



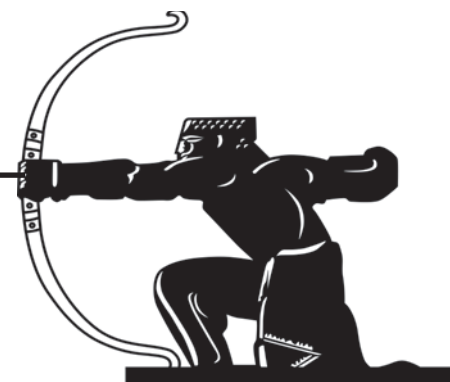
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ISSN 1361-3952

20p
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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



September 2019 No. 305

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Have you gone potty?



An eclectic evening of new works, performed by undergraduate dance students from London's Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, is one of the exciting performances at the East Finchley Arts Festival, which runs from the end of this month. Turn to page 6 to see the full line-up.

Phoenix takes first steps to second screen

By John Lawrence

The Phoenix Cinema is starting work on a project to create a second screen that could transform the fortunes of the much-loved but financially struggling picturehouse. The board of trustees at the cinema has put out an appeal for architects, planners or anyone else with relevant skills to join the project team as planning gets under way.

There is room to install a smaller second screen on land to the rear of the cinema, off Fairlawn Avenue, that is currently used as a car park and as the site for a temporary office.

Building costs are likely to be high and would have to be

met by a major fundraising drive because the Phoenix uses all its income from ticket sales just to meet day-to-day running costs. But, once built, a second screen could secure the cinema's long-term future by bringing extra revenue

asked to email management@phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Autumn attractions

The Phoenix has come through the traditionally quiet summer period thanks to audience hits like the music documentary *Pavarotti* and



Second screen: The Phoenix is starting to plan

and giving greater flexibility in its film programming.

Turning point

Alison Gold, chair of the trustees, told *The Archer* that ultimately a second screen would bring the Phoenix to a break-even position and allow it to provide a greater range of activities.

"It is very early days in our thinking but we know that a second screen would give us much greater flexibility with films we show," she said. "We could show more niche films alongside those with wider appeal. We could also do more in line with our charitable remit to offer education and community activities if we had a second space to use as we have to use our current screen for the main weekly feature films."

Anyone with skills to offer the second screen project is

some sell-out streamed live theatre, including a three-hour performance of *The Lehman Trilogy* on the hottest day of the year.

Movies coming this month include the film adaptations of TV favourite *Downton Abbey* and Donna Tartt's best-selling book *The Goldfinch*. There is also a Margaret Atwood event and encores of *One Man, Two Guv'nors*, starring James Corden, at the end of September.

Alison added: "The cinema needs your support so do choose it to see these great films and performances."

The Phoenix ran children's films in daytime through the summer holidays and aims to continue that in October half term. With new charitable funding, Toddler Time will also restart soon.

Have your pet blessed

A pet blessing service is to be held at Holy Trinity C of E Church, Church Lane, N2, at 3pm on Saturday 5 October. This is a new venture for the RSPCA in East Finchley and for the vicar Reverend Father Marius Mirt.

Details of the service are still under discussion but any animals attending will need to be under control, with dogs on leashes and cats and other small creatures in pet carriers. Everyone is welcome.

For more information nearer the time contact Father Mirt on 020 3565 4430 or marius.mirt@htef.org.uk or visit www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

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Published by

East Finchley Newspapers

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Printed By

Sharman & Co Ltd

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

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

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

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

Copy deadlines – **October:** 13 September, **November:** 11 October, **December:** 15 November

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Benefits	0800 882200
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Leisure

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East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815
Everyman, Muswell Hill	0872 436 9060
Garden Suburb Library	020 8458 3301
Muswell Hill Library	020 8489 8773
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789
Vue, North Finchley	0345 3084620

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Heathrow Airport	0844 3351801
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Council approves 20 new homes on old Esso site

By Janet Maitland

Two blocks of flats have been approved for the former Esso garage site opposite Martin School on the High Road, N2, despite the developer more than doubling the number of units they will contain from nine to 20.

Although there will be relief that this eyesore site is finally being put to use, those objecting to the development will feel their concerns about privacy, the character of the surroundings, traffic, and children's safety have been disregarded by Barnet Council.

Refusals and appeal

The original planning application for nine units was refused in 2016, on the grounds that it would be an overdevelopment of the site and at odds with the surroundings. Another application was also refused in 2017, despite a few changes.

But when the developers Leopold Properties appealed to MP James Brokenshire, then Secretary of State, he thought that six homes in a four-storey block of flats fronting the High



New homes: How the High Road flats will look, right, as viewed from near Chandos Road.

Road and three three-storey terraced houses along Leopold Road would not be out of place. He allowed the appeal.

Overdensification

However, instead of going ahead, the developers then submitted a new plan. Although this more than doubled the number of units by turning the terraced houses into a block of flats and

reconfiguring the four-storey block, the council approved it because "the form and massing of the buildings have only minor changes from those given consent by the Secretary of State."

Those objecting don't agree that creating a second block of flats is a minor change. Nor are they reassured that the four-storey block will be much the same when it is considered to be out of place and overbearing. "The decision by the Secretary of State was not carte blanche to allow the overdevelopment and over-densification of this site," said one Leopold Road resident.

Barnet Council says the increased density is "not excessive for an urban context" but those objecting believe it will add to existing traffic safety issues, especially as the estate will have access roads on both the High Road and Church Lane.

Cash payment

The developers have been asked to make a cash in lieu payment of £275,758 because there are no plans for affordable housing. A council spokesperson told *The Archer* that this money is usually used to subsidise opportunities for affordable housing.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

20 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

22 Baronsmere Road, N2

Roof extension involving replacement and enlargement of existing dormer window, addition and relocation of one rear rooflight, and new side gable window.

36A Baronsmere Road, N2

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

The former Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2

Variation of conditions to planning permission. Amendments include louvres and louvred door to the west, gate to East End Road fence, replacement of internal doors and further internal alterations, front and rear canopies, external and internal plant equipment, external CCTV cameras.

6 Brendon Grove, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4 m, eaves height 2.70 m. maximum height 3.60 m.

1 Church Lane, N2

Retention/continued A3 use of Oasis Restaurant. Additional use for shisha smoking facility. (Retrospective application)

26A Church Lane, N2

Non material amendment to planning permission, including additional roof lights.

