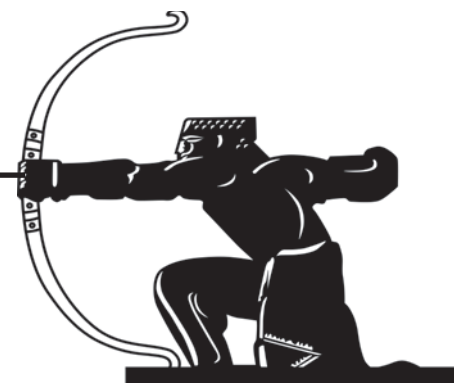


The Archer

Local News is our Aim



March 2020 No. 311

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Torn down: The roof and walls of the pavilion are reduced to piles of brick and timber. Photo Mike Coles.

Going, going, gone...

By Diana Cormack

After more than 30 years standing empty, the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was finally razed to the ground early last month, ridding the park of a controversial eyesore and ending hopes of some sort of redevelopment to benefit the community.

was built adjacent to Brompton Grove bordering the park in the late 1950s, the pavilion was used as changing rooms for sporting activities in the days when football matches regularly took place on the field; for some time it also housed a playgroup.

However, during the 1980s it was used less and less and gradually fell into a state of disrepair. As it became more dilapidated concerns grew about its safety and many wondered what could be done with the long-standing building.

greater problems than originally thought. Following the theft of valuable tools and equipment, work ceased.

Green again

Over the last decade the decaying building became a major safety hazard and was eventually fenced off with metal barriers. Its removal after 94 years has created a large clearing opposite the children's play area. Park users and social media are now questioning if anything could be done with it.

Barnet Council told *The Archer*: "At this time there is

no funding in place for anything to be located in place of the pavilion. The area will be cleared and then treated with top soil and grass seed."



Back to earth: The former pavilion site is now bare soil. Photo Mike Coles.

Demolition contractors M&L Stevens Ltd moved in and took only a few days to knock down the brick structure and clear the site. Even the concrete base had to be removed because tree roots had caused it to subside in places.

Varied uses

The pavilion was originally built in 1926 as an electricity sub-station. At that time, and up until nationalisation in 1948, Finchley Council was responsible for electricity generation in the area.

When a new sub-station

Big ideas defeated

Two major development plans were proposed, both by leaseholders who ran the kiosk café at the other end of Cherry Tree Wood. In 2008, Sally-Anne Wigfield wanted to turn the derelict building into a community facility with a strong emphasis on education and health. Despite impressive ideas, she was unable to obtain the required funding.

In 2012 Pepe Dostezad started work with the intention of turning it into a coffee bar, but within two years restoration and repairs proved to be

Green bin sign-up

Residents who want Barnet Council to collect their garden waste must sign up and pay for the service from this month. There will be approximately 23 collections a year, costing £70 per year for one bin, and £50 for each additional bin per year.

The deadline is 20 March for ensuring a first collection after the service starts on 6 April. Residents can sign up and pay by calling 020 8359 4600 (option 1) or signing up online at www.barnet.gov.uk/garden-waste and requesting a call back to make payment.

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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 – **April: 13 March; May: 10 April; June: 15 May**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

55 Abbots Gardens, N2

First-floor side extension. Part single, part two-storey rear extension. Roof extension including one side and one rear dormer window.

15 Beresford Road, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for roof extension with rear dormer and three front rooflights.

34 Beresford Road, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for roof extension involving hip to gable, rear L-shaped dormer window with Juliet balcony, and two front rooflights.

20 Elmfield Road, N2

Lawful Development Certificate for extension to roof including one rear dormer window and two front rooflights.

7 Fairlawn Avenue, N2

Single-storey extension following demolition of existing extension.

Flat 1, 48 Fortis Green, N2

Demolition of rear conservatory. Single-storey rear extension, including two rooflights.

64 Fortis Green, N2

Replacement of existing dormer window with doors. Front and rear rooflights.

37 Hertford Road, N2

Single-storey ground floor rear extension with part glass roof. Replacement of front windows. Removal of disabled lift platform and reinstatement of original steps. Lawful Development Certificate for roof extension involving rear dormer windows and two front rooflights.

78 High Road, N2

Two-storey rear extension. Conversion of residential upper floors to studio flats. Roof extension to the existing building. Total new build area 121 sqm. Commercial area 49 sqm. Residential areas 82 sqm.

339 High Road, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormer window and one rooflight, and two front rooflights. Two-storey side extension. Single-storey rear extension, with one skylight.

23 Howard Walk, N2

Modifications to rear parapet of single-storey link between 21 and 23, including repositioning of external door.

21 Huntingdon Road, N2

Roof extension involving raising roof height, and rear dormer window.

46 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, including new bi-fold doors to rear, following demolition of existing rear extension.

72 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

Garden Lodge, 370 Long Lane, N2

Details of conditions pursuant to planning conditions.

410 Long Lane, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window and two front rooflights.

70A Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side extension.

10 New Trinity Road, N2

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

Land Adjacent to 1 - 12 Norfolk Close, N2

Submission of details pursuant to planning permission.

5 Oakview Gardens, N2

Two-storey rear extension. New balcony to rear of second floor. Changes to rear fenestration. Single-storey rear extension. Depth 4m, eaves height 2.79 m, maximum height 3.03 m.

13 Oakview Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

86 Ossulton Way, N2

Replacement of two front doors with security door.

Prospect Ring, N2

Details of conditions pursuant to planning permission.

37 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Air conditioning unit to side elevation.

37 Sylvester Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving dormer windows and two front rooflights.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council 020 8359 2000
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Benefits 0800 882200
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000
Recycling & refuse 020 88857700
Benefits 020 8489 2800

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
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

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
Heathrow Airport 0844 3351801
National Express 0871 781 8181
TfL 0343 222 1234
Thameslink 0345 026 4700

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Citizens Advice Barnet 0300 4568365
Cruse Bereavement Care 0808 8081677
EF Advice Service 0300 4568365
Lone Parent Centre 020 3828 4834
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National Debt Line 0808 156 7718
NSPCC 0808 8005000
Rape Crisis helpline 0808 802 9999
Refuge Crisis Helpline 0808 2000 247
Relate Helpline 0300 100 1234
RSPCA 0300 1234 999
Samaritans 116 123
SENDIASS Barnet 020 8359 7637
SENDIASS Haringey 020 3667 5233

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282

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Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700
National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

Crime

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Police non-emergency 101
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Victim Support 0845 303 0900

Hospitals

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Barnet General 08451 114000
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
Whittington 020 7272 3070

OAPs' Advice

Age UK Barnet 020 8203 5040
Independent Age 0800 319 6789
Age UK 0800 169 2081

Station car park earmarked as site for future development

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley station car park and the site of the former Bobath Centre in East End Road are both listed as sites for possible development in Barnet's draft Local Plan.

Development on the station car park could be a follow-up to existing flat-building schemes alongside Finchley Central and High Barnet stations. No formal plans have been lodged and when *The Archer* asked Transport for London they told us: "We currently have no plans to develop our car parking site at East Finchley station."

There has been speculation for some time about the old Bobath Centre site. The new owner is making adjustments to the existing building and part of the grounds to accommodate a children's nursery, but there is potential for further development on an unused area at the rear of the site. Again, no proposals have been made.

