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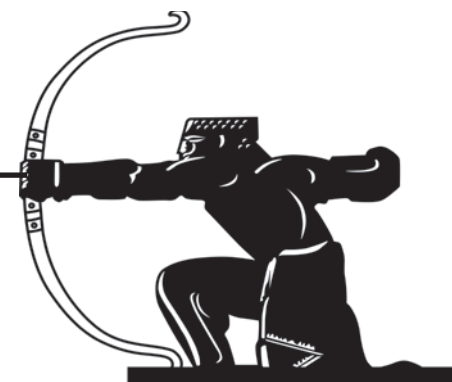
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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



October 2020 No. 318

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**



Big Fun Walkers about to set off from East Finchley

## Four months late, but fun all the same

By David Melsome

**North London Hospice had to cancel its annual Big Fun Walk in May but that didn't stop more than 900 people turning out to do it in their own time, raising £50,000 to support patient care in the process.**

Hospice supporters took up the challenge over the weekend of 12-13 September to walk 8.5 miles on any route they liked, many of them in memory of loved ones. Some chose the traditional route from East Finchley to Westminster, while others covered ground closer to home.

North London Hospice director of fundraising Robin Langrishe said: "With our spring and summer fundraising events programme

cancelled this year and our shops closed for months, it's been a huge challenge to continue to provide income for the hospice.

"We are delighted that so many supporters decided to walk for us. They've exceeded our expectations with their fundraising efforts and we are so grateful for their continued support at a time which we know is financially challenging for many people."

## Cycle lanes put in place

**Work started last month on laying cycle lanes on either side of the High Road, N2, as first reported in our August edition.**

The lanes, although not continuous, set aside space for cyclists in both directions between The Bishops Avenue, N2, and North Finchley.

They are accompanied by a new 20mph zone between the tube station and Martin Primary School as part of a wider effort to calm traffic and improve safety.

However, some residents have expressed concern at the loss of the parking bays at the northern end of the High Road, and that that the lanes could add to traffic congestion approaching the Fortis Green/East End Road junction from the south.

## Phoenix ready to reopen after major donation

By John Lawrence

**The Phoenix Cinema is ready to reopen. After seven months of no customers and no money coming through the doors, the curtain is being drawn back on the big screen and the first film is expected to be shown this month... if government regulations allow.**

A major donation from an East Finchley couple along with generous contributions to a public fundraising campaign have made the reopening possible. Phoenix fans Alex Kleiner and Michele McDowall are giving an undisclosed sum as a vote of confidence in the cinema that they love. *Turn to page 5 to read their story.*

### Generosity

Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said: "We are all absolutely wowed by what Alex and Michele have done. It makes us feel much more positive about the future. And an email appeal we sent out to supporters in July raised £3,000. People have been so generous and it makes all the difference." In practical terms, this vital cash support will help the Phoenix management clear its debts to suppliers and start paying staff again. A customer survey last month received more than 1,000 responses, with the overwhelming majority saying they were keen to return.

### Following latest guidance

However, despite being ready to reopen, the Phoenix trustees say they are watching closely the rapidly changing pandemic advice from the

government and will postpone their restart date if they have to. They advise filmgoers to keep checking the front of the cinema and the website for the latest information.



Lighting up again: Phoenix photo courtesy [instagram.com/lullysuv](https://www.instagram.com/lullysuv)

When customers are allowed back in, the Phoenix will have a dramatically reduced capacity, down from 250 to a maximum of 80. There will be hand sanitisers, masks to be worn upon entry (although not in the auditorium), a one way flow of entry and exit and the cinema will be cleaned between film showings. Contactless payments in the cinema and online booking will be encouraged. Alison Gold said: "We have had such a positive response from people to our customer survey and so we are putting things in place to welcome people safely back. But of course we will have to follow any new guidance or directions from government in response to the rise in Covid rates. Our priority is to safeguard the cinema for the long term."

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