219 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3m.

27 Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Conversion into two self-contained flats

Land adjacent to East End Road, near junction with Tangle Tree Close, N2

Removal of 12.5m monopole. Replacement by 15m high monopole with one GPS module and ancillary development.

Ground Floor Flat, 5 Ingram Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

17 Lancaster Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

60 Lincoln Road, N2

Ground floor rear extension, including two skylights and removal of chimney shaft. New rear patio paving. First floor rear internal alterations, including removal of existing window and insertion of new one. Roof extension, including two hopper windows to side and one skylight. New solar panels to front roof.

321 Long Lane, N2

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

35 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with two rooflights, plus bay window to side of existing ground floor extension, following demolition of conservatory.

Prospect Ring, N2

Details of conditions pursuant to planning permission.

First Floor Flat, 17 Sylvester Road, N2

Roof extension involving two rear dormer windows and two front roof lights.

Viceroy Parade, High Road, N2

Replacement of existing cabinet with outdoor rack and ancillary development thereto.

OSTEOPATHY | ACUPUNCTURE

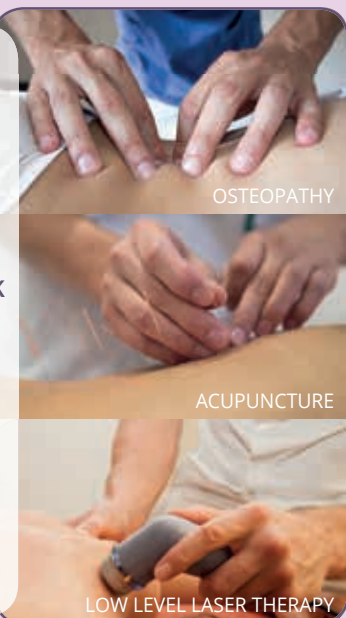
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Silent film accompanist Stephen Horne. Photo Mike Coles

Silent films far from a quiet life

By David Gritten

It's highly specialised work, playing music to accompany screenings of silent films in cinemas or at film festivals. In Britain, only a handful of musicians make a living from it.

One of the few is East Finchley resident Stephen Horne, who first accompanied a silent film on piano in the late 1980s. "I wrote to the National Film Theatre (now BFI Southbank) and got an audition," he recalls. "I've been playing there ever since. Three decades!"

Building a reputation

For at least 20 years he was one of only three or four British musicians specialising in music to accompany silent films. As he recalls: "For years I was also playing accompaniment for ballet, simply as a bread-and-butter job. Five years ago, I took a gamble and gave that up. I wasn't finding time for working on my own compositions."

"Since then, I've lived off silent film entirely – primarily as performance with a bit of composition, but also recording scores for DVDs or streaming."

Stephen's world-class reputation in his chosen field means he is frequently asked to work abroad: "For the last six or seven years I've been averaging an overseas gig about once a month." He most often travels to Germany, France, the United States and to northern Italy, where there is an important annual silent film festival in the town of Pordenone.

Tonka of the Gallows

But Stephen's most recent gig in early August was far closer to home, at the Phoenix Cinema, where he accompanied a screening of a Czech silent film from 1930, *Tonka of the*

Gallows. He had done this just once before, in May, at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival.

During its 83 minutes Stephen played not only piano but also accordion, flute bells and a drum. Remarkably, given that *Tonka* is a virtually unknown film that was being screened on a Sunday afternoon, some 130 people flocked to the Phoenix to see it. "I'm really glad it had such a good turnout," Stephen says. The film was enthusiastically received, as was Stephen, who took a bow at the end.

He believes that having an accompanist present during a screening "helps bridge that gap between the film and the audience." And he admits: "It's rewarding to feel an audience has enjoyed an event, and you're part of it."

Stephen's career as an accompanist may be at a high, and he plans to continue, but he also concedes: "I'm not composing as much as I should. I've wanted to do a CD for 30 years now. So I've finally booked myself a studio – to make myself do it."

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Empty shops show how small traders are really struggling

By David Melsome

A nationwide report in July revealed that the number of empty shops in town centres is at its highest for four years. The British Retail Consortium and Springboard survey found that one in ten town centre shops was vacant in July, the highest level since January 2015. Footfall also fell by 1.9% in July, the worst July performance for seven years.

Our own High Road certainly seems to have had a difficult summer. Four long-standing traders have disappeared from East Finchley in the last couple of months, the most recent being PV News, which closed down suddenly in late July.

The former Big Chef café, the household goods store a few doors down, and Mulberry estate agents have also put up the shutters, adding to the former Pizza Express takeaway which shut down earlier in the year.

Their departures are sad for the local trading community and have left the High Road with a higher than normal number of empty premises.

Temporary two-way

There was some confusion when two-way traffic lights suddenly appeared on the usually one-way blind bridge over the railway in Church Lane, N2, for a few days in August.

The lights were there to give residents at the western end of Church Lane, and the roads off it, access to their homes while their part of the road was blocked off for maintenance works. The usual one-way system was restored as soon as the works finished.

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What can be done?

The Archer hasn't been able to establish the reasons for all the closures but it is known that small traders are continuously struggling against rising rents and business rates and dwindling foot-



Closed: PV News



Closed: The Big Chef café

fall, making it so important that we all shop locally whenever we can.

Nick Allan, chair of local small business network

He added that N2United was discussing a number of ideas to make temporary use of the empty premises and attract shoppers until new traders move in.

N2United, said: "Their closing serves to illustrate the importance of working together in bringing the businesses, local organisations and the community together to avoid the distress that more empty shops brings."

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How Coby the dog is helping children to read

By Jackie Briggs

I just want to share with readers of *The Archer* my amazing experience as a volunteer for Pets as Therapy. Some of you might already know of this organisation which arranges for dogs to visit schools, hospitals, senior citizens' homes, hospices and many other establishments that feel that a visit by a dog and its owner brings a feeling of well-being. This has happened to me and my dog Coby.

I have been with Pets as Therapy for well over five years and had already visited a number of places with Coby but I wanted to establish a permanent visit rather than going here and there, and we have now finished our fifth year at Underhill School in High Barnet. Let me tell you a little about our visits.

Cosy with Coby

I have a small group of children aged between six and nine who for various reasons need a little extra help with their reading. I take over one period of 45 minutes and we



Happy to listen: Jackie Briggs with Coby. Photo Mike Coles

cosy up in a special place with Coby sitting on his mat and each child taking turns to sit with him.

