

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Fingers crossed at this crossing!



By Janet Maitland

Martin Primary School children protesting at the dangerous crossing outside their school. Photo Mike Coles

Shocked parents and teachers are calling for changes to improve safety at an East Finchley crossing after an accident at the traffic lights there in which a driver collided with a father and child.

The 42-year-old father was rushed to hospital with a head injury which was fortunately not life threatening. His young daughter had minor facial injuries but was also taken to hospital as a precaution.

Community response

The accident at the pedestrian crossing on the High Road outside Martin Primary School on the afternoon of Monday 4

February has galvanized local people into lobbying Barnet Council members, London Mayor Sadiq Khan and Transport for London (TfL) to carry out a safety review urgently.

"This accident should never have happened and could have ended with loss of life," said Emily Candler, one of a group of parents and local residents leading the campaign. "We've heard from many other people who have experienced drivers failing to stop at these lights, with two near misses in the past week.

"We want immediate changes such as better lighting, signage and road markings. We also need a

transport study to review the issues thoroughly and identify long-term safety measures."

Parents and children staged a demonstration outside the school in the week after the accident, waving banners reading 'Fingers crossed when you cross this crossing' and 'Slow down for a happy town'.

Right time for a safety review

In 2012 the school's Walk-safe campaign was successful in getting the council to make changes to improve the safety of nearby walking routes, such as a speed limit of 20mph on Church Lane and a zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue. It was agreed then that the crossing outside the school would be kept under review.

Campaigners, who have started a petition, say the time for a review is now as the school has almost 50% more pupils than it did in 2012 and the school building and field

are more heavily used by community groups on evenings and weekends.

They suggest safety improvements could include three-way lights at the Church Lane junction, coloured non-slip road surfaces, yellow lines around the crossing and traffic cameras to stop parking on the zig zags.

Rebecca Bakar, headteacher

of Martin Primary, said: "We are humbled by the community response to support us in ensuring safety is prioritised and we look forward to hearing from the council and TfL about the changes they will introduce."

Petition

You can find more details and sign the petition at www.tinyurl.com/safercrossingN2

Jam every day for drivers

The section of the North Circular Road from East Finchley to Edmonton has been singled out as one of the most congested in the UK.

Those who regularly queue all along the east-bound carriageway from Colney Hatch Lane to the lights at the right-turn near Arnos Grove will not be surprised at the news that it was placed at number six in the top 10.

Motorists heading that way have to run the gauntlet of two or three more sets of traffic

lights before the road generally starts to run more freely along the underpass beneath the A10.

Top of the congestion list was the section of the North Circular running from Chiswick Roundabout to Hanger Lane, notorious for multiple traffic lights and a bottleneck forcing traffic into two narrow lanes. Other hotspots were the A23 Brixton Road in south London, the A657 Saltaire Road in Leeds and the A34 Stafford Road in Birmingham. Traffic data firm Inrix, who released the survey, said drivers lost the equivalent of a week, or 178 hours, each to jams in 2018. It estimated the value of the time lost at about £7.9 billion or £1,317 per driver.

London's drivers lost about 227 hours each on average, compared with 190 hours in Belfast, 165 in Edinburgh and 143 in Cardiff.

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

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Employment Service 020 8258 3900
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Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
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National Express 0871 781 8181
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Wreckage: The aftermath of the multiple car accident on the High Road. Photo Mike Coles.

Car smashes into High Road premises

By Janet Maitland

This was the scene of destruction after a multiple collision on the High Road, N2, left a car smashed head-on into the front of the offices of solicitors Cree Godfrey and Wood.

It happened in the early hours of Sunday 10 February and when police, ambulance and fire brigade officers arrived at the scene they found a total of five damaged vehicles.

A man was treated at the scene for minor injuries. He

was then arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and dangerous driving.

Police are carrying out enquiries to identify the driver and passenger of another vehicle, who made off from the scene on foot.

Shocked passers-by who saw the wreckage of the Mercedes car on the pavement for most of the next day before it was moved expressed relief that no pedestrians had been on the pavement at the time of the collision.

Green space makes way for new homes

By John Lawrence

Work has begun to build a new four-storey block of flats on what was previously open land in Norfolk Close, N2.

High wooden fences have gone up, bordering the High Road, while construction work is carried out. The new flats will be public housing, as part of Barnet Council's obligation to build 720 affordable housing units by 2020, and another sign that all and any unused spaces are being considered as potential development sites. Work is also starting shortly on

demolition of existing homes in the nearby Prospect Ring, N2, to be replaced by a 13-storey tower block alongside the two high-rises that are already there, as we have reported in past issues.

Sally Norris, a Norfolk Close resident, mourned the loss of the green space and some trees to make way for the new flats.

She said: "I am really upset that we didn't get a chance to have a say on this matter, and maybe save some of the trees. I have been informed that the beautiful hornbeam tree is to be felled, as they are extending the car park. It's a sad loss of another open space."

The application to develop the site was featured in our regular planning applications list (page 2 of every issue) in the summer of 2017 and given permission by Barnet Council that same year.



New block: How the flats will look from Norfolk Close, with the High Road behind.

OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

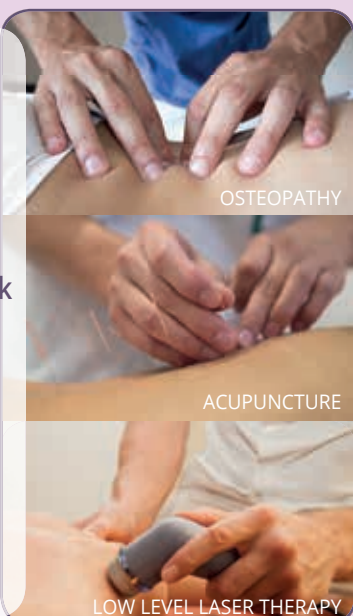
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Planning Applications

Barnet Council

30 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing shed.

28 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with new patio area. Three front facing rooflights.

Creighton House, Creighton Avenue, N2

Front facade alterations, comprising conversion of two windows into patio doors, repositioning and replacement of main entrance door, re-rendering, removal of rear metal staircase, and installation of protective canopy along second-floor access balcony. Creation of refuse/recycling store, cycle store. New automatic vehicular and resident entrance gate.

25 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Amendments to planning per-

mission for roof extension, including larger openings at rear of dormer, addition of Juliet balcony and a planter. Reduction in number of front roof lights from four to three.

29 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

57 Hertford Road, N2

Lawful development certificate for roof extension, involving two rear dormer windows and two front facing rooflights.

Outside 124 - 128 High Road, N2

Removal of existing payphones and installation of ground-based apparatus comprising an InLink unit with two internally illuminated digital LED screens, one on each side.

133 High Road, N2

New external condenser.

91 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

316 Long Lane, N2

Variation of condition to planning permission for conversion into two self-contained flats. Amendments include resizing, re-positioning, addition/removal of windows and doors.

