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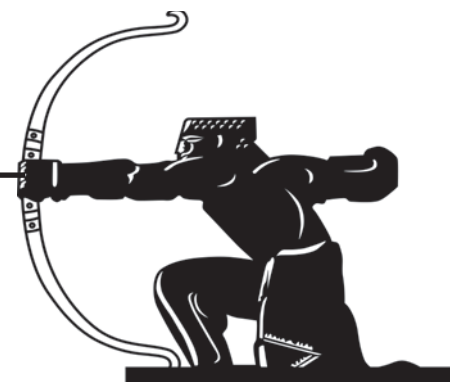
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# The Archer

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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## The Archer

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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.

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## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

<b>Barnet Council</b>	020 8359 2000
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Benefits	0800 882200
<b>Haringey Council</b>	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

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

### Help & Advice

Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice Barnet	0300 4568365
Cruse Bereavement Care	0800 8081677
EF Advice Service	0300 4568365
Lone Parent Centre	020 3828 4834
Missing Persons Helpline	116 000
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
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Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
Carers' Line	0808 808 7777
Drinkline	0800 917 8282

Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Health Info Service	0800 665544
MIND	020 8343 5700
National Blood Centre	0845 7711 7711

### Crime

Emergency	999
Police non-emergency	101
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900

### Hospitals

NHS	111
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

## Don't leave your donations outside charity shops

By Diana Cormack

Many of our local charity shops that have recently reopened have received an increase in the usual amount of goods donated, reflecting the time people have used during lockdown to have a sort out.

With rules now in force restricting the number of customers allowed and forbidding them from trying on garments, charity shop stock will possibly move more slowly than usual. Also, staff now have to quarantine clothing and suchlike for 72 hours before displaying them and are not able to accept some items for children.

Another problem is that bags are still being left outside when the charity shop is closed at night and over weekends. These bags are often ripped open and rifled through, with objects which would raise significant funds being stolen.

Some may also attract the attention of animals. Apparently black bin bag plastic contains a chemical which attracts dogs to urinate on them; not a pleasant find for charity shop volunteers.



Donations dumped outside a charity shop. Photo Diana Cormack

Notices are usually on display asking for donations to be brought into the shop. This is the one way to make sure that the charity of your choice does actually benefit from the goods

you are donating.

At the time of writing, some charity shops are only accepting specific goods and others none at all. Please check with individual shops.

## Mayor dies on his second day in role

Tributes have been paid to Councillor Brian Gordon who died last month on what would have been his second day serving as Mayor of Barnet. He had been due to be appointed to the role officially but the ceremony could not go ahead as planned due to his illness.

The Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Dan Thomas, said: "Brian was a valued Councillor and respected member of the Conservative Group, who passionately represented Edgware ward for over two decades and I know that the whole community will be reeling from this sad news."



Tributes: Cllr Brian Gordon

## Time to make Cherry Tree Wood a better place

By David Melsome

Pressure is being applied on Barnet Council to improve the state of facilities in Cherry Tree Wood, particularly its basketball court where a player was injured recently, as we reported in last month's edition.

East Finchley Councillor Arjun Mittra has written to the council demanding a three-point plan to improve what he calls the "atrocious" state of Cherry Tree Wood. He is asking for the uneven basketball and tennis court surfaces to be repaired, for better litter management and for improved liaison with the local community.

### Friends' bid for improvements

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have been liaising with the council about improvements in the wood for some time. After carrying out a survey last year, in May 2020 they submitted a bid for several changes.

This is due to be considered at the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee meeting on 8 October and includes

amongst other things money for improved bins and flower beds, a new noticeboard, a drinking fountain and a new nature trail.

Debbie Linton, from the Friends, said: "It was disheartening to hear about the recent accident on the basketball court. It has always been a long term plan of ours to facilitate improvements there."

"In recent weeks we have been liaising with the community and the council as to how we can speed this process up. We too feel that Cherry Tree Wood is badly neglected, and certainly no-one should be injured whilst trying to enjoy the facilities there."

Barnet Council said it is aware of the need for resurfacing on the sports courts but has to make plans for repairs within available budgets.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### 40 Abbots Gardens, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer windows and three front roof lights.

#### 10 Bedford Road, N2

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

#### 60 Brim Hill, N2

Replacement windows and modifications to rear doors. Replacement roof lights. Roof light above converted garage. Replacement side canopy. Front gate. Rear timber pergola.

#### Chambers Gardens, N2

Replacement of Pogone cabinet.

#### 53 East End Road, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer windows, one side gable window, and two front roof lights.

#### 4 Elmfield Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

#### 12-18 High Road, N2

Details re: demolition work, tree protection and construction management, pursuant to planning permission.

#### 207 High Road, N2

Change of use from office space to tuition centre (Class D1). Change of front signage.

#### 339 High Road, N2

Single-storey side and two storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear and side dormer

windows and two front roof lights.

#### 53 Park Hall Road, N2

Roof extension involving extension to rear outrigger, new French doors with Juliet balcony, and one front roof light.

#### 21 Sylvester Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension: depth 4.50 m, eaves height and maximum height 3.00 m.

#### 36 Trinity Road, N2

Conversion to two self-contained flats, including single-storey rear extension, roof extension with rear dormer, and three front roof lights.

#### Haringey Council

#### 9 Aylmer Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.





Space to sit: Head gardener Ashley Edwards with Tracey McCarthy in Horatio's Garden in Stanmore.  
Photo Lucy Shergold

## Trail-blazing garden is good for mental and physical health

**During lockdown we have all come to realise the importance of outdoor spaces, most notably in hospital settings, and the ways in which they help to support good mental health and recovery.**

With this in mind, national charity Horatio's Garden last month opened their fifth garden at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. It was planted by a team of volunteers led by head gardener Ashley Edwards, assisted by East Finchley resident Tracey McCarthy.

Working at the garden signals a complete career change for Tracey. Most recently she managed a set of barristers' chambers in central London, and now she manages, with Ashley, the volunteers and events at the garden. She said: "It is such a privilege to work for this wonderful and worthwhile

charity. I am very proud of it."

### Space plus intimacy

When the acclaimed, eight-time Chelsea gold medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith offered to design the charity's fifth garden, he realised the project had "the capacity to transform the lives of patients with spinal injuries when they are most in need."