I always start the session with who had what for lunch. I always seem to have the same thing and they know me as Cheese and Biscuits. "So," I say, "Lovely full tummies which means lots of lovely reading."

Well, the reading is secondary really. The session just gives the children the

opportunity to build up their confidence and over the last five years I have seen some spectacular results.

Calm canines wanted

So if you have a dog that is obedient, calm, happy to be quiet and sit still for 45 minutes with the occasional stretch and, needless to say, happy to take a treat at the end of the session from the kids, maybe this is something you could consider. Find out more at petsastherapy.org.



You're sacked: The McDonald's litter picking team clean up in Cherry Tree Wood.

Clean-up in Cherry Tree Wood

Volunteers from the McDonald's UK headquarters next to East Finchley station took time out in Cherry Tree Wood in July for a litter pick. The 14 staff members collected 10 big bags of rubbish, 50% of which was recyclable.

Deborah Linton, of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, said: "We'd like to thank those McDonald's employees

who gave their time to help with the clean-up and we are looking forward to working on litter clean-up events again in the future."

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We have received reports from two East Finchley families regarding scams upon elderly members.

Water board scam

Two males convinced a lady to take the safety chain off her front door and let them in, telling her a neighbour's house was flooded. While one man distracted her in the kitchen the other went through the house and stole jewellery worth £4,000. Do not open your door to anyone you do not know. If you do not know them it is highly unlikely they will have anything you are interested in. If you are unsure, ask them to make an appointment for when you can have family or a neighbour present. Not all callers are con men, but sales people can be pushy too.

Roofing scam

Another lady was pursued over several days by a 'roofing company' trying to persuade her to pay for scaffolding with a view to working on her roof and chimneys. Fortunately she realised something was not right and refused to deal with them further. This lady was approached again by different men trying a different angle within a week.

It is best not to engage with callers either at the door or on the phone. If you do, it encourages them to try again another time. Such addresses and phone numbers end up on 'mugs lists' and are valuable to con people.

In both cases the con men were well presented, charming, fluent and had a good answer for everything. If you are concerned about damage to your home it's best to discuss this with family and work towards finding a reputable workman. Please don't buy at the door.

Stock up the foodbank

Finchley Foodbank continues to welcome donations that it can pass on to families and individuals in need. Any non-perishable grocery items and toiletries are always required. Recently the foodbank has been particularly short of biscuits, small packets of rice, tins of tomatoes and size 5 and 6 nappies. Spare strong plastic bags also come in handy to package up the items.

Drop off points

Collection points are in the big orange box at Sainsbury's on the High Road, N2 or at the foodbank itself in the church hall behind St Mary's, 279 High Road, N2, on Saturdays from 12:30pm to 2pm.

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Climate crisis rebellion is coming our way

By Daphne Chamberlain

What are your views on the fast-growing Extinction Rebellion and what does the name even mean? Supporters believe that intense climate changes, caused or accelerated by atmosphere pollution, will soon cause our extinction. They are rebelling against commercial and political inaction to prevent this.

Groups from Haringey, Barnet, Islington, Camden and Enfield are bringing their rebellion to North London on the weekend of 7-8 September. Spokespeople emphasise that the purpose is to bring home the importance of climate action or inaction to the general community.

They say: "If people are curious or doubtful, we encourage them to come and listen to speakers and to ask questions." There is an all-day programme of events, discussion groups and family fun in Downhills Park, Haringey, and Wood Green shopping centre, climaxing in a parade along Green Lanes at 5.30pm on Sunday.

Barnet Rebels

Barnet Rebels are staging a catwalk outside Wood Green Library at 1-2pm on Saturday 7 September, wearing clothes they've made themselves. They have spare outfits for people who want to join in, and free pre-loved children's clothing to give away. The lead singer from local band Miss Havisham's Digital Clock is wearing "one dress for life",

and other band members may join in.

Barnet group members will talk about how destructive the fashion industry is to the planet, pointing out that Stockholm has just cancelled its Fashion Week. There are workshops in Downhills Park about recycling, buying second-hand, sharing, renting and making clothes.

Demands tent

The general public can write a 'demand' to their Council, to pin up in a tent at the event. Barnet have already collected a few. A member told us, "One recurrent demand is to re-instate our brown food waste bins."

There will be large placards thanking Haringey, Camden, Islington and Enfield for declaring a climate emergency. Barnet's placard will be blank, as the Council refused a petition to do this on 30 July.

Highgate Wood

There will be an Extinction Rebellion stall at the Highgate Wood Heritage Day on Sunday 1 September from 11am to 4pm, with a strong East Finchley presence expected.



Green teas: Visitors relax in the Broomes' garden in Church Lane. Photo Mike Coles

Inside one of London's best back gardens

By Ruth Anders

Arriving at Caroline and David Broome's house in Church Lane, N2, you realise that you're somewhere special. A galvanised iron bucket is suspended apparently from nowhere above a densely planted raised bed with a metal bird in a pond half hidden in the middle. A green wall and more planted buckets adorn the house front.

Supported by David's creative flair for sculpting, collecting and recycling, Caroline has built her horticultural knowledge from zero to a point where the London Gardens Society has awarded the pair the prize for Best Small Back Garden for three years running.

Front garden competing

Their passion and skill are clear and their front garden demonstrates the perfect combination of plantsmanship, seasonal interest and spaces for both car and dustbins. Entered this year in the LGS's annual Small Front Garden competition, the results will be known in October.

But nothing can prepare you for the breathtaking back garden; 75 feet long, it comprises a series of 'garden rooms' packed with horticultural wonders.

Jim Buttress, Royal Horticultural Society judge, TV personality and Chair of the LGS, who visited on the garden's open Sunday in August, told me: "Ruth, you will not be disappointed" and I was not.



Co-creators: David and Caroline Broome.

Back garden delighting

We move through the sun-room into a large caged area dedicated to the five cats and dominated by huge canna lilies and tropical planting. Outside we brush past the bird feeders and find a waterfall with a curv-

ing rill leading to seats and a table.

Spectacular roses and salvias guide us to a shady bed of brunnera and speckle-leaved pulmonaria, an apple tree, a graceful silver birch and a large variegated willow.

Caroline is an official tester for seed and plant suppliers Thompson & Morgan, and skirting a set of container-grown courgette plants we arrive at a charming summerhouse consisting entirely of recycled items and materials.