51 Park Hall Road, N2

Roof extension involving extension to existing rear outrigger, new rear fixed glazed panel windows, two front facing rooflights and new side gable window.

37 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension, including rear dormer window to replace existing one.

Viceroy Court Car Park, East End Road, N2

Details of conditions pursuant to planning permission.



Positives and some negatives for plastics campaigners

By Ruth Anders

Since mid-December, No2Plastics street champions have been walking the length of the High Road in East Finchley talking to shop owners about our campaign to ban single-use plastics from our local shops.



Whilst we have received some encouraging commitments to support us, unsurprisingly we have also met with quite a bit of resistance. It's hard to believe that awareness of the need to banish these environmentally damaging plastic items still needs raising in East Finchley.

Look for the signs

You will soon be spotting these and similar signs (pictured) in shops

that have pledged their support. Many shop owners and managers were very positive, suggesting ways in which they could encourage their customers to bring re-usable cups to cafés, refuse plastic straws, and bring used plastic bags to secondhand shops alongside their clothing donations.

Retailers' concerns

One or two wanted nothing to do with the campaign, and others voiced a number of concerns. A few expressed anxiety that doing away with plastic bags and other wrapping would give them extra costs and drive customers away to other shops where plastic carriers are used.

Others suggested that local council and government legislation should be changed before they needed to take action themselves.

It's up to us

No2Plastics have asked shops a raft of questions including why restaurants and cafés need to use plastic containers and carrier bags for takeaway food when they could use cardboard/foil boxes and paper carriers as we happily used to 30 years ago.

Ann Inglis, who launched the campaign with her letter to *The Archer* in May last year, is convinced that shops are only doing what they believe their customers want. She said: "It's the customers who must drive this campaign. Unless we, the public, alter our attitudes and demand something different from our shops, nothing will change."

No2Plastics is asking readers of *The Archer* to lobby our shops and to join those wanting to make a difference. Both retailers and customers need to embrace this change. You can follow the No2Plastics campaign on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @No2PlasticsN2 or email no2plastics@gmail.com and tell us what you think.



Anything and everything: Nalin Shah amongst the hundreds of items he sells. Photo Mike Coles

Forty years behind the counter in an Aladdin's cave

By Janet Maitland

Galaxy Drug Store is the kind of place you pop into because you've run out of soap powder but leave with a roll of Sellotape, batteries, super glue, a reel of black cotton, and a tube of Polyfilla... and a small bag of compost to save you trekking to the garden centre... and some socks... and a card for your sister's birthday.

The little shop in Church Lane, N2, celebrating its 40th anniversary this month, is known as the shop that sells everything. It's like walking into the Tardis, there is so much inside, 1,800 varieties at the last count.

Nalin's babies

"Customers call the shop an Aladdin's cave, but I call it the Chatter Box because East Finchley residents are so friendly," says Nalin Shah, who founded the shop in 1979 and has run it ever since with other members of his family.

His premises initially specialised in baby products, selling over 250 varieties of baby food and over 10 brands of nappies, quickly expanding to a second shop in New Southgate. Though he now sells something for everyone, Nalin still has a wide range of toys for sale and is proud that many of the babies he catered for have now grown up, been to university, and had children of their own.

The personal touch

Nalin really is an example of a personalised style of shop-keeping. If anyone wants something special he'll always try to get it for them, and wherever he can he'll do a free delivery, even if it's just one light bulb, and change it. For senior citizens



Four decades: Nalin outside his Galaxy Drug Store. Photo Mike Coles.

he helps them do their grocery shopping.

He believes work and laughter are the best medicine in life. "My late parents blessed me with their work ethic and I'd like to pay tribute to them for this," he says. "I'd also like to thank the previous owner Martin Beckworth and his parents.

They gave me such encouragement when I first started."

So, after 40 years behind the counter, what are Nalin's plans for Galaxy? "I want to carry on for as long as I can," he admits. "I won't be retiring in 40 days, 40 weeks or 40 months, but I certainly won't be here in another 40 years' time!"

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Tina McNaughton presents a new CD player to Laurence McGonnell, manager of The North London Hospice. Photo Mike Coles

Gift of music in memory of Neil

Family and friends of the late Neil McNaughton, who wrote for *The Archer* for over ten years, gathered at the North London Hospice on Thursday 14 February. After suffering a brain tumour, Neil passed away there last June. In gratitude for the loving care he received and in memory of our colleague, the *Archer* team gave a CD player to the hospice's quiet room.

This gift was the suggestion of Patient and Family Support Manager Laurence McGonnell, who welcomed it as a useful addition to many aspects of the hospice's activities. The presentation was made to him by Neil's widow Tina. In a very moving occasion, both she and Neil's son Philip praised the wonderful work that is carried out by devoted staff there.



Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Team update

We are happy to inform you that we now have a new Police Sergeant, PS Chris Thompson, who will look after all three of the Finchley teams: East Finchley, Church End and West Finchley. He'll bring them a lot of experience from his time leading response teams in the borough of Harrow.

In March, we'll also be getting an experienced Police Constable for East Finchley who, with PC John Kenny, will bring our little team to full strength. Once the warm weather arrives (hopefully) and the ward becomes busier, there'll be two PCs, a third of a PS and one Police Community Support officer (PCSO) in the team.

Theft from motor vehicles

It's been a quiet start to the year, with only one burglary in January. The main crime issue is theft from motor vehicles where windows have been smashed. I am loath to remind you good folk not to leave nice things on display, but in nearly all the thefts there were phones, iPads and even handbags on view, and in some instances left in unlocked vehicles too.

Van security

There is a steady number of break-ins to work vans to steal power tools which can be very expensive to replace and work often has to stop until they are replaced. If you need to keep a van loaded with tools, take a look at forensic property marking kits such as SelectaDNA, Smartwater and Selectamark, which are all approved by the police.

Kits specifically aimed at work vans include bright stickers for the van windows which state that the van contents are marked. Marked tools are much harder to sell, so your van is much less likely to be targeted. There are also extra locking devices available from Thatcham, especially designed to secure work vehicles.

Playground greenery stripped in 'scorched earth policy'

By John Lawrence

Parents have expressed their horror at the loss of dozens of shrubs and bushes in and around the children's playground at Market Place and Park Road, N2. Workmen sent in by Barnet Council were seen reducing established shrubs to ground level one day in early February, leaving behind bare earth and shorn stumps.

Almar Hafliadason, who has two young daughters, said one of their pleasures was to create their own worlds in the shrubbery. In previous years, the greenery had been carefully trimmed before growing back.

Short-term thinking criticised

"There will be no more of this thanks to an extraordinary exercise in razing everything down to the ground," said Almar. "In what seems to be a scorched earth policy all of the shrubs, bushes and trees have gone in an act of callous vandalism that has turned the playground into one giant open space of nothing bar some ancient equipment. It looks really depressing."

