

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Woodland wonder



Open space: East Finchley's newest green oasis opened for a launch party last month and there are plans to welcome visitors regularly. Full story page 6. Photo Mike Coles

Action on crossing and 20mph limit

By David Melsome

A 20mph speed limit for roads in East Finchley has come a step closer after Barnet Council agreed a range of measures to improve road safety at the busy pedestrian crossing outside Martin Primary School.

Members of Barnet's Environment Committee agreed on 11 September that better signage and road markings will be put in place at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane, N2, before the clocks go back and darker evenings arrive.

A full feasibility study reviewing safety at the junction, where a father and his young daughter were injured in February, including whether three-way traffic lights would help, will be undertaken in the next financial year 2020-21.

Committee responds to concerns

The Committee also discussed a proposal from East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra to trial a 20mph speed limit across East Finchley. Many local residents have called for a 20mph limit across N2 following the tragic death of three-year-old Sonny Parmar on East End Road in May.

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Alison Moore pointed out that being bordered by 20mph zones in Haringey and Camden, means drivers speed up when



they get to East Finchley. The Committee agreed roads around Martin Primary School should be made 20mph; officers would recommend which roads, based on discussion with the school, ward councillors and Transport for London.

The Committee also asked for a report on the effectiveness of 20mph limits in surrounding boroughs. Campaigners hope there will be scope for trying to expand the 20mph zone around all East Finchley schools and perhaps beyond.

Keeping up the pressure

Emily Candler, who has led the campaign for a safer crossing outside Martin Primary School, said: "I'm so glad we've been

able to get initial changes agreed to make the crossing safer for everyone who uses it. It has been a team effort and we couldn't have got this far without everyone who has helped by writing to the Council, coming to the Council committee meetings or signing and sharing the petition.

"We've made huge progress but there's more to do. We'll need to keep up the pressure to make sure these changes are made without delay and to get as much of East Finchley as possible made 20mph. It would be just awful if anyone else was injured or killed before the changes were made."

Emily urged anyone who would like to get involved in the campaign for safer roads in East Finchley to email safecrossingN2@gmail.com.

Safety improvements due soon

Further work to be carried out at the Martin School crossing before March 2020 includes physical changes to the crossing surface, possibly a high-friction coloured surface or a speed table to slow drivers down.

Pedestrian, 90, injured

A driver was arrested after a 90-year-old woman was seriously injured in a collision with a van at the junction of the High Road and Leicester Road, N2, on Friday 6 September.

The van driver, a 51-year-old man, stopped at the scene. He was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs and taken to a north London police station, where he was later released under investigation.

Police continue to appeal for witnesses to the collision, which happened around 12.15pm. Anyone with information is asked to contact officers at the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, based at Alpertown, on 020 8246 9820.

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

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Doors finally open at new centre... but only an inch

By John Lawrence

The new Tarling Road Community Centre in East Finchley has missed its opening date again, although some community activities are finally being admitted on a limited basis.

The finished centre has stood empty since October last year. When we last reported on it in May, we were told that it would be open to the community by the summer

There are some positive signs. The Just Like Home nursery group has moved in and the centre will be a venue for the Grange Big Local Fun Palace community event on Sunday 6 October. James Masters, Grange Big Local chair, said: "We hope the centre will become a vibrant hub for our local community."

Limited opening

The latest update from Barnet Council is that negotiations with City YMCA to manage the day-



Signs of opening: The Tarling Road Community Centre. Photo Mike Coles.

to-day running of the facility have still not been concluded. Until they are, regular bookings cannot be taken for community groups, and the centre's café cannot be leased to an operator.

A Barnet Council spokesperson told *The Archer* that they hoped to finalise the contract with City YMCA as soon as possible, in order to open the centre

to groups and individuals who would like to hire space on a one-off basis.

"While we are still in talks with City YMCA regarding the contract to run the centre, we have opened it on a limited basis. The nursery has moved in, and we are working towards being able to accommodate community groups who would use the centre on a long-term basis," said the spokesperson.

Financial issues

The building was opened for one day back in March to allow groups to view the facilities. We reported then that negotiations with City YMCA involved finding the balance between the rent they pay and the cost to users, in order to make the centre self-sustainable. Barnet Council said it would not take any surplus from the centre but was unable to cover running costs.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

20 Abbots Gardens, N2
Single-storey rear extension: depth 4m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

O/s Budgens 71 High Road, N2
86" advertisement located on rear face of communications apparatus.

The former Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2
Single-storey side/rear extension.

219 Creighton Avenue, N2
Lawful Development Certificate for single-storey rear extension.

82 - 92 Great North Road, N2
Installation of public payphone/commercial hub following removal of existing information column.

Adj Amazing Grates 61 - 63 High

Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory. Single-storey side/rear infill extension.

172 High Road, N2

Single-storey side extension to existing car showroom, to provide small servery and preparation area. Insertion of new access door. New timber cladding to front elevation. Replacement of rear glazed doors.

Ground Floor Flat, 5 Ingram Road, N2
Continued Use Application as class A1 (Retail) and D2 use.

17 Lankaster Gardens, N2
Details of condition 10 (cycle parking/storage) pursuant to planning permission.

A healthier start in life

Scribbles Nursery, in Hertford Road, N2, has been given a Bronze award in the Healthy Early Years London programme for helping to give its youngsters a healthy start in life.

To achieve the award the nursery undertook many projects, improving children's physical fitness, oral hygiene awareness, nutrition and portion control and numerous safety projects. Staff received specialist training in each of the areas and children had visits from the Traffic Club and Physical Literacy Advisor.

The nursery's Jill Hallums said children and staff really enjoyed taking part in the project and were enthusiastic to start work on the Silver award.

Pools stay shut until next year

The swimming pools at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre, which have been closed since March, are likely to remain shut until early next year, Barnet Council has announced.

The main pool and leisure pool were both closed for refurbishment of the roof, changing areas and ventilation system but specialist investigations in the last six months revealed that more work was needed to make them safe for public use.

No access

A council statement said: "Due to the extent of the assessment and remedial action required, it is anticipated that full access to the wet side area will not be available until from early 2020."

School swimming lessons have been transferred to the new leisure centres at Barnet Cophall and New Barnet. The gym and studio at Finchley Lido remain open as usual.

OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

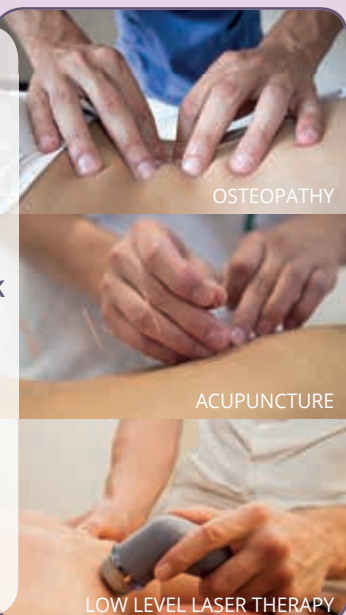
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Fightback begins against health threat of dirty air

By David Melsome

A public meeting has been called to find ways of improving air quality in East Finchley. Many roads in the area have pollution levels that exceed World Health Organisation guidelines.

The East Finchley Community Trust will host the meeting in the school hall at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, on Thursday 17 October at 7pm. Everyone is urged to attend to ask questions and make suggestions.

Pollution outdoors and indoors

The organisers say breathing polluted air harms our health, even when we might not feel the effects day to day. Half of this pollution is caused by road traffic but other factors such as dust from construction works have an impact.

In East Finchley the roads that most exceed air quality targets are the High Road, North Circular and A1 and there are also high pollution levels along East End Road and Fortis Green. From October 2021, East Finchley will be in the new Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ),

which should reduce some emissions on the High Road and A1.

Poor air quality is also a factor inside our homes and workplaces, thanks to chemicals in household products and other factors like poor ventilation.

Assessing risks and solutions

Kate Brown, Trustee of East Finchley Community Trust, said: "It is easy to feel that poor air quality is beyond our control but as a society we are causing the pollution and therefore collectively we can make a difference."

The meeting will be introduced by Leonie Cooper, GLA Member and environment lead for the Labour and Cooperative Party. A spokesperson from Barnet Council has also been invited and a pupil representative from the Martin School Eco council will speak from the platform.

Pat is one of Britain's 'most inspiring'

By Lizzie McAllister

It isn't hard to see why Pat Leacock has been named one of the most inspiring people in Britain today. The regular host of East Finchley's summer festival made it on to the *i* newspaper's 11th annual Happy List.

He exudes a passion for life, perceptible even before he



Happy List: Pat Leacock begins to talk about his fascinating career. "My mother has told me that from the age of three, whenever I saw a record player in one of her friend's homes, I wouldn't step away until they put an album on," Pat recalls.

Teacher and MOBO Award winning musician Pat is currently writing and producing a jazz album. He has had great success both within and outside of the world of music, and he has no intention of slowing down.

"One of my goals is to continue to put on many more events in East Finchley," he said, "such as my Family Function afternoons, and to be at the fantastic East Finchley Festival. I have taught, I have learned, I have laughed, I have fallen in love with jazz and eaten very good pie!"

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Throwaway culture: Anti-fashion industry demonstrators in Wood Green. Photo Mike Coles

East Finchley climate crisis rebels strut their stuff

By Daphne Chamberlain

Shoppers in Wood Green on the first Saturday afternoon in September will have seen a crowd of people in outlandish costumes walking up the High Street, handing out leaflets, singing the Kinks' *Dedicated Followers of Fashion*, and 'modelling' on the catwalk outside the library.

They were having fun, but with a serious purpose. This was part of the XR North London Uprising, designed to bring home to us some startling facts about the fast fashion industry.

Harm from clothing industry

Extinction Rebellion say that total greenhouse gas emissions from textile production are more than those of all international flights and maritime shipping combined. At the same time, 34.5% of primary microplastics are due to laundry of synthetic textiles. They quote the Pulse Report 2019, which says that global apparel production is projected to rise by more than 60% by 2030; from 62 million tons today to 102 million tons. Those effects on the planet would probably be beyond repair.

Haringey Councillor Emina Ibrahim pointed out that the throwaway culture of the clothing industry exploits poorly paid workers around the world. The endless cycle of throwing away

and buying also puts pressure on poorer families here.

East Finchley rebel Hazel Mason told *The Archer*: "We didn't want to seem critical of people's shopping habits when they may not have a choice. We had collected children's clothing to give away. Very generous amounts of clothing were given to us by charity shops in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, and the free clothing stall at Turnpike Lane was much appreciated."

Hazel told us that about a third of the Barnet XR rebels taking part in the event live in East Finchley. She thought that the whole Uprising was very effective. People joined

in, and many wanted to know more about XR and how to get involved. Barnet XR is available on Twitter and Facebook, and local groups can be found on the XR website.

Global Strike

At the time of writing, preparations were underway for the Global Strike 4 Climate and Ecology on Friday 20 September. Muswell Health Complementary Therapy Centre were planning to close their reception for the day, and many of their therapists may be supporting the strike. Eight other businesses in Muswell Hill said they would close for an hour or more.

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Thank you party: A packed Madden's for the unveiling of the plaque, below. Photos Mike Coles

Where it all started

Next time you are taking some refreshment in Madden's in the High Road, glance at the wall alongside the bar and you will see a blue plaque commemorating the founding of this newspaper in the pub 26 years ago.

The plaque was unveiled at a thank you party for all our loyal volunteers, without whose time and effort given freely each month there would be no *Archer*.

A small team of N2 residents had the idea for a community newspaper in late 1992 and held their editorial meetings in Madden's, then called Welch's, producing the first full edition of the paper in February 1993.

Deliveries in those days were often hit and miss, depending on how many roads the team themselves could

cover, but soon a reliable army of volunteers was recruited and for many years now *The Archer* has been delivered to nearly 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley every month.

Some of those at the party on Thurs-

day 16 September have been delivering the same round for upwards of 20 years. One couple started out taking their

daughter along in her pram. She's now grown up and left home. "Our dog comes with us now," they said.



Scooter owners urged to Lock and Cover

Moped and scooter owners are being reminded to 'Lock, Chain and Cover' their vehicles as police continue to try to reduce this area of crime.

The number of mopeds, scooters and motorcycles stolen in London has reduced from 11,395 in the year to June 2018 to 8,847 in the year to June 2019, a reduction of 22 per cent. In the same period, the number of vehicles used in crime dropped by 54 per cent.

Chief Inspector Jim Corbett, from Operation Venice, which

tackles moped and motorcycle crime, said: "Officers continue to tackle those that steal mopeds and scooters for criminal activity, and whilst we are making excellent headway on this, we continue to remind owners that they can help us by protecting their vehicles.

