

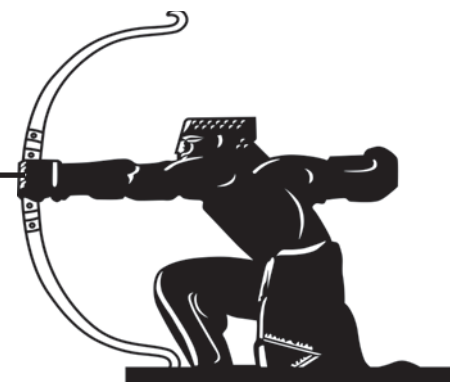


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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



January 2020 No. 309

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Traders forced to turn away customers as power cuts hit

By John Lawrence

Power cuts struck restaurant owners and traders in East Finchley last month, forcing them to turn away customers on one of their busiest weekends of the year.

Businesses and homes in the High Road between Kitchener Road and Beresford Road found themselves without electricity for nine hours on Friday 13 December and for up to another 10 hours on Saturday 14 December at the height of the pre-Christmas shopping season.

Cancellations and candlelight trading

Optometrist David Hillel had to cancel a full NHS clinic on the Saturday morning, all of the machines at Heck of a Wash launderette were put out of action and East Finchley Electrical could not raise their shop shutters. Casa Pepe and the North London Hospice were unable to open, while Pacey's newsagents did their best to trade by candlelight.



Damage to businesses

Chef Khalid Harichi, pictured above, had to turn away 25 diners from his Table du Marche restaurant on the Friday evening. "We lost a lot of business," he said. "Friday evenings and Saturdays are when we make most of our money and we had to cancel a lot of bookings. Our customers were very understanding but it was frustrating."

Dav Zeinali, who runs Heck of a Wash, lost more than 24 hours of trade and had to disappoint many customers who needed their clothes for the party season. "We are all human and we understand that faults can occur but this is hugely damaging to a small business like ours and it's hard to get through to someone at the power company to get a response," he said.

Several of the traders also told *The Archer* that they held out little hope of receiving compensation from cable owners UK Power Networks as the two outages lasted less than the stipulated minimum of 12 hours each.

A UK Power Networks spokesperson told *The Archer* that the power cut was caused by a local fault on an underground cable which proved difficult to locate as heat is thought to have resealed the cable before the damage could be found.

The spokesperson said: "We apologise to traders and residents in East Finchley High Road affected. We understand the inconvenience caused and our engineers worked to restore electricity supplies as quickly as possible. On the Saturday our engineers were able to trace, excavate and permanently repair the fault."

"Under Ofgem's Guaranteed Standards, payments do not apply in this case, but if customers decide to make a claim from their business insurance our customer care team would be able to provide the customer with written confirmation of the power cut to give to their insurance company."



Conservation plea: Virginia McKenna OBE, with Ihsan at Oak Lodge School

Don't let the sun go down on wildlife

Wildlife campaigner and actress Virginia McKenna OBE met a big fan of her acclaimed film *Born Free* when she spent a morning with the pupils and teachers of Oak Lodge special academy in East Finchley last month.

Student Ihsan presented the school's famous visitor with flowers and a painting of his own, and got the chance to question her about the movie and her conservation work. Teachers said Ihsan, who can have difficulty concentrating for long periods, had been engrossed when he watched the drama of Joy Adamson, played by Virginia, and her husband George saving Elsa the lioness and releasing her into the wild in Kenya. *Full story on page 5.*

New ways to email us

The Archer has two new email addresses.

If you have a story, photos or interview ideas for us, email news@the-archer.co.uk.

We're always pleased to hear about anything that's going on in and around N2, whether it's big news or just a small snippet.

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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 – **February:** 10 January; **March:** 14 February
April: 13 March

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Benefits	0800 882200
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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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Big boost to festival fund... but your help is still needed

By John Lawrence

The volunteers organising East Finchley Festival have passed their half-way fundraising milestone, but there's still some way to go to make sure our annual community get-together will happen in June.

As we reported last month, the new team of organisers have set a crowdfunding target of £8,800 but will only receive the pledged funds if they hit their target by 8 February.

The Cherry Tree Wood extravaganza has always been free to everyone on the day, and none of the organisers or acts are paid, but the new team needs your help to cover the up-front costs of hiring the two performance stages and securing other festival essentials like toilets, bins and insurance.

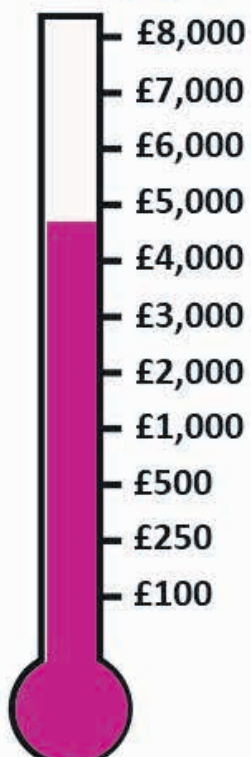
Christmas bonus

The festival fund received a big boost just before Christmas when the team received two four-figure pledges in one day.

Food stalls organiser Miranda Levey said, "We couldn't believe our eyes when we received an anonymous £2,000 pledge and then later the same afternoon received a further pledge of £1,400 from Barnet Council. We're absolutely thrilled."

That magic number

As *The Archer* goes to press, the fundraising total stands at a brilliant £4,753. But that leaves over £4,000 still to raise by the closing date of Saturday 8 February, so time is tight.



PLEDGE HERE
spacehive.com/east-finchley-festival

Just a £5 pledge from 1,000 people would be more than enough to make sure the festival – which is scheduled for 21st June 2020 – will happen as planned.

A big thanks

Festival co-ordinator Alison Roberts said, "We would like to pass on our thanks to all those who've pledged so far. Please keep the pledges coming - no matter how small - so we can reach our target."

Organiser, Charles O'Toole added, "We're doing it this way to secure the sustainability of the festival. Please pledge whatever you can. Every little helps."

Pledges will only be collected if the magic £8,800 is reached before 8 February.

Become a backer

To pledge your support, go to spacehive.com/east-finchley-festival and pledge whatever you can afford.