Thanks to his design and planting, Horatio's Garden London & South East will be fully accessible to people in both beds and wheelchairs. It features a garden room and uniquely designed 'garden pods', ensuring that patients and their loved ones can spend time together beyond the hos-

pital wards all year round. And, as well as intimate places that allow for moments of reflection, the garden also features vast open spaces.

Patient Ruth commented: "A spinal cord injury is a really difficult thing to go through, not just because of the physical side of things, the mental stuff is actually harder. Having a Horatio's Garden here at Stanmore will make everything a little bit easier."

*If you would like to volunteer for Horatio's Garden, London & South East, find out more at [www.horatiogarden.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.horatiogarden.org.uk/get-involved) or call 01722 326834. Follow @HoratiosGarden on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.*

## Meet the new neighbours

By Nick Allan

**Despite the pressure on local businesses due to the pandemic, East Finchley is welcoming a number of new shops and restaurants. Going Greek will open on the High Road site of the closed Japanese restaurant Yama Yama. Opposite will soon be café and bar Cup of Joy (The Archer, September 2020), just a few doors up from the recently opened HMR Glass.**

Further down are new barbers The Cut, pizza restaurant Nudo Pizza and 'Ooh La La' nail bar, with Ella Food Centre at the other end of the High Road on the corner of Creighton Avenue.

The good news continues on

East End Road where Jo Sutherland Hair is expanding and newly opened Niny Beauty Studio is getting established. They will all be grateful for your support, like the rest of our local shops and traders.

## N2United is back... online

September saw the return of N2United, the local community and networking group working to bring shops, traders and the community together. The popular monthly meetings, suspended since March, will be held again via video for now and last month's centred on 'Community Matters'.

The next Business Matters meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8 October with the next Community Matters meeting on the Thursday 12 November but members are welcome at every meeting. For more details visit [n2united.co.uk](http://n2united.co.uk) or search @n2united on Facebook or Instagram. New members are always welcome.

# Guilty verdict in fifth trial over double murder

By David Melsome

**A man has been jailed for the murder of mother-of-nine Annie Ekofo and her nephew Bervil Ekofo, pictured below, in their home in East Finchley in 2016. Obina Ezeoke, 28, faced five trials over four years before he was convicted last month of the double shooting.**

The Old Bailey was told that Ezeoke, of Cambridge Heath, E2, "crept noiselessly" into Mrs Ekofo's flat in Elmshurst Crescent, N2, just after dawn on 15 September 2016. He shot her 21-year-old nephew, who was staying overnight, while he slept and then shot Mrs Ekofo, 53, in the hall when she came out of her bedroom to investigate the noise.

### "Vendetta of violence"

The BBC reported that prosecutor Mark Heywood QC told the court the 28-year-old drug dealer had gone to kill one of the teenage boys in the family as "part of a vendetta of violence". He said: "His hate was such that he did not falter when confronted by a second person, he simply took her life as well."

Ezeoke denied the two charges of murder brought against him. He said he had an alibi for the time of the shootings and argued that gunshot residue found in his car was from a previous shooting. The Old Bailey jury convicted him by a majority of 11 to one after deliberating for 41 hours over eight days. He was due to be sentenced on 1 October.



### Five trials in four years

The guilty verdict brings to an end an unprecedented run of trials. Ezeoke's first trial in 2017 was abandoned after the judge became ill. The juries at two subsequent trials in 2018 and 2019 were unable to reach verdicts. A fourth trial began in February but was abandoned after jury numbers fell below nine due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Last month, Old Bailey judge Mr Justice Davis granted a prosecution request for a fifth trial despite the defendant's lawyer James Scobie QC claiming it "would be oppressive" and "enough is enough".

Sally-Anne Russell, from the Crown Prosecution Service, said Ezeoke's actions had "devastated a family", adding: "When he couldn't find the person he was looking for, he murdered a young man and a mother-of-nine instead."

## Station fruit and veg stall back in business

**Commuters and fans of fresh food will be pleased to hear that Tony Mackie is reopening his fruit and vegetable stall outside East Finchley Tube station.**

Tony had no choice but to close down when Tube use declined dramatically during lockdown. *The Archer* reported on Tony's successful business in our May 2019 edition and we wish him a warm welcome back.

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## Noise levels at takeaway are finally tackled

By Ruth Anders

Last month, residents in Huntingdon Road were still fed up with the KFC takeaway on the corner of their street. Despite the removal of the horizontal extraction vent at the end of June, as reported in our August edition, the unwelcome noise had continued and, according to one neighbour, had become particularly noticeable at night and during weekends.

Individual residents had further complained to Barnet Council and in late August James Preston, Barnet's Scientific Officer, had promised that the KFC manager was investigating further.

One individual added: "The noise can be heard as far down the road as number 25, and certainly in my bedroom particularly on a Sunday. The constant loud hum carries on into the night and has prevented me getting to sleep at 11pm. In fact I was woken by it still running at 5.10am this past Sunday."

### Response from KFC

*The Archer* wrote to the KFC press team for a third time to ask for a comment. No response was received until the second week of September, when KFC Regional Coach, Darren Smith, contacted *The Archer* to apologise and clarify the situation.

He told us: "The horizontal extractor was only ever installed as a temporary measure while



'Noise reduction': KFC on the High Road

a fault on the vertical vent was corrected." He reported that, following a recent visit from KFC's engineer, the speed of the remaining vent fan had been reduced by 50%, and should now be appreciably quieter. He added: "The last thing we want is to upset our neighbours."

Those same neighbours confirm that, since this news, the noise has indeed reduced. Any new developments are awaited with bated breath.

## How about an ice cream to warm you up?

By John Lawrence

Winter may be coming but it's never too cold for ice cream, especially when it's deep fried and hot on the outside. This is the new business idea that Natasha Rajput is hoping will make our mouths water.

Natasha has started her venture at home on the Thomas More estate in East Finchley after converting her garden shed into a kitchen and prepping unit with a five-star hygiene rating from Barnet Council.

She makes seasonal flavours of ice cream served in a tub, frozen on the inside with a hot crust round the outside. So far, business is booming at her regular weekend stall in the Truman Brewery Upmarket in Brick Lane, E1.

### Taking that risk

Natasha has always enjoyed the food industry. Her first job was with a start-up making healthy crisps, then she worked for a cookie dough company before deciding she wasn't meant for sitting at a laptop and working for someone else.