Effective security

Advice for owners is use a

disc lock on the front wheel to stop vehicles being wheeled away, and to fit a grip lock to the throttle and engage the steering lock.

They should secure the rear wheel with a chain and a padlock, and attach the chain to a ground anchor or other fixed object where possible.

Finally, placing a cover on a bike prevents immediate access to the controls and security features and stops thieves shopping for bike models.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

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.

Bank card fraud

Motorists who have parked on various roads and in various private car parks across Barnet have been approached by male suspects 'to assist them' with paying for parking. They usually pretend to be traffic wardens or their managers.

When getting to a cash machine or parking meter, the suspects have then either told the motorists their credit cards have been swallowed by the machine or have used a handheld device and distraction methods to steal their credit cards. The cards are then immediately used and thousands of pounds in cash withdrawn.

No parking attendant will ever ask you for your credit card to pay for parking. If you are approached by someone, even if they are wearing a yellow jacket or some form of ID, do NOT give them your card. Call Police immediately on 999 or ask someone for help to call the police. Please raise awareness with your family, neighbours and friends especially the elderly and vulnerable to avoid others falling victim to this fraud.

The Little Book of Big Scams has information about this type of fraud and others. Search for a free downloadable copy at www.met.police.uk

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Long serving: Volunteer Lorna Bennett, centre, receives her award from Mayor of Barnet Cllr Caroline Stock and All Aboard chief executive Alan Haynes. Photo Mike Coles

Volunteer of the Year

By Diana Cormack

When the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Caroline Stock, visited the All Aboard charity shop in the High Road, N2, early in September, she came bearing an impressive amount of donations. However, the real reason for her visit was to present the charity's first Volunteer of the Year award.

This went to 83-year-old Lorna Bennett in recognition of the outstanding commitment, time and effort she has given in 22 years of working at the East Finchley branch.

All Aboard CEO Alan Haynes told us how popular Lorna was with customers and staff, many being new to the job, young students or people on work experience whom she was always willing to help.

Praising her organisational skills and the way she had taken to the computer both in the shop and at home, he revealed that Lorna had broken her hip and wrist in a fall just over three months ago. However, despite

having to use a stick, she was preparing to return to work very soon. Mr Haynes also thanked the other staff and volunteers working in the charity's 19 outlets.

Committed to re-cycling and to environmental care, All Aboard makes huge efforts to prevent anything going to landfill. Since it was founded by Stella Lucas in 1987, it has raised over £3 million to distribute amongst different charities, covering a wide range of organisations both Jewish and non-Jewish, to which Homestart has recently been added. For more information visit www.allaboardshops.com



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Ambition: Aminata Gassama in front of the overgrown land she wants to see transformed.

Residents want to adopt abandoned green space

By John Lawrence

A nine-year-old girl is heading up a project to reclaim an unloved patch of land near her home and turn it into an open space that the whole community can use.

Aminata Gassama, of Sylvester Road, N2, created a design featuring benches, grass, flowers, shrubs and a centre-piece tree to transform the green triangle that is currently covered by brambles and nettles.

Local backing

Tarling and Sylvester Road Residents' Association is asking for permission to adopt the patch, which is owned by Barnet Council, and has already secured £5,000 from Grange Big Local to cover some of the cost of clearing and planting.

It sits on Tarling Road, in between the entrances to Vale Farm Allotments and sheltered housing run by The Finchley Charities. Both those organisations are backing the project.

Aminata says she passes the



Vision: Aminata with her drawing that is inspiring the redevelopment project.

spot twice a day on her way to and from Tudor Primary School. "It looks ugly and you

can't walk on it," she says. "You get stung and there's nowhere to sit. When it's done, it will be nice and somewhere to talk to your friends or play."

Third time lucky

Two previous attempts to reclaim the land came to nothing. Ten years ago, three freshly planted trees were uprooted and never seen again. More recently, 40 lavender plants planted by residents were accidentally strimmed away by a council clearance team.

Iayn Clark, from the residents' association, says once the money and permission are in place this latest replanting work will be a community effort and everyone living nearby will look after the adopted space.

"At the moment, we have one single bench set into a fence on Tarling Road," he says. "That is the only place where young people can sit together outside and it's very well used. A bigger space for people to enjoy will be a great benefit and smarten up the whole area."

'Hive of activity' hopes after circus classes close down

By Diana Cormack

The sudden cancellation of a successful and popular activity at Finchley Youth Theatre has upset parents and children alike. For almost ten years Airborne Circus had presented their unique style of Circus Skills at the High Road venue, where the activities provided an alternative way of developing physical, mental and social skills.

Hundreds of young students have benefitted from them, with some going on to be professional performers. Parents were told in an email from Airborne shortly before the start of the term that negotiations for a new contract to continue running the classes had failed.

Hope follows disappointment

A council spokesperson has told *The Archer* that an alternative provider to Airborne, which could run the same activities or a similar experience, was currently being sought.

"First and foremost, we were disappointed to see Airborne leave Finchley Youth Centre," said the spokesperson. "We know how much enjoyment children and young people gained from this particular class. That is mainly why we recently ran a circus skills summer programme with Jacksons Lane, which proved very popular with

young people."

The council says its aspiration is for Finchley Youth Centre to be a hive of activity at the centre of the community and one that offers a wide range of stimulating and rewarding activities for young people.

"We are currently considering introducing other classes, such as art, painting, art therapy, life drawing and gymnastics," continued the spokesperson. "We're also pleased to report that other providers are making approaches for hiring space in Finchley Youth Centre. This will mean the delivery of a more varied and structured activity programme there."

Ideas welcome

In the meantime, the Children and Family Service welcomes suggestions for classes that could be of interest to young people and families. You can contact the team by email at BYTES@Barnet.gov.uk.

New faces for old rocks

New members are welcome to join the Finchley branch of the Amateur Geological Society, a friendly group of enthusiasts who meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Finchley Baptist Church, East End Road, N3, at 7.30pm.

A guest speaker is invited to give an illustrated talk on a topical geological subject. Talks have ranged from Essex geology, Darwin as a geologist, minerals of the Natural History Museum through to One Million Years of the Human Story. Guests are welcome with a small charge of £2 per adult.

The Society also organises geological field trips and holds an annual Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show, this year on Sat-

urday 7 December at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, from 10am to 4pm.

