for uterine cancer, she is very

positive about the outcome,

but aware of her own mortal-

ity. 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

How the Project works

she believes that The Truth

Project will listen and support

anyone who contacts them. It

is based in Darlington, Liver-

pool, 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 sup-

port worker. The atmosphere is

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

kept quiet."

People must agree that

warm and sympathetic.

From her own experience,

something now."



"I sometimes wonder how I managed to survive"

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.

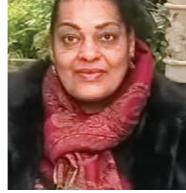


Ruby Joseph

Lasting damage

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



Homeless and adrift from

how I managed to survive that,"

Currently being treated



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

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 over to Alexandra Palace and back. to 450, are expected to take part Registrations are open online in the friendly 10K on Sunday 14 July, starting at 9.30am in Cherry Tree Wood, and taking a route

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

Fans of The Durrells TV series may have spotted

the cinema last year.

on screen

Phoenix

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

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

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.



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

Sherlock as she's never been seen

Azany 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.

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

It will be performed by 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 or call 020 8340 3488.



East Finchley Baptist Church Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am Crèche and Sunday School during service

For more information please contact the Church Office Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: John Lowrie) www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

Visitors always welcome