Ice cream maker: Natasha Rajput with her deep-fried treat

"My boyfriend advised me to go and do what I wanted to do," she says. "After discovering a Mexican version of 'fried' ice-cream, I took the risk of setting up my own version."

"I had no partners, but my family and boyfriend gave amazing help with prep, finances and my very first day in the market. I'm still learning and I've really valued all the feedback I've received since I began. After starting trading in July, my

feedback has been wonderful."

Natasha has plenty of plans to make sure her T's Fried Scoop ice cream continues to sell through the autumn and winter. "I'm doing black coconut flavour as a Halloween special and because everything I sell is hot and cold it's an all-year-round dessert."

Find more details at [www.tsfriedscoop.com](http://www.tsfriedscoop.com) and follow Natasha on Instagram and Twitter @Tsfriedscoop



## Student sets up somewhere safe to dispose of disposable gloves

By Diana Cormack

For a while during the summer a box appeared on a garden wall in Baronsmere Road, N2, in which people were invited to put their disposable gloves. Such a good idea when many were to be seen scattered about our streets and parkland.

*The Archer* wondered who had thought of arranging this collection and a resident of the house concerned pointed us in the direction of Leora Marcus of Hampstead Garden Suburb. Twenty-year-old Leora is a medical student who had been researching the recycling of Personal Protective Equipment when the idea came to her.

Posters about it on social media such as Facebook received a good response and friends offered to support it in their area. So a network of volunteers built up in Barnet



Drop-off: The collection box in Baronsmere Road

and the surrounding district.

To keep the carbon footprint low, boxes were not collected on specific journeys but integrated into other activities. Their final destination was TerraCycle, a company which specialises in recycling hard-to-recycle

materials.

Leora's collection scheme ended in mid-September when the use of such gloves had diminished, resulting in fewer for disposal. It also coincided with the approach of her return to Nottingham University.

She told *The Archer* that her collection had resulted in 25 kilos of disposable gloves being sent to TerraCycle. Well done, Leora, and all your helpers, on such an amazing achievement and good luck with your future studies.

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## East Finchley Baptist Church

**We have restarted our Sunday services in the church building and meet at our normal time of 10.30 am. If you would like to join us please go to our website for further details.**

**All welcome.**

For more information please contact the Church Office

Email: [office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk](mailto:office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk)

[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)





## Food bank queue grows longer every week

By Janet Maitland

**Finchley Foodbank has launched a Harvest Festival appeal following a dramatic increase in the numbers of requests for assistance. The volunteer-led organisation distributes donations of food to families and individuals who are struggling to feed themselves.**

"The queue grows longer each week," said Anna Maughan, vice chair of Finchley Foodbank. "In January we helped on average about 55 people a week, but by August this had risen to 220 and so far in September the weekly average is 261."

"Although schools have fully reopened, allowing families to access free school meals again, there's a particular increase in the number of households with children requiring support."

### Here is the hub

The food bank depends on St Mary's RC Church in East Finchley, for a base to operate from. At the same time, the church is fighting an additional battle to raise money to repair an all-important boundary wall. "So the continued generosity of the community is essential," said Anna.

The food bank is at the back of St Mary's at 279 High Road and opens every Saturday between 12.30pm and 2pm. Donations can be dropped off every Friday between 12pm and 3pm. A driveway to the left of the church leads to the food bank where you can unload your car and leave the food with a volunteer. The food must be non-perishable, in date and in its original unopened packaging.

### Other ways of helping

You can also give monetary donations via the online giving page available through the website at [www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk). You can contact the food bank at [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com), via the contact form on the website, through their Facebook page by searching 'Finchley Foodbank' or by ringing 07849 558307.

Thanks to a local volunteer and donations, the food bank has been able to provide clients with a washable face mask each, but demand is higher than supply and the food bank would ideally like to provide at least two per person, so please get in touch if you can help by making masks.



Food arriving at the food bank  
Photo Mike Coles

### Food bank: the items they need

*Finchley Foodbank gratefully receives all non-perishable donations. The following items are particularly welcome:*

**Food:** Cereals, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, rice, tinned fish, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, tins of custard and rice pudding, pasta, pasta sauce, biscuits, soup, sugar, oil, jam, peanut butter and crackers.

**Drink:** UHT milk, tea bags and jars of coffee.

**Bathroom:** 2 in 1 shampoo, soap, shower gel, deodorant, sanitary wear and toothpaste.

**Other:** Washing tablets and capsules.

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Phoenix philanthropists: Alex Kleiner and Michele McDowall in the cinema's auditorium. Photo John Lawrence

## Not having the Phoenix reopen would be devastating, say donors

By John Lawrence

**When Alex Kleiner and Michele McDowall decided they wanted to make a potentially lifesaving cash donation to the Phoenix, Alex had to scribble his number on the back of a tiny pharmacy receipt asking someone to call him, and push it under the shuttered front doors of the cinema.**

With all the cinema's staff on furlough, he'd been unable to make contact immediately on email, but luckily a member of staff doing a routine safety check on the building spotted the scrap of paper on the front door mat. They called Alex's number, a conversation started, and now with the couple's help the Phoenix is about to welcome filmgoers again.

### Phoenix regulars

Alex and Michele are film lovers and supporters of the arts more widely. Success in a Silicon Valley tech enterprise has enabled them to set up two foundations to invest in musicians and artists who, in Alex's words, "need a step up".

They are both regular visitors to the Phoenix and were dismayed to read, in *The Archer*, about its financial struggles over the last few years. Then when the added crisis of the Covid-19 shutdown came along, they agreed the time was right to make a generous donation.

Michele told us: "The Phoenix is close to our hearts. I love

the indie films it shows that you can't see elsewhere. I'd often come here on my own and always sit in the third row from the front because it feels like you've got the place to yourself. Not having the Phoenix reopen would be devastating to the local community."

Alex agreed, saying: "It's like politics. If you don't vote, you don't have the right to complain. So we thought as we were in a position to help, we would do something. There is so much potential at the Phoenix. We want to see it up and running again and getting people back through the doors."

### Midnight movie mistake

The couple, who live in Abbots Gardens, N2, used to bring their five children to the Phoenix's Saturday morning Kids' Club when they were younger. They laugh about the time the whole family set out excitedly for the Phoenix's special midnight showing of the new *Star Wars* movie a few years back, with Michele dressed as Princess Leia.