Membership of the society is £15 a year for ordinary members, £20 for a family and £10 for a student. Details are available at: www.amgeosoc.wordpress.com

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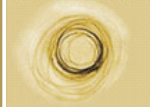
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Toilets and litter are top priorities for Cherry Tree Wood

By Debbie Linton

As reported in *The Archer* last month the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood carried out a survey asking the community about their opinions and aspirations for the wood. Close to 280 people responded and clear front runners were concerns about litter, toilet facilities and updating the woodland management plan to increase biodiversity.

The full results can be seen published on the Friends' website, details below, and the plan is to use the results to help prioritise and shape the activities of the group.

Popular suggestions

Better litter bins came out as a top priority followed by regular litter picks. Adopting the flower beds near the café and tennis courts along with providing a drinking fountain for humans and dogs proved very popular ideas and a nature and tree trail were also well supported.

Improving the wood's toilet facilities was top of the list of longer term improvements. A new larger café with inside seating facilities received very strong support as did providing an inclusive playground and new surfaces for the tennis and basketball courts.

The idea of reopening the Mutton Brook culvert through the park was considered important by 50% of respondents. Other ideas were a new gate at Fordington Road and the provision of a scrape or pond.

Overall satisfaction levels appeared reasonable but 16%

of survey respondents declared themselves either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. This figure is too high and we hope it will fall over the coming years as matters causing dissatisfaction are dealt with and resolved.

Forthcoming events: Litter-pick and history tour

On Saturday 26 October anyone can drop in to help on a litter-pick at 10.30am. A guided history walk through the wood on the same day at 2pm will tell the story of Cherry Tree Wood from being an ancient woodland to the modern day.

In the future the Friends plan to have litter-picks on a regular basis. Come along and help keep the wood tidy on the second Sunday of every month at 2pm. All equipment will be provided.

Get in touch,

membership is free

Contact the Friends by email: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com, Facebook @cherrytreewood, Instagram @friendsofcherrytreewood or visit the website at <https://wordpress.com/view/friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog>



Natural notes: Helen Tierney, left, and Dinah Beamish play at the Barnwood party. Photo Mike Coles.

A new woodland for everyone

By John Lawrence

Barnwood, the newly restored woodland in Tarling Road, N2, has been granted charity status, making it easier for the green site to be opened up for use by the whole community.

A party was held there on Sunday 15 September to launch it officially as a community forest garden and welcome in neighbours to explore its natural delights.

Charity status means Barnwood's group of seven trustees will be able to raise funds to buy new trees, plants and hedging, as well as securing insurance cover for future community events.

They are already planning nature workshops for groups of young people with learning difficulties from the Harington Scheme, based in Highgate, and there is interest in arranging visits from local groups like Age UK and Newstead Children's Centre.

Chair of trustees Leo Smith said: "The eventual idea is to have it open as a wood for all the public to enjoy on certain days. We are not going to cul-

tivate fruit and vegetables but we hope it will be like a forest garden where there are things to forage."



Reading: Poet Dennis Evans.

A productive year

A little over a year ago, the site was an impenetrable mass

of brambles. Volunteers cleared the land to give the native trees room to breathe and created a new woodland pathway. Funding for materials and other essential items has so far come from Barnet Council and the Grange Big Local project, which also helped specifically in funding the bid for charity status.

Barnwood will next be open for the Grange Big Local Fun Palace event on Sunday 6 October, when the whole community is welcome to come along. Regular dates when the wood will be open to the public are hoped to be arranged soon. Follow Our Barnwood on Facebook and contact the trustees by email at N2Barnwood@gmail.com.

September spring clean in Coldfall Wood

Recent actions in Coldfall Wood have smartened it up and got rid of an unsightly and dangerous relic. Ann Bronkhorst explains what's been done, just in time for this year's Green Flag inspection.

Several metres of rusty iron railings, once an old boundary fence separating the wood from the fields, have been removed: a hard job undertaken by Haringey's Parks Department. They have also painted over the graffiti on a long stretch of wall along the eastern side of the wood and on a much-loved memorial bench. No doubt the vandals will be back but for a little while they are not spoiling the wood for others.

The broken footbridge near the western entrance has been mended and the dog-waste bin nearby has gone. A notice explains that from now on all waste goes into just one bin (not tossed into the trees, please). Several damaged bins have been removed and soon all Haringey's parks and woods will have smart new bins. A

few woods, including Coldfall, will receive specially designed rustic-looking ones after much consultation.

Fly tippers beware

Houses on Barringer Road with gardens backing onto the wood have been leafleted with warnings about fly tipping, following long-standing problems with garden waste and builders' rubble dumped over the back fences. Similar problems occur from time to time behind the Creighton Avenue back gardens. Useful contacts are www.haringey.gov.uk/report-a-dumper or 020 8489 1000.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood hope that these improvements, and others in the pipeline, will help to reclaim and retain Coldfall's Green Flag status and encourage local interest in this delightful ancient wood.

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Details from Eveleen (8455 6431).

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Wide open spaces: Sedgemere Avenue free of cars for a short time last month. Photo Dominique Morley-Slinn.



Carts and prams: A peaceful Sedgemere lined with trees and front garden fences in 1916. Photo courtesy of Sonia Bruce.

A world without cars

By John Lawrence

Thank you to reader Dominique Morley-Slinn for her photo of Sedgemere Avenue taken when two days of resurfacing work returned it to how it would have looked in the 1950s. Normally lined with cars on both sides, it became a wide open road after every vehicle was moved away to nearby streets while the smart new surface was laid.

Dominique's photo reminded us of a picture we published seven years ago, which had been sent in by Gwen Nutting, then 86, who had lived in Sedgemere Avenue for 63 years. Gwen's photo showed a lone milkman plying his round there in 1954 with not another vehicle in sight. And we can travel even further back in time thanks to a postcard unearthed by reader Sonia Bruce. Her sepia-tinted image from 1916 shows Sedgemere

Avenue in the days when horse-drawn carts and babies' prams were the only wheeled vehicles to worry about.

Many of us couldn't live without our cars but it is nice to see the world without them just once in a while.

Do you have any photos of your road or street from years gone by that we could share with readers? Please email them to the-archer@lineone.net or send copies to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 9DE. Thank you.



Float on: A lone milkman plies his round in Sedgemere Avenue in 1954.

Irreplaceable stained-glass panels stolen from library

By Mick Crick, The Finchley Society

Anyone who visited the 'old' Church End Library in Hendon Lane, Finchley, N3, may have noticed three large stained-glass panels in the main part of the library on the ground floor.