How to have your say

However, Barnet's Local Plan covers the next 15 years, and also covers related topics of transport, building regulations and the environment. It will be the main basis on which future planning applications are decided. The proposals it makes are at consultation stage. Comments to Barnet Council must be received by midnight on 16 March.

Printed copies of the draft plan and a schedule of site proposals for the borough can be viewed in Barnet libraries. The same information is available online at www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-consultations. Responses can be made online, by email at planning@barnet.gov.uk, and by post to Planning Policy Team, 7th Floor, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW. Enquiries by phone on 020 8359 3000.

The Planning Policy Team will be available for questions and comments at Finchley and Golders Green Residents' Forum on Wednesday 4 March, from 7pm at Church End Library, Finchley Central.



Area of interest: the station car park ringed in red in the Local Plan.

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New community centre close to opening its doors

By Janet Maitland

East Finchley's new community centre on Tarling Road will soon open officially to the public after 18 months of keeping its doors locked and offering only very limited access.

A contract between Barnet Council and City YMCA, who will manage the centre, has finally been agreed in principle. Once it is signed, City YMCA will move into their office in the building and the centre will at last be open for business.

Balancing the books

A key issue in the negotiations has been how to make the centre self-sustaining as the council cannot fund the running costs. But if rents and service charges are too high, community groups hiring space will find it difficult to offer affordable activities to local people. Details of how the books will be balanced are not yet available.

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra said he was glad that the building would be open to full public use at last, but was disappointed the council "will set the charges at a full cost recovery rate". He added: "There may be more funding for councils in future, but for the time being it will be more expensive to book."

A Barnet Council spokesperson told us: "Some areas of the centre will be available for hire at charity rates and some of the general and communal areas will be available free of charge."

A story of losses and rights

The centre has been partially open for the last few months, to a nursery, and the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association

(SBWA).

The council has agreed a direct lease with the SBWA, who lost their space in the Coppetts Road Community Centre in Muswell Hill when it was destroyed in a racist arson attack in 2013. The council promised to put aside £1million in order to re-provide the lost facilities.

In 2015 the council decided to use this fund, plus £600,000 insurance money, towards the £2.65m cost of building the Tarling Road centre and to lease half the space to the SBWA.

It is on the site of the Old Barn which was a thriving centre for children and young people for over 25 years until it was taken over in 2010 by a group of trustees, who closed down all the services. The Old Barn Action Group campaigned for four years to get the centre restored to the community. It was finally wrestled back in 2014, with the lease reverting to the council, who demolished the old building in 2016.



Open soon: Tarling Road



Eye to eye: A young diner braves the dancing lion at Bund restaurant. Photo Mike Coles

Lion dance is mane attraction

Children shrieked with excitement when a traditional lion dance welcomed in the Chinese Year of the Rat at the new Bund restaurant in Fortis Green, N2. The modern pan-Asian diner was packed with families for the New Year celebration at the end of January. Mythology has it that the rat won the race to be the first animal in the zodiacal year by failing to wake the cat and then playing a flute while hitching a ride on the back of the ox. After its thrilling performance, our photographer Mike Coles caught the lion making a low-key exit through the kitchens.

Planting for bees more important than ever as food sources disappear

By Kerstin Fenelon

With planting season commencing it's the perfect time to think green. Planting for Bees is a new initiative being introduced by local resident and avid gardener Lesley Todd with the support of Grange Big Local community funding.

The aim of this project is to entice locals to come together to enhance the local area and the environment by planting a variety of colourful plants that are attractive to pollinators such as bees, butterflies, beetles, moths and a myriad other invertebrates that are vital to food security and biodiversity.

Since the 1970s, two thirds of the UK's pollinator species have seen a decline, mostly due to loss of habitat. Any new pollinator-friendly plants in



Spring project: Lesley Todd plants for pollinators. Photo Mike Coles

your garden or public spaces will help them keep a foothold.

Lesley is keen for everyone to get involved in her planting project and emphasises that it is open to all ages and gardening

abilities. All plants and tools will be provided. To take part, register your interest by emailing info@grangebiglocal.org where further information will be provided.

Festival fundraiser hits target

The volunteer team organising the East Finchley Festival have thanked everyone who pledged towards their crowdfunding total to ensure the massively popular event can go ahead in Cherry Tree Wood as planned on Sunday 21 June.

With just hours to spare, the team were delighted to reach their £8,800 target at the start of February, unlocking all the pledges that had been made, and meaning they could press ahead with booking vital equipment like the performance stages and toilet facilities. Roll on, summer!

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Speaking out: The East Finchley protesters in Parliament Square. Photo Hazel Mason

Rebellion grandparents join young strikers

By Daphne Chamberlain

Extinction Rebellion Grandparents stood alongside young protestors in Parliament Square last month. Around 50 of them joined in with yellow flags and a banner reading "XR grandparents in solidarity with student strikers".

East Finchley resident Hazel Mason, who formed the Grandparents Facebook group, told *The Archer*: "We are aware that it is our generation which has contributed most to the rise in CO2 in the atmosphere and the consequential rise in global temperatures. Very late in the day, both for ourselves and the planet, we are doing what we can to help youngsters have a voice to determine their future."

"As well as teenagers and school groups, parents were there with their younger children. It was interesting talking to students and parents about how they and their schools handle the question of climate strikes."

Schools become involved

Hazel told us that many schools have very supportive policies. These include allowing strikers to alternate attendance so that it is not always the same ones missing school, and/or arranging staff or parent accompaniment to safeguard particular age-groups.

She heard that some schools have declared a climate emergency, and that many are holding a 'Climate Week', when they go off-curriculum in order to

focus on climate and ecology.

Hazel herself is among outside speakers being invited into schools to talk about the climate crisis, Extinction Rebellion, and about what students can do themselves. She told us that she will be meeting the Young Global Ambassadors from the Archer Academy in East Finchley after half-term to see which initiatives the school and the students would like to implement. Follow XR news and events on Facebook.

Moped in close shave with child on public footpath

By Janet Maitland

A teenager on a moped almost hit a three-year-old boy when speeding along a public footpath off Long Lane in East Finchley.

"If I hadn't grabbed the back of my son's hood and pulled him out of the way, I don't know what might have happened," said the toddler's mother, a local resident who was walking along Ploughman's Walk on her way to pick up her daughter from school on Tuesday 4 February.

"I can't sleep for thinking about it. He was going so fast and making such a noise I thought it was a helicopter overhead at first. He came off Long Lane and straight down the footpath at about 25 miles an hour and he didn't stop after he nearly ran us over, just carried on speeding down the footpath."

The rider is described as about 15, wearing jeans and a grey hooded top. The scooter had L-plates. The resident reported the incident to the police and has also written to MP Mike Freer to see if anything can be done to prevent

this happening again.

We asked Jan Lovell of the Safer Neighbourhood Team if there was CCTV on any of the footpaths in East Finchley. She confirmed that Barnet Council has installed just eight cameras, one on the junction between East End Road and Ossulton Way, and the rest on the High Road. None are on footpaths.

Activity volunteers

Age UK Barnet is looking for volunteers to help it offer vital services in the community, particularly walking group volunteers who can lead or assist with walks for older people in local open spaces, drivers to help clients attend activities, and activity volunteers.

For more information, contact volunteer manager Lisa Robbins at volunteering@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call her on 020 8432 1422.

Woman arrested after man dies in fall from high rise

By Janet Maitland

A woman has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a man fell to his death from the sixth floor of a block of flats in North Finchley.

