary pegs across the site.**

It would seem that the long-expected development of a block of flats in the car park is about to begin.

Representatives of the development company C&M Properties have informed residents of Viceroy Close that

## Hard to navigate bin blockage

By Diana Cormack

**After a recent rash of bins and rubbish blocking the pavement in Baronsmere Road, N2, local residents are keeping an eye on things in case it happens again.**

The problem was twofold because the large sized bin used by nearby businesses was positioned close to a tree, leaving no space for passers-by, plus what looked suspiciously like fly-tipping amongst the detritus dumped on the path blocking the way.

Some blame the shops and food outlets nearby for the situation but the last pile-up contained a suitcase and an ironing board. This made a

change from the cookers and fridge freezers that previously used to congregate at that particular spot a short way from the High Road.

Seemingly the dumping of large kitchen furniture and suchlike has stopped, only to be replaced by equally unwelcome objects.

When alerted to the situation, Barnet Council



Uncollected rubbish in Baronsmere Road. Photo by Diane Johnson

cleared the refuse almost immediately, but days later it had returned. Who is responsible? Is there a need for more bins or for more collections of such rubbish? Some residents have suggested that CCTV might be an effective way of dealing with the problem, particularly by revealing if fly-tippers are involved.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### Beaumont Close Campus, 3 Beaumont Close, The Bishops Avenue, N2

Single-storey front extension. Associated external alterations, including additional set of double doors to gain access to the school. Relocation of refuse/recycle store.

#### 203 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Alterations to front hard standing to provide three off-street parking spaces. Alterations to landscaping. Lawful Development Certificate for roof extension, involving hip to gable and rear dormer.

#### 2 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Roof extension including hip to gable, rear dormer window and three front roof lights. Replacement windows to side. Rear outbuilding.

#### 25 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Variation of condition 1 for roof extension. Amendments include larger openings at rear of dormer, addition of Juliette balcony and reduction of front roof lights from

four to three.

#### 23 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliette balcony, two front and one roof light to both sides.

#### Flat 2, 40 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension and garden room.

#### 124 - 126 High Road, N2

Removal of existing BT payphone(s) and installation of one new InLink structure, with two internally illuminated digital LED screens, one on each side.

#### 19 New Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

#### Prospect Ring, N2

Variation of condition 1 to planning permission dated 23/10/2018. Includes ground floor plant room and meter room, with variation to associated elevations and access.

#### 12 Richmond Road, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for single-storey rear extension, fol-

lowing demolition of existing rear extension. Roof extension, involving rear dormer window and three front roof lights.

#### 15 Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey rear infill extension. First-floor rear extension.

#### Viceroy Court Car Park, East End Road, N2

Non-material amendment to planning permission dated 12/11/2018. Variation to include relocation of entrance stairs and lift to flats, cycle parking and refuse storage, with associated changes to parking arrangement. Separate pedestrian and cycle entrances and reduction in height of vehicle gates. Reduction of front terrace and removal of side terrace at first floor to Unit 1. Reconfiguration of layouts to Units 5, 6, 7 and 8. Amendments to fenestration on all elevations. Changes to height of front element. Alterations to boundary line, first floor communal terrace. New elevator lobby at first and second floor levels.

## OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

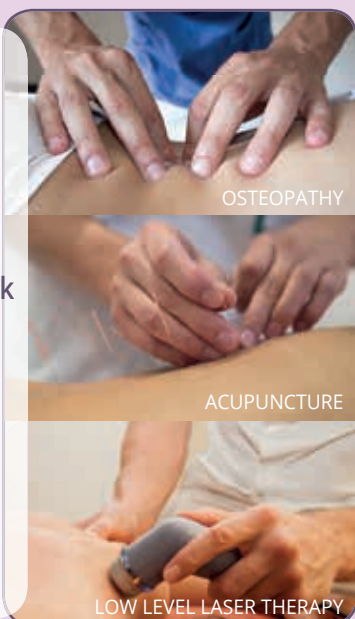
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# Old phone boxes make way for digital kiosks with cameras inside

By John Lawrence

A new style of phone box could be coming to East Finchley with the arrival of InLink digital cabinets in place of the old payphones.

BT and InLinkUK are applying to install two of the new terminals in the High Road, one outside Stewart Duncan Opticians, and the other on the opposite side of the road outside bookmakers Ladbrokes.



BT says the new cabinets provide free wifi for everyone who signs up, free phone calls, a dedicated 999 button, free device charging and touch-screen tablets to access council services, local charities, BT's phone book, maps and directions. The free wifi and phone calls are funded by advertising shown on two large digital display screens on either side of the cabinet.

## Privacy concerns

However, the kiosks have raised issues of privacy. Anyone hoping to take advantage of the wifi or calls options will be required to submit their email address before they can use the services.

And each kiosk contains two cameras looking onto the street from above each digital display, which are switched off at installation, but could be used later for unspecified purposes.

Other critics say the two large 'always-on' digital advertising displays make the kiosks little more than glorified billboards.

BT says it has no immediate plans to activate the kiosk cameras. It states: "If the time comes for the cameras to be turned on, it will be for a community benefit, and we will



Digital displays: Above and above left, how the new phone cabinets will look in the High Road

notify the public through multiple communication channels, including, where appropriate, doing so with public consultation and notifying stakeholders of our intentions."



Four woods: Bowlers Arvind and Graham get ready for the summer season. Photo Finchley Bowling Club.

## Summer on the bowling green

For nearly 100 years a green close to Victoria Park, off Ballards Lane, N3, has been home to Finchley Bowling Club. This summer the club launches a campaign to raise its profile and invites the people of Finchley to play outdoor bowls

"We all need a bit of gentle exercise, so make bowls your game. It's easy to play, we'll show you how and lend you a set of bowls to get you started," says campaign manager Chris Hogg. "Or join as a social member. We've the lowest-priced bar in N3 and you'll make new friends and have fun at our social events."

The club, at 6 Etchingham Park Road, welcomes new bowlers, men and women, of all ages and all levels of skill. The first year's fee is £50 and you could soon be playing competitive bowls at clubs from Winchmore Hill to Muswell Hill and Barnet to Brondesbury.

Finchley Bowling Club has been chosen to stage the Finchley & District finals and,

this summer, to host an international fixture. Public events include Bowls, Beer 'n BBQ from 1pm on Saturday 20 July with a tombola, stalls, fun bowls competitions on the green and an all-day bar.

"There's never been a more

exciting time to join," says Chris Hogg. "If you would like to take up outdoor bowls or you are interested in being a social member, please give me a call on 020 8455 5761 or email [contact@finchleybowlsclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@finchleybowlsclub.co.uk)."

## Phoenix not out of the woods yet

By David Melsome

Trustees of the Phoenix Cinema say the venue is not out of financial trouble yet and are calling on people in East Finchley to come through its doors and show their support for its fight to stay independent.

The cinema's results for the year to the end of March showed that it is still some way from breaking even and that its admissions remained lower than it hoped. However, the trustees say overall financial losses were lower than expected thanks to the generosity of about 300 people who have given donations.

Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said they took heart from knowing that so many local people want to support the cinema and were working hard with their new Executive Director Neil Couzens to find ways to turn this situation around and remain as an independent, charity-run venue.

Alison said: "We are launching an online survey where we can find out what Phoenix

customers, and those who do not come but perhaps visit other local cinemas, can tell us what they think about us. Please look out for links on our website and on social media and do tell us what you think. Should we do more films for families perhaps?

"As ever, we will be at East Finchley Festival so please come and talk to us and tell us what you like and dislike about the cinema, and see what films we have coming up. Or show your support by buying a Phoenix tote bag or badge or even giving us a donation.

"Please choose the Phoenix to see the latest films and if you are not a Phoenix Friend, please come in and become one. The price is more than paid for by free tickets, plus discounts in lots of local businesses. Our £5

ticket offer for 15-26 year olds is a bargain."

The Phoenix has special events coming up in July like a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Interview With A Vampire*, starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt, which has scenes filmed at the cinema. Find out what's on at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) or pop into the foyer.

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Hard impact: The badly damaged car at rest on the pavement in the High Road after ploughing through a young tree and into a guard rail. Photo John Dearing.

## Narrow escape on the school run

By Janet Maitland

**Pedestrians walking along the High Road were horrified when a car mounted the pavement close to East Finchley library then raced along for several yards, flattening a newly planted tree and finally crashing into a steel barrier by the corner with Creighton Avenue.**

"I was with my two children when he lost control," said one witness on social media. "The car almost hit us. I'm still shaking and my kids are quite scared. The tree he ran over was right in front of us."

The crash happened at about

3.55pm on Wednesday 8 May, a time when the road would have been busy with parents and schoolchildren heading home. Police confirmed that the collision was 'damage only' and said that the driver did not require medical attention.

## Protest over libraries

**The Save Barnet Libraries campaign group is calling on library supporters to join a protest ahead of Barnet Council announcing its long-awaited review of the service.**

The protest is taking place before the meeting of the Communities Leadership and Libraries committee on Tuesday 11 June at Hendon Town Hall.

Save Barnet Libraries say supporters can help to demand that the review seriously investigates the impact of reduced staff hours at libraries on young people and others, such as those with disabilities.

The review is being carried out under the Equalities Act which campaigners say presents a perfect opportunity for the Council to explore these issues.

"It's crucial we get our voices heard. If the council can get away with ignoring the impact of library cuts, which affect such a broad cross section of people, then what is it getting away with in other service areas where the impact can be more hidden?" says the group

## N2United reaches out

**N2United, the three-year-old East Finchley business network, is now looking at ways it can extend its reach for the benefit of the wider community.**

Plans are underway to look at how the many and varied East Finchley groups and organisations, of which there are over 50, could work more closely together and develop a more cohesive approach to fixing local matters of concern, for the benefit of residents and business owners in the N2 area.

The N2United meeting on Thursday 13 June at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green will explore these ideas in greater detail and representatives from local groups are encouraged to attend the meeting, share their experiences and get involved in helping shape plans for the broader community. For more details see [www.n2united.co.uk/community](http://www.n2united.co.uk/community) Brian Hooper, an East Finchley resident for over 40 years and Barnet Civic Award winner, is looking forward to assisting with N2United's plans. Through his popular quiz, Brian has raised over £25,000 for various charities over a period of five years.

## What can be done to tackle the scourge of knife crime?

By Janet Maitland

**Muswell Hill residents are planning a public meeting to discuss what can be done about reducing knife crime, following a series of stabbings in the area.**

An 18-year-old man was stabbed on Muswell Hill Broadway at about 9pm on Monday 29 April. He was taken to hospital where his injuries were assessed as not life-threatening.

A few weeks earlier, on Saturday 9 March, a 19-year-old man was stabbed on a 134 bus travelling down Colney Hatch Lane and a 17-year-old boy has now been charged with his attempted murder.

In response, the public meeting organised by members of the Facebook group 'Stop Knife Crime in Muswell Hill' will be held at Muswell Hill Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Monday 10 June, and everyone is welcome to attend.

### What can be done about knife crime?

A recent study by the College of Police says the peak age for carrying a knife is 15 and that a 'public health' approach tackling the root causes is the only long term hope. They report that after-school activities, better support for parents, and teaching young children 'social and emotional skills, problem solving and anger management' have shown encouraging results. For 10 to 18 year olds 'prison alone has been found to significantly increase reoffending compared to non-custodial sanctions such as community supervision with victim repa-

ration and community surveillance and after care'.

### What is the bigger picture?

Knife crime increased by 6 per cent in 2018 compared with 2017, reports the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in their latest bulletin on crime in England and Wales. Every kind of violent crime increased last year with an overall increase of 19 per cent. Robbery was up by 11 per cent.

London accounted for a third of all the 40,829 knife crimes and 40 per cent of all the 80,000 robberies.

East Finchley has not bucked these trends. In 2018 there were 12 more robberies than in 2017, bringing the total to 50, and 30 more violent crimes including sexual offences, making the total 224. There was one knife crime in 2018 but none at all the previous year.

### Has knife crime peaked?

There is some evidence that knife crime may be falling in London. Although a third of all such offences were in London in 2018, the increase in that year compared to 2017 was just one per cent. Recent police data also shows that knife offences in London fell by almost 10 per cent from 4,752 to 4,277 in the year ending March 2019, when compared to the previous financial year.

## Knife attack on young man

By Janet Maitland

**A man believed to be in his early 20s was stabbed on The Grange estate in East Finchley in the middle of the afternoon on Thursday 16 May. Police were called by the London Ambulance Service at 4.20pm to reports of a man suffering from stab injuries. Officers attended and provided first aid.**

The man was taken to a central London hospital. His injuries were not thought to be life threatening. Anyone who has any information is asked to contact police on 101 quoting reference number 5406/16May. To remain anonymous, call 0800 555 111 or go to [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

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# Wheels turn slowly on crossing safety at busy junction

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Pedestrian safety when crossing The Bishops Avenue at the junction with the Great North Road has been a worry for at least 20 years. A glance into *The Archer* archives reveals public worries and news of proposals from Barnet Council, which came to nothing.**

In February last year, people were told that a traffic survey was being carried out, to be followed by consultation with the borough of Haringey, whose boundary is just to the south of The Bishops Avenue, and with the local community.

*The Archer* has asked Barnet for more facts. Now we have been told that the traffic survey was started "early this year" and completed at the end of April, along with modelling data.

As we reported last month, Transport for London (TfL) have been engaged to investigate the feasibility of introducing a controlled crossing with traffic signals. At the time of going to press, TfL told us that

they were waiting for Barnet Council's service agency Capita to send them the results of the traffic survey.

A TfL spokesperson said they should be able to complete their considerations in about a couple of months, once they had received the survey results. After that, it would be Barnet's responsibility to draw up a proposal and to consult with local people and with Haringey.