Local resident Julia Cas-sells said her children got more fun weaving through the paths in the bushes than they did from the playground equipment, which is "tired and very uninspiring". She said: "On an environmental level I'm also very distressed at the lack of consideration for the biodiversity which these bushes will have



Cut backs: Shrubs and bushes at the playground have been sliced to ground level.

harboured. I can only assume this is one of Barnet Council's cost cutting exercises but in my opinion this is a very extreme and unnecessary response which typifies this council's short-term thinking."

Council's reasoning

A council spokesman told *The Archer* that the shrubbery has been cut back to prevent anti-social behaviour in the playground by making it more

visible from nearby roads. "It was also identified that some of the shrubbery was made up of thorny pyracantha and hawthorn shrubs, unsuitable for a children's play area," said the spokesman. "We will be grassing over the areas where the shrubs were. We will also be removing the ivy from the fencing, as it's damaging the fence, and the fence will then be replaced with a new one."

Girl injured in High Road collision

By Janet Maitland

A 12-year-old girl was rushed to hospital with a head injury after she was in collision with a van in the High Road, N2, on her way home from school.

The accident happened at 3.15pm on Thursday 24 January when she was crossing from the Bald Faced Stag to the Fortis Green side of the junction.

The driver had just turned right into the High Road from East End Road. He stopped at the scene, parking outside Amici's café, and was questioned. No arrest has been made. Police have taken CCTV footage for investigation.

People from the café and Sorbet nail bar helped the girl to a chair on the pavement and comforted her till the ambulance arrived. Her head wound was fortunately not serious and she was later discharged from hospital.

Timing of lights

This junction is notoriously difficult to cross. Comments on social media after the accident cited drivers jumping lights or not signalling, and pedestrians not looking properly or taking a chance. The timing of the lights is thought

to be the main problem.


Our writer Diana Cormack, who uses the crossing daily, said: "The hang-over between lights and signs changing is unfathomable and encourages locals like me to cross, knowing I have the time ... or do I?"

Councillor Arjun Mittra and his East Finchley councillor colleagues have raised the timings of the lights with Transport for London a number of times and have

requested an Oxford Circus-style 'X' crossing.

Councillor Mittra commented: "TfL said it would require additional time on the pedestrian filter, which would have an impact on traffic flow elsewhere. But we will keep pressing for this."

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Cost cutting is leaving us all with 'dirty streets'

By David Melsome

Barnet is fast becoming London's dirty borough, warns a local resident, with massive cuts halving the number of street cleaners since 2017 and Barnet Council "abandoning" its responsibility for cleaning the majority of streets.

David Attfield, of Summerlee Avenue, N2, has met council officials on several occasions to ask what can be done to keep streets clean, and also organised a petition last year to take to the council's Environment Committee.

Less often, less thorough

David says that many streets in East Finchley have only had a cursory sweep in the past year to remove autumn leaves, with no other cleaning taking place. This has led to a build-up of rotting

under £10 a head) compared with over £9 million in Haringey and in Camden (£35 and £37 a head).

Mr Attfield is not giving up. He urges anyone concerned about the state of our streets to email Barnet Council leader Richard Cornelius directly on cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk or Environment Committee chairman Dean Cohen on cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Council response

A Barnet Council spokesperson said the council remained



Left to rot: Litter and leaves clog Talbot Avenue, N2.

leaves and other litter. He said: "Prior to the cuts, the council was committed to sweeping residential streets every six weeks, in itself not particularly ambitious given that Haringey and Camden sweep streets weekly or fortnightly."

As well as highlighting budget cuts, David argues that policy changes have added to the problem in East Finchley, with money put into buying mechanical sweepers which cannot operate in residential roads where there are parked cars.

Borough comparisons

Figures suggest that this year Barnet will spend £3.57 million on street cleaning (amounting to

firmly committed to keeping the borough clean and tidy for local residents and businesses. In the instances where its sweepers couldn't reach under parked cars, manual litter picking is carried out. The spokesperson said: "We regularly empty the borough's 3,000 plus litter bins, and Barnet's town centres are cleaned every day. We also have dedicated flytipping and graffiti teams, who tackle problems such as flytipping, litter and graffiti where they arise. We are committed to providing a service that is efficient and effective for residents but at the same time, one that keeps within our budget."



Eye contact: Two of Ivan Berg's portraits on show in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

These faces are no fakes

Thirty striking portraits of subjects aged 16 to 82 are on show at the *WOMAN* exhibition by photographer Ivan Berg throughout

March. All are photographed using dramatic lighting reminiscent of the style of Dutch master Rembrandt, against a signature

plain black background.

Fellow artist Alyson Hunter commented: "Ivan Berg's portraits are arresting because they are shot without the artifice usually used to portray women. It is refreshing to have the female portrait move into the reality of women's lives."

WOMAN is on show in Hampstead Garden Suburb's Fellowship House gallery in Willifield Way, NW11 6YD. Viewing times are Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4pm and on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Admission is free.

Return Destination

Organisers of the Destination East Finchley project are hoping to set up a permanent exhibition at the tube station following the success of their temporary display there two years ago.

The Destination project invited people in N2 to tell the personal stories that brought them and their families to live and work in East Finchley. Postcards and notes displayed on boards at the station were hugely popular with commuters.

Since then, organisers have

been working with Transport for London and designer Peter Curzon to produce a more permanent display, featuring a colourful wall map, quotes and poetry and celebrating journeys from all over the world to our part of London. An opening date is expected soon.

Battery recycling

Dead batteries are not accepted in the blue bins collected each week by the council but there are numerous places in East Finchley where you can take them for recycling.

Both electrical stores on the High Road offer the service. Everything Electrical, close to the tube station, has a green bin just inside its entrance where you can drop batteries of any kind. EF Electrical Contractors, close to Kitchener Road, will take old batteries and also recycle fluorescent tubes and small electrical appliances like toasters and kettles. Amy's Housewares, next door to Budgens, has a battery recycling box near its sales counter and will also recycle BRITA water filter cartridges.

Local schools, Martin Primary and Highgate Primary, also have battery recycling bins on the premises. *Are there other local recycling services we don't know about? Email the-archer@lineone.net and we will tell our readers.*

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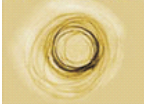
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Alarm at proposal to leave park unlocked overnight

By John Lawrence

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood and residents who live nearby have raised the alarm over plans by Barnet Council to scrap the service that locks the park overnight.

The Friends say there is massive potential for increased antisocial behaviour and vandalism in Cherry Tree Wood if it is not secured during the night.

They will be taking a petition to the council's Environment Committee, which is due to discuss the removal of the lock-up service for all Barnet's parks on Thursday 14 March. You can find the petition online by going to <https://you.38degrees.org.uk> and searching 'Keep Barnet parks locked overnight'.

Petition organiser Roger Chapman stated: "Locked parks are often surrounded by residential properties which back onto them. Locking parks increases safety to residents and their property.

"Previous experience of not locking parks at night suggests that there will be an increase

in anti-social behaviour and vandalism which will increase rather than save the council and police service money in the long run."

Reasons for signing

Close to 600 people have already signed the petition and some have posted their reasons for doing so.