Police were called by the London Ambulance Service to reports of a critically injured man on the High Road, North Finchley opposite the artsdepot at 3.20pm on Wednesday 12 February. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Formal identification awaits, but the deceased is believed to be a 33-year-old man, originally from Eastern Europe but living in North Finchley. A 28-year-old woman was arrested at the scene

on suspicion of murder and was taken to hospital for treatment for minor injuries and then detained in a North London police station. It is believed that the man and woman knew each other.

Anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101 or contact via Twitter @MetCC, quoting CAD 4634/12FEB. To give information anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org



Circle of trust: Ruth Sabrosa, in grey jacket, leads a mother and daughter group at Muswell Hill Library.

Ways to keep family relationships strong

By Zoe Behagg

A mother and daughter circle aimed at six to 12-year-old daughters and their mums will show ways that mothers and children can remain connected from the early years through to their teens.

Led by Ruth Sabrosa, founder of Mindful Mothering, the session will focus on poet, singer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, with activities looking at ways to communicate and speak your mind truthfully, such as how to say 'no' to friends and value your own opinions.

"A third of teenagers suffer from anxiety, and research indicates that this number is rising," says local clinical psychologist Dr Jenny McGillion. "Anxiety can negatively impact personal relationships, schoolwork, hobbies and general wellbeing."

"Parents often feel overwhelmed and confused about how best to respond to their child's psychological problems, though most parents understand that communication is a good starting point."

The Mother and Daughter Circle will be held at Tomato Tutors, High Road, N2, on

International Women's Day, Sunday 8 March. Tickets cost £25 and are available online at ruthsabrosa.com.

Special dress

Ruth is also hosting a Family Empowerment Circle at Muswell Hill Library, which is for boys and girls of all ages. This free event on Monday 9 March between 4pm and 5pm will include meditation, activities and discussion on important women from history.

Special guest Lucy Tammam will join the circle to talk about her One Dress project, a unique piece of textile art embroidered in the UK, India and Kenya by women. Every woman involved in One Dress is paid fairly for their time and skill.

You can support the project by buying your own word or sentence to appear on the 'Dress' to show what women's empowerment means to you. Find more information at ruthsabrosa.com

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Four-month delay before residents can return to Willow House

By Janet Maitland

Willow House on the Grange Estate is still shrouded in plastic sheeting despite Barnet Homes' assurances that the fire-damaged block would be repaired by this month (*The Archer*, November 2019). None of the 13 families who lost their homes after a devastating fire raged through the roof 14 months ago have been able to move back in.

Time was lost last year when Barnet Council decided to re-tender the refurbishment contract because the bids it had received "did not represent value for money". But a spokesperson for Barnet Homes told us in November that work would soon begin, to finish in March 2020.

Barnet Homes respond

So we asked Barnet Homes what was slowing progress. A spokesperson said that although the work did start in November it now won't finish until July, because of "extensive water damage to the building and having to allow time for the drying out process".

An electrical fault is being blamed for the blaze, which forced 60 residents to flee for their lives in the early hours. The Barnet Homes spokesperson told us: "A company was employed by the loss adjusters involved in the case to investigate. They were present during the clearance of the collapsed roof, which has been confirmed

as an electric fault, however they were unable to draw any further conclusions than this."

Concerns over safety and information

Residents living in the undamaged part of Willow House told us last November that although the council had promised them information about how the fire started and what steps would be taken to ensure it never happened again, they had not been told anything. They also felt unsafe because the front door was damaged.

"We have kept in communication with tenants and leaseholders via regular hand-delivered letters regarding specific information," said the Barnet Homes spokesperson. "Our contact details are published in all fire safety communication, so we encourage residents to get in touch with us directly if they have any concerns." They added that they'd fixed the broken intercom within their repair timelines and that the block is checked regularly by the caretaking team.



Damaged by fire: Willow House in July 2019



Keep dancing: Arsenal's Joe Wilcock joins a Saturday Social session in The Hub at Emirates Stadium. Photo David Price / Arsenal FC via Getty Images

The day we danced with the first team at the Emirates Stadium

By Daphne Chamberlain

Just before Christmas, I danced with Arsenal's Granit Xhaka at Emirates Stadium. A few minutes later another Arsenal player bolted from the room, clutching a necklace.

No, it wasn't a solve-a-crime mystery event. To celebrate the fact that the Arsenal Foundation and Islington Giving had reached a joint grant-making amount of £500,000, some of the first team squad were meeting some of the beneficiaries.

Dance and drama

One of them is a group I belong to, called Silver Threads, and run by local arts organization All Change Arts, founded by East Finchley resident Jim Mason. We meet once a month at the Emirates, but this time we were sharing an improvised performance workshop with the players.

We paired up with them to mirror-dance to Stormzy (by the way, Granit Xhaka is a great dance partner). Then we launched into improvisation, including fun with the necklace.

Friendly, polite and enthusiastic, the players definitely entered into the spirit of the occasion. They would be welcome to join us at any time – and I was brought up as a Spurs supporter!

Samir Singh, from Arsenal in the Community, told *The Archer* that the club has offered programmes for local older people since 1985. These include weekly short mat bowls sessions at nine community venues, and Saturday Socials sessions for over-50s in partnership with All Change.

Things happen with All Change

My Saturday Social, though definitely very sociable, is what All Change artistic director Suzanne Lee calls "a regular company". Led by poet Francesca Beard and photography artist Leticia Valverdes, our

last two shows mixed poetry, dance, photography, music and film. In 2018, we played to a sell-out audience at Union Chapel, and last year we staged a follow-up piece including HipHop Dance and Rap at Rich Mix in Hackney.

This year we are working on something different. We always enjoy a challenge, and you never know what may happen.

Under new management

East Finchley tube station has a new train operations manager. Stephen Read, who has been with London Underground for 22 years, has taken over the role looking after a team of 100 drivers based at the station.

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A new orchard comes to the wood

By Debbie Linton

Five fruit trees donated by the Orchard Project have been planted by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood in the area between the tennis courts and the main path.

About 20 volunteers braved cold weather on Sunday 19 January to embed the three apple, one pear and one plumcot in their new home. The following week about 100 daffodil bulbs were also planted.

The daffodils are expected to flower next year and the trees should bear fruit once they are settled in. The Friends thanked everyone who had come along to help.

Pavilion and kiosk update

The Friends have been liaising with Barnet Council about repairing any damaged footpaths following the demolition of the pavilion. Subsidence due to tree roots has meant that it has not been possible to keep the concrete base. It is now planned to allow the area to return to woodland.

The kiosk near the tennis courts no longer has a leaseholder. The council will advertise for a new one soon, with the hope that it will be up and running in the spring.

Plans for the year ahead

About 20 people came to

the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood AGM on 14 January and discussed plenty of ideas for the year ahead. These included submitting a bid to the Council for new bins, a drinking fountain and a nature trail for under-10s.

Meetings in the wood with Barnet's Green Space Officer will continue to be monthly, and the Friends will also continue to attend the Barnet Green Spaces Network. More events in the wood, such as bird box making days and history tours, are also planned. In addition, a botanist has been appointed by the Friends to carry out a detailed survey of the wood.

Everyone is welcome to join the next litter pick on Sunday 8 March from 2-3pm. From the spring, the picks will be later at 4-5pm, starting on Sunday 5 April.