The final treat is a roof garden accessible from an iron stairway. The variety and abundance of planting defy belief and David's quirky statues and features, many clearly made with children in mind, surprise and delight.

Visit an open garden

Ruth and Stephen Kersley are opening their garden at 66 Abbots Gardens, N2 0JH, from 2pm to 6pm on Saturday 14 September to help raise money for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research.

In 2016, their friend Vera Pollins was diagnosed with the condition, which is the subject of intense research in an effort to find a cure, and the couple say their open garden event is in the spirit of 'every little helps'.

Their home is eight minutes' walk from the rear exit of East Finchley tube station, and is close to the 143 bus stop on East End Road. There is easy parking with no restrictions on the weekend.

Out for a duck

Does anyone know what has happened to the pair of mallard ducks that used to live on Prospect Ring, N2? Have they been scared off by the construction work on the new block of flats there or have they found a pond or water nearby to make a new home?

If you know, please contact us at the-archer@lineone.net or write to us at the address printed on page 2.

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East Finchley Arts Festival: the full line-up

The East Finchley Arts Festival returns this month for its 23rd year and once again it's an incomparable celebration of art, music, film and opera in the heart of N2.

Artistic director Geoffrey Hanson and his team have assembled a programme with something for everyone, running from Friday 27 September, and all in support of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and The Harington Scheme, which helps young people with learning difficulties into education or employment.

All concerts and events take place at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2, with one special film screening at the Phoenix Cinema on the High Road.

Tickets are available now online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyarts (10% surcharge on each ticket), from Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2, Tel: 020 8444 4717 and on the door according to availability. Under 18s half price. Disabled access at both venues.



Chelys Consort of Viols

• **From Friday 27 September Festival Art Exhibition:** Every evening from 6pm during the festival and at weekends from 12 noon until 10 pm, you can browse and buy original oils and watercolours, prints, digital art, photographic art, ceramics, sculpture and individually designed jewellery and hand-made wooden items. Twenty-five artists, local and national, are taking part and 40% of the selling price of anything sold will be donated to the two festival charities.

• **Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm**

The Merry Opera Company performs Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Buckle your swash and enjoy an evening of sentimental pirates, blundering policemen, absurd adventures, improbable paradoxes – and realistic women. Tickets: £25 - £20 - £12.

• **Sunday 29 September, 7.30pm**

Harmoniemusik, a renowned wind instrument, harpsichord and piano ensemble, perform melodic works by Poulenc, Handel, Geoffrey Hanson, Ibert, Bizet and Caplet. Tickets: £15 - £10.

• **Monday 30 September, 3.30pm**

• **The Phoenix Cinema** screens *Bonnie & Clyde*, the classic 1967 film starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway. Tickets: £12.50 / concs £8.50. Direct from Phoenix Box Office on 020 8444 6789.



Violinist Simon Purdy

Tuesday 1 October, 7.30pm

Trinity Laban Dance brings an evening of eclectic new works to All Saints', performed by undergraduate dance students from this London conservatoire, on the cusp of their professional careers. Tickets: £10.

• **Wednesday 2 October, 7.30pm**

Finchley Children's Music



Finchley Children's Music Group

Group, with musical director Grace Rossiter, perform choral favourites. Founded in East Finchley in 1958 especially for the first amateur performance of Benjamin Britten's opera *Noye's Fludde*, this is a highly versatile group of mixed voice choirs for young people aged four to 18. Tickets: £10.

• **Thursday 3 October, 7.30pm**

Chelys Consort of Viols bring *A Pleasing Melancholy*, with soprano **Emma Kirkby** and lute player **Jamie Akers**, playing pavaes and dances from John Dowland's *Lachrimae*, songs by Dowland, Robert Johnson and John Danyel, with instrumental music by Anthony Holborne. This concert is given in appreciation of Jane Kessler, a founder member and sponsor of the Festival. Tickets: £25 - £20 - £12

• **Friday 4 October, 7.30pm**

Carolyn Pickles, Lucy Pickles and **Rea Moles** perform *Travels Around Cranford*. Working from Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Cranford*, Carolyn has created a humorous look at day-to-day life in this small northern town in the 1830s, lingering on themes such as female friendship, family life and the impact of the railways. Tickets: £20 - £15 - £10.

• **Saturday 5 October, 2.45pm**

Young Artists: Violinist brothers **Simon and Toby Purdy**, cellist **Cameron Grimes** and pianist **Andrew Gallacher** in a programme of music by Albrechtsberger, Stamitz, Gliere and Beethoven. Tickets £10.

Saturday 5 October, 7.30pm

Paprika, the UK's leading Balkan band, fuses Eastern European, Balkan, Gypsy and Classical music in a whirlwind performance of frenzied virtuosity. Fiery melodies and foot tapping rhythms are interspersed with lilting laments in high energy sets from this exciting group. Tickets: £25 - £20 - £12.



Jamie Akers and Emma Kirkby, who will be performing with Chelys

New courses at Highgate Institution

Screen printing, Pilates and a new look at modern architecture are on an expanded menu of daytime courses being offered by the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution (HLSI).

The Institution in Pond Square, N6, has published its full annual programme which begins in mid-September. Courses are open to all and special concessionary rates apply to those receiving state benefits.

Anne Jamieson, the Chair of the HLSI Education Committee said: "Our new programme builds on the success of our existing palette of courses. Arts, music, science, history and language courses are mixed with practical opportunities for artistic expression and improving fitness."

"We have retained our most popular courses but are always looking for ideas, and new tutors, to widen our range."



Student: Barbara Burman

Further information can be found at www.HLSI.net

Military wives in concert

The North London Military Wives Choir and the Royal Naval Volunteer Band will be in concert at the Free Church in North Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11, on Saturday 5 October at 7.30pm to raise money for armed forces charity Combat Stress.

Tickets cost £15 or £13 for concessions (over 65 and under 16). To book, call 07710 098667 or email hgscombatstress@gmail.com with your ticket requirements and contact details.

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Green spaces network and word from the wood

Debbie Linton, of The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, reports on the latest activities of this group supporting our local green space.

New green network

The Friends have been looking into introducing a new Greenspaces Network across Barnet. At an inaugural meeting in July approximately 25 people representing various green spaces groups were keen to set up such an organisation. The aim is to help groups share ideas and expertise, and better liaise with the council.