We asked whether a previous proposal to divert east-bound traffic was still open. Barnet Council told us: "We are considering several options, and a final decision has not been made on how the scheme will be progressed."

## Ideas to make a difference

**The Grange Big Local project is offering grants to residents and local organisations with ideas that can bring a positive impact to the area at the northern end of East Finchley.**

Residents can apply for grants up to £500 and organisations up to £10,000 to run community projects in the Grange Big Local area, bordered by the High Road, Church Lane, East End Road and the North Circular.

It could be a gardening project, a community lunch, a community jumble trail, a junior disco, or equipment for a youth group. Whatever it is, it has to be open to everyone.

The deadline for applica-

tions is Monday 24 June. Apply online at [www.grangebiglocal.org/grants](http://www.grangebiglocal.org/grants). Find out more from community engagement manager Claire Meade by email on [Clairem.gbl@community-barnet.org.uk](mailto:Clairem.gbl@community-barnet.org.uk)

## Lights go out at Fortis Green

**The traffic lights outside Domino's Pizza at the corner of Fortis Green were flattened again in late April after a large vehicle failed to manoeuvre round the tight bend off the southbound High Road. East Finchley councillors have suggested various solutions to this recurring danger, including mounting the traffic lights directly on a building, but have been unable to get approval.**

The problem still remains that some vehicles are mounting the pavement to make the bend so pedestrians are warned to stay vigilant when they are standing on that corner waiting to cross.



Helping cats and dogs: Fleur, left, from the RSPCA receives the donation from left to right, Helena, Anamika, Darcey and Ruby. Photo Mike Coles

## Pet adoption posters catch the eye... and the cash

By David Melsome

**Earlier in the spring, handmade posters began appearing on trees and lampposts around certain areas of East Finchley urging people to look after their pets and to help the RSPCA find new homes for pets that had been abandoned.**

The charming drawings and heartfelt words on the posters were drawn and written in their own time by Brookland Junior School pupils Darcey, Helena, Mika and Ruby. The four friends feel strongly about the mistreatment of animals and so created the Pet Adoption project.

What surprised them was that passers-by were willing to put their hands in their pockets to help. Some of the posters con-

tained 'money pockets' inviting donations to the RSPCA, and in this way the girls were able to collect £70. They handed over the cash at East Finchley's RSPCA charity shop last month.

Helena said: "We created Pets Adoption because we were very upset that some animals didn't have a shelter. We wanted to help them."

Darcey said: "I know a cat in Spain that was abandoned because no one could afford to keep her. I felt sad and thought that the RSPCA could help unwanted pets in England if they had more money."

Mika added: "It was especially exciting when we found out that we had managed to raise £70 in our collection buckets."

Ruby added: "I was a bit surprised about how much



Poster power: One of the girls' messages, with donations box attached.

money people donated. It was very kind of them."

Their posters were mostly placed around one side of East Finchley, around Ossulton Way, East End Road and Long Lane.

## McDonalds on High Road?

**There was some speculation last month that McDonalds had applied to open one of its restaurants in the vacant unit on the High Road formerly occupied by Pizza Hut.**

Anyone in favour of a new McDonalds might have said it would bring much-needed new footfall and trade into the area. Those against might have thrown their hands up in horror at the lack of parking outside and the prospect of more takeaway cartons and cups adding to the litter on our streets.

As the premises are already a former takeaway restaurant, McDonalds would not need to

apply for a change of use to take it over, although it is a very small site by the company's standards.

In any event, it all turns out to be a rumour and nothing more. When *The Archer* checked directly with the McDonalds press office, based in the company's UK headquarters just across the road from the empty restaurant, we were told that no application had been lodged and nothing was currently planned.



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Playing live: Nameless on stage.

## From nursery to Nirvana

By John Lawrence

**Four young friends who love to play the rock music of Nirvana, Metallica and Guns N' Roses will be rocking community the stage at this year's East Finchley Festival.**

Brothers Mikail, 12, and Zac Ahmed, 10, have known brother and sister Isaac, 12, and Annie McMahon, nine, since nursery school and they started playing as the group Nameless 18 months ago. Last July they played a set at the St Mary's School summer fair in Finchley Central and this year they are out on the road (locally) to play to more people.

Their music teacher at St Mary's, Gabi Brais, says: "People moan about young people being attached to screens but it's all about balance. These kids are self-motivated, enthusiastic, talented and deserve to be heard."

Mikail and Isaac have the same guitar teacher so he helps them learn the songs and they practise as much as they can. "It feels really good when we can

play the songs we listen to," says Mikail. "The band is like a jigsaw puzzle, you need each piece to make it work."

Annie says: "Sometimes when we rehearse it's hard to keep the boys under control but we all love to play together and it's really motivated us knowing we are going to play at the East Finchley festival. We are all super excited, and also nervous."



The Big Choir. Photo by Joe Forbes

## Raise your voice for research

By Diana Cormack

**After six months in East Finchley, The Big Choir will be making its first local public performance at our community festival on Sunday 23 June.**

The choir has four established branches elsewhere in Barnet and has been in existence for over three years. During this time it has raised more than £40,000 for cancer research. Money from monthly subscriptions and ticket fees is donated to The Francis Crick Institute in Kings Cross to support the work of scientists seeking cures for 200 different types of cancer.

The choir is made up of all ages and genders who meet from 7.30–9.00pm on Monday evenings in Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2. All abilities are welcome, there are no auditions and you don't need any experience.

Besides this year's festival, there are plenty of performance opportunities and the organisers are always on the lookout for brave members willing to take on solos. Your first (taster) session is free. To find out more call 07971 957 188, email [info@thebigchoir.org](mailto:info@thebigchoir.org) or visit [www.thebigchoir.org](http://www.thebigchoir.org)



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## FESTIVAL 2019

The entertainment line-ups have been announced for this year's East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June along with details of the fun activities and attractions the free event has to offer.

Back for another year are festival favourites Jambs Owls, the storytelling tent, Punch & Judy and eco-arts for kids with East Finchley Open, as well as the ever-popular mega slides and climbing wall.

New for this year among the food stalls are vegan burgers, falafel and Vietnamese cuisine, and many others to cater for all tastes.

### Be part of the festival

And it's never too late to volunteer a little time to help the event run smoothly. Anyone with an hour or two to spare would be welcomed on the day to be a steward or help with festival tasks. Get in touch with organisers at [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com)

### MAIN STAGE

Hosted by Kate Galston

• Queensway • Angie A • Rob Thom, • Miss Havisham's Digital Clock, • Dex & Mercy • Strange Load, plus some surprise guests.

### THE ARCHER NEWSPAPER COMMUNITY STAGE

Compered by Cecilia Holmes

• Sing Mama Sing • Nameless • The Archer Academy Choir • The Archer Community Choir • Fortitude Dance Company • Holy Trinity School Choir • Fixation Theatre and Finchley Youth Centre • Brookland School orchestra, choir and dance; • Soto CIC dance and performing arts • The Big Choir • Fortitude Dance Company • Patrick's Jazz Class • Cecilia Holmes with music and quirky songs.