Report bad parkers

If you are being bothered by an illegally parked vehicle, either as a one-off or regularly by a driver who constantly ignores your protests, Barnet Council has a 24 hour enforcement line to deal with complaints. Call 020 3856 0020 to instigate the necessary procedure, which will be carried out by a Civil Enforcement Officer.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

20 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension, including one rear dormer window and two front roof lights. Lawful Development Certificate.

7 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Single-storey extension, following demolition of existing extension.

80 Hamilton Road, N2

Variation pursuant to planning permission, including size of rear roof lantern.

3 King Street Mews, N2

Roof extension, including new mansard roof, two front dormers, four side dormers and one rear dormer to provide rooms to roof space, facilitating one

self-contained flat. Associated internal alterations.

9 Kitchener Road, N2

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

72 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

Garden Lodge, 370 Long Lane, N2

Details of conditions pursuant to planning permission 19/3458/FUL.

70A Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

10 New Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 6m, eaves height 3.6m, maximum height 3m.

Can you help us deliver?

The Archer relies on volunteer deliverers to reach readers in East Finchley. Can you spare 30-45 minutes once a month to help out? Papers are brought to your door and you can deliver your round at a time to suit you.

We are particularly looking to fill rounds in Prospect Ring and Great North Road and would also love to hear from drivers who could drop papers to our deliverers. Please leave a message free on 0800 612 0748 or email: news@the-archer.co.uk. Thank you.

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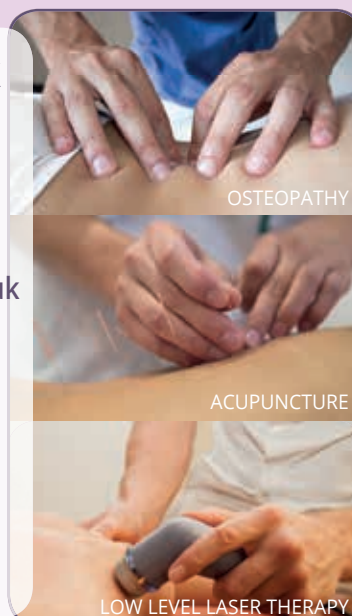
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Parent patrols in force after rise in street robberies

By John Lawrence

When young people go back to school this month, patrols by groups of parents will continue in an effort to stem the rising number of street robberies in East Finchley.

At a special meeting at the Bald Faced Stag pub last month, around 30 concerned parents described how their children had fallen victim to muggings, most often as they walked home from school after dark but also on Saturdays.

Thefts with menaces

Typically, two or three muggers in their teens would approach a student walking alone, befriend them briefly and then demand they hand over their mobile phone, cash and even their trainers. It was reported that some of the muggers had been girls.

Sometimes the attackers would brandish a knife and they would also threaten to kill their victims if they told anyone, their parents or the police, about the robbery. Hot spots for the crimes are around Cherry Tree Wood and the tube station, including The Causeway at the rear exit, and quieter roads leading off the High Road, such as Baronsmere Road.

The most recent incident circulated amongst parents was a 14-year-old boy who was robbed of his Christmas money as he walked up The Causeway on a Saturday afternoon in December. He was unharmed but shocked.

Extra police patrols were in

place between 4pm and 8pm until the end of last school term, but representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood policing team told the meeting that these could not continue into January due to shortages in police resources.

Police comment

Police told the parents that they took the spate of muggings very seriously but made it clear they could not make arrests or prosecute unless the young victims were able to supply evidence and were willing to testify in court. As a result, there was a feeling at the meeting that the attackers knew they could get away with their crimes.

Taking action

However, it was resolved that parent patrols should continue from the start of the new term to increase the number of friendly adults on students' routes home. A second meeting was being planned to coordinate these.

Meanwhile, anyone can report information about muggers completely anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Young people are also advised to avoid walking alone, to keep their valuables out of view at all times, and to stick to well-lit and busy routes wherever possible.



Team spirit: East Finchley Women's Football Team with coach Andy Francis, second from right.

We're going to win the league!

By Erini Rodis

East Finchley Women's Football team has reached a pivotal moment after starting talks with the Greater London Women's League to enter an 11-a-side team for the first time next season.

After running evening sessions every Monday for over five years at The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2, from 8pm to 9pm and now on Wednesdays too at Christ's College Finchley, East End Road, N2, from 8pm to 9pm, they began to play competitively with a seven-a-side team just a year ago.

Coach Andy Francis is feeling hopeful. He says: "In the last campaign we placed as runners-up, only losing out on goal difference so are hoping we can go one better when the league restarts in January and win it next time around."

We are now in talks with the Greater London women's league to enter an 11 a-side team

next season which will be played on Sunday mornings."

The Five Bells pub on East End Road, N2, has agreed to sponsor the team and is buying them their first set of kit. New players of all levels of experience are welcome and get a free trial. Follow EFWFClub on Facebook and EastFinchley-WomensFootball on Instagram.

Boris and Jeremy feel the heat

We all had our own ways of coping with the politics overload that engulfed us in the run-up to the General Election in December. For Archer readers Gill Steiner and Hande Kiamil, it was a case of getting creative in the kitchen.

Gill and Hande invented their own edible versions of the two main party leaders. Boris Johnson was made from mashed potato, raw potato, currants and cranberries, while Jeremy Corbyn was crafted from cake mix, raisins, nuts and seeds.

The cake mix recipe is very easy to make and versatile, says Gill, and is "like a flapjack but has much less sugar and fat in it". So if you want to create your own 3D faces, or just fancy something healthy to nibble on, here's Gill's recipe.



Good enough to eat: Potato head Boris and fruitcake Jeremy.

Any occasion cake

You will need: 1 mug oats (say 150g or more); 1 handful coconut; 1 rounded tablespoon sugar; 1 tablespoon oil; 1 mashed banana; 1 egg whisked with a fork; 1 or 2 tablespoons milk; 1 handful raisins; broken nuts and seeds.

Method: You put the mix in a lined cake tin (eg 20 x 25cm) and cook at 180 degrees C for 18-20 minutes (fan oven timing). It is ready when it is beginning to smell delicious and go brown. It makes 16 to 20 pieces.