Matthew Gunyon, from the Barnet Greenspaces Department, attended the meeting and explained the structure of his department. Roger Chapman

from our group has agreed to chair the new network, with the next meeting scheduled in October. The Friends are grateful to Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery for hosting the meeting.

Survey on the wood

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have carried out a survey asking the community about their views and aspirations for the wood, both for the short and the long term. The plan is to use the results to help prioritise and shape the activities of the Friends. Approximately 280 people responded and the results will be published on the Friends website and Facebook page towards the end of September.

Litter pick

A few local residents carried out a litter pick on 11 August. Amongst the undergrowth two discarded bespoke children's benches were discovered. The hope is to refurbish and place them in the children's playground. The council has installed new fox-proof bins

near the Summerlee exit to the wood and have also given the Friends keys for the noticeboard.

Forthcoming events and next meeting

The next full meeting for the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood is on Tuesday 17 September at 7.30pm at Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, and everyone is welcome. The Friends are also holding a bird and bat box making event for all the family on Sunday 22 September from 10.30am to 12.30pm. In addition on Saturday 26 October anyone can join a litter-pick at 10.30am followed later by a guided history walk at 2pm.

Get in touch,

membership is free

Email the Friends at friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com or visit our website at <https://wordpress.com/view/friendsofcherrytreewood>. home.blog or find us on Facebook @cherrytreewood and on Instagram @friendsofcherrytreewood



The wonder of two: Diana and Elvis read *The Archer*. Photo Ian Cormack

Can't help falling in love with *The Archer*

Archer team members Diana and Ian Cormack recently returned from the USA where they enjoyed a 2,000-mile road trip through seven states in the Deep South.

Ian, a big fan of Elvis Presley, was pleased to see that his musical hero had not left the building when they visited Madame Tussauds in Music City, Nashville.

And with Prince Harry lookalike Jerry Lee Lewis smiling in the background, The King couldn't wait to get his hands on the latest copy of *The Archer*.



Links with Japan:
Singer Naomi Suzuki

Join with Japan

Finchley-based singer Naomi Suzuki is staging a special event that aims to bridge the cultural space between the UK and Japan a year ahead of the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The evening will be a celebration of the Japan-UK Year of Culture presenting much-loved J-pop classics that have been specially arranged and performed by Naomi and the James Taylor Quartet.

Special guest stars include Yuriko Kotani, the BBC New Comedy Award winning comedian, and superstar actress and singer Mari Natsuki who is travelling from Japan to give an exclusive performance. There will also be a traditional daikagura routine by Michiyo Kagami.

The Bridge Together concert takes place at the Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1, on Tuesday 1 October. Tickets are on sale at cadoganhall.com and you can watch a preview on YouTube by searching UK-JAPAN Bridge Together.

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Kebab kings: Eddie and Mehmet, of the New Local Café.

Kebab-ulous!

The huge numbers of friends and neighbours who flocked to Cherry Tree Wood for this year's East Finchley Festival in June ensured it was one of the most popular festivals ever. Talk to Eddie and Mehmet from the New Local Café in the High Road and you get an even better idea of just how busy the day was.

Mehmet said their stall sold an astounding 500 kebabs in six hours. Hungry customers kept on coming and at peak times the two café staff were serving two kebabs every minute. "We were rushed off our feet all afternoon, it never stopped," said Mehmet. "It was our fifth festival and for us it was the busiest ever."

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YOUNG ARCHER

The eyes have it

By Marian Bunzl

Lately there has been some fascinating analysis of dog behaviour with special regard to their eyes. Wolves, from whom all dogs evolved, have maintained a straight, piercing stare of menace, with no change of expression, suitable for their life in the wild.

Dogs, who live with and are dependent on humans, have evolved a set of muscles around the eye socket which allows them to express their feelings: from the narrow, beady eyed stare when they see something to eat or chase, to the round-eyed, soulful gaze that says "I love you".

From my vantage point at the North London Chorus stall at the East Finchley Festival back in June I could watch many dogs up close as they went by: the tilt of their head, the tip of their tails, their tongues – all had something to say – but their eyes conveyed the true depth of their feelings.

During the festival, Cherry Tree Wood was alive with the sound of music, laughter and the bustle of people enjoying themselves among the lively stalls,

children's amusements, and the delicious smell of cooking food. Amongst it all, the dogs of East Finchley, all sizes and breeds, were all beautifully behaved.

Academy open day

Prospective parents are invited to visit the Archer Academy in Eagans Close, N2, for a series of open events this month.

The official open evening is on Thursday 19 September and there are also a series of Year 6 taster lessons, small group tours and informal coffee mornings. Find full details in the Admissions section of the school's website at <http://thearcheracademy.org.uk>



The dogs of East Finchley: Back row, from the left: Gertie, Otis, Merlin, Unkown. Front row, from the left: Tess, Nala, Alfie. Centre: Bailey.

Saturday morning football for girls

Lymore Girls Football Club, a community club aimed at primary school children under 11, is now running at Martin Primary School field in East Finchley every Saturday morning during term time between 10am and 11am.

The club says it aims to create a friendly social environment, bringing girls together from the surrounding area and creating long-term friendships and a sense of belonging. Once established, the plan is to play in leagues from September 2020.

Organiser Somayeh Caesar said: "Please come and join us as we hope to engage a diverse team of girls who will have an opportunity to gain a greater love for the wonderful game of football." For more information email Somayeh at girls@lymoregardensfc.com

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For more information, please contact Malena on 07971 426902 or email me at: alegriaspanshclub@gmail.com



Close to nature: Monkey Puzzle children are welcomed to the allotments by plotholder Cathy Schling.

We learn a lot from the allotments

By Dilan Dogan

Monkey Puzzle Nursery pre-schoolers recently made a trip to East Finchley Allotments. The journey there was exciting as we walked past lots of our local shops. The children pointed out places that they often visit such as Poseidon for fish and chips, Costa Coffee and also the New Local Cafe.

They noticed Martin Primary School as they passed by and some of our older children were very happy to show their peers the new school they will be going to. At the entrance to the allotments we were welcomed by Cathy Schling, who has a plot and was our tour guide for the day. Cathy being a retired teacher was a great help as she was able to support us in educating the children about growing things.

Awesome experience

They were in awe of how big

the allotments were and of all the plants, vegetables and fruit growing around. It was brilliant for them to see everything growing naturally and think what fun it could be to grow things themselves. Some said that they do gardening in their own back yards and enthusiastically explained all about it to their friends.