"Keeping the park open at night will be a safety hazard for the local neighbourhoods! There is enough crime as it is, this would make things worse!" said one.

Another commented: "This is a ludicrous idea that will encourage crime and antisocial behaviour, offer new opportunities for drug dealing and use, and put at risk the safety of women and elderly residents... It also creates more work for our overstretched police."

Friends get active

By Debbie Linton

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood held their AGM on Sunday 20 January with approximately 15 local residents attending, including local ward councillor Alison Moore. Roger Chapman was very much welcomed as the new Chairman.

A detailed activity plan for 2019/20 was discussed during the meeting. This is to include amongst many other things litter picks, guided walks, a bird and bat box making day and also bug, bird and animal surveys.

A management plan for the wood is also planned for both the ecology and the facilities, many of which it was felt are in urgent need of maintenance or updating.

A new bin and bench survey was also presented, highlighting that many bins are also in serious need of repair or replacement. The plan is to liaise with Barnet Council and other Friends groups across the borough to investigate sources of income and initiatives that could reinvigorate the wood.

As reported last month, the council are planning for

the demolition of the pavilion building. Various ideas were discussed at the AGM about how to make use of the site, from allowing nature to reclaim the area to introducing a space for tai chi classes or a green gym.

Become a Friend

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have a new membership scheme which will be free of charge. If you would like to receive a newsletter and to be updated about activities in the wood (for example bat box making days and guided walks) email the Friends at friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com.

There is also a new website: <https://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog> and a new Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cherrytreewooddef/



No entry: The pavilion pictured in 2008. Photo John Dearing.

What should replace the pavilion when it is demolished?

By Diana Cormack

The Archer has regularly reported on the state of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood following its closure over 30 years ago. There have long been differing opinions about what should be done with the building, ranging from those who wanted it to be demolished, leaving that part of the wood to return to its natural state, to others who felt it should be put to a more specific use.

However, any hopes of the dilapidated structure being rejuvenated were finally dashed at the end of last year when the council came to a settlement with the then lessee, prior to demolition arrangements being made (*The Archer*, January 2019).

At the time of writing Barnet Council told us: "We're currently in the process of trying

to source a contractor to arrange for the safe demolition of the building."

Some people have put their memories of the pavilion on social media whilst others have been suggesting what might be done with the site, particularly if the solid base should be left behind, such as an outdoor gym.

Did you attend the playgroup

in the pavilion? Was it where you shared some memorable teenage moments? Did you ever use the changing rooms for a sporting event? What do you think should happen to the site? Share your memories and suggestions by emailing them to the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

A glimpse inside the old pavilion

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

I only remember the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood being out of use, though in the 1990s I helped to move equipment for the East Finchley Community Festival in and out of it, catching a view of the forgotten world inside.

The inside walls only came up to ceiling level, with no ceiling, just the roof's empty shell above. A playgroup had used the building just before my time; the main room they used still had a mural with cartoon characters at a picnic, looking similar to the paintings on the side of an ice-cream van.

It was a sad, rather eerie, once-jolly place where past generations of children had played. The changing rooms and toilets inside were in a similar state: crying out to be used again after so many years.

Last stage

The ground-level veranda was fenced off several years back, though that didn't stop people squeezing under or around the barriers, including at least one attempted arsonist. Nor did it stop one of the side doors being left unlocked for several days; I sometimes had a look inside. A crude wall-painting of Mickey Mouse now had an even cruder phallic addition and I'd never seen so many cobwebs before in the former changing rooms.

In 2014, the old interior was

stripped out in the last attempt to make an indoor café. After so many years out of use, the building was found to be in a worse state than initially thought. Then the tools and equipment were stolen, stalling the project.

I was very sad, but not surprised, to hear of the demolition plan in January. Perhaps lessons can be learned from this wasted opportunity to make something great of the building. For those who were defeatist before: it doesn't have to be like this.



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Crowdfunding push as Phoenix hosts a weekend of special events

By John Lawrence

The Phoenix Cinema is hosting a weekend of special activities this month to accompany the launch of its Phoenix Rising crowdfunding campaign, which hopes to raise £20,000 in donations to help keep the cinema independent.

Direct donations, large and small, are welcomed online at www.justgiving.com/campaign/phoenixrising or at the cinema. Meanwhile, film-goers are urged to keep visiting the Phoenix as often as possible to keep ticket sales healthy.

Ken's call

Phoenix patron and leading UK filmmaker Ken Loach has given his backing to the fundraising drive. He said: "The Phoenix, one of the oldest cinemas in the country, has a unique identity that combines quality programming with education and community activities for all ages. Please help the Phoenix rise again with your donations and support. And enjoy visiting this special cinema."

Busy weekend

Through the weekend of 15-17 March there will be a film quiz on the Friday evening, a Kids' Club screening of *Big Hero 6* on the Saturday morning, and a special screening of *Coldplay: A Head Full of Dreams*, followed by a Q&A with the film's award-

winning director Mat Whitecross.

There will also be a street collection on the Saturday, tours of the cinema and its historic projection booth on both Saturday and Sunday and a talk on the history of the Phoenix on Sunday. The cinema website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk has booking details for all events.

Showing support

Chair of Phoenix Cinema trustees Alison Gold said: "We saw an outpouring of support for the independence of the Phoenix at the end of 2018 and we'd now love people to demonstrate their support by getting behind our campaign. We welcome large and small donations to our online appeal or to the cinema in person."

Future plans to bring new events to the Phoenix include open mic comedy nights, late night jazz and audiences with local celebrities. Find out more about the fundraising activities by dropping into the cinema and picking up a leaflet.



Get knitted: The hat makers in action

Hats for the homeless

A group of knitters are keeping their needles clicking by making hats and scarves that they hand out to people in need who are living on the streets.

Organiser Lisa Goldblatt had the idea when the weather turned cold in the winter and she found she had plenty of leftover wool. "I donated my first one to a homeless man outside Tottenham Court Road station," said Lisa. "I carry some around with me when I am out and about. If I

see someone in need, I will offer one to them. It's a very small thing to do but at least I feel I am making use of my leftover yarn and keeping someone warmer at the same time."

As her knitting group starts to produce more items, they will also be donated directly

to homeless shelters and refuges. It meets once a month on Saturdays at the Fringe craft workshop in Alexandra Palace Road, N10, hosted there by Rosie, and everyone is welcome. Find out more from Lisa on 020 8883 8022 or lgoldblatt1@gmail.com.

Charity shop needs helpers

Our local RSPCA charity shop on the High Road is looking for volunteers. Anyone with a few spare hours would be welcome to come and help there.

This sort of voluntary work is a good way to meet others and to make new friends. It can provide practice for language skills should you need this. Gap year students or those wishing to widen their experience in the working environment could enhance their CVs by undertaking such work. It is also helpful for building confidence before returning to or entering the world of paid work.

If you are interested, call 020 3719 2257 or pop into the shop at 160 High Road and have a chat with Julie the manager.