Puzzled why the streets were so quiet, they arrived to find the cinema locked and nobody around. They realised they'd missed the showing by 24 hours; it had been the night before. "We wondered why everyone had already been talking about it on Facebook," said Alex.

And returning to his and Michele's act of financial assistance, he is matter-of-fact and modest. "What else are you going to do?" he says. "The Phoenix is doing its best to get up and running again with social distancing in mind so we want to help. We can't let the virus win."

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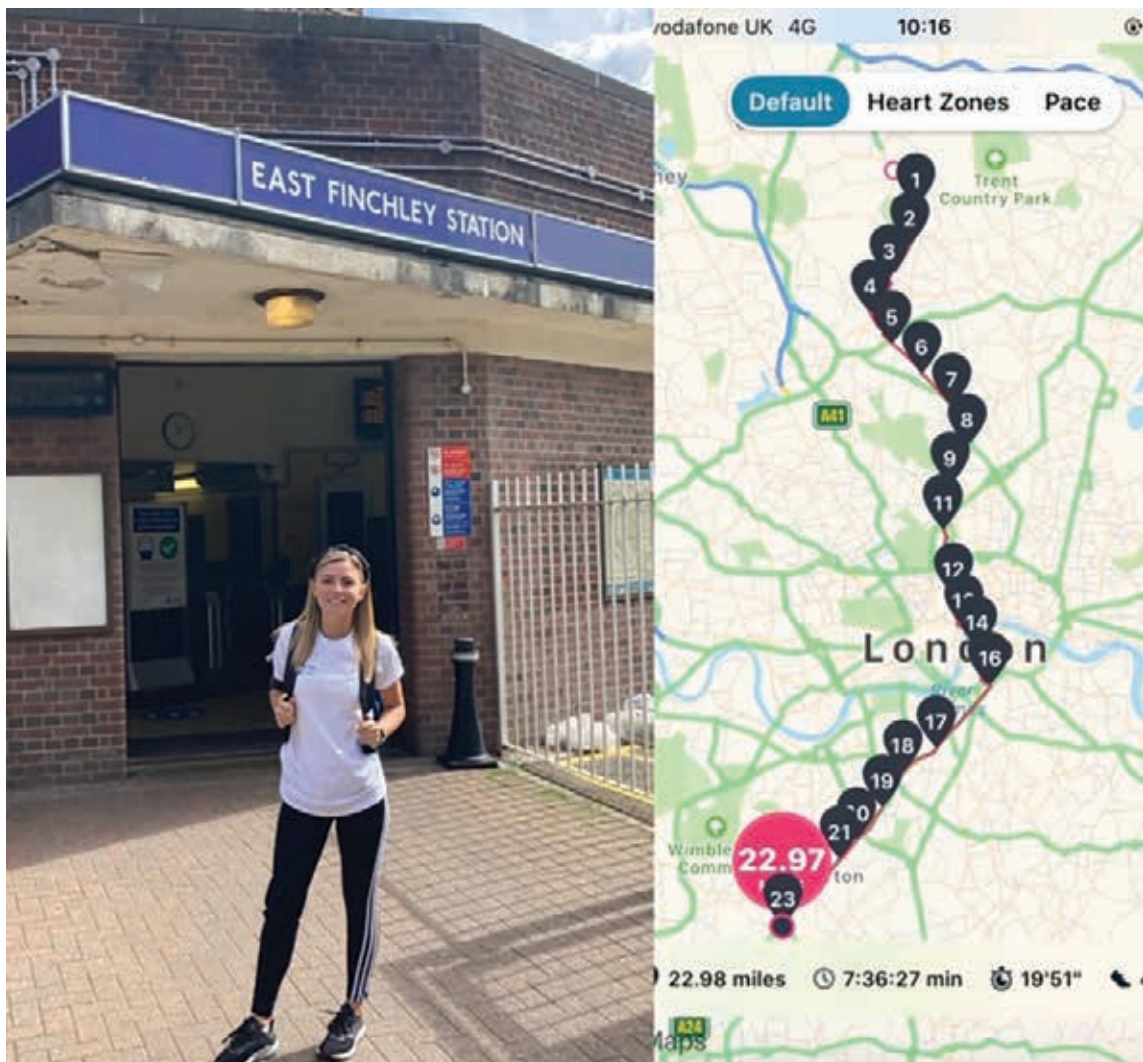
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Just passing: Natalie Harrad at East Finchley station and the record of her 23-mile walking route

## Teacher travels top to bottom of tube line on foot

By Karen Williamson

**Primary school teacher Natalie Harrad walked all 32 stops of the Northern line at the end of August to raise money for local charity Age UK Barnet where she volunteers as a befriender.**

She took this impressive challenge in memory of Joan, who she visited for weekly chats for two years before Joan sadly died last August. "Joan's death hit me hard," says Natalie, "so I wanted to raise money in her memory to support the charity that brought us together."

Natalie walked above ground for 23 miles, or 50,000 steps, from High Barnet to Morden, raising over £1,800.

During the pandemic Age UK Barnet has been helping vulnerable older residents in East Finchley, and across the borough, with food parcels, hot meals, food shopping and picking up prescriptions plus friendly chats over the phone.

If you or anyone you know may need support contact Age UK Barnet on 020 8203 5040 or email [info@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukbarnet.org.uk).



Quite a mouthful: Wilma with one of her finds

## Wilma's branching out

By Jane Marsh

**Many people have used lockdown as a time to try a new hobby or take on a new challenge, and Wilma the Puggle is no exception. When walking in Cherry Tree Wood with her owners, Ray and Esther Rinkoff, Wilma has taken to picking up the largest piece of wood she can find to carry home.**

She's built up quite a collection of branches in Ray and Esther's garden and has become a bit of a celebrity in the woods. Esther says that everyone stops to admire her prowess and recently a little boy said "Look, that doggy is carrying a tree". Keep up the good work Wilma!

## Four hundred miles of exploring where we live

By Daphne Chamberlain

**While our own Mike Coles was doing his virtual walk to Marseilles (*The Archer*, September 2020), another well-known local figure and his wife were racking up well over 400 miles of local exploration.**

John Hajdu has been Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association (MHFGA) for the last 20 years, while Maureen has chaired the Foulkes Foundation, a charitable trust supporting doctors doing research for 35 years. Recently they celebrated their 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### Goodbye pool, hello pathway

Both are actually keen swimmers, usually visiting the pool at least twice a week. Lockdown, however, put a temporary stop to that so they took to the road and grass instead. They walked for at least three miles every day from March until mid-August and have now counted around 150 walks in total.