The concept of growing your own food can be so exciting, providing a sense of achievement and pride. It gives the children

a different outlook on fruit and vegetables, rather than just seeing them stacked up on a shelf in the supermarket. Food for thought! There were wonderful ideas and experiences shared between their friends and certainly lots of happy memories made. Towards the end, the children picked blueberries off the bushes to collect, wash and enjoy for a snack. We will be going for regular visits with different groups of children and we can't wait to go back.

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Student sets up his own coding school

By John Lawrence

A young computer sciences student has set up his first business while still at university to teach coding to children and adults.

Baptiste Bouvier, 20, realised there was a massive demand for programming skills that may not be being fully met by computer science teaching in schools.

His course aims to teach coding in a way that enables students to create their own apps or practical computer-based projects like robots.

Baptiste, of Twyford Avenue, N2, is currently studying computer science himself at MIT in Boston. He tutors small classes alongside a colleague when he's home and carries on remotely when he's back in the US, with his father Julien lending support too.

'Huge demand'

"There's a huge demand for people who can code," said Baptiste. "The trouble is some computer science teaching can be a little outdated and concentrates too much on the hardware side of things."

"We're trying to find ways to teach people that encourages them to make their own projects. Technology is advancing so quickly with things like artificial intelligence that it can seem very complicated but once you have the basics it's all very possible."



Coder: Baptiste Bouvier

Ages six to sixty plus

Called thingstheyneverexplained.com, his coding school runs an introduction to programming for ages six and upwards, including game building. Pupils can then move on to learn the Python language and more advanced areas like virtual reality and machine learning.

Baptiste, who has been operating his business since January, is finding that adults are also keen to catch up with skills like data science and analysis that are useful directly in the workplace.

He says he'll see how the business goes and may decide to expand his mentoring team if it's successful. For now he's just enjoying it as an area that gets people excited for the future.



Ready to ride: The Breeze cycling group about to set off on one of their routes

Find freedom on two wheels

Breeze Champions are local cyclists who organise female-led rides to encourage women to get fit and have fun on their bikes. Penny Lovatt, from East Finchley, is one of four volunteer leaders in the Barnet area. She started cycling about six years ago and says she loves the freedom of being in the saddle.

"I became a Breeze Champion so that I can encourage women to take that first step and gain as much enjoyment and feeling of wellbeing as I do," said Penny.

The HSBC UK Breeze programme was set up in 2011 as a three-way partnership between British Cycling, Sport England and Sky with funding from the National Lottery. To try out a Breeze ride visit letsride.co.uk/breeze and search your postcode.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Wish you'd been there?

Some years are seriously weird and 1969 was weirder than most. I guess that's why the whole summer has been full of nostalgia trips. Forget all this stuff about men walking on lumps of orbiting rock, I'm talking about the real weirdness, I'm talking Woodstock.

They say that it was three days that changed the world and that you had to be there to know. It wasn't. It was the only music festival that got itself declared a national disaster because it ran out of food and Max Yasgur's farm switched from sunshine to swamp when it started raining. It was either the apex of what started two years earlier in Golden Gate Park or a foretaste of Glastonbury, but without Wi-Fi, food or toilets.

But at the time Woodstock mattered. It had most of the big bands: The Who, Jimi Hendrix and loads of the long since forgotten who were big in '69. All that was missing was Bob Dylan. He could have been there, he lived in Woodstock, but maybe he knew something the others didn't. He went back to the 1950s by playing the Isle of Wight instead.

Maybe, at that moment, it looked like the start of a new era. Maybe The Beatles should have been there instead of wandering across a pedestrian crossing in North London. But they weren't. And neither were the Rolling Stones. They saved up their big moment for Altamont, California, at the end of the year, with a free festival that some joker reckoned was going to be Woodstock West. It wasn't. Someone hired the Hell's Angels as security, it all got so violent the Grateful Dead refused to play and a kid called Meredith Hunter got killed. Nothing was going to be the same again.

Fast forward 50 years and festivals just ain't the same anymore. It's a long way from Woodstock to listening to Cliff Richard while sitting in deckchairs in Greenwich, from no food to vegan burger franchises, from free love to taking selfies at Glastonbury. Maybe that's why people of a certain age wished they'd been at Woodstock. Hell, they might even have enjoyed it.

Run through the autumn

By Tricia Dixon

The Muswell Hill and East Finchley This Mum Runs group will be switching to their road route on Wednesday evenings now that the days are shorter. They meet at the junction of Creighton Avenue and Ringwood Avenue, N10, at 7.30pm and start with a gentle warm up followed by a chatty 30-minute circular run.

Hi-vis clothing or lights are useful on dark evenings to make sure runners are visible. The group also runs on Sunday mornings at 8am, meeting at the nature hut by the cafe in Highgate Woods.

This Mum Runs provides free, social runs for mums in London, Bristol, Bath and Cardiff. All levels of running experience, including new runners, are welcome; the emphasis is on run-

ning as a group, supporting each other and enjoyment! Find out more at www.thismumruns.co.uk, join the This Mum Runs London Facebook page or follow [thismumruns_muswellhill](https://www.instagram.com/thismumruns_muswellhill) on Instagram.



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- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **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
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Jazz Club** at the Bohemia, North Finchley. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

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



Mistress of intrigue: Jessica Holt with her new novel at Black Gull Bookshop in East Finchley.

Back into the world of spies

By Lizzie McAllister

East Finchley author Jessica Holt has released her second gripping book, called *Travelling with Spies* (Austin Macauley Publishers), which sees her explore a genre familiar to her.

Like her first book, *The Man Who Changed His Name*, Jessica's new novel takes place within the spy world. However, it is a completely separate entity from the first, published three years ago.

Travelling with Spies begins in 1970s London but the protagonist soon finds herself venturing across Europe on missions in East Berlin and troubled Northern Ireland.

The novel combines romance and adventure as it follows the story of Natalie, a young English and drama teacher. Approached with a mysterious job offer, Natalie finds herself abandoning education and being whisked into the world of spying and into a love affair.

"I think there was something to say about society at the time," Jessica explains, "because it was

quite political. I went to Belfast to do some research where we stayed at the most bombed hotel in the world. I did learn something.