Stolen: The missing panels, photographed when they were on display at Church End Library. Photo Theresa Musgrave.

They were the Coats of Arms from three families, Hastings, Frowicke and Nicholl, who have a long history in Finchley. At separate times, dating from as far back as 1216, they were the occupiers of Grass or Groats Farm, in the area of Hendon Avenue, between Dollis Avenue and the Dollis Valley Green-walk.

In 1956, the stained-glass panels were presented to Finchley Borough Council and

latterly were displayed in the library which opened in 1964. Unfortunately, the old library closed some time before the new library at Gateway House opened in October 2017.

For some reason the panels were left in the then derelict and abandoned building although space had been allocated for their display in the new library. Apparently nothing was done by Barnet Council until one of our members, Jenny Brown,

enquired why the new panels were not on display.

Only then was it revealed that the old library, having been left empty, had been subject to break-ins, vandalism and occupation by squatters, and that when the building was subsequently secured by contractors the panels had gone.

What has become of the panels is unknown. We can only assume they were stolen. The Finchley Society is now the guardian of the bottom panel which tells the story of how the stained glass came into the possession of Finchley Borough Council, but the irreplaceable Coats of Arms are no more.

I am indebted to Mark Lawrence for his work in trying to locate the panels and to Theresa Musgrave for supplying a photograph of them.

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Spooky walk

As Halloween approaches, a North London charity for disabled children and young people is hosting a spooky walk from Muswell Hill through Highgate 'Horror' Woods.

The my-AFK – Working With Disability charity is inviting families and individuals to take part in the fun day on Saturday 26 October, setting off from and returning to The Mossy Well pub at the top of Muswell Hill.

The walk sets off at 10am and finishes with fancy dress, crafts and games, plus lunch and drinks. Tickets for children cost £10, for adults £20 and a family ticket for up to five people £35. Find out more and sign up at my-afk.org/events.



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YOUNG ARCHER

A tale of two universities

University of Kent student Hamish Hallett, a former Martin Primary School pupil, has just started an exchange year studying politics at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. Here, he reveals how uni life is very different over there. **It is my first time in Canada, and I love it here. I'd been to the US for a summer camp but academically I wanted to experience a different country.**

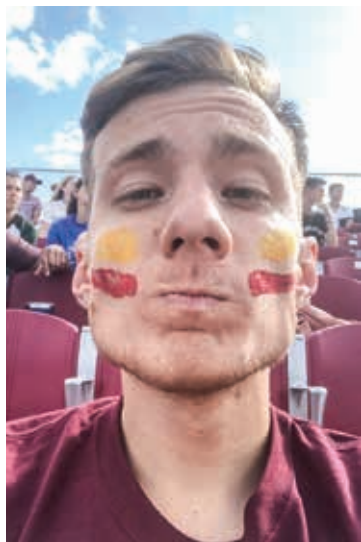
Most British universities have a week called Freshers, which in the view of the tabloids is all about a bunch of drunken 18-year olds. In Canada, there is a stark contrast. The drinking culture is very controlled, which you can say is a positive or a negative. I'm still trying to figure that out.

Different drinking cultures

Here they don't want to encourage binge drinking and we are advised to have just one drink per hour. 17-year-olds are studying here in this Canadian province where the drinking age is 19, so I understand the precaution. As a 21-year old, almost 22, however, it seems a bit babyish to me. Having said that, some student residences are stricter about it than others.

Community life

Also, I've noticed a difference between individualism and collectivism. When I was in halls at the University of Kent, it was great fun and I made lots of friends in my first year but most of the time you



On exchange: Hamish Hallett

are weekly meetings, weekly residency activities and lots of chances to learn about your residence. It is all about a community of students all together as one.

Finally, everyone in this university has been accommodating, and here I'm not saying Kent was not helpful, but I can see a notable difference. It could be a Canadian thing, so who knows!



Campus: Mount Allison University in New Brunswick.

had your own space and time to yourself.

In Canada it is very people-based with lots of interaction. My university here smashed home the idea of each residency being a 'family'. There

Don't forget, university can be a nerve-racking time, and if you are worried about it, talk to someone. You are not alone! Be safe, and you will have 'the best time of your life'.

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Why I love Long Lane Pasture

Review by Leo Wiseman, aged eight

Long Lane Pasture's wildlife is stunning, from peacock butterflies to toxic caterpillars. Even though it is right by the main road you forget that in a minute. You are instantly greeted by the noise of crickets and birds.

You might think the web in the photo looks like a normal spider's web. But no! These are spiders' nests with hundreds of tiny spiders inside being protected by their caring mothers. Recently the pasture has also seen Wasp Spiders which are quite rare. They look like wasps, with black and yellow stripes, to keep predators away.

Do you get your blackberries from supermarkets? In the summer you can get the tastiest, juiciest and sweetest blackberries in Long Lane Pasture for free (but you can give a small donation). You can also volunteer to help at Long Lane Pasture. Young people can help with jobs like seed collecting, and surveying the wildlife, including in their various ponds. I hope to see lots of you there. So come along and decide for yourself what you think. Find out more at www.longlanepasture.org



On the web: This intricate construction was spotted at Long Lane Pasture.

A decade of dance at academy

By Diana Cormack

This month the London Academy of Gymnastics and Dance (LAGAD) celebrates its 10th year of providing gymnastics and dance to children and adults in local schools, church halls and community centres.

Ballet meets gymnastics

It all began in 2009 when Royal Ballet School trained teacher and qualified gymnastics coach Jessica Shenton, then the mother of two young boys, took over her former ballet teacher's adult classes. These became a successful north London 'dancing mums' daytime group.

Then Akiva School in Finchley Central came looking for an after-school gymnastics coach, with subsequent school enquiries and bookings leading to the academy being born.

Jessica says she loved what she was doing and never planned for this to become a business. It was great fun and she wanted to provide a high quality service that was enjoyable, well organised and offered a developmental pathway.

In 2011, a team of elite gymnasts looking for a new home approached Jessica to take them under her wing. So a not-for-profit separate elite programme for Rhythmic Gymnasts evolved, from which gymnasts have been selected to represent the country at national and international events.

Established success

Now with five full-time staff, 50 freelancers and an office in Muswell Hill, LAGAD boasts a team of high quality, experienced coaches offering London-wide OFSTED and British Gymnastics registered

programmes after school and at weekends seven days a week.