### STORYTELLING TENT

Young ones can drop into the Storytelling Tent all afternoon to see: • Scottish storyteller Niall Moorjani mingling his original stories with traditional tales from across the world • Kay Dunn with stories for all • Hartbeeps – multi-sensory session for little ones to learn and have lots of fun • Kate Brown bringing stories alive • Rosie Moon, with her double bass • Roxie Stars telling stories about Eric the Elephant.

Find the full running order and the latest festival details at [www.eastfinchleyfestival.org](http://www.eastfinchleyfestival.org)

## Highgate fair rounds up dogs and sheep

A dog show is making a return to this year's Fair in the Square in Highgate on Saturday 15 June and the traditional sheep show will be there too, so let's hope the two don't get mixed up.

This annual event in Pond Square gets more ambitious every year and is a great day out for the whole family. There will be 150 stalls selling world food, crafts, books and plants or showcasing local activities.

The Highgate and Muswell Hill Brass Band will open the fair and there'll be a wealth of other free entertainment throughout the afternoon, including circus performers from Jacksons Lane, slime making, the Little Owl Book Club and a kids' tent with activities run by Lauderdale House.

Anyone interested in entering their four-legged friend in the dog show should turn up for 1.30pm on the performance area outside The Flask pub.

As always St Michael's Church will be serving up home baked cakes in its café and offering its spectacular Tower Tours as well as a performance by the choir.

The fair is a free event run by volunteers, much like the East Finchley Community Festival. Find out more at [www.fairinthesquare.co.uk](http://www.fairinthesquare.co.uk)

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# "I sometimes wonder how I managed to survive"

By Daphne Chamberlain

Ruby Joseph is well known in East Finchley. You may have met her as the manager of East Finchley Advice Service or as one of the N2 Poets. She contacted The Archer, though, to talk about something very personal to her, called The Truth Project.

The project is part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, giving support to victims when they tell the secret that has devastated their lives. Ruby herself was repeatedly raped from the age of five. Beaten, threatened with death if she told anyone, going through an abortion when she was just 14, she finally faced her abuser in court when she was in her 30s.

That case 30 years ago collapsed. A defence witness was a convicted paedophile; another attempted to discredit her in court because he was unable to face the abuse going on and wanted to keep it secret; and the prosecution were poorly briefed. However, an Appeal Court ruling in the case became a precedent and enabled other historical cases to go forward in the years since.

## Staying sint

Many victims of abuse, even when they find the courage to speak up, have not been believed. People say: "Why didn't they say something at the time?" Ruby asks: "Would a child, living in terror, speak up when they've been told they will be killed and buried, or sent to a children's home to live on bread and water?"

Other children simply knew instinctively that so-called responsible adults would just look away. One victim has told The Truth Project that when the abuse was finally revealed to his father, the father said he had wondered if something like that was going on.



Ruby Joseph

## Lasting damage

Homeless and adrift from the age of 15, Ruby struggled with the wrong kind of therapy, made destructive relationships, and put herself in danger. Damage in childhood continues into adult life.

"I really sometimes wonder how I managed to survive that," she says.

Currently being treated

for uterine cancer, she is very positive about the outcome, but aware of her own mortality. She says: "My life would have been very different if this had not happened to me, but I am able, and have a duty, to do something now."

## How the Project works

From her own experience, she believes that The Truth Project will listen and support anyone who contacts them. It is based in Darlington, Liverpool, Cardiff and Exeter, but events are held around the country, including London. Facilities are provided, but anyone unable or unwilling to travel can engage with it by telephone, email or letter. Everyone is allowed one or two companions and given a support worker. The atmosphere is warm and sympathetic.

People must agree that some information may have to be passed to police, though it is unlikely that anyone would be forced to appear in court. Anonymity is guaranteed, though Ruby has no wish to remain anonymous herself. She campaigns to stop child abuse by highlighting it: "It's not going to reduce and stop so long as it's kept secret and kept quiet."

Ruby found release in writing, and you can read more about her experiences and those of fellow survivors in an online BBC article at [www.bbc.co.uk/47933281](http://www.bbc.co.uk/47933281). Contact the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse on 0800 917 1000 or [www.iicsa.org.uk](http://www.iicsa.org.uk).

## Phoenix on screen

Fans of The Durrells TV series may have spotted our own Phoenix Cinema featuring in one of the closing episodes when Maud and Margo Durrell had a night at the pictures. Actors Maddie Holliday and Daisy Waterstone were filmed at the cinema last year.



It's a howl: Imogen Colmans, Tilak Patel and Mary Musker in Hound of the Baskervilles

## Sherlock as she's never been seen

A zany production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* with just three actors playing all 16 characters is coming to Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate at the beginning of July.

It will be performed by newly created local amateur theatre group Mutley and Minques in the shape of friends Dave Barron, Mary Musker, Tilak Patel and Imogen Colmans.

They have already performed at the Manx Easter Festival of Plays and as part of the Barnet and District Drama Festival, and have been invited for selection for the British All Winners Festival.

Dave told *The Archer*: "We devised a crazy plan to tour the show for three months performing it in as many ways as we

could. So we're doing it in huge theatres and tiny ones, indoors and outdoors, on a traditional stage and in traverse with the audience on both sides."

Mary Musker, who plays Sherlock and nine other characters said: "Every show is different and that's an amazing feeling."

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* plays Upstairs at the Gatehouse from Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 July. Tickets are available from [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.co.uk](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.co.uk) or call 020 8340 3488.



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Run for it: Amateur athletes set off at the start of Race the Neighbours in Cherry Tree Wood last year.

## The race is on again

Tendons are being stretched and trainers laced up in readiness for this year's Race the Neighbours challenge which pitches East Finchley and Muswell Hill runners against each other.

Record numbers of runners, up to 450, are expected to take part in the friendly 10K on Sunday 14 July, starting at 9.30am in Cherry Tree Wood, and taking a route

overt to Alexandra Palace and back.

Registrations are open online and you can also sign up at the Race's stall at the East Finchley Festival on Sunday 23 June.

## Families who fight together

Former competitive boxer Martin Carroll has started a family Boxercise class in the Birchwood Centre, Muswell Hill.

Martin, as well as being a personal trainer at the MighteeFit gym in East Finchley, is also an amateur boxing coach at Islington boxing club in Archway, where he gives his

time to the youngsters for free. Martin says that some clients would bring their kids along to the club. "We would do a fun boxing session where both the parent and child were working out together. Over time I thought it would be a great idea to bring more families together in the community to learn about boxing while getting fit," he

said.

His classes are based around a parent and child working out together, from the ages of nine and up. It's £10 per person and is held at the Birchwood Centre on Fortis Green, N10 3BG, every second Wednesday of the month from 6.45pm. To book your place call Martin on 07809 593 952.