"I'm really interested in crime drama. I did enjoy writing the spy scenes in particular in the first book. The two books don't have anything to do with each other, but I enjoyed working in that genre."

The novel is available to order from Amazon and bookshops.

Ceramics fair

A new local ceramics fair will launch on Saturday 6 October at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10, from 2pm to 5pm, with free entry.

There will be 19 stalls of wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramics to browse and buy direct from the makers. All the sellers are part of a community of East London-based potters, and are a mix of full and part-time makers. More details on Instagram @crouchendceramicsfair

Harpist all the way from Paraguay

East Finchley Methodist Church is welcoming a very special guest as part of its ongoing monthly series of free Sunday evening concerts. Paraguayan harpist Cristobal Pedersen will be performing at the church in the High Road, N2, on Sunday 8 September at 7.30pm.

Cristobal was born in the town of Villa Florida in Paraguay but now lives in the capital city Asuncion. With his wife, four sons and daughter he formed Arpa Roga (House of the Harp) at their home where he built a large studio. Their principal aim is to expand Paraguayan culture and enable students to study the instrument.

Cristobal is also an accomplished guitar, accordion and mouth organ player. During his East Finchley concert, he will be accompanied by



Harp player: Cristobal Pedersen

Michael Fergie on percussion and Miguel Sanz on mandolin, playing a programme of his own works and traditional Paraguayan ballads and dance tunes. Entry is free with a collection in aid of Help Musicians UK.

Choir back in action

The Archer Community Choir starts back for the autumn term on Tuesday 24 September at 7pm with a free taster session for anyone interested in giving them a try. New singers are always welcome and there are no auditions or requirement to read music.

The choir meets at The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com for further details.

Universities unite

Members of the University of the Third Age (U3A) in Hampstead Garden Suburb have announced a partnership with Middlesex University.

The retired and semi-retired U3A members have been attending weekly psychology lectures at the university campus in Hendon and in return they are passing on their own knowledge and skills to some of the university students.

New U3A member Lisa Woolfson, Emeritus Professor, helped to set up the collaboration in partnership with the head of the psychology department, Professor Bifulco.

What's On...

Friday 6 September

- **One Mic Stand at The Windsor Castle** pub, The Walks, off Church Lane, N2. 8pm to late.

Saturday 7 September

- Rock and rockabilly favourites **Sound of the Suburb** play live at Madden's, High Road, N2, from 9.30pm.

Sunday 8 September

- **Open garden** at 12 Lauradale Road, N2, in aid of the National Gardens Scheme: exotic, large and newly designed garden featuring tropical and Mediterranean plants; 12-6pm; home-made teas; adults £4, children free.
- Free **concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; Paraguayan harp evening with Cristobal Pedersen and guest artists. Free entry with collection in aid of Help Musicians UK. Fully accessible venue.

Saturday 14 September

- **Spiders and Bugs Hunt**, 10am-12 noon, Long Lane Pasture, opposite fire station, Long Lane, N3. The Pasture should be

alive with grasshoppers, spiders and other creatures. Discover more about insects and observe the wasp spider (which doesn't sting). Free entry.

- Ruth and Stephen Kersley **open their garden** at 66 Abbots Gardens N2 0JH, 2-6pm, in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Research. The garden is designed by Stephen and features glass works by Ruth.

Tuesday 17 September

- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** meet at 7.30pm at Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, opposite East Finchley tube station. Everyone welcome to discuss activities and issues in the wood.

Sunday 22 September

- **Bird and bat box making event** run by Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, free for all the family, 10.30am-12.30pm in the wood.

- **Ramblers Association walk** from East Finchley, five or seven miles, all welcome; meet 10.30am at East Finchley station for an urban walk through green spaces to North Finchley Leisure Centre. Catch bus

or walk two miles home. Leaders: Vivien Mallindine (020 8883 8190 or 07709 041 784) and Julia Reid (020 8368 2373 or 07792 281 679).

Saturday 28 September

- **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am-1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; info: 020.8368.8180 or 07708.152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

Sunday 29 September

- **Hampstead Garden Suburb: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Golders Green tube station, 2.30pm. A Dame's dream, an earthly paradise: one of the loveliest villages in England. £10, £5 under 12s. More information from Paul on 07506 761294 or www.barnet-walks.co.uk

Saturday 5 October

- **Pet blessing** service at Holy Trinity C of E Church, Church Lane, N2, 3pm, Saturday 5 October. All animals welcome under control: on leashes or in pet carriers. More

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

information: Father Mirt on 020 3565 4430 or marius.mirt@htef.org.uk or visit www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

- **North London Military Wives Choir and Royal Naval Volunteer Band** Northwood HQ in concert for Combat Stress centenary; 7.30pm, 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.

Sunday 6 October

- **Crouch End Ceramics Fair**, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; 2-5pm. 19 stalls of handmade ceramics, free entry, refreshments. Instagram: @crouchendceramicsfair
- **Fun Palace** run by **Grange Big Local** Project at new Taring Road Community Centre, Taring 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.



Try it out: Young visitors to last year's Fun Palace find out about a jelly baby wave machine.

Fun Palace opens up

The Grange Big Local Fun Palace returns on Sunday 6 October with a line-up of music and the chance to take part in art, storytelling, science experiments, cooking, nail painting, calligraphy and more.

This completely free community festival has been running for a few years and this year takes place at the brand new Tarling Road Community Centre, N2, and the Barnwood woodland space next door, from 12noon to 4pm.

Organisers from the Grange Big Local project say it is also a chance to meet your neigh-

bours and have your say on how the project's lottery money should be spent in the area. Everyone is welcome on the day. For more details or to get involved follow @grangebl on Twitter or @grangebiglocal on Instagram or keep an eye on the Grange Big Local page on the map on funpalaces.co.uk or grangebiglocal.org

An Act of Faith

Book review by Jane Marsh

Dame Cicely Saunders, pioneer of the hospice movement, described the function of a hospice as "a community place, somewhere people come to get relief, patients from their symptoms and relatives from their anxieties".

As a project of the Friern Barnet and District Local History Society, member Dorrell Dressekke has written *An Act of Faith*, a history of the North London Hospice, which has recently been published.

It chronicles the hospice's development from humble beginnings in 1984, as a home care service operating from a small flat in Muswell Hill, to the thriving 18-bed inpatient unit in Woodside Park and award winning day care centre in Enfield that provide hospice services today for the citizens of Barnet, Haringey and Enfield.