Three decades of companionship

Housekeeper Lin Kenny is celebrating 30 years as a member of the team at Abbeyfield House, a sheltered housing community in Hampstead Garden Suburb for elderly people who no longer want the responsibility of running their own home.



Long-serving: Lin Kenny

Lin has been one of the housekeeping team providing security and companionship since 1989, six years after the house opened as part of the nationwide Abbeyfield Society.

Abbeyfield, off Erskine Hill, NW11, has communal sitting and dining rooms and a well-maintained private garden. Residents keep in touch with the community through coffee mornings, open days and a calendar of outings.

The next coffee morning and open house is on Saturday 18 May. There are currently two rooms vacant. Find out more from the House team on 020 8455 2607.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Golden chance for generations to enjoy each other's company

By Karen Williamson

A new drop-in for grandparents and toddlers is starting at the Ann Owens centre in East Finchley inspired by Channel 4 show *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds*, where older people and nursery children spend time together.

There'll be toys and games for the children and tea and biscuits for the grandparents, plus a chance for everyone to take part in a fun, gentle exercise class together.

"If you look after your grandchild this is a great way to meet other people in the same position and entertain your grandchild at the same time," says Age UK Barnet's Howard Chapman. "And the older people in our Thursday Club will enjoy spending time and chatting with the children too."

This new group is part of a drive at Age UK Barnet to launch schemes that involve older people mixing with different age groups, as research shows that it's one of the most effective ways of combating loneliness.

Intergenerational x three
Age UK Barnet already runs

two successful intergenerational projects: IT support groups where teenage children help older people with their computer or phone, and men's beginners cookery classes where the teenagers help teach older men how to cook.

"We are sure that the older people and toddlers will have fun together, share experiences and learn from one another," says Howard. "And if the first session goes well we hope it will become a weekly event."

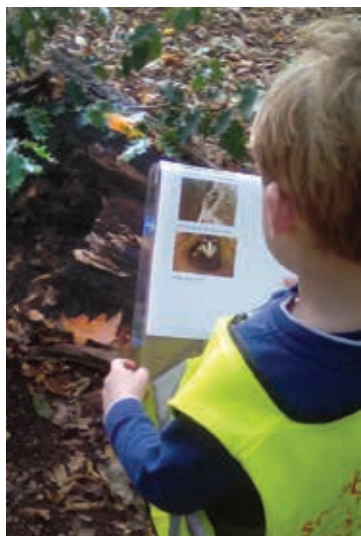
The first grandparent and toddler group session takes place on Thursday 28 March from 10am till 12pm. The first one is free, but in future there may be a small charge or donation for refreshments and the exercise class. For more information contact Howard on 020 8432 1415 or email him on howard.chapman@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

Nature discovered on their doorstep

Youngsters from Scribbles nursery in Hertford Road, N2, have been out and about exploring nearby nature and learning to appreciate the wild treasures on their doorstep.

The children have made bird feeders and bat boxes for the nursery garden and gone out on a series of nature hunts, spotting trees and animal homes. Now their love of nature has been rewarded with bronze, silver and gold certificates in the RSPB's Wild Challenge, which is all about helping wildlife to thrive.

The nursery's Jill Hallums said: "We all absolutely loved going out exploring. The children began to respect the animals and plants and learned lots of ways to protect them, like recycling. Their concern for the local woodland creatures was so great we even went on several litter picking trips as well."



Forest floor: A Scribbles youngster looks out for animal habitats.

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Nice mice: Pupils at Kolhapur wave characters from their reading scheme, with Shona Glackin, middle left, and Julie Taylor, right, from Martin School.

Pupils spread joy of reading

Children at Martin School in East Finchley have been strengthening their friendship with youngsters at a school in the west of India by raising money to buy them reading books.

Martin pupils had the idea of holding a Readathon which raised £3,500 and the money was used to buy the *Jolly Phonics* reading scheme to help pupils at the Tryamboli Vidyala School in Kolhapur with their literacy skills.

Teachers Julie Taylor and Shona Glackin travelled to Kolhapur, midway between Mumbai and Goa, to kickstart the reading scheme alongside Vrushali, the English teacher there. Martin School has had links with Tryamboli Vidyala since 2015.

Julie and Shona reported that the children learned five sounds in just one week. In return for

the books, the Indian children made gifts of Diwali lanterns to bring back to East Finchley.

Julie Taylor said: "The money raised from the Readathon will also pay for a trainer to visit from Mumbai to train Vrushali and other teachers

and we hope that *Jolly Phonics* will become part of their curriculum."

Any surplus cash will be used to fund a shelter outside the main school building where pupils can take cover from the sun or heavy rain.

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• **Musical Tots:** 10.45 Tue at The Angel, N6, Weds The Old White Lion and Fridays The Five Bells N2. Katemusicaltots on facebook.

• **Phoenix Cinema activities.** Bringing up babyscreenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 11pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.

• **Stay and Play** Thurs 9.30-11.15 Green Man Centre, Gary 8359 3640

• **Stepping Stones/Teddy Bears' Music:** music and fun for 0-3s, East Finchley Baptist Church Tues and Thurs 10am. Liz 07836 284538.

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Open day to view spaces for hire in new community centre

By Janet Maitland

The newly built Tarling Road community centre in East Finchley will open its doors this month to give community organisations and members of the public the chance to have a look at the spaces available for daily and weekly hire.

Unsettled issues

The building was completed last October, but a contract with City YMCA to lease part of the building and manage the centre has not yet been finalised despite months of negotiations.

"We're trying to strike the right balance between the service City YMCA provide and the cost to users of the building," said a council spokesperson. Barnet Council made it clear last year that they will not be making any surplus from the centre but are unable to cover the running costs. So whoever manages the centre will have to "pay a rent that ensures the centre is self-sustainable".

Several community organisations who are interested in using the building have been identified and the council is working with them on the terms of their leases. The council estimates that the first lease, for a nursery provider, will be completed in the spring, possibly on a part time basis "depending on demand for other space" and that the centre will then open. They also confirmed that



The new Tarling Road Community Centre. Photo Mike Coles

the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association has "always been earmarked to occupy part of the building".

'Heart' still missing

A big concern is whether the centre will have the space for low-cost and free activities for local people, despite the requirement for it to be self-financing. Another issue is whether the centre will actually be able to open a café in the space allocated for it.

"It will be the heart of the

centre," said Julia Hines from the Grange Big Local community regeneration project. A council spokesperson said that the café space would be advertised shortly to ascertain whether there is interest in leasing the space. It is not known what the rent will be.

Open day

The open day at the Tarling Road community centre takes place between 11am and 2pm on Tuesday 12 March.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Oh, just give up!

Once upon a time there was none of this voluntary abstinence we call Stop-tober, Dry-vember or Vegan-uary. Why? Because there was no need. The Christian church had already cobbled the whole lot together and called it Lent.

According to canon law, Lent lasts for 46 days from the day after Pancake Day to the day after Hot Cross Bun day. It is a time for prayer, penance, alms giving and fasting. The good news is that you get Sundays off; the bad news is that you are meant to take it all seriously for the other 40 days.