Jessica still loves coaching and is proud of the success of

still doing ballet classes with us 10 years on and hundreds of children have learnt how to do cartwheels, handstands and



Photo Ian Harding

the rhythmic gymnasts but she told *The Archer*: "Perhaps the biggest success of all is that we have ladies in their 70s and 80s

headstands. To see that smile, pride and sense of achievement written all over their faces when they first do it is my highlight."

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- © **EF NCT** meet Tuesdays 2.30pm at The Old White Lion. Contact eastfinchley-nct@haringeynct.org
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Yoga poses to make you feel lighter

Even if we have little time or are limited by space there are some amazing stretches to keep our shoulders healthy. Check out some of these simple poses that can be done at your desk, sitting watching TV, waiting for the kettle to boil, standing waiting for a train or at any time that suits you. Free your shoulders, your neck, your chest ... and enjoy.

Eagle arms

Cross your left elbow over your right. Then let your lower arms continue to twist round each other until they can't go further. You could press palm to palm if that works. Catch your right thumb with your left fingers.

Lift the forearms up while drawing the shoulders down. Keep breathing and enjoy the stretch. Switch to the other side



Seated twist

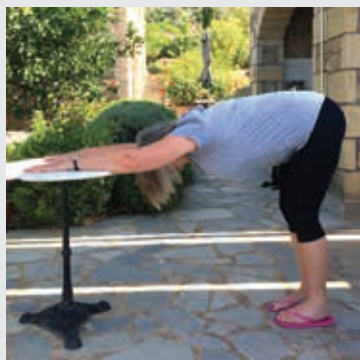
Cross the right leg over the left (or keep both feet hip width apart on the ground). Lengthen along the spine and then turn to the right placing the right arm on the back of the chair.

Bring the left hand to rest on the knee to help twist your body round a little bit more. Let your head follow the right shoulder or find somewhere easy for it to stay. Remember to pay attention to an easy steady breath. Repeat the other side.

Forward fold for the back

Stand by your table or desk and place your hands on it. Walk your legs back and allow your body to fold forwards. Only go as far as you are comfortable and stop when parallel to the floor.

Draw your pelvis away from the table, keep knees soft and let your head hang between your arms. Breathe slowly and enjoy the stretch along your back. If you enjoy it, let your hips swing from side to side.



Side stretch

Interlink fingers above the head, turning the palms towards the sky. Stretch the arms up as straight as possible.

Softly lean to one side keeping both sitting bones on the chair. Breathe easily and enjoy the side bend.

Sunnah Rose runs various yoga classes in East Finchley including gentle sessions to mobilise the joints and keep the back and body health; more dynamic sessions for those who want a challenge; and specific pregnancy and postnatal sessions. For more information visit www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

By Sunnah Rose

Shoulder chest stretch

Interlace fingers behind your back, place your arms above the back of the chair and draw the arms backwards.

Feel the shoulders squeeze in towards each other without pushing your chest too far forwards and keep reaching back. Feel the breath in the chest area and keep it smooth and relaxed.



RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

The past is a warm bath

Downton Abbey is what everyone likes to think the past was like. It's got lords, ladies, servants and Maggie Smith. It hasn't got reality so there's no poverty, scarlet fever or farm labourers. OK, maybe a few of them but purely for decorative effect. And if the TV series was a cut-price version drawn from the success of *Gosford Park* by the very posh Julian Fellowes, the new film is proof that the past was another, rather nice and reassuring, country where men were men, ladies were ladies and every provincial town had a gay bar.

This TV-on-the-big-screen has one medium-sized idea: the visit of George V and Queen Mary. It's 1927, less than a year after the General Strike and 12 years before the whole lot hit the modern reality of war. Oh so cosy! That's if you forget that George was as about as cultured as a brick wall and Mary's favourite occupation when visiting country houses was theft. No, I don't mean getting a bunch of housebreakers up from London to half inch the Gainsboroughs, but anything she could shove in her handbag was fair game.

This leap away from reality into an imagined past comes along as the nostalgia fest gets going for Christmas. We've already had the remake of three lost episodes of *Dad's Army*, a tribute to Monty Python and a cut and paste reworking of an unfinished Jane Austen novel that sticks a spot of nudity into the 19th century.

As the world heads for hell in a hand cart it's nice to know that the perfect past is there like a sedative. Me, I'll ignore it and go out to find the present. I can catch up with *Downton Abbey* next year when it gets shown on TV. Who knows, even I might need something to calm me down by then.

Trust me, I'm an ex-journalist

By John Lawrence

When David Brill changed his career at the age of 30 from being a journalist to training to become a doctor, he didn't leave his writing instincts behind.

He has used his experience to write a book giving a raft of good advice to the UK's 40,000 medical students on how to study effectively, stay sane and cope with the inevitable stress and information overload.

David started his working life as a science and medical journalist for publications in Sydney, Singapore and London. Now a father of three young children aged five and under, he lives in Lynmouth Road, N2, and works as a junior doctor at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

Four challenging years

He studied graduate-entry medicine at St George's, University of London, from 2014-2018, successfully juggling work and family life to secure distinctions

in his first three years and a merit in his final year.



Medical advice: Junior doctor David Brill.

"I decided to retrain, move back to the UK and we had our first child all at the same time," he said. "I started med school

in London aged 30, which presented many challenges, but have come out the other side with my sanity and family life intact."

His book, titled *Making a Medic: The Ultimate Guide to Medical School*, is laid out year by year, so readers can easily find the information most relevant to their current stage of study. It is full of cartoons, anecdotes and practical tips to help students through.

David, who originally studied neuroscience at the University of Bristol, followed by a masters in Science Communication at Imperial College London, intends to apply for GP training. Find out more about his book at www.scionpublishing.com.



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- **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.

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- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
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- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
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- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
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- **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.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **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 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.



Intensely emotional: Thomas Dennis as the Wireless Operator. Photo Mihaela Bodlovic.

Hit play reveals legacy of Lancaster bomber crews

Review by Diana Cormack

"Thought provoking, intense and emotional. This is Edinburgh Fringe at its best. Simply, a must see." This is just one example of the many plaudits for the play *Wireless Operator*, which had its first London performance at the Park Theatre, Finsbury Park, in mid-September as part of a 'Pick of the Fringe' selection.

Written by Bob Baldwin and Max Kinnings, it is based on the log book of Bob's father, a wireless operator on Lancaster bombers (*The Archer*, May 2019) and on memories of others who flew with Bomber Command. Tight with tension, the production brings the fear and stress of a horrific night time bombing raid carried out in World War Two.