John told us: "We have walked many times all over Muswell Hill, Crouch End, Hendon, Barnet, Hampstead

and Highgate, and beyond. We have discovered hidden paths, followed the local brooks and alleyways, and of course visited every green space, such as Hampstead Heath, Parliament Hill Fields, Waterlow Park, Highgate Wood, Queens Wood... among many others.

"We have walked in rain, but we've been very lucky as there have been just a few rainy days. And yes, we both feel fit as a result of the walks."

They particularly enjoyed discovering new places. As John said: "It's so interesting to walk up a road new to us, just to find out where it leads, and to find little alleys and back ways. You can only do that on foot. It should be very interesting to find out from your readers what they have been doing during the lockdown period and since. I am sure you'll get some amazing answers."



Made for walking: Maureen and John Hajdu. Photo Mike Coles

## Simple delights of going for a coddwomple

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Has this time of lockdowns encouraged you to coddwomple? We know that's what some of you have been doing. A couple of years ago, I discovered that I have often done it.**

Coddwomple (apparently English slang) means 'to travel in a purposeful manner towards a vague destination'. If you look it up, you'll find several websites, but the one I like is in [adventurediary.com](http://adventurediary.com).

The blogger there says: "This is one part of travelling I love, when you have no expectations of where you're going, what is going to happen... You have your purpose, but you have no expectations of what you will find."

Doesn't that describe the pleasure of following unex-

pected alleys and pathways, and simply walking up a road to find out where it goes? John and Maureen Hajdu did just that in the article in this edition.

In the past, my local coddwomplings have discovered a lake surrounded by suburban streets, a park tucked away behind a busy shopping centre which I had visited for years, and a small village green. Whenever I moved to a new workplace, I spent most of my first few lunch breaks exploring the area.

It's surprising what coddwompling can bring to light.

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# Anger over fire safety measures in tower blocks

By Janet Maitland

**Barnet Homes sparked concern last month with plans to install sprinklers, smoke alarms and smoke extractors inside every flat in Prospect Ring and Norfolk Close, N2, in order to improve fire safety. Many residents saw this equipment as unnecessary, unsightly and obstructive. They were also worried about costs.**

"This is nothing more than an expensive cosmetic exercise," said one leaseholder. "The buildings are entirely concrete and brick-built with no flammable materials involved."

Barnet Homes say the works were deemed necessary following a fire risk assessment, and that all residents were sent a letter and a booklet explaining the plans, followed up with two resident meetings in the spring. The plan includes replacing the front entrance door and other communal doors and will be completed by April 2021.

will ruin my home."

## Costs

We asked Barnet Homes if the equipment was compulsory. "We strongly advise all residents, including leaseholders, to have the works carried out within their property," said a spokesperson.

We also asked about the costs to residents, and whether these could be reduced or spread over time if people could not afford them. "Tenants will not be charged for the works but may have to contribute to the maintenance of the sprinkler system," said the spokesperson. "Charges for leaseholders will differ depending on the terms of their lease and the size of their flat; some may not be charged. Residents would probably be able to seek some financial assistance."

## Stop press

Just as we went to

press, we learnt from their Fire Safety newsletter that Barnet Homes have changed their mind about installing smoke extractors in each flat. Instead

## Reactions

"As keen as I am to support fire safety there must be a better way than making people's lives a misery, having to look at this every day," one tenant told us. "I was a contract electrician for over 40 years and I've never seen anything like this in a private dwelling."

"Only someone that doesn't have to live here would ever impose such a scheme on someone else," said another leaseholder. "Three sets of trunking running through the whole flat and the loss of a window, which will have to be boarded up to allow the extraction duct to exit,

the current system will simply be upgraded. However, plans for a fire alarm and sprinkler system in every flat are still going ahead.



Extractor: Ceiling ducting in one Prospect Ring flat



Outlet: The ducting ends at one of the flat's windows



Bunting is a fun ting: Fran Hills sewing in her music room. Photo Mike Coles

# Classical pianist finds crafty way to stay creative

By Ellie Franklin

**When talented local musician Frances Hills found all her performance work cancelled by the pandemic she decided to get crafty in the face of Covid-19 by making and selling bunting online.**

Frances, a classical pianist, has worked as a répétiteur, an accompanist and a tutor to opera singers, for 30 years. It's the most amazing job, she says, as "one minute you're playing *West Side Story* and the next you're playing *The Bartered Bride* by Smetana".

Having trained at Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the National Opera Studio she has worked for many prestigious festivals including Garsington Opera and Glyndebourne. Fran has also played for Simon Cowell, appeared on TV on *This Morning* and played in Wandsworth Prison.

But she suddenly found her work diary was empty

until May 2021 so now her creativity has taken a new direction. Fran has turned her hand to crafts and set up an online Etsy shop selling beautiful, handmade bunting with designs ranging from vintage to glow-in-the-dark for Halloween. "When you shake things about sometimes it can unlock something new," she says.

Fran hopes to expand her business by taking commissions for upcycling and refashioning fabric with sentimental value, such as old children's clothes. Any ideas



Colourful: Fran's bunting

are welcome. "If someone wants 'Marry me' written onto bunting, I can do it!" To see more of Fran's creations, check out her Instagram page at [musosgetcrafty](https://www.instagram.com/musosgetcrafty) and Etsy shop [www.etsy.com/shop/musosgetcrafty](https://www.etsy.com/shop/musosgetcrafty).



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## This pony's just my size

As the young ones at Monkey Puzzle Nursery in East Finchley couldn't go on their annual trip to Willow's Farm, near St Albans, this year, their leaders arranged for some of the animals to come to them.

Two ponies called Brandy and Sunny came to the nursery to give the pre-schoolers rides around the front garden opposite the tube station. Passers-by stopped to watch and one of the children said: "This is the best day ever!"

## Ska and saltfish at surreal supper club

By Janet Maitland

The thing about Covid outdoor events is that you think it's going to be social distancing on a rug on a balmy summer evening. Then the rain comes down in sheets while you're on the bus and you arrive with even your mask sopping wet, wondering if the virus has sent you a little mad.