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**Visitors always welcome**





## YOUNG ARCHER

# Tips to help you get ready for your exams

By Muriel Bouvier, maths tutor and cognitive hypnotherapist

**Exams are looming, and it is rarely a lot of fun. But there are things you can do to improve the situation.**

### Study sessions

While studying, keep all distractions away. Our brains are not good at multitasking and it takes time to re-concentrate on what we were doing. You'll be more efficient if you only deal with one thing (this means keep your screens in another room).

Tackle what you like *least* first. It won't be hanging over you for the rest of the day and helps you feel really good and motivated.

Study for 50 minutes or so, then give yourself a 10-minute break. Repeat. Write your notes by hand. We remember what we've written a lot more.

Test yourself. Reading and re-reading the material doesn't ensure you know your stuff. Can you recall the information?

### Body and mind

Sleep well and eat healthily: it helps your brain work optimally. Avoid too much caffeine (coffee, caffeinated soft drinks

or caffeine tablets) as it stresses the body and increases anxiety.

Banish negative predictions like "I'm going to fail...". If you expect the worst, the worst will happen. Keep positive. Don't believe everything your brain comes up with!

Label difficult feelings 'excitement', rather than 'fear'. The two give you very similar symptoms but one is a lot more positive than the other. Aim high. You may as well.

During the exam, imagine yourself in the place where you do your best in the subject you are being examined. Ask yourself what they'd say to prompt you to come up with the best answers. Breathe slowly for 2 or 3 minutes if you feel overwhelmed.

After the exam, if you haven't done very well, it won't define the rest of your life. There is always time to turn it around.

Read a longer version with more tips: [www.BetterAtMaths.com/blog](http://www.BetterAtMaths.com/blog)

## Maths puzzler winner

In last month's article about Muriel Bouvier and her maths revision cards, Muriel set a competition with the following question :

*I have four rectangular pieces of paper of length 25cm each. I stick the four pieces together using the 1.5cm sticky ends (both ends), to make a circular loop. What is the radius of the loop (assuming the loop is a perfect circle)?*

The answer is that putting four pieces of paper together loses 1.5cm from each strip (because they over-

lap). So, the total circumference of the loop is  $(25\text{cm} \times 4) - (1.5\text{cm} \times 4) = 94\text{cm}$ . The circumference of a circle is given by the formula: diameter  $\times \pi$ . So, diameter  $\times \pi = 94\text{cm}$  and diameter =  $29.92\text{cm}$ . Radius = diameter  $\div 2 = 14.96\text{cm}$ .

Congratulations to winner Arun Hamilton McMahon, aged 13, from Alexandra Park School.



Jack just loves designing sets! Photo by Seren Noel.

## Designs on a career in the theatre

By Diana Cormack

In 2009 when he was a pupil at Holy Trinity Primary School in East Finchley, Jack Kuntner won an achievement award for creative arts. Ten years later, he is about to graduate with an honours degree in Design for Performance from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, at Cardiff.

The Guardian University Guide recently ranked it as the country's number one drama school for the fourth time. Only a small number of students are accepted on this course, which is eminently suited to Jack's particular talents.

### Building a creative career

He has been designing sets ever since those early days at Holy Trinity and was involved in drama productions and theatrical events later at the Wren Academy and Alexandra Park School. At secondary school

Jack completed the National Youth Theatre stage construction course and increased his knowledge while working on several of their productions.

Latterly he has gained useful work experience in various London and West End productions. Jack finds theatre design a stimulating and creative subject, reflecting his technical and artistic abilities. His particular passion is for model making and the examples his mother showed me at their home in Trinity Road, N2, were really impressive.

So were the photographs of sets he has been involved with, designing for university and other productions in Cardiff and London ranging from Shakespeare to musicals and puppetry to costume design.

Some of Jack's work will be on view along with that of fellow students at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama's annual exhibition this month. BALANCE 2019 is showing at the Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 June, from 10.30am to 7pm. Admission is free.

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Back of the net: The Christ's College Finchley team celebrate their tournament win. Photo CCF

## Football comeback of the month

Last month was a time of great footballing comebacks. The nation gasped as Liverpool and Spurs both fought back from seemingly impossible goal deficits to win their Champions League semi-finals against Barcelona and Ajax.

And there was the same excitement closer to home when the never-say-die Christ's College Finchley football team came back from being 3-0 down at half time against Harefield Academy to eventually win 5-4 and take home the Middlesex Cup. Well done, lads!





# Theft at church as conservation project starts

By David Melsome

**Urgent conservation work has now begun at All Saints' Church in East Finchley following the grant award of £250,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (*The Archer*, April 2019).**

But there was a setback when church wardens discovered that a quantity of lead had been stolen from the roof above

rather be alerted even if it turns out to be a false alarm.

"The cost of the damage is still to be counted but it is not just the financial element. We have a small congregation, hard-working and faithful, and it is disappointing that we now have to address these additional remedial works."

## Good news

On a positive note, the church congregation now



'Stripped bare': Wooden boards are all that are left on one section of All Saints' roof

the entrance. Thieves stripped the lead sheets, leaving bare wood exposed.

Churchwarden Alan Toms said the theft was discovered quickly and a temporary cover made of tarpaulins and battens ensured that there was no damage to the church interior.

He said: "We are now in discussion with Historic England as to whether we can replace the lead with material which is less attractive to thieves.

"The police have been informed. I would ask people to please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police or the church. We would

knows that it has been awarded two new grants for its conservation project, £7,500 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £6,000 from Allchurches Trust, taking them to 70% of their fundraising target.

All Saints Church is the main venue for the Annual East Finchley Arts Festival. This year the Festival is scheduled from Thursday 26 September to Saturday 5 October. Festival director Geoffrey Hanson has been told that the repair works will finish in time, but obviously potential liabilities will have to be determined if the church is not available.

## Parish priest to retire

**Father Christopher Hardy is to retire as the incumbent of All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, after nearly 24 years there. He was inducted on 6 July 1995 and will be retiring at the end of this month due to ill health.**



Retiring: Fr Christopher Hardy

On behalf of those at All Saints', churchwarden Alan Toms expressed his thanks to Fr Christopher for his ministry there and wished him and his wife Regan well in retirement.

Regular Sunday services are to continue as normal with the support of honorary assistant Fr Richard Buckingham and mid-week services as advertised on the notice board and on the church website.

## Call canine-nine-nine

**Dogs and their two-legged friends turned out at Coldfall Wood on Saturday 11 May for the latest in Haringey Police's Dog Watch walks.**

Regular attendees of the walks say they help them discover and experience many of the area's green spaces for the first time. The walks also provide a police presence in the wood as two officers accompany the walkers and dogs and are on hand to discuss any concerns residents may have but have not reported.

Co-ordinator Pauline Syddell said at one point it looked like a teddy bear's

picnic when six beautiful cockapoos turned up. In fact, a passer-by did ask if it was a cockapoo convention. There were also two nine-week-old puppies on the walk. Many new

doggy friendships were made.

If you would like to join the next Dog Watch walk or receive further information, email Pauline directly on pauline.syddell@met.police.uk

## 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 19 June **Malcolm Godfrey**, General Manager, talks about and illustrates Stephens House in WW1 when it was a hospital for army and RFC/RAF officers, including Godfrey's grandfather.