Get involved

The next Friends meeting is on Tuesday 21 April at 7.30pm. For more information or to keep in touch with the Friends, email: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com



Fruitful expectations: The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood prepare the ground for the new trees. Photo Mike Coles.

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Standing ovation: From left, Fran Hills, Yvette Bonner, Stephen Anthony Brown, Gabriella Swallow, James Cleverton and Thomas Gould enjoy the applause at the end of the St James' concert.

Raise the roof to save the roof

By Marian Bunzl

After a century of wind and weather the roof of St. James' Church in Muswell Hill is in serious need of extensive repair. Reverend Chris Green, keen to mount a special fundraising event, was able to call on congregants James Cleverton and Yvette Bonner, a husband and wife team of international opera singers, who in turn could call on a group of world class musicians.

Their Raise The Roof fundraising opera gala took place on Sunday 5 January to a full house, providing a stream of glorious music from the Baroque to American musicals, all compered by James with appropriate anecdotes and humorous asides.

Yvette opened the concert with a joyous cascade of arpeggios in her gleaming soprano followed by an aria from James in his resonant, compelling baritone.

Stephen Anthony Brown's

ringing tenor was heard in various arias, including *O Sole Mio*, and he joined James in the famous duet from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, each voice alternatively blending and competing in almost more of a duel than a duet.

Violinist Thomas Gould gave a virtuoso performance of a piece by Arvo Pärt and composer Iain Bell personally introduced his composition *Concert Aria*, which was performed by James, Thomas, and cellist Gabriella

Swallow, who followed with a solo which evoked the sound of warm honey.

Throughout the entire concert, pianist Fran Hill provided a skilled, sympathetic accompaniment perfectly in keeping with each differing style and composer.

The concert ended with James and Yvette's vivid rendition of the drinking song from Verdi's *La Traviata*. During the thunderous applause that followed, I swear I saw the roof lift!

Motorcycle diary: to the ends of the earth

Malcolm Dunkeld, of Leslie Road, N2, sends this report from the second leg of his round-the-world motorcycle odyssey.

Most travellers who arrive in Buenos Aires fly southwards to Ushuaia and Cape Horn with good reason: the landscape along the Atlantic coast goes from bleak, to even bleaker to windy desolation.

The road south is on the billiard-smooth Ruta 3 which for 2,300km traverses a wind-swept plateau of shrub and grass, stony desert, beautiful roadside trees, small lakes and dried river beds. The place is gigantic and deserted apart from the occasional sighting of llama-like guanaco, grey foxes, choique and birds of prey.

My ride down was under perfect blue skies but the sun is invisible while driving. It rises in the east behind your left shoulder, goes behind your back and then sets behind your right shoulder.

Patagonia, the extreme end of the planet, is a maelstrom of contradictory wind that never relents and plays yoyo with the motorcycle.

Welsh surprises

Although the landscape is cursed, both beautiful and diabolical, there are treats along the way including the evocative Museo Pampeano in Chascomús, which tells the story of the gaucho horsemen of South America, and I was able to enjoy the hospitality of the wonderful Welsh community who live around Trelew.

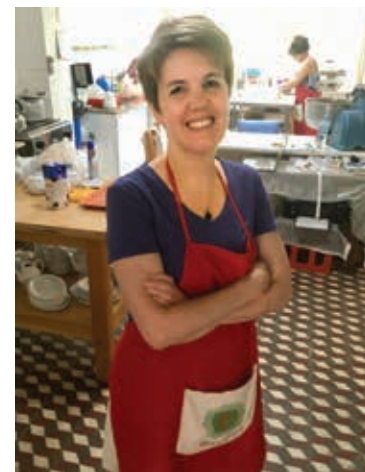
The river here attracted 19th-century Welsh immigrants who through sheer grit built a series of raised canals that irrigated

the local desert and allowed the growing of wheat and vegetables. Today the region is renowned

for its delicious Welsh teas, with some of the tea houses still run by descendants of the original Welsh settlers.

Historic ports

Another surprise was coming across a reconstructed Spanish galleon in the small port of Puerto San Julian. It turns out that in 1520 Magellan overwintered here, followed by Drake 50 years later and then Darwin aboard the Beagle. I finally arrived at the far southern town of Ushuaia in the pouring rain to find a small port of undistinguished architecture but with a spectacular setting on the Drake Passage from which boats sail to Antarctica.



Anna Rees, who is part of the Welsh community in Trelew and serves delicious tea and Welsh cakes in the Plas Y Coed. Photo Malcolm Dunkeld

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Slower traffic and a safer crossing at primary school

By John Lawrence

Road safety measures could be introduced in the area of Martin Primary School in East Finchley after an investment of £96,000 was agreed by Barnet Council.

Under the proposals, a 20mph zone would cover the High Road from Chandos Road to Park Road, and also include Leslie Road, Leopold Road and Creighton Avenue, where it will merge with the existing 20mph zone that starts at the border with Haringey.

The crossing immediately outside the primary school would be made safer too, with a raised road level and high-friction markings to slow down traffic, and extra guard rails to protect pedestrians. Additionally, there would be a new central refuge island in Creighton Road close to East Finchley Baptist Church.

Local residents will be consulted on the plans before they are finalised and they will go ahead subject to the funding being set aside in the Local Implementation Programme controlled by Transport for London.

East Finchley's councillors have been pressing for improved

road safety after a father and daughter were badly injured while crossing outside Martin Primary last year, and after traffic monitoring reported a number of near misses between cars and pedestrians close to the school.

More to be achieved

Councillor Arjun Mittra said he was pleased that some progress had been made but he and his colleagues had not achieved everything they had hoped for. "I would prefer to see a blanket 20 zone for the whole ward, and a proper signalling of the Church Lane junction, and we will just have to keep working on that."

Last year some residents of the county roads petitioned for their streets to be turned into a 20mph zone. Cllr Mittra said this was on the list to be considered by Transport for London but warned that widening the zone here or throughout East Finchley would take perseverance and possibly some years to achieve.



Court action: Organiser Sonia Bownes (third from left) and Treasurer Claire Roughton (2nd from right) with club members Marsha, Bianca, Sinead and Na'amah. Photo Louise Goodey

Fun is the goal of netball club

By Diana Cormack

Netball developed from basketball, the team game invented in the United States in 1891. It was introduced to this country by Swedish born physical education instructor and woman's suffrage supporter Martina Bergman-Osterberg. In the few years after its arrival several changes were made, including bringing in rules from women's basketball in America and the new name 'netball'.

Originally regarded as a women's activity played in many parts of the world, there are now mixed, male and transgender teams, though how this will be dealt with under the pressure to make it an Olympic sport remains to be seen. Despite the number of players

involved in Britain, netball rarely received much coverage in the media. However, after England stunned Australia by scoring a last second goal to win the Commonwealth Games Gold Medal in 2018, netball has come into its own, gaining a place in the press and an increas-

ing interest in the community.

Tigers survive and thrive

Evidence of this can be seen at Fortismere School on Thursday evenings when the Tetherdown Tigers meet. Originally instigated by a group of mothers from Tetherdown School, after 12 years numbers had fallen and there was a desperate need for more members.

New recruit Sonia Bownes, of Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley joined the club last year and realised that, if it was to survive, something had to be done. So, putting her previous experience into action, Sonia set about using social media and launched a recruitment drive. She admits to not having been good at sport in her schooldays, emphasising that her main reason for joining was to have fun and that is what she wants for all the players, whatever their standard.