The book describes in great detail the enormous amount of work undertaken by committee members, trustees, patrons, management and staff, volunteers, fund raisers and local communities over the past 35 years to realise Dame Cicely's vision for the populations of these three north London boroughs. It is a fitting tribute to all those involved in this huge project.

Copies of *An Act of Faith* can be purchased from the hospice in Woodside Avenue, N12, or its charity shops for £10. All proceeds from sales will be donated to the hospice.



Hospice history: Dorrell's book.

Crafty Fridays

Do you want to unleash your creative side? You might want to check out Age UK Barnet's new over-55s craft sessions at their activity centre in East Finchley.

Whether you like painting and drawing, knitting or card making, there'll be something for you. And according to the latest research, it might even improve your memory and heart health.

"Fitness classes exercise the body but there's a lot of scientific evidence that crafting can exercise the mind," says Teresa, who is running the sessions. "According to the Mayo clinic, older people who engage in crafts are 30-50 per cent less likely to have a mild cognitive impairment."

"Other studies have linked crafts such as knitting to lowered blood pressure, reduced risk of depression and improved well-being. And a Harvard Medical School study found that knitting induces the relaxation response and lowers the heart rate by an average of 11 beats per minute."

The classes will provide paints and pencils for art, craft materials for card making and wool for Knit and Natter sessions. Complete beginners are welcome and there is help on hand for every project. If you're a knitter, you can take your own wool but you can also join in making little hats for the Big Knit.

Crafty Fridays start on Friday 6 September and run every Friday from 10.30am-12 noon at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Sessions cost £1 and refreshments are included. Just turn up or contact Teresa.Gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk for more information.

Letters

Consultation on parking changes

Dear Editor,

Your front page article in the August issue entitled 'Parking zone could be extended' presented a rather limited view of what has been a successful effort by Leopold and Leslie Road residents (not Barnet Council) to secure a new CPZ consultation to ease the worsening parking problems in these two roads.

A CPZ is certainly not a prospect that residents fear facing, as the report implied. A residents' survey conducted in June 2018 had revealed the extent of the parking problems and a strong majority in favour of becoming part of the N2 CPZ.

This 'petition' was presented to our Ward Councillors, then the Residents' Forum and finally the February Area Committee meeting in February, and together with other evidence was successful in persuading Barnet Council to organise a further consultation, which ended on 1 August. Early indications, based on responses from a door-to-door survey, show that an overwhelming majority of residents in both roads are still in favour of a CPZ. Barnet Council should inform residents of the outcome of the consultation by letter in September/October.

Yours faithfully,
Kathy Batten, Delory Lowndes, David Johns and Valerie Teague
Residents of Leopold Road, N2.

Cross with care

Dear Editor,

While walking or cycling down the High Road in East Finchley I've been alarmed to see pedestrians step out dangerously at the new crossing point near Beresford Road. It is a safety island designed to make crossing easier but it is not a marked crossing so pedestrians should be aware that traffic still has the right of way.

Yours faithfully,
Julie Fordham,
High Road, N2.

Toilet trouble

Dear Editor,

I was walking to East Finchley station down Market Place today and saw a man with his dog. As I passed them, the animal, who was off the lead, leapt over a low wall into a front garden and had a wee on the nicely kept square of grass there.

I assumed it was the dog owner's house but when I looked back I saw the dog leap back over the wall and the pair move on up Market Place. The owner was looking at his mobile phone throughout and made no attempt to stop his pet urinating on what was obviously someone else's property.

If that isn't the height of ignorance and disrespect for other people, I don't know what is.

Yours faithfully,
Rob Miller,
Address supplied.

Where have all the flowers gone?

Dear Editor,

Returning from a few days away, I was puzzled to find the pansies and other flowers I had planted around the base of the cherry tree outside my house were dying. This puzzled me as it had rained during my absence and I had previously looked after them properly. They have since gradually completely deceased, but not before I read on social media that Barnet had carried out its summer weed control sessions. Surely the sprayers should be able to tell the difference between weeds and flowers specifically planted to enhance the look of the street and avoid them?

Now I am reluctant to plant any more in case the soil around the tree is contaminated and concerned that snowdrop bulbs beneath the surface could have been affected. I've noticed that other East Finchley residents plant flowers in such places and wonder if any of them have suffered the same fate?

Yours faithfully,
Name supplied,
Cherry Tree Road, N2.

Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROfession & BUSiness men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3. Next meeting 18 September Professor Josephine McDonagh, University of Chicago, discusses the life and work of free-living novelist George Eliot, author of *Mill on the Floss* and *Middlemarch*.

Details from Eveleen (8455 6431).

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Home-grown goodies win horticultural prizes



Ready for judging: Fruit, vegetables and flowers at the Barnet allotment holders' show at Martin School. Photo Mike Coles

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Allotment Federation chose Martin Primary School as the venue for their annual horticultural show, which was open to the public on Sunday 18 August.

The colourful display of fruit, vegetables, flowers and potted plants paid tribute to the skill of the growers of the borough. There were also homemade chutneys, jams, cakes, beer and even sloe gin to be judged.

Brook Farm Horticultural Association Whetstone and East Finchley Allotments, who served refreshing tea and cakes, each provided a beautiful hor-

tical display along with a history of their allotments.

With five trophies and various certificates to be awarded to the best of the bunch, the most successful were Tristan and Shannon Green, of East Finchley. This was close to home for Tristan, who is premises manager of Martin School and runs a popular gardening club there, making it one of the

few schools offering this skill to its pupils.

Competition categories for children to enter included ugliest vegetable, garden in a seed tray, largest sunflower head and best fruit scones.

The Barnet Allotment Federation was formed 54 years ago and its members are the societies that manage allotment sites across the borough.



Trophy holder: Tristan Green receives his award. Photo Mike Coles

Learn more about your health

Free health awareness talks and activities are to be held at Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre in Hendon, organised by the Better leisure centre group.

The sessions start on Tuesday 17 September from 2pm to 3pm with Richard Turner from Action Hearing Loss explaining hearing loss, deafness and tinnitus.

During Silver Week on Thursday 3 October there will be a morning of sessions running from 10.45am to 1pm, including ageing well through nutrition, social dance, stand up to falls, healthy breathing and hearing screening.

All these sessions are free to attend and with free parking. For more information email annalisa.cellini@gll.org or call 020 8457 9900.

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