Back in the Middle Ages, eggs, milk, cheese and meat were banned during Lent. Some banned all animal products, like an early version of veganism. There were some pretty good reasons for it that had more to do with rationing than religion.

Back then, when you couldn't get avocados flown in and trucks of lettuce didn't arrive every morning, spring was a hungry time. You'd eaten most of what you'd stored from the last harvest and you didn't have a fridge freezer so there wasn't a lot to eat until the spring crops appeared.

The few pigs that had not been slaughtered and salted in November were best used to create more pigs rather than spare ribs. The same, with added Yorkshire pudding, applied to beef cattle and, anyway, you wanted the cow's milk to be guzzled by calves, not turned into a full fat latte. So what about eggs? Better to let them turn into chickens than omelettes.

Instead you could have one decent, meat-free meal per day and two small snacks, something probably recommended as healthy eating by the 14th-century equivalent of Fabulously Ella. Oh, and don't forget fish didn't count, maybe because no one understood them or maybe because the fishing industry had some say in it.

Now it's different. After detoxing in January and retoxing with chocolate and champagne in February, Lent's just about making a token sacrifice, maybe by giving up Brexit. Then again you could give up something important. How about annoying that 'nice Mr Zuckerman' and giving up Facelinstabook for six weeks, or giving up CostaBucks and making your own Nescafé? Maybe you could go the whole Keith and give up cigarettes. Me? I think I'll think I'll just give up Lent.

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Alan, who has a practice on Fortis Green, N2, explained that chronic muscle imbalances and connective tissue snags and blockages are dealt with in order to align your body with gravity.

He said: "Clients frequently report that general body use and common actions are easier, such as walking or running, or specifically swivelling the body round to park a car, or sitting effortlessly at a computer. People frequently feel pain free, stronger, taller and more flexible."

Find out more at www.rolfing-london.co.uk or contact Alan on 07957 307616.

Under pressure: Alan Richardson practising Rolfing on a client.

Local creatives - your festival needs you!

Stall bookings are now open for East Finchley Festival, which takes place on Sunday 23 June in Cherry Tree Wood.

Local talent

Having had such a positive reaction to the local craft stalls last year, organisers say they would like to tap into the supply of talented local makers and crafters to exhibit and sell their wares at the festival.

"East Finchley has always

been an arty and bohemian neighbourhood and we would like the festival to reflect that."

Anyone interested in booking a stall should visit www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/ book-a-stall or email stalls@eastfinchleyfestival.org for more information.

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- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on tennisgift@gmail.com.
- **This Mum Runs**: Free social runs in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, Sunday 8am and Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact trishy.dixon@gmail.com.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com.
- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464. www.a-chord.uk
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- **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 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 new perspective: Artist Mike Poole. Photo Mike Coles.

Freedom of brush on canvas

Artist Mike Poole, whose abstract works are on show at the Phoenix Cinema throughout March, came to painting after his 31-year career as a magazine art director was abruptly ended by a stroke.

Following eight months of recovery and still experiencing left-side paralysis and blindness, Mike got support from the brain injury charity Headway East in Dalston, where he was encouraged to pick up a set of brushes. He is now studying for a fine art diploma at the London Art Academy.

Mike, of Bedford Road, said: "Having spent years working within the discipline of graphic design and client briefs it's wonderful to discover the freedom of expression and physicality of paint on canvas."

See Mike's work for free in the Phoenix foyer during opening hours and contact Mike on Instagram at [mikepoole.art](https://www.instagram.com/mikepoole.art).

Romantic drama

There's a rare opportunity to hear a performance of Dvořák's symphonic poem *The Water Goblin* when Finchley Symphony Orchestra presents a concert of dramatic romantic music.

The piece is based on the tragic story of a girl abducted by a malevolent goblin to be his bride. It will be accompanied in the programme by Richard Strauss's first horn concerto, a showpiece of the romantic tradition, and one of Tchaikovsky's best-loved symphonies, the *Pathétique*.

The orchestra under guest conductor Robert Hodge will be

joined by Alexander Edmundson, co-principal horn player with the London Symphony Orchestra and a former brass finalist in the BBC Young Musician competition.

Their concert takes place on Saturday 16 March at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, at 7.30pm. Save £2 a ticket by booking in advance at www.finchleysymphony.org/concerts.

Immigrant life revealed through songs and poems

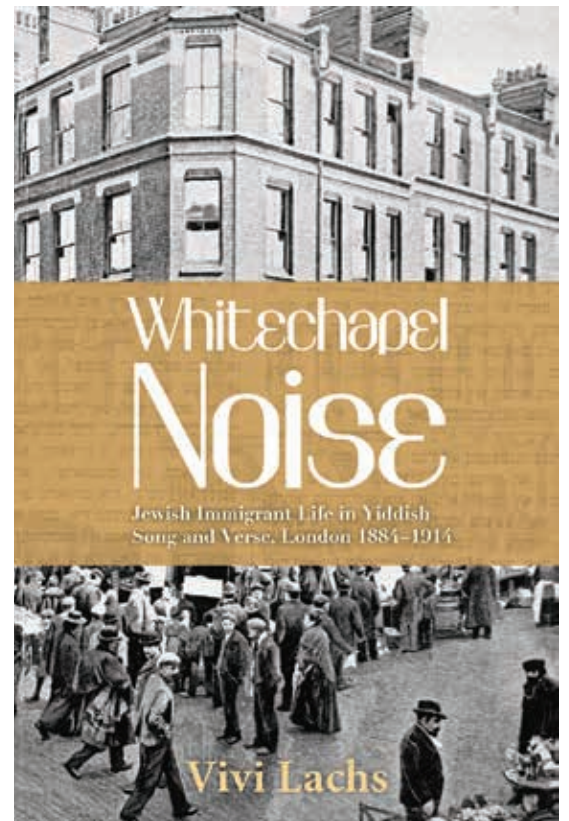
By David Melsome

Author Vivi Lachs found some highly original sources when it came to writing her new history of Jewish immigrant London. Instead of resorting to the usual history books, Vivi turned to popular culture and began exploring the hundreds of Yiddish kupletn (rhyming couplets) written by Jewish songwriters and poets in pre-First World War London.

Some were protest hymns and strike songs fighting for better conditions for East End workers. Some were moving ballads about children trying to make a living in London. There were also music hall songs and satirical verses. Vivi is an associate Research Fellow at Birkbeck College, University of London, and has been an East Finchley resident for 17 years.

She said: "Until now

these songs and poems were hidden in archives, but they tell tales of an immigrant culture in flux, anglicising to local British norms yet still trying to hold true to the culture they brought with them. They tell these stories with humour, intensity and passion."



East Enders: The cover of Vivi's book.

Vivi's book *Whitechapel Noise: Jewish Immigrant Life in Yiddish Song and Verse, London 1884-1914* is available at 20% discount and with free delivery from www.eurospan-bookstore.com by entering 'WHITECHAPELNOISE' at the checkout.