Able assisted by treasurer Claire Roughton, organiser Sonia told The Archer that they now have a waiting list, having reached a full contingency of 35. Some members are learning as they go along and all are helped by regular coaching sessions. When I visited, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and there was a lovely atmosphere. More information is available at www.meetup.com/Muswell-hill-netball



Into the woods: Big Fun Walkers head toward Highgate last year.

Parks and woodlands walk for North London Hospice

Spring is on its way, which means it's the right time to sign up for the Big Fun Walk 2020 in support of North London Hospice, taking place this year on Sunday 3 May.

More than 1,600 people, and some dogs, took part last year in the 8.5 mile walk from Cherry Tree Wood, N2, through London's woodlands and parks to the heart of Westminster.

You can walk in memory of a loved one or just to support the hospice, which provides end-of-life care and support to people facing life-limiting or terminal illness, and their families, in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Chief executive Pam McClinton said: "Our services are free to users. We receive £4 million from the NHS but need to fundraise an additional £9 million to cover the total cost of running the hospice every year. Big Fun Walk raised over £160,000 in 2019, which all goes towards providing patient care."

To sign up or find out more visit www.bigfunwalk.co.uk



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High hopes: Fortismere boys' U13 table tennis team Noah Hacking, Sam Gabriel, Ishay Haim and Cody Sweet Purcell. Photo by Stewart Orton

Table tennis boys storm into final

By Stewart Orton

Fortismere School's under-13 boys' table tennis team defied Storm Ciara last month to head off to the West Country to compete in the Table Tennis England national schools championship. They had already performed amazingly just to reach the final 16 schools in the country.

In their South regional final in Bristol, they were up against last year's beaten finalists, Hampshire's Westgate, Midlands champions John Hampden and independent school Millfield, so they knew they were in for a tough day.

After some professional performances in a run of tense

victories throughout the day, Fortismere's final opponents were Millfield, a specialist sporting independent school with a fantastic sports reputation.

With the echoes of an inspirational team talk still ringing in their ears, the Fortismere boys went into the game on fire and

raced to a half-way 3-1 lead before repeating that in the second round of matches to storm through 6-2.

Their victory means they are now one of the best four schools in the country and will compete for the national title in Hinckley, Leicestershire, on Saturday 14 March. Good luck, Fortismere!



Wow factor: The Archer Academy dance team who impressed the Barnet judges.

Dance team brings home gold

Archer Academy students from years 10 & 11 danced their way to first place at the annual Barnet Dance Competition in January, the fourth year in a row the school had taken home gold medals. The judges said they were "transfixed" all of the way through the Archer Academy students' performance, so much so that they hadn't been able to look down to write any comments.

They will now go on to fly the flag for East Finchley and represent Barnet at the London finals later this month. Well done to the whole team!

Kids go inside out to highlight mental health

Children and staff at Highgate Primary School, along with the school dog Horace, enthusiastically took part in Inside Out Day on Thursday 6 February as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

Everyone wore items of clothing 'inside out' to inspire everyone to stop and think about how appearances can be deceptive. Although someone may look fine on the outside, on the inside they may be feeling sad or worried so the aim was to remind everyone to be kind.

Teacher Billie-Jean Daniels said: "I am thrilled by the children's response to Inside Out Day; throughout the school,

it has ignited conversations around children's mental health and raised awareness of some of the problems faced by young people today."

In 2017 Highgate Primary School's pastoral care model won The Guardian Public Service Awards for Health and Wellbeing. Drama therapy is also in place for children, thanks to a three-year grant from BBC Children in Need.



Your label's showing: Pupils and staff dress inside out and back-to-front at Highgate Primary, with PHSE leader Billie-Jean Daniels, headteacher William Dean and Horace the school dog.

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Anxiety in children and ways that it can be overcome

By Emma Chrzastowski, of Childhood Mental Health Needs

It is now well documented that mental health disorders are on the rise amongst children, even quite young ones, particularly emotional disorders such as anxiety. Despite this increase, access to mental health services can be limited, especially for those under 12.

Unless they can afford private care, this results in many families suffering in isolation. Having experienced this ourselves and seen first-hand how difficult it can be to get care, support or information we wanted to provide a space for families in similar situations in our community to come together, gain knowledge and a realisation that they are not alone.

When emotion overrides thought

At the end of January we held a pop-up workshop on Anxiety in Children at St. Mary's in East Finchley, where Jo Holden was our speaker. She is a mental health trainer with ConnectEd, the early intervention mental health service offered by the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) for families of all faiths and none.

Jo very clearly set out at the beginning to help us understand how serious anxiety is by asking us to consider how we think it would compare to a physical illness. The room was surprised to hear that the closest direct

comparison for how debilitating anxiety can be is a severe spinal injury.

She explained that the amygdala, which is the emotional centre of the brain, can override the thinking part of the brain when we experience fear, anger or sadness. This of course is part of the essential fight-or-flight response.

Anxiety occurs when a perceived threat appears bigger than our ability to cope with it and our emotional brain takes over. At these times it's important to calm the emotional part of the brain by focusing on something physical or practical like breathing or utilising techniques such as hand-tracing.

Workshop programme

The workshop was well attended, showing the real need in the community. Due to its success, we are going to hold regular workshops on different areas of child mental health. To find out more, please follow us on Facebook @childhoodmentalhealthneeds and on Instagram @childhoodmentalhealth_needs

School's good progress

Staff and governors are celebrating after Bishop Douglass School achieved one of the highest progress scores in the country. The secondary school, in Hamilton Road, N2, was named in the top 10 schools in the UK for progress in last year's GCSEs.

The school's score of 1.39 means that last year's GCSE students averaged more than a grade higher than typical students.

Headteacher Martin Tissot said: "Results over the past few years have been getting stronger and stronger. We are lucky to have extraordinarily dedicated staff who go above and beyond

to support students."

Michelle Henderson, the new Head of School, said: "We are very well ordered, well-disciplined school and we support our students pastorally and work in partnership with them and their parents. We have a strong community feel, where everyone is valued."



Fashioned in flame: Glass designer Samantha Sweet, right, in her workshop. Photo Mike Coles.

Glass creations in a garden setting

By Diana Cormack

Do you ever wonder what goes on in your neighbours' back garden buildings? I've discovered that one near me houses the studio of highly skilled glass maker Samantha Sweet.

Sam originally set out to study jewellery at Bucks University, but found herself so inspired when attending a glass making session that she changed her course. After her degree she was apprenticed for eight years to a firm in Finsbury Park, this being the only way to learn and get paid as well, then gained her MA at the Royal College of Art, followed by scholarships at the National Glass Centre in Sunderland.

Flame, not furnace

These years of facing up to the heat (and burns) of furnaces, along with the cost of gas, made Sam consider other ways of dealing with glass. Back in London she began fashioning handmade lead crystal 'milk bottles' which became popular and sold well in a range of top shops, as did her other hand blown and cut glass vessels.

She found working with a torch flame to create beautiful objects was just what she wanted to do and far preferable to the fierceness of a furnace. "I absolutely love it!" she told *The Archer*. Fans will love the bracelets, charms, earrings

and necklaces displayed in her studio, where students come to learn from her and practise making their own lovely objects. For taster sessions visit www.samanthasweet.com.

Let there be light

At present, Sam and her New Zealand-born husband are constructing a fabulous chandelier. No doubt this will go on show at Muswell Hill Creatives, the group of diverse talents and designers to which Sam has belonged for several years.