Fortunately, Inky's Supper Club on Thursday 27 August at Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road, N3, decamped from the sodden gardens to the house's spacious drawing room. Once we'd dried off and used the complimentary hand sanitiser, we sat down at carefully spaced tables loaded with generous supplies of rum to enjoy a splendidly surreal evening.

### Tropical treats

"Did you know that Nelson's dead body was stuffed into a barrel of rum to stop it rotting on its way to Gibraltar?" asked Malcolm Godfrey, the general manager, defiantly wearing a Hawaiian shirt as he took us through the provenance of our rum sniffers while rain clattered down the windows.

"This reminds me of the Abba tribute band concert on the heath," said my companion happily, knocking back the

last of her rum ration. "You know, when we wore those pink sparkly stetson hats and it rained so hard we had to get under that old tarpaulin."

But we were warm and cosy and the supper was delicious: salted plantain crisps, plump jerk chicken and luscious goat curry, dainty little saltfish tarts, silky aubergine on crispy fried bread and a delicate slice of banana key lime pie.

Best of all was the music, a playlist of rock steady and ska with a sprinkling of reggae. It took just a couple of bars of *Al Capone* by Prince Buster and I was transported straight back to my old school gym for the Friday lunchtime disco.

### More to come

Stephens House and Gardens were gifted for the use and enjoyment of the people by Henry Charles 'Inky' Stephens of the Stephens' Ink Company. October happenings include Halloween in the Gardens on Saturday 31st, featuring a visit to the spine chilling cellars, a spooky garden spectre hunt and a fire artist. For information go to [www.stephenshouseandgardens.com/events](http://www.stephenshouseandgardens.com/events)

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# Asher aims high for his first mountain ascent

East Finchley teenager Asher Israel made a pandemic-delayed 13<sup>th</sup> birthday charity hike up Snowdon in Wales last month, raising more than £1,000 for charities thanks to sponsorship from friends and family.

Accompanied by dad Paul, Asher set off on his six-hour return hike under clear skies soon after 6am. The first hour was very steep up the Pen-y-Gwryd or PYG pass and the pair said it felt a bit tough when they started to meet the really keen early hikers already on their way down.

But then it was more or less level for the next hour and they had amazing views of the lakes below and the surrounding mountains, with the peak of Snowdon appearing dramatically high in front of them.

In the last hour it got steeper again but they could see the end in sight. Clouds appeared near the summit and other hikers were converging on the spot so, after seeing very few people, they had to wait their turn at the top. But this was lucky as it gave time for the clouds to clear and Asher was able to claim his place on the highest spot in England and Wales at 1,085m or 3,560ft.

Asher, who lives in Fortis



On top of the world: Asher at the summit of Snowdon

Green, said "It was a hard climb, but the view at the top was a great payoff." Dad Paul added: "At the top, when it was clear you could see all around: northern Wales, including Anglesey, the Irish Sea, the coastline and amazing mountain scenery. Asher did also find a couple of

Pokémon near the top of the mountain."

Asher's mountain hike raised money for charities including PEAS (Promoting Equality in African Schools) and ADDISS, the national Attention Deficit Disorder Information and Support Service.

## A visit to our primary school friends in India

By Julie Taylor

Earlier this year, former Martin School parent and governor Jane Conway made her eighth visit to Tryamboli School in Kolhapur, India, which has been a partner of the East Finchley primary school for six years.

My fellow teacher Shona Glackin and I visited the school in February 2017 and then again in November 2018 taking resources, training teachers and introducing a reading programme called *Jolly Phonics*. Jane was delighted to see that it was being taught systematically to the younger children and that teachers were far more confident after receiving training.

The school is thriving, numbers are increasing and as a result the building is growing with the support of Martin School and other charitable donations. The link with Martin School and the publicity that has resulted has certainly had an impact on the development of Tryamboli.

### Martha, Isobel and the special bags

Two years ago, two of our pupils, Martha and Isobel, decided to raise some money for the school. They made cards, cakes and bracelets and held a sale at school which raised an amazing £265. A few months later, as part of an India Week celebration, the children designed symbols for the design of a new bag that represented the partnership between the two schools.



Partnership: Tryamboli students with their Martin School bags

The money raised by Martha and Isobel was then used to purchase the bags, enough for every child and member of staff at Tryamboli School. Children and staff were thrilled to receive the bags which will also be available for pupils at Martin School to buy. Jane, Julie and Shona are planning another visit in 2021, hoping to further develop the teaching of phonics and English.

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## Parents call for measures to make busy road safer

By John Lawrence

**A group of parents is campaigning for traffic calming measures and a safer crossing on Long Lane, N2, which they say has become increasingly dangerous for pedestrians to use.**

The group says there are many elderly people and families with small children who find the road difficult to cross safely. There is no designated crossing point for more than half a mile on Long Lane between Church Lane, N2, and Squires Lane, N3.

### Midway crossing needed

Jules Porter, who has started a petition, says it is a busy route into and out of East Finchley with many blind corners and poor sight lines for drivers and pedestrians alike.

"When I'm with my six-year-old son and daughter, who's three, and maybe the buggy and our dog, there is no safe place to cross," she said. "Friends with older children say they are scared for them crossing on their own too."

Her petition calls for a crossing midway down the N2 stretch of Long Lane, along with signage and other calming measures to encourage motorists to slow down.

"There are some long narrow stretches with cars parked

either side and drivers can go too fast," said Jules. "I feel we have to do something. It's no use waiting until someone is injured or killed." The group's online petition was running until 3 October and it has already gained enough signatures to ensure it is discussed by Barnet Council.

### Other speed control calls

It joins a number of other calls from residents around East Finchley for traffic-calming measures. Last year, a petition was mounted to introduce a 20mph limit to the county roads. Road humps and a 20mph limit are in place in Church Lane, and there were demands for a lower speed limit along East End Road following the tragic death of three-year-old Sonny Parmar in May 2019. East Finchley's councillors report that Barnet Council is willing to consider introducing 20mph limits in roads close to schools but that a blanket limit for the whole ward or borough is likely to be some way off.

## Bowie on the bill before he was famous

**This fascinating poster from 1964 reveals that one of David Bowie's first gigs when he was starting out on the path to international stardom was in the High Road, East Finchley.**

Known then as Davie or sometimes Davy Jones and aged only 17, he and his band the King Bees were advertised to play the Jewish Youth Club, now the Finchley Youth Centre, on Sunday 26 July.