Anxiety in children

A pop-up workshop on anxiety in children, run by Childhood Mental Health Needs, with guest speaker Jo Holden, a mental health trainer with charity CCS-Connected, will take place at St Mary's Church Hall, 192 High Road, N2, from 7pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday 28 January. Donations are welcome on attendance.

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It's a snip: Lucy Harrison opens the new library. Photo Mike Coles

School library opens its doors to readers within a year

By Diana Cormack

Only a year after the official launch of its £250,000 fund raising campaign (*The Archer*, December 2018) the new library at the Archer Academy's Upper School is ready to welcome readers and borrowers.

At the opening ceremony a group of five students impressed the audience with their musical contribution, as did others with their reading of suitable pieces to accompany headteacher Lucy Harrison's speech.

Passionate about libraries

Ms Harrison thanked all those who had contributed towards such a speedy and highly successful outcome. She said that without the support and commitment of students, staff, parents, community members and anonymous donations it would not have been possible, not forgetting all those involved in design, planning, and construction.

Although the pre-sixth formers were happy in their building in Beaumont Close, N2, which had been specifically designed for former occupants the Hampstead Garden Suburb

Institute, the lack of a library was not something Ms Harrison could easily bear, for she is passionate about the value of libraries.

This was evident when she described the benefits students would gain from the school's new library and resource centre, linked to the IT suite, where they could come to read, to revise for exams or to study independently.

Book donations

Some of the large crowd attending the opening event had brought books to be added to the library shelves. If you would like to make a donation, perhaps a book which inspired you to read as a young person, take it along to the Upper School just behind East Finchley tube station, where you can fill in a bookplate with your name and message.

New evidence snares killer 22 years after he murdered twice

By David Melsome

A man has been jailed for murdering two pensioners in separate attacks 22 years ago, one of them in East Finchley, after new hand print evidence emerged.

Michael Weir, 53, of no fixed address, was found guilty at the Old Bailey of murdering 79-year-old Leonard Harris and 83-year-old Rose Seferian in 1998. Last month he was handed two life sentences and told he must serve a minimum of 30 years in jail.

Aylmer Road attacks

Mr Harris and his wife Trudie were both assaulted by Weir after he broke into their flat on Aylmer Road in East Finchley in January 1998, before fleeing the scene with a number of items of jewellery, including an 18-carat gold watch.

Mr Harris was discovered with serious head injuries and died in hospital almost five months later. He was a carer for his wife, who had dementia. Following the attack, her health rapidly deteriorated and she died around two years later.

Weir was originally con-

victed of Leonard's murder in July 1999 after DNA evidence from a glove found at the scene linked him to the attack but he was acquitted the following year when the Court of Appeal ruled that evidence provided by the prosecution was inadmissible.

Second murder finally solved

In 2017, a review of their system was carried out by the Met's Fingerprint Bureau and a palm print also found at the scene of the murder, unidentified at the time, was linked to a print taken from Weir in 2016.

The same print had been found at the home of Rose Seferian, who died from head injuries after a break-in at her home in Pembroke Road, W8, in March 1998, five weeks after Mr Harris had been murdered.

No remorse shown

Weir was re-arrested in



Jailed: Michael Weir

March 2018 for both murders and tried last November. Detective Inspector Shaun Fitzgerald, from Specialist Crime, said: "Weir has never owned up to his actions or shown any remorse for what he did. Nothing can ever change what the families of the victims have been through but we hope that knowing justice has been done brings them some kind of closure."

Malcolm is on the road again

By Ruth Anders

Eighteen months ago, *The Archer* reported on Malcolm Dunkeld's journey around the world on his 2015 Triumph Tiger XCX motorcycle, which ended painfully in the Outback of Australia after a crash on a remote road.

Malcolm was rescued by the Royal Flying Doctor Service and after surgery returned home to Leslie Road, N2. Following a long recovery he is now fit enough to complete the next leg of his journey – to travel through the Americas.

From south to north

Malcolm, 69, will begin his solo journey in Argentina visiting Patagonia (of which Charles Darwin wrote in his diaries "There is not a tree ... scarcely an animal or bird"), then on to Chile, Peru, the Pacific coastline and into



Man and machine: Malcolm Dunkeld gets ready to set off.

Mexico. From Central America he will continue into the United States, crossing the centre and following the eastern seaboard up to New York.

Malcolm is due to ship his bike to Buenos Aires later this month to take advantage of midsummer in the southern hemisphere. He thinks the entire trip will take approximately five months.

Sharing an experience

Long distance solo motorcycling is tough, dangerous,

exhilarating and full of the unexpected, both in terms of the outside world and how the rider makes sense of the whole thing.

Malcolm's journey will offer huge variety, from crumbling shanty towns to monolithic skyscrapers, towering glaciers to steamy tropical rain forest, race track tarmac to snaking dirt roads. It will include the Andes, the longest mountain range in the world, Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake, Atacama, the driest desert, and an abundance of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

He has agreed to send updates on the trip which we look forward to publishing at regular intervals. We wish him good luck and bon voyage.

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Animal art: Oak Lodge pupil Leo, left, shows his elephant mask to Virginia McKenna, who also met teacher Sally Adams, who had lived in Kenya.

Elephants are born to live free in the wild too

By David Melsome

When wildlife campaigner Virginia McKenna arrived at Oak Lodge School in East Finchley in her Born Free jeep last month, it was the exciting finale

to an intensive week of workshops where staff and pupils worked closely with the conservation charity to learn about saving endangered elephants.

The actress spent all morning at the school for students with learning disabilities, including autism, enjoying the elephant art work they had created, talking about wildlife and watching an Africa-inspired music and drama show.

A joy for Virginia

Virginia said: "I have had an unforgettable morning at Oak Lodge School. Watching the performances about elephants, imaginatively written and acted, with a backdrop of amazing paintings and collages, was a joy. Above all, I was delighted to meet so many fascinating children, and the wonderful teachers who are dedicated to their care."

Teacher's personal link

The visit was particularly special for humanities teacher Sally Adams, who taught in Kenya and had been a friend of George Adamson, the game warden at the centre of the *Born Free* story portrayed in the 1966 film.