With her passion for working with glass using quality material and traditional skills, Sam produces pieces which

reflect modern culture in their shape and pattern, all in a building nestling under the ancient trees of Cherry Tree Wood.

Let there be light

East Finchley Open Artists are helping to raise money to install improved lighting on the gallery wall of the Phoenix Cinema, which regularly plays host to exhibitions by local artists. Find out more at www.east-finchleyopen.org.uk

RICKY SAVAGE ... "The voice of social irresponsibility"

Spring is springing

Hi, folks, and Happy New Year! I'm not joking, because until 1752 no one celebrated the new year in cold December. Until then, we used the weird and wacky Julian calendar so the new year started on 25 March. Made sense. Start the new year when spring sprang, not when snow fell. So, why change? I blame the moon.

The old calendar worked on the idea that all years were the same and that meant things got astronomically twisted. It was so serious a problem that by 1752 we were 14 days behind the times. If you're into religion that meant you were celebrating Christmas on 7 January, which was pretty weird even for the 18th century. So they changed to the Gregorian calendar and nicked 14 days.

At the same time someone got a serious case of common sense and made New Year the 1 January. All that March had left was the start of spring, so now is the time to put things right.

Let's start on the 1st with one close to my heart, the day Iceland celebrates Beer Day. And it's also Pig Day in America, so we can all start the day with a pint and a bacon butty. Maybe with added celery as March is National Celery Month.

Once you've got over your hangover you've got Employee Appreciation Day on the 6th when your boss is meant to be nice to you and on the 17th the Roman feast of Matronalia celebrating women and motherhood, their version of Mother's Day. Fair bets that was probably invented by florists long before St Patrick grabbed the same date in the name of all things Guinness.

But the day I like most is Friday the 13th. Not for all the bad things that might happen, but for the excuse it gives me for not going to work. Because this year it coincides with World Sleep Day, or as I call it Hide Under the Duvet, Drink Beer, Eat Bacon and Celery Butties and Watch a Box Set Day. All of which is fine by me.



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Pollen giver: An intimate study by Michael Wasser.

Intimate life of flowers

Inner Landscapes is the theme of an exhibition of paintings by artist Michael Wasser running at Lauderdale House in Highgate from Wednesday 1 to Monday 27 April.

Michael's colourful acrylic-on-canvas pieces focus on the central parts of flowers in various stages of metamorphosis. He has worked on this first solo project for the past three years, and is donating part of the proceeds to the North London Hospice.

The gallery at Lauderdale House is open Monday to Wednesday, 11am to 4pm, Thursdays 11.30am to 4pm, and on Sunday 5 and 12 April. More information at www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Pub is rocking with laughter

By Nick Allan

The Bald Faced Stag pub continues to raise a smile at their monthly stand-up comedy nights. The April date, to be confirmed, will feature as one of the heats for the British Comedian of the Year, the highest-paid comedy competition in the UK. It will be hosted by last year's winner and local resident Mark Maier, who walked away with £10,001, beating the top prize at the Edinburgh Fringe by £1.

Bald Faced Stag manager Ian Ball told *The Archer*: "The comedy night has been running for six months now and is proving very popular with local residents who want to leave their cares at the door and have a drink and a good laugh with a wide range of new and established comedians."

The comedy shows are on Sunday evenings from 7pm, continuing on Sunday 15 March and Sunday 19 April. Find out who's 'standing up' at www.thebaldfacedstagn2.co.uk or phone the Stag on 020 8442 1201.



Making merry: The audience at the Bald Faced Stag

Pat and his band go on the road... around East Finchley

After he had been named in the *i* newspaper as one of the most inspiring people in Britain (*The Archer*, October 2019), teacher and MOBO award winning musician Pat Leacock said that one of his goals was to continue to put on more events in East Finchley.

Now the songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and former East Finchley Festival compere is embarking on a mini music tour of the area to promote local businesses and live music.

His band The MercyZone will be performing smooth, soulful instrumental favourites and original compositions at BuFi, on the corner of Fortis Green and the High Road, on Monday 2 March and the Two Brothers Fish Restaurant, Ballards Lane, N3, on Friday 27 March.

Then as well as playing an ever popular 'Pat Have Mercy' DJ set, his band Dex & Mercy will be performing dancefloor



On tour: Pat Leacock

filling disco and funk classics at The Five Bells, East End Road, N2, on Friday 26 June, and also at Madden's, not forgetting performing at the East Finchley Festival itself on Sunday 21 June.

Pat says that East Finchley has the most amazing community spirit, commenting on its wealth of local businesses, outstanding schools, a plethora of volunteer-run events that cater for everyone's needs, great places to wine and dine, plus social media and newspapers like *The Archer* to help spread the word. Contact him via Facebook at 'DexandMercySoul andFunkNite' or email dexandmercyband@gmail.com

Big issues of the day at art gallery

Street artist Ben Wilson, otherwise known as The Chewing Gum Man, will be creating a piece on the pavement outside the Offshoot Art Gallery in East Finchley as part of a weekend of special events.

The *#FakeNews* exhibition investigating contemporary consumer culture will preview at the High Road gallery on Thursday 5 March, when Ben will be there, and run through to International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March.

On the Friday there will be a climate change protest by local children after school from 3.30pm to 5pm and on the Saturday there will be upcycling fashion workshops. On the Sunday there will be a panel talk on women running sustainable projects within the local community. The weekend event is curated by three local women, artists Lisa-Marie Price and Rosha Nutt and arts marketing professional Holly Collier, in association with contemporary arts organisation ArtCan, which exhibits on topics around identity, sustainability and inequality. There will be pieces on show from more than 30 artists in response to these issues. Find out more at www.offshootartspace.com

What's On...

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

Wednesday 4 March and every Wednesday

• **OWL Comedy stand up night** at the Old White Lion, High Road, N2, from 7.30pm every Wednesday.

Thursday 5 March to Sunday 8 March

• **#FakeNews exhibition** presented by ArtCan: artworks that probe sustainability, climate change, inequality and immigration; Offshoot Art Gallery, High Road, N2. Includes climate change demo; upcycling fashion workshops and special events for International Women's Day.

Sunday 8 March

• Volunteers welcome to join a **litter pick in Cherry Tree Wood** 2pm-3pm. Bring gloves and meet at Summerlee Avenue gate.

Wednesday 11 March

• **Professor Catherine Loveday** gives a talk *exploring the brain and relationships*, the chemistry of love and connections in groups; Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Licensed bar available. Tickets free but booking essential as places are limited so email Wendy at wendy@nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk

nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8432 1421.

Thursday 12 March

• **N2United community and business meeting** to discuss concerns and opportunities affecting East Finchley's businesses and community organisations. This month the focus is East Finchley Festival. 7pm, The Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, N2. All welcome.

Saturday 14 March

• **Finchley Symphony Orchestra** under guest conductor Robert Hodge with soprano soloist Emily Garland presents a concert of Mozart, Wagner and Mahler at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 7NN, at 7.30pm. Tickets £15, concessions £13, under 18s £6. Save £2 per ticket by advance booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org/concerts

Sunday 15 March

• **Bald Faced Laughter stand-up comedy night** at the Bald Faced Stag pub, High Road, N2. Come and enjoy top quality comedy acts. More details at www.thebaldfacedstagn2.co.uk.

Thursday 19 March

• **Quiz night at Stephens House and Gardens**, East End Road, N3. Everyone welcome. Tickets priced £15pp include supper; 7.30pm. Call 020 8346 7812, option 1 to book.