Contact Eveleen (8455 6431)



Social experiment: No2Plastics campaigners raise awareness with shoppers in the High Road. From left to right, No2Plastics founder Ann Inglis, and Street Champions Ruth Anders (with arm round a local supporter), Joanne Westgate and Maxine Klein.

## Plastics campaigners spread the word with shoppers

By Maxine Klein

**On a cold but sunny Saturday morning in early May some of the No2Plastics team set up a stall outside Amy's in the High Road to promote the message "Say no to single use plastics in N2".**

Our table displayed information about the damage caused by plastic waste and carried examples of products, many available from Amy's, which can be used as alternatives.

We invited/accosted (depending on how they felt about us) passers-by to sign our pledge to cut down on The Big Four single use items: plastic water bottles, straws, bags and coffee cups.

## Making contact

It was an interesting social experiment. We recognised potential supporters: those carrying their own shopping bags and, better still, their own reusable cups, were definitely on side and would sign to support.

Shoppers exiting Budgens with two almost empty new plastic bags were hardly worth approaching. People hurrying by clutching their phones to their ears were impossible to stop and there was a lot of eye contact avoidance from others.

## Seeds of concern

At the end of three chilly hours we felt we had fired up the converted and hope that they will influence others. We certainly sowed the seeds of concern amongst others who had not considered plastic waste.

We don't believe we achieved anything with the man who said he believed in Donald Trump's assertion that climate change is a hoax! However, by contrast, another said "Great work, well done. One small step always leads

to another."

We plan to run the stall as often as possible to catch new people and chat to them about our cause. So, look out for us and come and talk to us about your ideas. Find us on Facebook @No2PlasticsN2

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

## Name of Thrones

**Here we go, the weird and wonderful world of Game of Thrones has come back for the last batch of sex, blood and dragons and that means playing the name game. Since the first half-naked dragon queen cropped up about five minutes into the first series the question of what do you call your child has changed.**

Once upon a time it was cool to call your kid after a car. Out there somewhere are a couple of Cortinas, a few dozen Sierras and a whole garage full of Mercedes. Now GoT gives us options like Arya, Sansa or Daenerys for a girl, and Davos, Tyrion or Tormund for a boy. With names like that the child will certainly stand out at school.

Meanwhile in the real world there's the rival Name of Thrones. I'm talking about the weird Windsors. What could a duke and duchess who want to get seriously modern do? They could have gone traditional, they could have gone American, or they could have gone seriously hipster.

But no, they went with Archie and followed it with Harrison, probably after Ford. I guess that's as off the wall as they could get. Maybe they went for that combo to get the full Hollywood-meets-London experience in just the same way that Archie Leach changed his name to Cary Grant somewhere between London and La La Land.

Either way, at least they didn't stay boringly safe, or go completely mad and call him after a GoT battle warrior. But I still think Ricky's a good name for a boy.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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## Regular Events

### Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**  
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **1-2-1 boxing and Pilates** training with Martin Carroll at home or private studio, call 07809 593952
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. [www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk](http://www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk). Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or [james@taiji.co.uk](mailto:james@taiji.co.uk)
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on [tennisgift@gmail.com](mailto:tennisgift@gmail.com).
- **This Mum Runs**: Free social runs in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, Sunday 8am and Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact trishy.dixon@gmail.com.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or [info@yogalogy.co.uk](mailto:info@yogalogy.co.uk)
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

### Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: [archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com](mailto:archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com).
- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464. [www.a-chord.uk](http://www.a-chord.uk)
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on [missangiea@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:missangiea@yahoo.co.uk)
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. [www.boldbodies.co.uk](http://www.boldbodies.co.uk).
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Jazz Club** at the Bohemia, North Finchley. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

### Clubs & Social

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

# A champion of women's causes

By Rachel Ellis

**A show about the wife of playwright George Bernard Shaw devised by two local performers will be staged around London this month.**

Actress Alexis Leighton, from Enfield, and musician Helen Tierney, from Trinity Road, East Finchley, came up with the idea of the one-woman show about Charlotte Payne-Townshend in 2017, after Alexis played Shaw character Mrs Banger in the Hampstead production of Press Cuttings.

but their marriage is thought to have been unconsummated and he was often drawn to other women," says Helen.

"However, it lasted over 40 years until her death, and Shaw once said that Charlotte was the only person he could have married."

The hour-long show called

*Mrs Shaw Herself* was first trialled in East Finchley's Black Gull book shop in June 2017, and since then has had many performances around the country.

It is now on its way to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival from August 8 to 11, but there are several free community performances this month, including two at the Crouch End Festival in St Mary's Tower, Hornsey, on June 8 and 9, as well as at Kensington and Chelsea library. Follow MrsShawHerself on Twitter.



*In character: Alexis Leighton performs as Mrs Shaw in Hampstead Community Library*

Research revealed Charlotte, an Irish heiress to whom Shaw was married for over 40 years, was rather neglected but an important political activist and early Fabian who financed the library at the London School of Economics and supported suffrage and women's education.

The script is devised almost entirely from Charlotte Payne-Townshend's own words from letters and diary entries, and also those of Shaw and other contemporaries, and is set to music on the Celtic harp.

"Their marriage was very unconventional. Shaw was known as the Great Philanderer



*Inspiration: George Bernard Shaw's wife Charlotte Payne-Townshend*



*Run angels: Jenny Whiteman and Tricia Dixon lead This Mum Runs in Muswell Hill and East Finchley*

## Summer route opens for running mums

By Tricia Dixon

**This Mum Runs provides free, social runs for mums in London, Bristol, Bath and Cardiff. All levels of running experience are welcome, and the emphasis is on running as a group, supporting each other and enjoyment. The Muswell Hill and East Finchley group are excited to be running their summer route on Wednesday evenings now that the days are longer. We meet by the playground in Cherry Tree Wood at 7.30pm and start with a gentle warm-up followed by a chatty 30 minute run along to Highgate Woods and back.**

This Mum Runs also run on Sunday mornings at 8am (meeting at the Nature Hut by the cafe in Highgate Woods). If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more check out [www.thismumruns.co.uk](http://www.thismumruns.co.uk), join the This Mum Runs London Facebook page or follow [thismumruns\\_muswellhill](https://www.instagram.com/thismumruns_muswellhill) on Instagram.

## Literally winners

**Congratulations to the Year 7 group from The Archer Academy in East Finchley who used their brilliant literary knowledge to claim victory against many other school teams in the Barnet LitQuiz, bringing the trophy back to the academy for another year.**

## What's On...

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

### Sunday 2 June

- **Open garden:** Stephen Kersley's garden at 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, featuring glass works by his wife Ruth, and home-made teas, will be open to the public in aid of the National Garden Scheme charities from 2pm to 5.30pm. Admission is £4, children free.

### Thursday 6 June

- **Grandparents and Toddlers** group at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2; chat, fun, toys and gentle exercise; 10am to 12 noon. Free entry. Call Howard for more information 020 8432 1415.