"George's camp in Kora was my favourite weekend retreat," explained Sally. "I loved having supper in the evening with the lamps burning, surrounded by millions of insects and hearing the occasional roar of George's

lions outside the camp. He knew the sounds of all his lions; they were his life.

"When I came back to the UK and started teaching at Oak Lodge I knew it was important for the students to share with me and the other teachers a love for wild animals through developing an understanding of their lives.

"It is thanks to charities

such as Born Free that we are reminded how we should treat animals, with care and compassion and opposing their exploitation. We were all incredibly excited about Virginia's visit so the children could hear her passion for animal conservation first hand. She, just like George, has dedicated her life to helping wildlife."

Burglars pose as council workers

By Janet Maitland

Police are warning residents to be careful who they let into their homes after men claiming to have been sent by the council stole a total of £2,500 from two residents, both living in social housing provided by Barnet Homes.

The victims lived on Norfolk Close, N2, and Basing Way, N3. Both thought the men were genuine when they claimed to be water board workers contracted by the council. It is likely that their homes were targeted because water works happened to be going on nearby. Neither of the victims was elderly or vulnerable.

Once inside the victims' homes, one of the men distracted the residents while the others searched the property and then left with the stolen cash.

Callous thieves get easy pickings

Jan Lovell, from East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood

Team, said the men, two or three of them, were described as 30 to 40-years-old, white, wearing all black and with possibly Eastern European accents.

"They offered a fake business card saying G and Sons Roofing and may have left in a white van. They stole £2,500, a good result for an afternoon's work and likely to encourage them to make more attempts.

"Please do not allow anyone you do not personally know into your home without an appointment arranged with the agency, and use the chain on your front door when you answer it."



Born Free: Virginia arrives in her charity's jeep.

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Cake crew: Rinkoff shop manager Tzion Araya, left, with Debs, Ray, Jennifer and Esther Rinkoff.

History in the baking for a small family business

By Jane Marsh

The history of a family bakery business spanning four generations and more than a hundred years was celebrated recently at a book launch in Whitechapel. *History in the Baking* by Pam Fox is the story of Rinkoff's, the last remaining Jewish bakery in Whitechapel, started in 1911 by Russian immigrant Hyman Rinkoff.

Long-time Hampstead Garden Suburb residents Ray and Esther Rinkoff are among the third generation involved in the business and now two of their three children, Jennifer and Debs, are continuing the family tradition, producing speciality bread, cakes, sourdoughs and pastries.

As well as recounting the history of Rinkoff's, *History in the Baking* examines the colourful history of Whitechapel, once one of the poorest and most crime-ridden parts of London, and how the huge wave of Jewish immigration over the past century put its stamp on the area. Thus Pam Fox brilliantly weaves the Rinkoff story into the bigger picture of Jewish life in London at the time, creating

a fascinating read.

Family past and present

Ray, a Master Baker, and Esther, who organised the launch event, were among over 30 family members who had travelled from countries as far away as the USA to be at the launch. Joining them were a host of friends, author Pam Fox and Professor Michael Berkowitz of UCL, whose foreword introduces the book.

Esther started the evening with a welcome and introductory speech. This was followed by Professor Berkowitz interviewing Pam Fox about her approach to writing the book and then answering questions from guests. A backdrop of family photographs from the past hundred years added to

the amazing atmosphere of the evening. Guests were also treated to delicious sweet and savoury delicacies, giving them a taste of Rinkoff's baking expertise.

Read, walk, talk, bake

Copies of *History in the Baking* are available for £12 from the Rinkoff Bakery at 224 Jubilee Street or 79 Vallance Road, both in E1. Alternatively, you can find it on eBay or at the Brick Lane Bookshop, E1.

Esther also organises *Walk Talk Bake* guided walks around the East End, following in the footsteps of Hyman Rinkoff and his wife Fanny, and ending with lunch at the Rinkoff Bakery. Details are available on Facebook and Instagram.

Gardens judge succeeds Wossy

By Marjorie Harris

TV presenter Jonathan Ross and screenwriter Jane Goldman, then newly moved-in residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb and newly-appointed Hon Presidents of HGS Horticultural Society, paid their first visit of many to open the Horticultural Society's Summer Flower Show in June 2001.

When Jonathan and Jane opened that first show, they were presented with L-plates, since they were self-confessed non-gardeners at the time, but said they were looking forward to learning by example from members. Over the years, they drew the crowds, judged children's scarecrow competitions and ate a lot of home-made cake at the shows.

In 2019, after 18 years, it was time to step down, so at the Horticultural Society's recent AGM, chair Chris Page

expressed everyone's heartfelt thanks to Jonathan and Jane for the time they had given so freely and the fun they had brought to the many shows in which they had been involved.

Succeeding them, Stephen Crisp has no need of L-plates. He is head of horticulture for the US Ambassador at Winfield House, Regents Park, where he has worked since 1987, as well as being a committee member of the London Gardens Network, and an RHS Britain in Bloom judge.



Honorary president: Stephen Crisp

Clean up and stay in touch with the Wood

By Debbie Linton, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood held a successful litter pick on Sunday 8 December and the next one is scheduled for Sunday 12 January, 2pm to 3pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Summerlee Avenue gate. Come along and help keep our lovely wood tidy, or come along to simply touch base with us. We are always pleased to hear from people.

As reported in *The Archer* last month, a small community orchard is planned for the area between the tennis courts and the main path. Barnet Council are happy for the project to go ahead and we hope to hold an event which will include planting the trees in February. Further details will follow.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 January, 7.30pm to 9pm, in Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Park House, 16 High

Road (beside the High Road entrance to the wood). Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about our activities during 2019 and our plans for 2020. Quite a lot will be going on so any community involvement is much appreciated.

Do drop us an email with your views at friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com. Also keep up to date via our website friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog.



Ready for planting: The site of the future community orchard next to Cherry Tree Wood tennis courts.

Convivial Lunch Club

The North London Probus Club welcomes retired and semi-retired PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS men and women on the third Wednesday each month for lunch and a talk at Stephens House East End Road N3 3QE. Next meeting 15 January: Professor Martin Conway analyses the growth of democratic governments in postwar Western Europe, the challenges they faced from new movements and ideologies in the 1960s leading to the contested democratic order in Europe today. Details from Eveleen (8455 6431).