The group, who performed fairly standard Rolling Stones-style R&B, had just released their first and only single called *Liza Jane* and had got themselves noticed on the TV shows *Juke Box Jury* and *Ready Steady Go!*

It must have been an intimate gig in East Finchley because even now the venue does not have a large performance space. For much of the 1960s Brian Epstein, manager of The Beatles, was vice-president of the club and would make annual visits to meet its young members.



On stage: The group is more widely known as Davie Jones and the King Bees. Photo Halloweenjack84 on YouTube.



On the bill: David Bowie and his band are listed as Davy Jones and the The Kingbees when they play East Finchley.

Soon after the concert, Bowie left the King Bees and went on to his next band The Manish Boys. Five years later, with his new stage name, he released his hit solo single *Space Oddity* and in 1972 transformed himself into Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars.

After that he was an international superstar and played concerts to thousands of devoted fans. But it was the humble beginnings of a Sunday night in East Finchley that helped to get him started.

## A little more conversation

**Following our review of *Sherlock Holmes at Stephens House and Gardens* in our last edition, another local outdoor performance was staged in early September, this time at Lauderdale House in Highgate. Janet Maitland was there to review it.**

*Polite Conversation* is a comedy about the impact of the pandemic on people's usual polite behaviour. I got into the spirit of things on arrival by asking why I couldn't sit on a bench when a nice young woman was trying to show me to my booked square of damp grass. Fortunately my companion pushed me onto her blanket, used to my Covid outbursts.

Like the characters in the play, the audience had only recently escaped from house arrest, and laughed uproariously as Emma frantically prepared for her first socially distanced barbecue. Just before the guests arrive she's interrupted by a bombshell revelation from her husband. As their dispute gets acrimonious, the guests get just a quick dab of hand sanitiser and a bit of bread, then are told to walk round the garden. They keep popping back, only to be dismissed back into the gathering clouds of midges. Things are said that will later be regretted. Everyone drinks too much. It's very funny and it was lovely to laugh.

"We've welcomed many people for their first night out since lockdown and it's been wonderful to see them relax," said Katharine Ives, Director of Lauderdale House.

The play, written by Andrew



We don't talk anymore: Lauderdale House actors, left to right, Paul Westwood, Danielle Scott, Jessica Boyde, Vincent Miller. Photo Rebekah Harvey.

Crook, was originally performed as a short. "It was heartbreaking that there was no prospect of theatre for several months so when we heard outdoor performances were possible, we asked the scriptwriter to extend it and approached Lauderdale House," said Rebekah Harvey, the producer.

I asked director Elif Knight what advice she would give would-be directors of outdoor theatre. She said they should be prepared for anything. "Come rain or shine you have to have contingency measures in place."

For information about other events at Lauderdale House go to [www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk](http://www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk)

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

### Last of the garagistas

**As Ferrari 'celebrated' a continuing season of failure at the Italian Grand Prix, far sadder was having to say happy retirement to Frank Williams, the last of the garagistas.**

Back in the 1950s, companies like Alfa-Romeo, Lancia, Mercedes and Ferrari dominated. They designed and built everything on the car apart from the tyres. They were, in Enzo Ferrari's view, proper manufacturers and, oh boy, did he hate what came next.

It had started in the late 1940s with 500cc Formula 3. These simple, affordable cars had a mid-mounted motorcycle engine and no one did it better than the British. Cooper were a father-and-son team with a garage who just built the chassis and body and bought the rest. They sold them to anyone and everyone, dominating the formula and providing a starting point for the likes of Stirling Moss.

When they built a proper Formula 1 car in 1958 it was a repeat performance. They sold their cars to other teams, Moss drove one for Rob Walker's team. And they won. Australian Jack Brabham won back-to-back championships in 1959 and 1960. And dear old Enzo scoffed and contemptuously called them the 'garagistas'.

After that there was only one way forward. Lotus did exactly the same thing, never building an engine but buying them. By the early 1970s only Ferrari built everything. In 40 years from 1959 to 1999 the only times a garagista didn't win were when BRM managed it in 1962 and the five times a Ferrari driver took the title.

And the last garagista was Frank Williams. Although the rest have gone or, like McLaren, gone corporate, Williams continued as they were, the same man at the helm, the same name above the door. A mixture of innovation, hard work and a little luck saw them take seven drivers' titles for people like Mansell, Prost and Hill, along with nine constructors' titles between 1980 and 1997.

And now it's over. Frank Williams has sold the team to an American investment company and retired. Formula 1 is a corporate concern and new teams have to pay £200 million joiners' fees to enter. Never again will a bunch of blokes in a shed be able to challenge the likes of Ferrari. And that is a shame.

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# Author finds bursts of dark inspiration amidst lockdown

By Benjamin Klauber-Griffiths

A local first-time author has used the recent lockdown to write a new dystopian novel... about a lethal virus ravaging the world. Nicholas Nicolaides has also illustrated and self-published the book, called *Zero One*. He said: "This is the first time I've had the luxury to sit down and write."

The extra time afforded to him because of the restrictions meant he felt it was "now or never" to write up a concept he had long been developing in his mind, synthesising his passion for art with his love of dystopian fiction. He describes how



Author and illustrator:  
Nicholas Nicolaides

writing wasn't a linear process, and how he used his art work as a "nice way to build upon ideas". His creative experience entangled the two mediums, as the "process of writing was like painting".

## Survival fears

Whilst the novel's conception preceded this year's



Dystopian image: One of Nicholas's illustrations for his novel.

virus, its primary focus is on "who would be the most well equipped to survive", reflecting the fears of many people during lockdown.

As Nicholas says, "everything in there exists", including our over-reliance on technology, and even re-imagined local Finchley landmarks, which help fuel his dystopian nightmare.

Being a first-time author, he relished the opportunity to share early drafts with family and friends, using their feedback as motivation to continue writing. "Talk to anyone who has an opinion" is his advice for other

new authors.

## Imaginary world

Whilst for some people, lockdown was a stifling experience, Nicholas has used it as a chance to "introduce my readers to a world I could build upon", creating what he describes as his *Hobbit*, a world to leap off from and develop further.

Whether writing in lockdown or outside of it, he is making it clear that he has more to tell. We look forward to a sequel.