Sunday 22 March

• **Mother's Day lunch at Stephens House and Gardens**, East End Road, N3, from 12-3pm; all mothers receive a garden related gift. Call 020 8346 7812, option 1 to book.

Thursday 26 March

• **Curry night and Indian wine tasting at Inky's Supper Club**, hosted at Stephens House and Gardens, East End Road, N3, 6.30-8.30pm. Book via www.stephenshouseandgardens.com/events

Saturday 28 March

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

Saturday 28 March

• **Voxetera** presents Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*; Jane Hopkins conducts Voxetera chamber choir and ensemble; with

Poppy Ewence (soprano), Helen Footman (mezzo-soprano) and Katrina Makepeace-Lott (alto); St Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate, London N6 6BJ at 7.30pm. Refreshments available. Tickets £20, £16, £12. Book at voxcetera.co.uk

Sunday 29 March

• **Ramblers Association walk from Alexandra Palace**, all welcome. Meet 11am outside BBC tower at Alexandra Palace for five-mile walk through eight conservation areas and nine parks, finishing at Bruce Castle about lunchtime. Bring sandwiches; tea and coffee available in museum. Leaders: Chris Barker and Joyce Rosser (020 8347 7684 or 07951 905 490).

Saturday 4 April

• **Ramblers Association walk around Mill Hill East**, all welcome. Meet 10.30am at Mill Hill East underground station for leisurely five-mile circular walk via Darlands Nature Reserve where we might see Snake's Head Fritillaries. No picnic stop but possible call at Finchley Nurseries cafe. Leaders: Julia and John Haynes (020 8906 0563 or 07803 892 496).

Come and network with local businesses

By Charles Haydn

Meetings are hosted by networking group N2United in The Clissold Arms on the second Thursday of each month to bring together the organisations and businesses of East Finchley to share ideas and unite in trying to solve local issues that affect us all.

The February meeting was attended by representatives of local shops and businesses, as well as Grange Big Local, The Archer, the new team running the East Finchley Festival and Councillor Claire Farrier.

It started with congratulations to the festival team for reaching their crowdfunding target and they in turn extended their thanks to members of the East Finchley community who pledged money. There will be an opportunity at the next meeting on 12 March to see how you can support and get involved with East Finchley Festival.

Alongside the usual good humour of these monthly meetings, talk turned to the difficulties we are facing as a community and what can be done to reduce the increasing effects of crime, improve road safety and help a declining High Road. Future meetings will focus on how we can address these issues including a presentation by the local Police team who are keen to work with the local community. Find out more at www.n2united.co.uk



Above the city: Sound of the Suburb line up in Muswell Hill. Photo Sarah Berlingieri.

New sounds from the suburbs

By John Lawrence

Sound of the Suburb, known to many for their years playing local venues and performing at the East Finchley Festival, have new music out in the form of a five-track EP, launched last month with a free gig at Madden's on the High Road, N2.

Eclectic City (Part 1) is a collection of original tracks that mixes sounds from their rockabilly roots with some hard rock, almost New Wave in places, reggae and thoughtful blues songwriting.

It is dedicated to the memory of their founding member and drummer Mike Solomon who was diagnosed with lung cancer shortly before the release of their second album *Still Waiting* at the end of 2016. Mike continued

to play with the band but sadly passed away in September last year.

Friend Paul Steedman took over on drums full time and Mike Shilling was added on keyboards, joining lead vocalist David Maraney, guitarist Chris Berlingieri and bassist Steve Phillips.

They have plenty of new material and hope to record five more tracks for a Part 2 release later this year. Your next chance

to see them perform all their new songs, along with their popular selection of covers, is at The Dublin Castle in Camden Town on Tuesday 17 March, which is St Patrick's Day.

Copies of the EP will be available for purchase at the gig and can be streamed on iTunes/Apple Music, Google Play, Spotify and all other download and streaming sites. Find more information at www.soundofthesuburb.com

New vicar comes to All Saints'

By Sue Windridge

The congregation of All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, welcomed their new vicar at a Eucharist service on Sunday 23 February. Fr Ian Chandler was inducted by the Bishop of Fulham Collated and the Archdeacon of Hampstead.

Fr Ian was born and brought up in Stockton on Tees. He initially began reading Law at University College London but then moved on to study for a degree in Theology at King's College London. There he developed

an interest in the relationship between science and theology and went on to train for the priesthood at the Theological College in Chichester.

His first appointment was to a curacy in Hove, at another



New arrival: Fr Ian Chandler

All Saints'. He was then Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Chichester. His first incumbency was at St Richard's Haywards Heath, where he was also for some of the time Rural Dean and a member of General Synod.

He was then appointed Archdeacon of Plymouth, in the diocese of Exeter, a post he held until the end of 2018 before moving back to London.

In his spare time Fr Ian enjoys theatre, cinema and the arts. He is looking forward to his time at All Saints' and 'the opportunity to work with all those in and around the parish.

**All Saints' Church,
Durham Road, East Finchley
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Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m.

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

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a *flourishing* social life.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

New singers are always welcome.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

**For more information: Please email:
saintsabounding@gmail.com**

Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROfessional & BUSiness men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3.

Next meeting 18 March: **Professor John Sutherland** biographer of George Orwell discusses his life and work and asks does he still matter?

Details from Eveleen (8449 0566)

Letters

New tube line, new stations

Dear Editor,

Road pricing in London appears inevitable in order to reduce pollution from tyres and exhausts and to free up the roads for bus journeys. So we will need additional public transport. The need for relief of the Northern and Piccadilly lines is highlighted by TfL's intention to replace car parking with housing at some stations on these two lines (*The Archer*, February 2020).

Morning peak congestion on the Victoria line is toward Oxford Circus, from Finsbury Park and from Victoria. This would be addressed if Wood Green, Alexandra Palace and Victoria stations were to have fast access by a new line through Bond Street station. Northern line passengers would have new shortcuts and Victoria would be better connected to Paddington and Baker Street.

The fairly straight route of an additional radial line would be Wood Green - Alexandra Palace station - Crouch End Broadway (a new station serving so many people who currently head for Finsbury Park or Turnpike Lane or use a car) - Archway (or Kentish Town) - Camden Town - Regent's Park with Great Portland Street - Bond Street (eastern end, nearest to Oxford Circus) - Victoria.

At the northern end, it could continue (orbitally) to White Hart Lane and at the southern end to

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

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

Putney or turn to Vauxhall. Serving Camden Town and Regent's Park with Great Portland Street would facilitate orbital journeys, for instance to the Royal Free Hospital, Brent Cross and Wembley. Connecting Alexandra Palace station to Seven Sisters, as in the currently published Crossrail 2 route, would never achieve these benefits and would be wasteful of CR2's capacity.

If anyone wants more detail, or to discuss this further, I can be contacted at transport@adamson-family.co.uk.

**Yours faithfully,
Robert Adamson
Leslie Road, N2**

Axed trees

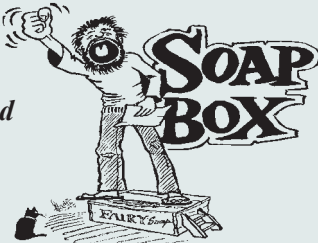
Dear Editor,

Have you noticed the number of healthy young trees that have been cut down in East Finchley? There are examples in Elm Gardens, Leopold Road, and East End Road, and I am sure there are other examples. Who gave permission for this destruction, and why?