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Hero who gave his own life to save a woman in danger

By Melanie Wynyard

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Lieutenant Charles Campbell Wood, whose story of heroism throws light on a little-known corner of the history of Avenue House in East End Road, N3.

Near midnight on the cold winter evening of 27 December 1919, Charles and a friend were walking across Hammersmith Bridge. They heard a scream and saw a woman fall from the parapet and into the Thames. Rushing onto the up-river side of the bridge, Charles saw she was in grave danger as the Thames is a tidal river with a very fast flow.

Bravely diving from 30ft up on the footway of the bridge, Charles discovered too late that there was only 12ft of water below. He struck and severely injured his head but, despite that, managed to save the woman's life.

East Finchley grave

Charles was transferred to the Central RAF Hospital at Avenue House in Finchley. The house, now part of the Stephens House & Gardens estate, had served as a Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital during the First World War and,



Lifesaver: Lt Charles Campbell Wood.

after hostilities ceased, the War Office decided to retain it in a similar role. In May 1919 the estate became the Central RAF Hospital and would remain so until 1925.

Sadly, Charles was never to leave Finchley. His severe injuries and the extreme dirtiness

of the Thames had led to him contracting tetanus. His death aged 28 on 10 January 1920 was registered in Barnet and he is buried in Plot I. 16. 136. at East Finchley Cemetery. The plot has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone and bears an inscription chosen by his mother: 'Greater Love Hath No Man'.

Record of courage

Charles was born in December 1891 in Bloemfontein, then the capital of the Orange Free State, though he had British nationality. When the First World War broke out, he initially joined the South African Medical Corps as a private and took part in the German South West African Campaign, for which he was awarded the 1914-15 Star. We do not know when he came to England, but by 1919 he had joined the 9th Brigade of the Royal Air Force as a flying officer and held the rank of lieutenant.

Should you find yourself walking across Hammersmith Bridge look out for a small brass plaque on a handrail, placed in the summer of 1920, which still marks the spot on the bridge where Charles dived into the Thames, risking and ultimately sacrificing his life to save that of a complete stranger.

Where to pick up The Archer

Spare copies of *The Archer* are available to pick up free each month at several locations around East Finchley.

Subject to availability, you can find them in the foyer of the Phoenix Cinema, in East Finchley Library and in the entrance hall of the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale. Copies are also available to buy for the cover price of 20p from newsagents on the High Road, including Pacey's, Budgens, Sainsbury's and Premier Express.

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Night shelter: Operations manager Amanda Weiss with new sleeping bags for Together in Barnet guests.

Plea for volunteers and venues to help the homeless

By Simon Rubinsohn, Together in Barnet

The all too familiar sight of homelessness on our daily travels, while disturbing at any time of the year, is particularly so in the immediate aftermath of the festive season.

A significant initiative designed to address this issue and assist people sleeping rough on the street, not just in East Finchley but across the wider borough, is the provision of a night shelter by the charity Together in Barnet (TiB) which has been running for some 15 years.

Shelter arrangements now

TiB currently provides a service seven nights a week for three quarters of the year. It relies on space provided either by community groups or faith-based organisations with the capacity to enable up to 17 guests to sleep in a warm environment, be fed a nourishing evening meal and start the next day with a warm breakfast.

Since the shelter is overseen by volunteers, the guests are risk assessed and referred by

Homeless Action in Barnet to ensure there are no individuals who have particularly complex requirements where more professional oversight is needed.

Next stage

TiB is now looking to expand the provision of the facility to the full 12 months. To make this happen, more venues and more volunteers are required. East Finchley is already contributing to the success of this project but could we do more?

Do you know of a hall with enough space for this number of guests, a separate section for female guests, kitchen facilities and toilets? Would you like to give up some time to help, perhaps by cooking, sleeping overnight or just talking to the guests? If so, please get in touch with Amanda, the operations manager for TiB, by emailing amanda@togetherinbarnet.org.



Hundred years ago: Avenue House serves as the Central RAF Hospital shortly after the First World War.



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Window on a winter collection

The Offshoot Gallery in the High Road, N2, last month [DEC] hosted a showcase for all the artists who had exhibited there since it opened its doors last May. Drawings, collages, prints, photos and paintings by more than 40 artists were on show and on sale at the Winter Salon. Photo Mike Coles.

School fair thank yous

Parents and teachers at Martin School in East Finchley say they had a wonderful Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December, and the money raised has already been spent on updating some much needed IT equipment.

Parent Erini Rodis said: "Our events are run by a core team of volunteers on the MHSA Committee, but these events wouldn't thrive without the continuing support of parents and staff throughout the school, who we rely on to bake, sell, make, show up and, very importantly, spend on a regular basis."

The organisers thanked all of their raffle sponsors for donating prizes: Tatlers, Sunnah Rose Stretching People, Charm Donohue Yoga, Adrian Farrell Alexander Technique, Sainsbury's, Chorak, Amy's, Tottenham Hotspur WFC, Margot's Bakery, Fixation Theatre, Phoenix Cinema, Emma Whiteman PT, Shizen Nutrition, Upstairs at the Gatehouse Theatre, Muswell Hill Baby Sensory, Debutots, Toddler Sense, Poseidon Fish Restaurant, Peekaboo Books, Middlesex WCC, Dynamic Fitness Training, Caffè Nero, Razzamatazz, We Make Footballers, Mestizo, M & S (Whetstone), Nic, Mimi and Lula, and London Craft Club.

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Traditional soup recipes can cook up future cures

Eden Primary School in Creighton Avenue recently featured in the national press when it was used by researchers from Imperial College and Great Ormond Street Hospital. They asked the pupils, who have a variety of ethnic backgrounds, to bring in soups prepared from recipes which had been passed down through their families and which they were given when sick. This was to discover whether any of those broths had health-restoring properties.

The leader of the investigation had a particular interest in research into malaria, so efforts were concentrated on the effects of 56 soups on that particular parasite. After experimentation, it turned out that five of the soups curbed the parasite's development, with two being particularly effective and possibly leading to another source of anti-infective treatment.