### Sunday 9 June

- **Finchley Fire Station open day**, 12 - 4.30pm, 227 Long Lane, N3; your chance to meet local firefighters, see latest safety equipment, watch rescue demonstrations, get free fire safety advice and arrange free smoke alarm fitting.
- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30 pm. Hadley Octet play Krommer, Hummel and Mozart. Free admission, collection for Sightsavers. Fully accessible venue.

### Saturday 15 June

- **The Fair in the Square** returns with dog show, sheep show, live entertainment, free

activities for kids and 150 stalls selling local crafts and produce; free entry, Pond Square, Highgate, from 12.30-5.30pm. [www.fairinthesquare.co.uk](http://www.fairinthesquare.co.uk)

- **Wild Flower and Pollinator Day**, 10am - 12 noon, Long Lane Pasture, N3, opposite fire station. With warm, dry weather the Pasture will look its prettiest in June. Booklets and advisors available to identify finds. Free entry.

- **Highgate Choral Society Jumble Sale**, St. George's Church Hall, corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH, 2pm-4pm; admission 40p. Clothes, Nearly New, Bric-a-brac, electrical goods, household goods, toys and games, books, CDs & DVDs, plants, tombola, raffle, teas. Many bargains!
- **Opengarden** at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DE, 2pm to 6.30pm, in aid of National Gardens Scheme; admission £4, children free; wheelchair access; dogs on leads welcome.

### Saturday 22 June

- **North London Chorus and Meridian Sinfonia** perform works by three 20<sup>th</sup> century English composers, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Rutter and George Dyson; St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10; 7.30pm.

Book online at: [northlondonchorus.org/tickets](http://northlondonchorus.org/tickets). Also available from St. James Church Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill.

### Sunday 23 June

- **East Finchley Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12-6pm; everyone welcome to enjoy live entertainment on two stages, browse stalls run by local groups and craftspeople and buy mouthwatering food and drink. This free festival is run every year by the people of East Finchley. Come and be part of it! See [www.eastfinchleyfestival.org](http://www.eastfinchleyfestival.org) for details
- **Nazareth House Summer Fete**, 162 East End Road, N2, 2pm to 5pm; a fun event for all the family with music, BBQ, strawberries and cream, teas and cakes, tombola and raffle; stalls selling bric-a-brac, plants, face painting, good quality clothes, cakes, books. Entry £1 for adults. Children free.
- **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; info: 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

### Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June

- **First weekend of East Finchley Open artists' open house event**. More than 70 artists will be exhibiting in 20 houses in and

around East Finchley. Find more details at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)

### Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 July

- Mutley & Minques bring **The Hound of the Baskervilles** to **Upstairs at the Gatehouse**; zany production of the Sherlock Holmes classic with three actors playing 16 parts. Tickets from [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com) or call 020 8340 3488. More information at [mutleyandminques.org.uk](http://mutleyandminques.org.uk)
- **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July**
- **Second weekend of East Finchley Open artists' open house event**. More than 70 artists will be exhibiting in 20 houses in and around East Finchley. Find more details at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)

### Sunday 7 July

- **Hampstead Garden Suburb Open Gardens**, 11.30am - 5.30pm (last admissions 5pm); 14 gardens, four of which are new, one allotment, and several award-winning gardens. Combined admission £12, children free. Tickets & map available from Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, and selected open gardens. Every visitor will receive a free packet of seeds donated by Marshalls (while stocks last) and an National Gardens Scheme bookmark.





## Letters

### Green man guarantees nothing

Dear Editor,

Regarding a comment in the report on pedestrian crossing safety outside Martin School (*The Archer*, May 2019), we should certainly NOT be teaching children that a green light or green man guarantees their safety.

Traffic lights cannot and do not guarantee anything; neither that a car will stop nor that a pedestrian will not cross against a green light.

Children should be taught that fast moving traffic on the High Road is at all times to be treated with caution and considered dangerous!

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Duncan J MacLean,**  
**Huntingdon Road, N2.**

### Rent increases too steep

Dear Editor,

Belatedly I came across your article in the April edition regarding residents' anger on increased rental charges at Finchley Charities' homes in East Finchley. Any of your readers seeing that report would no doubt think 'Well, so what... everything has to increase due to the economic climate that we are experiencing at this time.'

Your report did not explain that the real problem was not about the general increase in rental charges, it was the amount of increase. A majority of residents had an increase of more than 40%. That amount was, in real money, for a one-bedroom flat an increase of £334 per month.

Most residents are pensioners on fixed incomes. How do I know this? Because I am a resident. To add insult to injury, I was notified that I would be receiving a pension increase of 25p per week due to reaching 80 years of age.

Yes, one of the Trustees did state that he agreed with me at the so-called Review meeting when I asked why the new charges couldn't be phased in over a longer period of four to five years. This was dismissed immediately.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Name and address supplied.**

### Not very charitable

Dear Editor,

Following the article in April's *Archer* 'Residents of Finchley Charities Homes facing rent changes', I feel compelled to write expressing my dismay at the excessive levels of these increases.

At around 40% on average, you might say not very charitable, especially as the charity's finances are already very healthy, while most residents have very limited funds.

For myself, I have a little savings, which I had hoped would prolong my independence by a few years. However, this will soon be used up, forcing me to be dependent on the benefit system, something I was hoping to avoid.

As far as I can make out, no good reason has been given for such a big increase in the rent, apart from saying that the rents are currently sub-market! You would have thought that, as a charity, the Finchley Charities would be working to correct the broken housing market rather than cashing in on vulnerable tenants. It's all very depressing.

**Yours faithfully**  
**Name and address supplied.**

### Toilet trouble

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much to *The Archer* for highlighting the desperation of library users needing a wee (*The Archer*, April 2019). As someone with severe mobility issues, as well as a variety of other medical problems, the fact that—at last! — East Finchley library has been given an accessible toilet, only for it to be locked most of the time, just adds insult to injury. In the past, I have fallen over in the library and been helped by the staff. If I find myself lying on the floor with no one around to pick me up AND needing a wee, I'm afraid the outcome is uncertain.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Harriet Connides,**  
**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).**

## In memory of Carol Jackson, 23 December 1955 – 16 March 2019

By Andrew Wilks

**Carol Jackson, my wife, died on 16 March 2019, having been knocked down by a car while crossing East Finchley High Road. She had just retired from the RSA (Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) as its Chief Operating Officer.**

Meeting Carol was an amazing stroke of luck. In May 1982 I met her on my first visit to Camden's evening social club for adults with a learning disability. Having failed accountancy exams, I'd switched to doing voluntary social work. At the end of the evening I invited her for my first date. I was not her first boyfriend but she was my first and only girlfriend and partner.

Meeting Carol prompted me to start thinking about feelings and relationships from a feminist slant. We just got on so well from the start, sharing a love of theatre, hill walking and women's rights. That's when I realised the importance of depending and being dependable.