Powerful sounds and voices

The sole actor on stage, Thomas Dennis, was brilliant in his role as the young airman trying to make sense of what is being done. Off-stage voices of the crew emphasised how

much they all depended on one another, whilst those of his distant friends and family revealed his far-off normal life, real or imagined.

The roar of the Rolls Royce Merlin engines swirling the plane through the sky added to the anxiety, underlining the ever-present threat of death which came with each mission. Their odds of survival were the worst in the armed forces with the average age of death being 23. Many aircrew who survived suffered the legacy of a lifetime of unrecognised Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, inevitably also affecting family and friends.

Local support

Playing to packed audiences,

it was no surprise to see some familiar faces, for *Wireless Operator* is co-produced by East Finchley residents Stephen Graham and Hilary Townley. Other locals participating in this compelling production were actors Simon Haines, Ferdinand Hunter and Lucy Pickles, plus Mike Hughes who did the graphic design.

Many people in the area supported and funded it and everyone will be delighted to know that future stagings are already planned, not only in this country but possibly abroad, starting at The Pleasance in Islington from 14-16 November. For more details visit www.wirelessoperator.co.uk

Words set to music

By Daphne Chamberlain
What does it feel like to have a poem you have written set to music? Dennis Evans, founder of N2 Poets, is familiar with the sensation now. His *Autumn Song* was performed at a free lunchtime concert in St James Church, Muswell Hill, with composer and pianist Caroline Soresby accompanying tenor Nicholas Bowater.

It is the 12th of his poems to be interpreted musically. Interpretations have included choreography and performance of more of his creations by London University Union's Indian Dance Society at the Lilian Baylis studio theatre, Sadler's Wells.

Dennis told *The Archer* that he attends rehearsals and gives suggestions where appropriate. He always feels pleased, and sometimes surprised, by how his poems are reflected in music and dance. He says: "It becomes something new: a new entity, which I enjoy in its own right."

He comes from a family with a strong musical tradition. His great-grandmother, known as Mamgu, was a Welsh poet and singer, summoned from Wales to sing before Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace.

Dennis wants to thank everyone who made the *Autumn Song* concert such a success. His message to the audience is: "It was good to have your support. As you know, the church was packed, which is very encouraging."

What's On...

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

Saturday 5 October

- **North London Military Wives Choir and Royal Naval Volunteer Band** Northwood HQ in concert for Combat Stress centenary; 7.30pm at the Free Church, North Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 7AA. Tickets: £15 or £13 (concessions). Call 07710 098667 or email hgscombatstress@gmail.com with requirements and contact details.
- **Pet blessing service** at Holy Trinity C of E Church, Church Lane, N2, 3pm, Saturday 5 October. For more information contact Father Mirt on 020 3565 4430 or marius.mirt@htef.org.uk or visit www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

Sunday 6 October

- **Fun Palace** run by the Grange Big Local Project at the new Tarling Road Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2, and next door in Barnwood green space, from 12pm. Free activities for all the family, including art, music making, crafts, science and nail art.
- **Crouch End Ceramics Fair**, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; 2-5pm. 19 stalls of handmade ceramics, free entry, refreshments.

Instagram: @crouchendceramicsfair

Sunday 13 October

- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; programme of Dvorak and Shostakovich, performed by pianist Saoko Blendis, violinists Sanae Honda and Junko Ishigaki, viola player David Hirschman, and cellist Maryan Balkwill. Free admission, collection in aid of Music for All. Fully accessible venue.

Friday 18 October

- **Memory Lane Singing Club** presents *Showtime* at St Mary's Parish Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 1TR, at 10.45am. Free admission. All welcome. Please RSVP 020 8458 4508 or v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 19 October

- **Ramblers Association walk on Hampstead Heath**. Meet 10.30am at Hampstead Heath Overground station (South End Green) at exit barriers for six-mile circular walk on some of the heath's lesser known paths, surprisingly hilly and rural. Bring some food and drink. All welcome. Leader: Alison Watson on 07950 479170.

Saturday 26 October

- **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am-1pm, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; more info from 020 8368 8180 or 07708152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

Saturday 26 October

- **Sponsored Spooky Walk through Highgate Woods** in aid of disabled children's charity My AFK; starts at 10am from The Mossy Well, Muswell Hill. Kid's ticket £10, adult ticket £20, family ticket for up to five people £35. Lunch and drinks provided back at The Mossy Well. Find out more at my-afk.org/events.
- **Litter pick in Cherry Tree Wood** 10.30am, volunteers welcome, bring gloves; free guided history walk at 2pm telling the story of the wood from ancient woodland to the modern day.

Saturday 26, Sunday 27 October and Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 October

- **Halloween Ghost Walks**; meet outside High Barnet tube station 7.30pm to explore ghosts in High Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Prizes for spookiest costumes. More

information from Paul Baker on 07506 761294 or www.barnet-walks.co.uk

Thursday 31 October

- **The Finchley Society hosts Roger Chapman, trustee of The Finchley Charities**, giving talk titled 'The Finchley Charities, the Poor and the Powerful'; Avenue House, East End Road, N3, at 7.30pm. All welcome. Non-members £2.

Saturday 2 November

- **Autumn Fair at Holy Trinity Church**, Church Lane, N2, 12noon to 3pm; games, activities and stalls; homemade cakes and chutneys; children's toys and books; bric-a-brac and a craft table, plus bottle tombola, raffle and cafe. Everyone welcome. Free entry.

Thursday 7 November

- **Age UK Barnet Charity Quiz Night**, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. £15 per person, includes two-course supper. Enter a team of up to eight or join an Age UK Barnet team. Doors open 6.45pm, dinner and quiz 7.15pm. Bar available serving wine, beer, & soft drinks. Raffle with loads of prizes! For tickets and information phone 020 8203 5040 or email wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk.



Bespoke: Jeweller Karen Phillips. Photo Mike Coles

Jewellery design can be child's play

By Diana Cormack

Recent reports about the rising demand for Lego must have brought a smile to the lips of goldsmith and jewellery designer Karen Phillips. As a child who attended Coldfall School, N10, she constantly played with the building bricks and now credits that, along with her love of drawing, for her success.

Last year Karen won the Lux Global Excellent Award for Regeneration Services and Best Bespoke Jewellery Designer, London.

"Regeneration is taking heirloom jewellery with all its memories and stories and using the parts to make a contemporary new design so the next generation can enjoy wearing it," Karen told *The Archer*.