A report on their findings

appeared in the international journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. With comparisons often being made between homeopathic and man-made products, the researchers hope they have been able to show pupils that there is a link between natural remedies and the development of new drugs, as well as perhaps guiding them towards more healthy eating habits.



Summer ahead: The North Middlesex Cricket Club Under 11 girls.

Winter training for the summer

Winter training starts this month at North Middlesex Cricket Club for girls under 11, involving drills, indoor games and some net sessions to build all-round skills and have fun.

The practice sessions will be on Sunday mornings from and including Sunday 12 January to and including Sunday 29 March but excluding Sunday

16 February, all running from 10am to midday.

They are being held at Beacon High School (previously called Holloway School), Tufnell Park, N7 0JG, where there are no parking restrictions on Sundays (even on Arsenal match days).

The sessions will be led by at least one Level 2 ECB coach, supported by additional coaches well-known at the club. The cost is £110 (which works out at £10 per session) to cover hall hire and coaching. New members are welcome. Please contact nmcc.colts@gmail.com in order to book a place for your daughter.

North Middlesex CC girls' cricket teams had a successful summer with the Under 11s qualifying for County Finals Day, the Under 15s finishing as runners-up in their division and girls being selected by Middlesex for the County winter training squads. Follow the club on Twitter @GirlsCricket.


Singing for smiles

North London Chorus have thanked the commuters of East Finchley for their amazing generosity.

An hour's carol singing at East Finchley station just before Christmas raised the sum of £585 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. The choir's Marian Bunzl said: "It was lovely to see people smiling as they stopped to listen and we very much appreciate that they showed their pleasure by filling the collecting buckets."

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Humans have been unable to make progress without poverty

By Ian Cormack

On a damp Monday evening in November the Black Gull book shop in the High Road, N2, hosted a talk about economist and newspaper man Henry George, who shone light on the paradox of extreme poverty in mid-19th century America.

David Triggs, honorary president of the Henry George Foundation, described how George sought to understand how man could produce all of life's necessities for a fraction of the cost during past ages yet still could not eradicate poverty and destitution.

Land ownership

He watched the coming of the railways bring vast prosperity to the rail barons, as they knew which tracts of land to procure in advance. It dawned on him that, as exclusive occupation of a plot of land is only possible for one party, so the rest of the population who are excluded need to be compensated.

An invitation to speak at the University of California was withdrawn because his views had upset those with vested interests. Similarly in the UK at the time, MPs and voters too had to be landowners, so nothing got done and this situation largely continues today.



History master: David Triggs, Honorary President of The Henry George Foundation, speaking at Black Gull Books. Photo Mike Coles

Insights into social development

David read from George's book *Progress & Poverty* (1879) describing how a lone settler starts to make a living. Despite nature providing for many of his needs, he would

always be relatively poor and have to be a jack of all trades, until other people joined him. Then co-operation would allow the division of labour, thus leading to greater productivity but also to the emergence of rent.

George saw that, as society grew in this way, a diminishing proportion of the increased output went back into people's pockets because they had to pay rent. He saw how the failure to take natural resources as public revenue led to taxes being required on people and goods instead, causing poverty to those at the margin.

A lively and convivial discussion followed over refreshments provided by Brian Schwartz of Black Gull, and everyone left with much food for thought.

Agnes Wimborne: 1924-2019

Textile designer Agnes Wimborne, of Huntingdon Road, N2, died peacefully on 7 November in the Royal Free Hospital after a short illness. With a keen interest in art from early childhood, one could almost say that art ran in her blood.

She spent much of her childhood in and out of hospital due to two accidents where she broke the same leg. Her mother died when she was 11. At 17 she won a scholarship to the Central School of Arts and Crafts. During the Second World War, which interrupted her studies, she worked as a topographical draughtsman.

Agnes got married in 1943 and later spent a year in Jamaica, where her husband had found a teaching post. She was influenced by the light and tropical fauna, incorporating these elements into her subsequent designs and paintings.

Returning to England she resumed her studies at the Bath Academy of Art and then the Central School, where she gained a Diploma in Textile Design and then taught textiles and design.

ics and paintings. Her work can be found in the permanent collection of textiles in the



Designer Agnes Wimborne

Victorian and Albert Museum.

One of her African influenced designs was used to decorate the banquet hall in Claridge's Hotel. Other designs have been used in Brussels, Lisbon,

London, Paris, Lady Chaplin's House in Geneva, The Duke of Wellington's House Number 1 Piccadilly and in the British Embassy in Saudi Arabia.



African influence: One of Agnes's designs

Her work was also influenced by African Art and its landscapes and wildlife, due to the many years she spent commuting between London and Ghana, where her husband also taught.

Throughout this period she continued to design and sell wallpapers and textiles. She also painted on silk, did batik and produced wonderful ceram-

She ran her own textile firm for many years and continued to design and produce innovative work and to remain faithful to her long held belief that design and art play an integral role in our lives. Her memory and spirit will live on through her work.

Agnes is survived by two loving sons, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Fake music

We are living in interesting times, so interesting that it's like a rejected Carry On script, complete with madness, fools and a blond-buffoon Winston Churchill tribute act. And I blame the Australians. Not for the buffoon, but for the tribute acts.

Clive James said that Australia was the centre of the Koala Triangle, a place where culture either dies or leaves town. The ground zero of tribute acts, this is the place that gave you Bjorn Again and the Australian Pink Floyd Show and polluted rock'n'roll for ever.

It all comes down to Oz being the last place any self-respecting band wanted to visit. So if ABBA weren't going to come to Sydney, then a bunch of Aussies were going to fake it for a bit of a laugh. Since then we've had the mad, the bad and the deranged all over the world, musicians without the talent to write their own stuff doing replica acts like ReGenesis or The Bootleg Beatles.

Wonder what a bunch of three-chord punks would have made of *Waterloo*? Then check out Gabba and hear the Swedish foursome's greatest hits given the full Ramones treatment. Or what about Slady, Joanne Joanne and Lez Zeppelin, where you can watch girls doing the bloke rock thing.

Just about every band you've heard of has some half-baked tribute act out there, from AC/DC to Frank Zappa, and that's before we get to some civil servant from Stevenage doing his Elvis 'the fat and bloated Las Vegas years' act down the local pub.