What's On...

Monday 4 March to Saturday 30 March

• **Lines Through a Lens**, an exhibition of photographs by Geoffrey Davies; Aylmer Pantry, Aylmer Parade, N2. Closed on Sundays.

• **Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Baroque Ensemble** present a programme of Vivaldi and J.S. Bach; Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12, at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £15, £13 concessions, £6 under-18s available on the door, or in advance at www.fcchoir.co.uk. More information: tickets@fcchoir.co.uk or 020 8886 9978.

Sunday 10 March

• **Ramblers Association walk from Alexandra Palace**: five-mile route through eight conservation areas and nine parks, finishing at Bruce Castle. Starting at 11am, meet outside BBC tower at Alexandra Palace. Bring sandwiches; tea and coffee available in the museum. More information from Chris Barker and Joyce Rosser on 020 8347 7684 or 07951 905 490.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; The Haywood Trio (violin, cello and piano) play Faure, Suk

and Beethoven. Free admission; collection in aid of Homeless Action in Barnet. Fully accessible venue.

Tuesday 12 March to Saturday 30 March

• **Primavera**, a varied collection of art work and crafts by **East Finchley Open Artists**, all available to browse or buy; Barbican Library, 2nd floor, The Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS. Admission free. More information at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Friday 15 March to Sunday 17 March

• **Phoenix Cinema fundraising weekend**: Friday evening film quiz; *Big Hero 6* in the Saturday Kids' Club; *Coldplay: A Head Full of Dreams* screening and Q&A with director Mat Whitecross on Saturday; bucket collection on High Road; tours of cinema and projection room on Saturday and Sunday. Full details and booking at the cinema or online at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Saturday 16 March

• **Finchley Symphony Orchestra** under guest conductor Robert Hodge present a concert of dramatic romantic music at 7.30pm at Trinity Church, Nether Street,

N12. Dvořák's symphonic poem *The Water Goblin*, Richard Strauss's first horn concerto and one of Tchaikovsky's best-loved symphonies, the *Pathétique*. Save £2 a ticket by booking in advance at www.finchleysymphony.org/concerts.

Sunday 17 March

• **Jazz at the Bohemia**, 245 High Road, North Finchley, at 7.30pm: Emilia Martensson, vocals, and Luca Boscagin, guitar, with guest vocalists Peter Matthews, Ailsa Gudgeon and Lisa Feldman. Tickets £10. Tel 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more details.

Monday 18 March

• **1960s Film Club**, featuring *Blow Out*, *Sounds from the 60s* and *Eating High*; Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Everyone welcome; coffee, tea, biscuits provided, or bring your own food. £3 donation at door. Doors open 7pm. Programme starts 7.15pm.

Saturday 30 March

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

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

Saturday 30 March

• **Hampstead Garden Suburb - a Dame's dream**, an earthly delight: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Golders Green tube station 11am. Tickets £10, £5 under 12s. More information from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or at www.barnet-walks.co.uk.

Until Saturday 30 March

• **WOMAN**, an exhibition of powerful portraits of women by Ivan Berg at Hampstead Garden Suburb's Fellowship House gallery, 136a Willifield Way, NW11 6YD, throughout March. Viewing times are Tuesday and Friday afternoons 2.30pm to 4pm and Wednesday evenings 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Admission free.

Friday 5 April

• **First Dr Bike cycle maintenance** session in East Finchley this year, running from 4-7pm opposite tube station. Bring your bikes for fixing and essential maintenance.

Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 April

• **The Guild Players**, Finchley's amateur drama group, presents *A Murder Has Been Arranged*, by Emlyn Williams, at 7.45pm each evening. Tickets priced £10 now on sale at www.ticketsource.co.uk/theguildplayers



Letters



Illegal parking: East End Road.

Zebra zig zags

Dear Editor,

As your readers will know, a zebra crossing was installed near the junction of Market Place and East End Road in the autumn of 2016 (The Archer, October 2016).

In recent months quite a number of drivers have taken to parking by the white zig zag lines on the south side to the east of this crossing, sometimes staying there for much of the day. Attached is a photo of one such car.

This is specifically prohibited in The Highway Code (rule no. 191). The purpose of this rule is to prevent parked cars from obscuring pedestrians waiting to cross the road. The fixed penalty for contravening this provision in the Road Traffic Act is a £60 fine and three points on the driver's licence.

No doubt the police and the traffic wardens are enforcing this law from time to time, but that does not seem to have deterred these motorists. Pedestrians who use this crossing should therefore be advised to take extra care whenever there is a car illegally parked by the crossing.

Yours faithfully,
Lawrence Robinson
Address supplied.

Senseless destruction

Dear Editor,

I have a nearby allotment (outside East Finchley) and found that as a plot was due to change hands the powers-that-be have taken it upon themselves to completely fill in a wildlife pond that was full of hibernating frogs (and probably newts too).

At this time of the year the females are carrying spawn ready to mate and produce the next generation of amphibians, so destroying this beautiful little pond has killed not only the adult populations of amphibians and many invertebrates within it but also the entire potential communities therein.

I would have thought that allotment holders would recognise the value of the frogs and other creatures, and the bonus of having a small stronghold of them on allotment land. There are a number of ecologically knowledgeable people who have plots on the same site who could have moved the aquatic populations in due course, had we only been informed. What a sad start to spring 2019

Yours faithfully,
Linda A Dolata,
Leopold Road, N2.

Treasure chests
Dear Editor

The charity shops on East Finchley High Road are worth visiting. They are great fun and full of interesting things to see and buy. Clothes, books, beautiful crockery and glassware, jewellery and antiques are all to be found at bargain prices.

Charities now rely on these shops to raise essential money and awareness of their work. Importantly we should all be happy to join in with this trend of recycling. It is better than overproduction of materials and ultimately better for our planet.

So thank you Julie at RSPCA, Rachel at North London Hospice, Leslie at All Aboard and Maureen at Cats Protection League and all the staff for your hard work and friendliness.

Yours faithfully,
Maureen Delandro.
Address supplied.

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

East Finchley artists take flight to the City

By Mike Coles

A group of artists based around East Finchley are taking their work to a wider audience with an exhibition in the prestigious Barbican Library Art Gallery in the City of London.

Nearly 50 members of the East Finchley Open Artists (EFOA) group are currently putting finishing touches to their contributions to a show with the title Primavera, which will run for three weeks in March.

Primavera takes its name from a painting by Botticelli illustrating the coming of spring, but EFOA embraces artists working in a range of disciplines, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, textiles and jewellery, all of which will be represented in the Barbican exhibition.

Showcasing talent

EFOA member Jo Pethybridge, coordinator of the working party organising the exhibition, says: "This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our work and to demonstrate to people who work in the City, to Barbican residents and to visitors to the library and arts centre, the diversity of artistic talent which exists in suburbs like East Finchley."