As part of her regeneration work she spends time talking with clients about the treasured objects, discussing family connections and stories behind them and even studying them in old photos. Some go back as far as great grandparents.

When presenting the finished design, Karen produces a small photo book tracking from the original piece and wearer to the new, thus ensuring historical continuity. For environmental as well as sentimental reasons she uses all the elements possible of the original's stones and materials.

Karen is one of those fortunate people who is doing exactly what she wants. After studying her craft in Manchester she worked in the jewellery industry in places like Hong Kong, Jakarta and New York. Returning to the UK she settled locally to raise her family and began to study the skills needed to produce her unique designs.

Her jewellery is distinct due to the technique she uses of incorporating a number of individual gold wires which, after a special process, are built up individually piece by piece. What does that remind you of? Back to the beginning, with Karen commenting: "When I was a child I loved playing with Lego and in many ways I feel my work is an extension of this joy of process."

Learn more at www.karen-phillipsjewellery.com or visit the Handmade in Britain craft and design fair in Chelsea Old Town Hall from 8 to 10 November.

Five years of fitness

When Tibor Horvath took over a former office building in Church Lane, N2, and transformed it into a gym, he had no clients of his own and no experience of running a business. But the personal trainer soon found his feet and is now celebrating his studio's fifth anniversary.

Tibor, who previously worked at the David Lloyd centre in North Finchley, struck out on his own so that he could follow his own fitness training ideas in a friendly and non-intimidating environment. "It wasn't easy at first," he said. "I had no business training so I just learned as I went along."

He now has two fellow trainers working with him part-time at The Fitness Studio and finds that running classes with small groups of four to eight people at a time can be very effective.

"In my first years here, I ran one-to-one sessions but I began to realise that clients needed to turn up at least three times a week to get results and not everyone was that motivated," said Tibor. "Whereas with small groups, I find there's a lot of camaraderie. Everyone is at a different level but they encourage each other to push themselves and do their best."

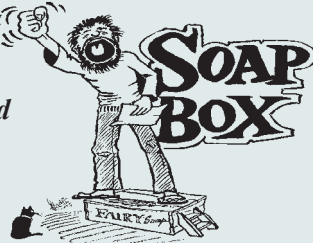
Tibor says the location he found for The Fitness Studio in Church Lane is ideal because it's secluded but accessible. The long, airy room has plenty of



Fighting fit: Tibor Horvath, front, with a group of customers at his studio in Church Lane.

room for equipment and gives clients privacy, even with the front and back doors open. Find out more at thefitnessplace.london

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.



Bus passengers are being let down

By Anna Lowenstein

The stretch of the High Road in East Finchley between Fortis Green and some point further north has high density housing and only one, infrequent bus service. If you regularly had to wait eight to 13 minutes for a bus, you would not call that high frequency.

Since I am energetic and a good walker I regularly walk to Fortis Green rather than hang around waiting for the bus, but my husband is 78 and does not have that option and neither do I, if I am accompanying him.

I used to live in Muswell Hill, and that has frequent and very satisfactory bus services. It is rarely necessary to wait more than five minutes for the 43 or the 134, and since there are a number of bus routes going in the same direction there is usually a large choice of buses available. Now that I live on the High Road in East Finchley there is only one very unsatisfactory bus and no alternatives apart from walking.

One evening I stood at the bus stop opposite East Finchley library with two heavy bags of shopping.

I had seen at least ten people waiting so I thought the bus must be due. I was surprised to find it was not expected for another five minutes. When the bus arrived, it stopped to let someone off, but did not pick anyone up because it was already full. The next bus was not due for another eight minutes. At that point I decided to walk, carrying my shopping.

I have no idea whether the next bus was able to pick up the people waiting at the stop, or whether by that time it was already full of people coming home from work who had got on at the previous stops.

This is clearly not a satisfactory state of affairs. More buses are needed on this stretch of road, perhaps a small frequent shuttle bus rather than another 263. It would be enough if there was a second bus service going as far as Highgate tube station, since at that point there are plenty of other buses as well as the tube that people could transfer to.

Letters

Caught short

Dear Editor,

As we age, our control muscles weaken and the need for a nearby lavatory can suddenly become acute. Some communities already have a scheme where shops help and I suggest it's time for N2 and N10 to follow suit.

What better and cheaper advertisement exists? A notice in the window welcoming embarrassed oldies and parents with a needy child will make them eternally grateful, and relieved. We all prefer to shop where there's evidence of concern for customers; it's human, and the good news travels fast.

Public conveniences often fall foul of trashing teenagers seeking attention. These conveniences can then be out of commission until the local council restores them, after a delay and at public expense. Oldies don't trash; we appreciate, and remember.

Wood Green has its well-equipped Shopping City; Crouch End's library is available, but what about N2 and N10? Wetherspoons is available in Muswell Hill, albeit accessed by steep stairs. We need more!

**Yours faithfully,
Peter Lack,
Address supplied.**

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

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

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m.

**Weekday masses as advertised on the website
(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)**

**Join us for an
Open Day and Mini Market on
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<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

**For more information, please email:
saintsabounding@gmail.com**

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*We're a warm and friendly congregation
who look forward to welcoming you*

Sunday Parish Communion at 10.00 am

Children's Sunday Club ♦ Meet over coffee after church

Fr. Marius Mirt is happy to answer any enquiries:

**email: marius.mirt@htef.org.uk tel: 020 3565 4430
www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk**



A large group of people, including children and adults, are gathered on a street decorated with colorful bunting flags. A long table in the foreground holds various items, including a bottle of beer and a sign that reads "BESS LIVES". The scene is festive and community-oriented, with people standing and talking in the background.

So good we did it again

Resident Chris Paul said:

Resident and *Archer* writer Diana Cormack said: "The sunny September afternoon encouraged people to stay beyond the appointed time or maybe they stayed because they were enjoying themselves so much."



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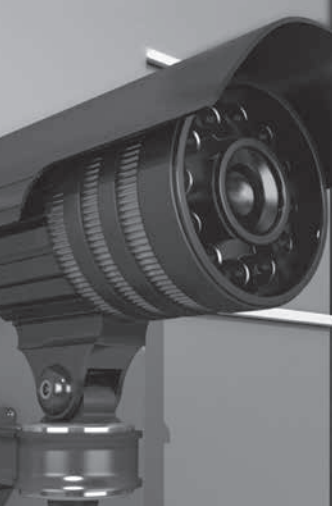
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