Maybe they exist because the real thing has split up or they're mostly dead or past it or waiting for the Glastonbury Legend slot. Either way they fill the gap in their own weird way. Then again, some of the originals just keep going. Pete and Roger from The Who are touring this year and they've got a new album out, so who wants the fakes? And don't forget the perma-tanned one-time teen idol who was Britain's biggest star before the Beatles. Yes, folks, it's Cliff and he's doing his I'm-nearly-80 tour. So no need for a tribute act when you're doing it yourself!

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- **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
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Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com.
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- **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.
- **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.



To the rafters: The special concert at All Saints'. Photo Mike Coles.

Many happy returns to a man of music

By Marian Bunzl

Geoffrey Hanson, leading figure in our local musical landscape, celebrated his 80th birthday by giving a special concert at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, where he masterminds the annual East Finchley Arts Festival.

Conducted by friend and neighbour Geoffrey Simon, it featured compositions by Mozart, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, and Geoffrey Hanson himself, three splendid soloists, the London Mozart Players and The London Ripieno Singers, the choir he founded over 50 years ago.



Birthday boy: Geoffrey Hanson. Photo Mike Coles.

In baroque music, ripieno (literal translation 'stuffing or filling') was used to describe the supplementary forces from the choir and orchestra that accompanied the soloists. The 25 accomplished singers provided a beautiful cushion of sound to support the suave performance of the orchestra and glorious voices of the soloists and filled the church with a spirited and accomplished

performance of Mozart's motet *Exsultate, Jubilate*.

This set the tone of celebration, with the orchestra and soprano Anna Cavaliero, rising star of the operatic world, giving a joyous account of the composer's hymn to the blessings of singing 'sweet songs'.

Geoffrey Hanson's *Trumpet Piece*, a kind of duet between the trumpet and drum, and skilfully performed by Paul Archibald accompanied by the orchestra, celebrated the versatility of the instrument, alternatively forceful and playful, rhythmic and lyrical.

World premiere

And the major piece of the evening, the world premiere of *The Singing Will Never Be Done*, Geoffrey's setting of two First World War poems by Robert Bridges and Siegfried Sassoon scored for soprano, orchestra and the thrilling energy of the choir, celebrated the healing power of music over adverse circumstances.

The concert ended with a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday To You* by the audience, a thank you for the gift of wonderful music splendidly performed. Please may we have many happy returns.

World-famous harpist steps in

By Karen Williamson

The regulars at Age UK Barnet's musical afternoon couldn't believe their luck when world-renowned harpist Sioned Williams, recently retired as principal harp from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, stepped in to play at the last minute after the original performer dropped out.



Saving the day: Sioned Williams, famous solo harpist, teacher and lecturer plays at the Ann Owens Centre. Photo Mike Coles

"I may play in concert halls around the world and be privileged to work with the finest musicians but I also take great pleasure in playing in the community," says Sioned, who is president of the British Harp Association. "Music is universal, and to be able to share emotions with the lovely people in East Finchley was most heart-warming. How music touches people is amazing."

The audience at the concert

last month in the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, sat entranced, and one, in particular, spoke for all when she said: "The music made me forget my worries and took me to a happy place for a little while."

Sioned is a teacher, researcher and scholar, who pioneered integrated harp courses in Britain, was the first Welsh board member on the World Harp Congress, and is President of the UK Harp Association.



Café culture: English Countryside by Gail Altschuler.

Coffee and art

Landscapes and still lives painted by three members of the East Finchley Open Artists group are on display at Dan&Decarlo's coffee shop, opposite the tube station. The works by Gail Altschuler, Ian Hunt and Francesca Raphael Lincoln, all based on observation and imagination, can be seen there until the end of January.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to: news@the-archer.co.uk

Wednesday 15 January

- **Building a Better Brain**: Professor Catherine Loveday, Trustee of AgeUK and principal lecturer at University of Westminster, on promoting sharper thinking and better memory, lifelong; Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, 6.30pm; licensed bar available. Tickets free but donations welcome. All funds raised help to reduce social isolation among older people in Barnet. Places limited so booking essential; email wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8432 1421.

Sunday 19 January

- **Jazz at The Bohemia**, 762-764 High Road, North Finchley, N12 9QH; Lisa Feldman and Ailsa Chamley, vocals, with Liam Dunachie, piano and Adam King, bass. Starts: 7.30pm. Entry: £10

Saturday 25 January

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

Until Sunday 26 January

- Ovation presents the London fringe premiere of the hit Broadway musical **42nd Street**, **Upstairs at the Gatehouse**, Highgate N6, with musical numbers including *We're in the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway* and *You're Getting to be a Habit with Me*. More information and tickets from upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Tuesday 28 January

- Pop-up workshop on Anxiety in children, run by Childhood Mental Health Needs, with guest speaker Jo Holden, mental health trainer with CCSCoNECTed; St Mary's Church Hall, 192 High Road, N2, from 7pm to 8.30pm. Donations welcome on attendance.



Dog, bowl: Vet Josh Rusnak, left, with ceramics artist Jonathan Sacerdoti and Jamie the dog.

Vet surgery and art gallery in one

By John Lawrence

A new veterinary practice has opened in East Finchley that is not only hoping to welcome our four-legged friends through its doors but also anyone on two legs with an interest in art.

Aylmer Parade Vet has taken over the former Post Office and aims to contribute to the revival of this interesting parade of shops where the Great North Road meets the A1.

Owner Dr Josh Rusnak has run a companion practice in West Hampstead for almost 20 years and will be looking after pet patients in his three new fully-equipped treatment rooms. Meanwhile, out front, their owners can peruse and purchase works by a local ceramics artist, a pet portraitist and artists inspired by Aboriginal designs.

Something different

"We could have had a large empty reception area with deworming posters on the walls but we wanted to do something different," says Josh. "Anyone is welcome to drop in any time to see the art on show. We want it to be a community space, as well as a working vet's."

The ceramics artist whose work occupies one wall of the reception, alongside pouches of dog and cat food, is Josh's brother-in-law Jonathan Sacerdoti. He works in stoneware and porcelain, throwing on a wheel or hand-building each of his

pieces, which are designed to be used in everyday life.