Our relationship blossomed in the 1980s when she lived in London and I lived in Southampton, doing residential social work in a hostel for 24 adults with a learning disability. In 1988, after getting my professional social work qualification, I moved back to London and worked as a mental health social worker in Barnet.

Carol grew up in Sunderland, attended Bede School, and studied Economics at Girton College, Cambridge. After qualifying as an accountant in 1980, she worked at Dixon Wilson & Co, became the first female merchant banker at SG Warburg & Co, and went on to work for the Greater London Enterprise Board, Touche Ross and National & Provincial Building Society. In 1991 she joined John Lewis as Financial Adviser for the company's department stores, and we got married.

Carol knew that there's more to life than just a successful career. In February 1993 we moved to East Finchley where Rebecca was born in April. In August I stopped work, became a full-time house-husband and started looking after Rebecca and later Simon, who came along in 1995, while Carol continued her progress at John Lewis.

We had so many magic moments as Rebecca and Simon grew up and so much fun being part of Martin Infant and Primary School from 1996 to 2007. Carol helped its PTA raise £10,000 for the school's playground project from 2000-2003, a burst of creative partnership between all the children, the staff and dozens of parents, still



Warmth, integrity and love: Carol Jackson

visible in the shape of the painted plaques round the school's perimeter.

In 2004 she left John Lewis and took a pay cut to join the Refugee Council, going on to steer it through very difficult times, before moving on to join the RSA in 2011.

The response to her sudden and untimely death has led to an amazing outpouring of admiration and affection from friends, former colleagues and local people. Thank you, John Lewis. Thank you, the Refugee Council. Thank you, the RSA. Thank you, East Finchley. You're all brilliant at giving help and support and friendly words of comfort.

Carol has gone. But Carol's spirit, her goodness, her mental strength, her warmth, integrity and love will continue to guide us for ever.

## There's always time for cake

**Friends and neighbours of Jane Marsh in Bedford Road, N2, enjoyed tea, coffee, cakes and savouries and helped to raise nearly £600 for the MS Society. This year her Cake Break on Saturday 27 April was also supported by a donation of savoury Greek pastries from Tony's Continental.**

This is the seventh Cake Break that Jane, along with a team of helpers, has hosted and she's now raised a grand total of £2,838 for the charity. Multiple Sclerosis is an auto-immune



Break for cake: Jane Marsh gets ready to serve at the charity sale

condition affecting an estimated 107,000 people in the UK. There is no cure, but advances in its treatment and management are being made all the time and

fundraising plays an important part in facilitating this progress. To find out more about MS and/or make a donation, go to [www.ms-uk.org](http://www.ms-uk.org).

## STEWART DUNCAN

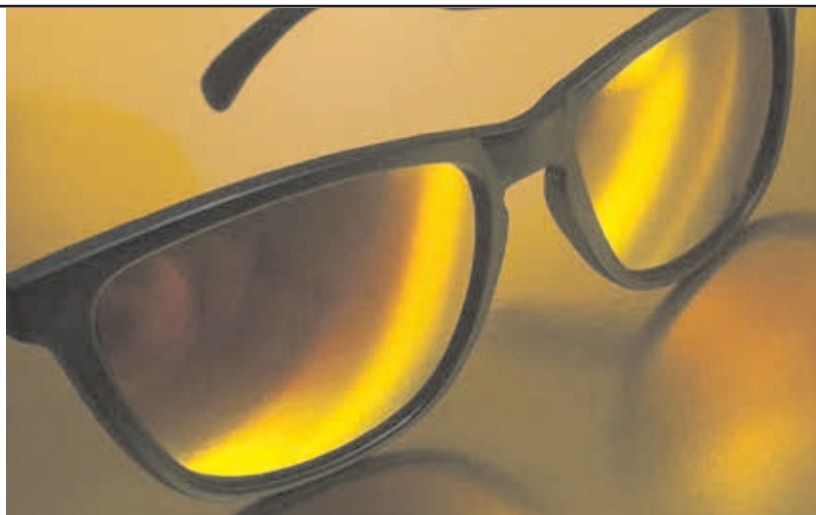
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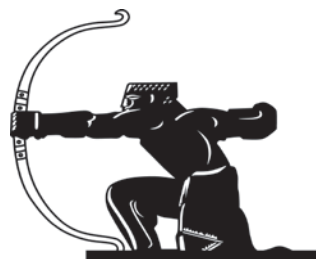
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## Treasures carved out of horror and human kindness

Local sculptor Naomi Blake passed away a few months ago. Here her daughter **Anita Peleg** writes about her mother and her plans to open Naomi's house and garden, which are full of her sculptures, as part of the East Finchley Open Artists Open House weekend this month.

For Naomi Blake the little studio in her Woodside Avenue garden was her heaven. For 50 years she gave life and shape to polystyrene and created sculpture that expressed her positive hopes for the future and promoted understanding between faiths.

Today her work stands in many places of worship and public spaces such as Norwich Cathedral, St James Church, Muswell Hill, All Saints Church, East Finchley, New North London Synagogue, Leeds Synagogue, Great Ormond Street Hospital and Fitzroy Square.

Naomi Blake was born in 1924 in Mukacevo, Czechoslovakia, to a large Jewish family within a thriving Jewish population. This all changed under the German-backed Hungarian regime and by 1944 the Jews had all fled or been deported.

After surviving the horrors of Auschwitz, Stutthoff and Brahnau concentration camps, Naomi returned home to find that her home was in ruins and 17 family members, including 10 young nieces and nephews, had been murdered.

### A positive legacy

Her journey then took her to Palestine where she rebuilt her life and finally to London and to Muswell Hill, where her career as a sculptor flourished. Despite her concentration camp ordeal and the loss of many family members at the hands of the Nazis, she did more than just



The late Naomi Blake - Sculptor. Photo courtesy Anita Peleg

survive against the odds, she created a positive legacy for the future through her art.

When she died in November last year, we lost an extraordinary member of the community. Those who knew her loved her kindness, sense of humour and positive nature and admired her beautiful sculpture. Her work continues to tell her story and promote her vision and will be on display in her home as part of the East Finchley Open Artists

Open House weekends this summer.

The Artists' Open House weekends take place on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June and Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July. More than 70 artists will be exhibiting in 20 houses in and around East Finchley. Find more details at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)



## Rugby youngsters pull off the Italian job

By Rod McEwen

Made famous by its beautiful cathedral and being the location of the movie *The Italian Job*, Milan has seen many things but never before a mini Six Nations tournament in which the under 12 Finchley Rugby Club team took part.

A group of 17 boys, dads and mums flew to the city on Friday 3 May to play at Milan Pirati

Rugby Club against junior teams from all over Europe including the Ukraine, Italy, France, Ire-

land and Poland.

The day of the tournament began with the boys standing to attention whilst their national anthems played and I am pleased to report that Finchley turned up in shirts and ties as instructed (although no one else did). The boys played five matches and won three of them.

The tournament showed what a great game rugby is. It engenders real team spirit and I would urge any parents looking to find a sport that treats all participants equally to consider joining Finchley Rugby Club on Summers Lane, N12.

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