**Yours faithfully,
C.E. Russell
Address supplied.**

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Burning green waste harms our health

By Trisha and Peter Portinari

Air pollution caused by vehicles was the main concern at a meeting we attended at Martin School in October 2019 but it was agreed that poor air quality is also caused by dust from construction works, chemicals in household products and other factors. At question time we raised the issue of bonfires burnt on allotments on a regular basis and producing toxic smoke.

In the past it was acceptable to burn green waste as it appeared that the only consequences would be the foul smell. It's now known that burning green waste produces significant residues of dioxins, metals and other harmful substances.

These particulates are very fine, 2.5 micrometers or smaller, and are suspended in the air and carried by the wind. When inhaled they penetrate deep into the lining of the lungs and can cause serious long term health problems such as heart and lung disease, cancer and development problems in children.

There is a large allotment site with approximately 125 plots to the rear of our house. Bordering the allotments to the west is the Martin School and their playing fields, to the south of the allotments is Creighton Avenue and to the east is Coldfall Wood.

These allotments are allowed unlimited burning of green waste from 1 November to 30 April and limited burning for the remaining months. Bonfires are allowed regardless of wind or weather conditions. On many occasions we have been unable to use our garden and have had to keep our windows and doors closed.

The plot holders should have more consideration for others and do as we residents do: recycle their waste by composting and, instead of polluting the environment, return the composted waste to the soil.

Barnet Council has approximately 400 allotments with 4,000 plots. We would suggest that they follow Hammersmith and Fulham's lead in aiming to ban all bonfires of any kind by 2023; this would significantly improve air quality for Barnet residents.



Walk in the footprint of the Finchley Glacier



Ice Age frontier: Coldfall Wood

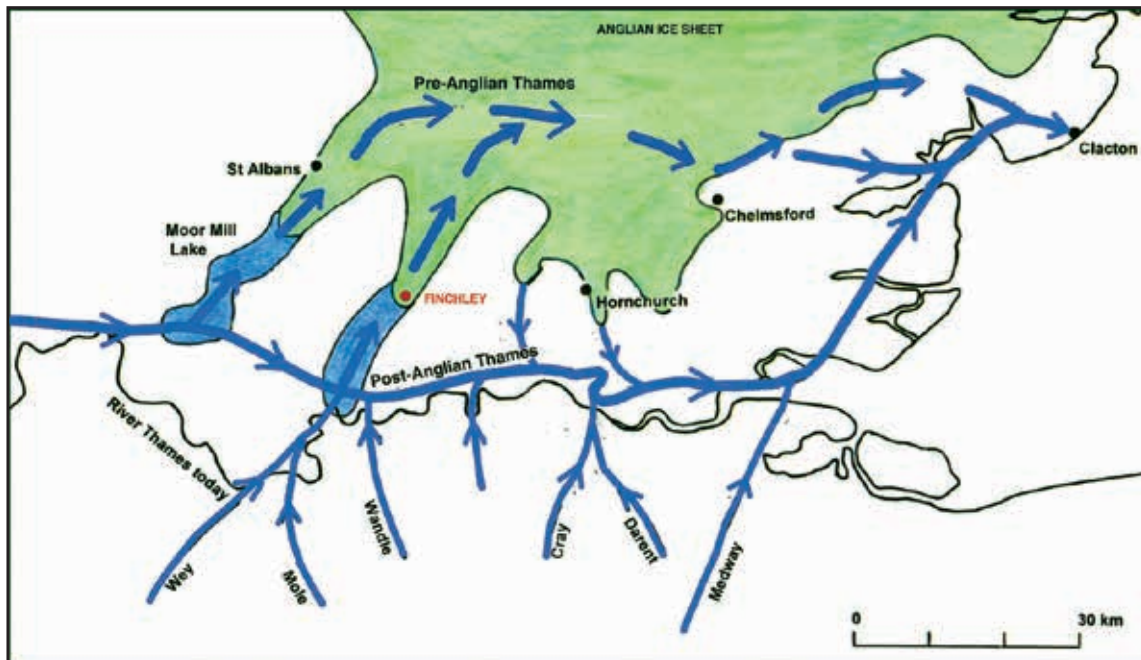
By Diana Clements, of the London Geodiversity Partnership

Did you know that East Finchley was partially covered by a glacier not that long ago (in geological terms)? At the moment we are living in a warm period between ice ages but only 450,000 years ago the most severe of the ice sheets made its way down what we now call 'The Finchley Depression' as a tongue of ice.

We know this because when the ice melted it left behind a mix of materials plucked from the rocks along its route to the south of England. We find this glacial till at its southerly extent in the East Finchley area, most easily seen today

in Islington & St. Pancras Cemetery, on the high ground near the High Road entrance, and East Finchley Cemetery, off East End Road.

The stiff clay is easily distinguished from London Clay by lumps of white chalk



Changing route of the Thames: The former route through the Vale of St Albans became blocked by ice, forcing the Thames to flow along a route more familiar to us today. Tributaries from the Weald to the south crossed the London Basin to join the ancestral route of the Thames before the valley of the new route was created. It was the route of the Mole/Wey/Wandle that deposited the Dollis Hill Gravel in the former 'Finchley Depression' underneath the glacial till. (After Bridgland, 1995 p.36. The Quaternary of the lower reaches of the Thames, Field Guide. Quaternary Research Association).

Woodland stream gets a health check

By Ann Bronkhorst

When the Friends of Coldfall Wood meet our focus often seems to be on water rather than on trees. In recent years Thames Water has detected and resolved many local cases of misplumbing, with visible good effects on

the Coldfall stream. There are still concerns, however, so when a young scientist, Azra Gordy, contacted us about her water sampling project, we were keen to know more.

Azra wanted to assess the water quality of Coldfall stream, looking especially at evidence of conductivity, meaning chemicals and other matter dissolved in the water. Over the winter she waded into the stream many times to place sensors at points along its length and then in again to collect the readings: a chilly and slippery job.

In February we heard the good news: her preliminary findings suggest that conductivity in our stream is at a healthy low level. Conductivity, however, is only one indicator of pollution so the Friends will continue to monitor both the stream and the ever-expanding seasonal pond with its blocked drain. We advise against wild swimming, for now.

that were carried along in the ice from Hertfordshire. In Coldfall Wood, off Creighton Avenue, pieces of slate and granite from as far away as Scotland have been found.

Evidence left behind

Occasionally fossils can be uncovered. These are mostly of Jurassic age (201 to 145 million years ago) and come from even further away. The most well-known fossil finds from the district were pictured by Henry Walker in 1874 and republished by Jack Whitehead in 1993. Jack describes walking along Fortis Green imagining "that my northern

leg, exposed to all that ice, was colder than my southern leg".

River Thames on the move

It is hard to imagine now that the high ground of what is now Finchley was once the low ground of an ancient tributary of the Thames flowing north to join the ancestral Thames running through the Vale of St Albans and out to the North Sea at Clacton.

Once the ice melted, all that changed and the depressed ground under the ice rose, the

melt waters from the glacier eroded the surrounding soft London Clay and the Thames was pushed south into its present course through the centre of what would become London.

So next time you are out walking around the area, wrap up warm and picture the edge of the giant ice sheet that once stretched across East Finchley. Find talks, field trips and information from the Amateur Geological Society North London at amgeosoc.wordpress.com



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