"It's very valuable as an artist to have a space like this to show work," says Jonathan. "Sometimes it's hard to let go of pieces you've made but this reminds me that really I want people to take them home and use them."

The pet portrait artist showing her work at the practice is June Schneider. She prints her portraits on aluminium, giving a striking and glossy effect. The Aborigine-inspired artists include Rex Winston Walford and Dulcie Pula Long.

Letters



Summer tennis at the Fortis Green Tennis Club. See 'Open space under threat' below.

Offsetting is not enough

Dear Editor,
Last month *The Archer* reported on the granting of planning permission to the new development opposite the Tube station in the face of considerable public opposition. This will provide 24 new homes, six with rooms in the basement with little light and no view, and two storeys of office building, a considerable amount underground.

We know that we have a climate emergency. One of the key contributors to our warming earth, estimated at 55% in London according to the Mayor's office, is the energy used to heat our homes. One might therefore assume that there would be a concerted effort to ensure that new buildings at least are as energy efficient as possible to save carbon and to achieve the Mayor's aim of a carbon-neutral London by 2050.

Barnet Council asked the developer in this case to send in calculations to show the likely performance of these new buildings and these were posted on the website too late for anyone to comment. In fact they show that this new development is very far from efficient and the council recognises this and has put a price of £34,000 to 'offset carbon savings'.

This is quite shocking and we would have hoped that the council would be setting a much higher standard for the new homes that we would expect to be fit for habitation for at least 30 years. So far the council has been unable to say specifically what the money will be used for and whether East Finchley will in fact benefit.

Yours faithfully,
Mary Hogben,
The Finchley Society.

Left in the dark

Dear Editor,
It was certainly a memorable experience buying my morning newspaper by candlelight at Pacey's newsagent on the High Road when they had a power cut just before Christmas. But it can't

have been much fun for them and their neighbouring shops trying to serve customers without electricity.

I was told this is the third time in a year they have lost power like this, and it lasted for hours over two days. Of course, faults happen but this seems to be a recurring problem that needs fixing properly. We hear that local shops are struggling enough as it is. I hope those affected this time can pull through and recover some of the custom they lost at an important time of the year.

Yours faithfully,
Anita Byers,
Kitchener Road, N2.

Open space 'under threat'

Dear Editor,

With the backdrop of climate crisis and environmental protection, intense scrutiny on land use is being applied across the board by various authorities and concerned bodies. Most councils have published their policy on open spaces and are extremely keen to maintain them.

It is a great concern then to learn that there are development plans for some or all of the land between Cherry Tree Road, Southern Road and Shakespeare Gardens, N2, which has been enjoyed by the Fortis Green Tennis Club for nearly 100 years. This site currently comprises four clay courts, a clubhouse, mature shrubs and trees, open grassed space with benches plus a play area for kids.

It would appear that these proposals have been discussed for some time without consultation with the local community nor with immediate neighbours who would be most impacted by the development of houses on the site.

The diminishment of this open and green space would have a number of adverse impacts locally including loss of habitat, trees, amenity, sports facilities, meeting space and outdoor recreation. The effect on local people and the environment are not minor inconveniences; this development idea is entirely inappropriate for this location.

At the time of writing I understand that the owners of the land, who are not the tennis club, have not yet sought planning permission from Haringey Council but that a formal application is expected to be submitted in early 2020.

Yours faithfully,
M Randall,
Address supplied.

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Hidden messages: Taya with one of her finished works.

Intricate art for inquisitive eyes

By John Lawrence

Taya De La Cruz was regularly given detention at school for having writing that was too small for her teachers to read. Since then, she has turned what they saw as a shortcoming into the basis of her unique form of art.

Taya works from a basement studio in Leicester Road, N2, creating intriguing images with an extremely fine-tipped pen. From a distance they can be abstract or human shapes; but take a look close-up and they reveal hidden stories and secret messages.

Each one is constructed from Taya's tiny handwriting, painstakingly written letter by letter. Every minuscule character must be placed precisely and just one of her canvasses can represent 30-50 hours of work.

Each letter a pixel

Taya, who trained as an actress, says her art has come about by accident. She shared her father's interest in cal-

ligraphy and found she was always able to write small and often in different fonts. But it is only by sharing her work on Instagram and including it in her first public show at the Truman Brewery in East London this year that her Handwritten Art business has started to take off.

"Words and text have always been important to me," she says. "I got detention all the time as a kid but at the same time I won every handwriting competition I entered because I could be neat. Now as an adult when I feel creative I still need to find an outlet.

"To me, every letter in my images is like a pixel on a screen. They are intended to be seen as a whole, like little eco-systems,

but people are also intrigued to look closely at them and realise they could be hiding a secret message that's staring them in the face but can't be seen."

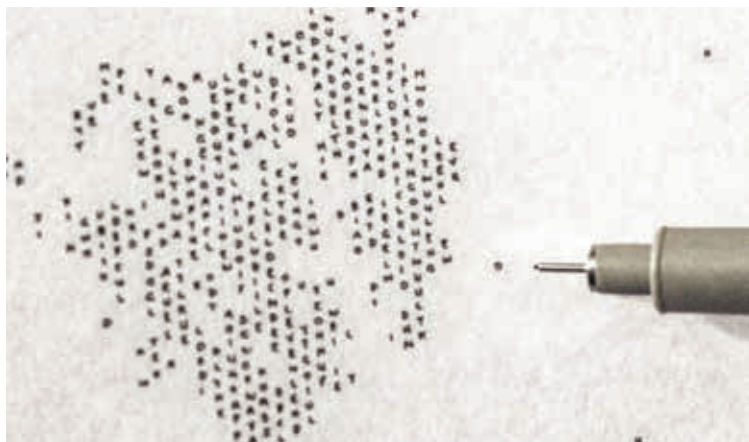
In a happy place

Taya uses a Pigma Micron pen with a nib measuring barely more than a tenth of a millimetre across and works against an upright light board, wearing gloves to protect her paper. Despite the effort and the concentration required, she calls it her "happy place" and says for her it is like a form of meditation.

Taya has started selling her work and has begun to receive commissions. Find out more at handwrittenart.com or follow her @handwrittenart.



Small world: Taya uses tiny lettering to create large images.



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