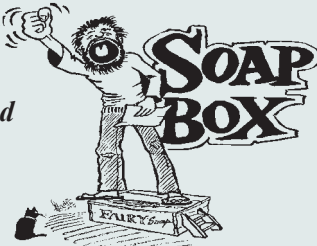
Zitta Smith's bead work on show at Primavera at the Barbican Library

EFOA organises exhibitions in North London and further afield throughout the year, notably the Open House weekends in July, when members display their work and that of their colleagues in their own homes.

Primavera will run from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 30

March and will be open Monday to Saturday during library opening hours. Admission is free and works on display are for sale. Find it at the Barbican Library, 2nd floor, The Barbican, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS. More details at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Four times in seven months

By Chris Mathewson

Six o'clock Sunday morning, 27 January 2019. I can't sleep. Switch on the light, but it doesn't go on. Ditto the radio.

Yippee! It's a power cut in Park Hall Road, the fourth in seven months: they're spoiling us.

I dial 08000 280247 on my mobile. "Normally we answer in ten seconds, regret right now it is taking ten minutes..." I hang on. "N2 9PT," I eventually tell the woman. "Ah yes, there is a cut there," she tells me. "We are trying to sort it." She's very nice and at least confirms the cut.

She tells me to text the word POWER with my post code to 60707. The cause is a fault with an underground cable. Engineers were despatched at 06.00. The estimated timeframe to have power back on is 11.00 – 12.00.

Djokovic takes the first set against Nadal easily on my battery-operated radio.

Update at 10.35: "We're sorry you're still without power. We're now estimating to have you back on between 14.00 and 15.00. We can appreciate how frustrating this can be."

Djokovic running away with it!

Update at 12.07: "Our customer support vehicle is now on site and ready to provide extra support to anyone affected by the power cut."

12.30, the light comes on. It's over! But for how long? The light goes off. THEN COMES ON AGAIN.

Djokovic wraps it up 6-3, 6-2, 6-3. Incredible!

Apparently 60 or so households were affected. At 15.56 "all but one property" have had power restored. The cut lasted about 11 hours for most customers.

UK Power Networks ask me to text my comments. I tell them their texting service is very good but this was our FOURTH power cut in SEVEN months. The problem should have been investigated more fully at an earlier time.

When I leave the house later in the day half the street seems to have been dug up. I thank the workmen, they are heroes! "Cheers, mate," they grin.

But Djokovic...!

Swinging Sixties on celluloid

By Daphne Chamberlain

Remember Friern Barnet Library, the library that refused to be closed? Mike Gee has started a new community event there, a 1960s film club.

Mike is a fan of the Swinging Sixties. In his words: "We'll almost exclusively be looking at British films, and more explicitly those that capture and illustrate the essence of the times. We won't be looking at period dramas, westerns, traditional musicals, war films, or anything so mainstream that it gets repeated ad infinitum on television. We'll be looking for a world where everything is fab and groovy."

Each programme has a main feature and 'shorts'. Interestingly, the introductory film on the opening night was a lively documentary about the 1951 Festival of Britain, which Mike believes prepared the ground for a new society.

On Monday 18 March the main feature will be *Blow Up*, Antonioni's film about a photographer in 1966 London. In support will be Sounds from

the Sixties in an extract from Beat Club, plus the story of Vox Amps, and *Eating High*, featuring the revolving restaurant at the top of Telecom Tower.

A movie and more

Mike told *The Archer*: "Most of what we see will come from my personal collection of 1960s films and music. I've never intended the club to be 'turn up, watch a movie and go home', I want to provide background information to put things into perspective, and provoke some sort of reaction and thought."

The Film Club meets on the third Monday of every month at Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Doors open at 7pm and the programme starts at 7.15pm. Mike welcomes feedback and ideas for films. You can contact him on mikegee1968@gmail.com or 020 8346 5503.



The Archer

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The power of the humble noticeboard

In today's online whirl of Instagram, Facebook and digital directories, it's easy to forget that a scrap of paper and a drawing pin used to do the same job. But traditional community noticeboards, the original social media, are still quietly active... and surprisingly effective, as fan Mona Norman discovered.

When my husband and two young children settled into our new home in Highgate last year we needed a handyman to do a long list of jobs for us, and were keen to find someone local. So we searched on the internet and booked in someone describing himself as a 'Highgate Handyman and Painter'.

However, I quickly learned that this tradesman was actually from Windsor and was a terrible handyman to boot. The company turned out to be rogue traders with no connection to Highgate at all. It was stressful, and I instantly regretted asking Google to help me with my problem.

Our little pocket of London has an enormous sense of community; people really want to support their neighbours, and that is abundantly clear when you take time to look at the vast number of noticeboards dotted around.

In cafés, supermarkets and streets, people pin up cards and posters selling anything from yoga lessons to cat sitting, fixing

laptops or painting a portrait of your dog.

As my husband Ross Norman runs a little family business, we decided to put the humble noticeboard to the test. One day we went out with small posters advertising his services as an electrician and were amazed to find an abundance of noticeboards within a couple of miles of our house.

Some are owned and run by the local authority and often require permission to get your notice up behind the locked glass, but there are plenty that are simply 'organic'; that is, one person has put up their lone notice on a well-placed but unassuming yard of fencing and hundreds of people have followed suit. Technically it may be called flyposting, but no-one seems to mind and it's become part of our landscape and culture.

I loved reading what was being bought and sold on these boards. Some post handwritten notes seeking employment,



Paper works: (top) Mona beside the noticeboard outside the Highgate Society. Bottom left: The information board in Cherry Tree Wood. Bottom right: Notices pinned under the ivy in Cranley Gardens.

others are looking for staff, some offer kids' entertainment, art therapy, painting and decorating, and even Spanish lessons.

To be honest, I was sceptical: how many people actually read what is pinned up? But the phone started ringing, and Ross has had at least a dozen calls just from the noticeboards alone.

In the age of the internet and comparison websites, it's easy just to type in what you need and


get a big company to offer you a service, but often that plumber or babysitter who lives round the corner would be a lot quicker, cheaper, and easier to use.

We should all be using the power of our local noticeboards. My family certainly do. Following our first unhappy experience, the board on Cranley Gardens led us to Roy, a fantastic handyman, and where does he live? Just up the road.


Our nearby noticeboards

- Aylmer Parade, N2, outside Forget Me Not Vintage.
- In Dan and De Carlo's café, High Road, N2.
- East Finchley Library, High Road, N2.
- Next to playground, Cherry Tree Wood, N2.
- Outside Highgate Group Practice on North Hill, N8.
- Highgate Hill, N8, east side, up from Channing School.
- Waitrose, The Broadway, Crouch End, N8.
- Holy Innocents Church, Tottenham Lane, Crouch End, N8.
- In Sainsbury's Muswell Hill, Fortis Green Road, N10.
- In La Dinette café, Fortis Green Road, N10.
- Cranley Gardens at the corner of Muswell Hill Road, N10.
- Wood Vale, N10, where it crosses with the Greenways path.
- South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10.
- In Tesco, Coppetts Centre, Friern Barnet, N12.

Have we missed any? Let us know by email: the-archer@lineone.net or by post: The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.





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