*Zero One* is available on Amazon.

# Farewell to dedicated hospice shop manager

By Diana Cormack

Eugenia Von Piccardio, who was North London Hospice's much-loved East Finchley senior shop manager, has sadly died aged 82. She was a familiar face to many and a dedicated member of the shop's team until she retired less than two years ago.

Born in Austria in 1938 she came to Hampstead as an au pair and settled here, training as a nurse at the Trade Union Hospital. In 1976 she met her future husband Peter and they enjoyed 37 happy years of marriage.

For almost three decades Eugenia volunteered at the North London Hospice shop in East Finchley. NLH Retail Operations Manager Catherine Harrington said: "Eugenia was one of our most dedicated and hardworking managers and was always one of the first people to offer extra time and help whenever we were short staffed. She was a lovely person to work with."

Eugenia was a big fan of The Archer with early evidence of this appearing in an 'East Finchley People' article from February 1995. Here she revealed that with so many friends in the area she had used the paper to publish her Christmas greetings to them. Her husband Peter was one of our deliverers for many years.

In February 2007 she used our pages to draw attention to the unsightly row of newspaper stands outside East Finchley



Eugenia Von Piccardio

station, pointing out that they were not very nice for visitors or locals to look at. Within a very short time they were removed.

After a break-in at the shop Eugenia was overwhelmed by special donations from local people. These included Secure-base supplying and fitting a new intruder alarm free of charge. "People in East Finchley are so kind. It really is a special place," she told The Archer. "Even if I were to win a lottery prize, I would always want to live here."

Needless to say, enormous thanks are due to Eugenia for the atmosphere she brought to the hospice shop and for the long-term effort she put in there. Goodbye to a very special East Finchley person.

# Artist returns to Russia with love

By John Lawrence

East Finchley artist Denise Wyllie has taken her art work to Russia again, 27 years after first exhibiting there. Her colourful prints inspired by the beauty of Japanese and English gardens are on show in Petrozavodsk in the north west of the country.

Denise, who lives in Long Lane, N2, became friends with Masha Yufa and Sergei Terentjev of the Art Connect project in the early 1990s.



Return visit: Denise Wyllie

They were keen to connect with the world outside Russia and invited her to stage her first exhibition in 1993, making her the first non-Russian female artist to do so in the region.

She has been back many times since and her close connections with Russia meant

she was confident to mount her 2020 Gardens of Paradise show in the same gallery despite Covid-19 restrictions.

The artist says she is delighted with the way her work has been received. "I am elated having another solo exhibition in Russia, connecting with people I met 28 years ago during glasnost [openness] and perestroika [restructuring]."

Denise has exhibited widely in the UK and abroad and established creative links with other artists in the Netherlands, France, Italy, Japan, Puerto Rico and the US. Her work is in international art collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum here in London and the Karelian Republic Museum of Fine Arts in Russia. Find out more at [www.facebook.com/ArtistDeniseWyllie](http://www.facebook.com/ArtistDeniseWyllie)



First exhibition: Artist Denise Wyllie, second from the right, being interviewed for Russian television in 1993 alongside friend Masha Yufa.



Bujar Leka (right) and his assistant at The Cut barbershop. Photo Mike Coles

# New opening makes a barbershop trio

By Alessio Pavarani

East Finchley has welcomed a new barbershop to the High Road. The Cut Barbershop, situated opposite Budgens, started up in August and is open seven days a week. This is the team's third shop in the area, with other branches already up and running in Muswell Hill Broadway and Highgate Village.

Owner David Millan said: "We very much wanted to be in East Finchley to complement our Muswell Hill and Highgate shops and as local residents with families, who are active in the district, we feel that we can serve the community well."

His team of friendly, skilled barbers are fully kitted out with

personal protective equipment, including visors and masks, creating a safe environment to get a trim or a shave. They are able to cater for all ages, with a fun car seat available to entertain and amuse the younger clientele. Appointments can be made; however they are not required, as walk-ins are perfectly fine too.





# Try this autumn outing on two wheels

By Greta Brambilla

If you enjoyed our last cycle route to Golders Hill Park (*The Archer*, August 2020) here is another one to try, this time to Alexandra Palace. It can be done in an hour and, as before, begins at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2. Please be sure to obey any No Cycling signs on the pedestrian paths along the route.

From All Saints', cut through to Twyford Avenue, turn right and head for Fortis Green. There make a left, then a right onto Western Road, before turning left onto Southern Road and then right down the hidden pathway (Indigo Walk) ahead.

Keep going, following Fordington Road and turning right at Woodside Avenue. Turn left onto Great North Road (be careful, it's busy here), cross all the traffic lights on foot and make your way down



Round and about: The route takes you on a wide circle around the borders of Highgate and Muswell Hill.

the cut-through to the contrastingly quiet Sheldon Avenue.

Keep going until Denewood Road on the left, follow it, then turn left again onto Broadlands Road heading towards Highgate. At the North Hill junction, go down the nearby Park House Passage, continuing onto The Park. Turn left at the end onto Southwood Lane, follow Muswell Hill Road, then make a swift right onto Wood Lane.

You'll enter the charming nature reserve, Queen's Wood, full of sprawling oak trees. Continue through and exit right at Cranley Gardens. Turn left at Park Road, or stop to pick up fish and chips from The Fish Palace, then veer right onto the pathway (past the traffic lights) leading to Alexandra Park, the ideal spot to enjoy your feast.

Follow this broad, tranquil route all the way through until you leave via Alexandra Palace Way. Turn left at the roundabout onto Palace Gates Road and right onto Crescent Road. If you still have room for dessert, check out Sweet Tree here. I recommend the creamy cheesecakes and hearty flapjacks. Oh, and see if you can spot the long wooden face!

Continue, then head left onto Victoria Road. Cross over at the end onto Rhodes Avenue, following it round. Next go up 'the three Gs': Grosvenor Road on the right, Goodwyn's Vale on the left and Greenham Road on the left at the junction. Turn left onto Coppetts Road and right onto Creighton Avenue. Finally continue until the cut through to Durham Road and back to where you started.



Rest stop: The wooden statue near the Sweet Tree Bakery in Crescent Road, N22.

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

You are welcome to join us for:

**Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and Weekday masses as advertised on the website**  
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Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

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The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

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Email: [vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com) or check out our website:

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

## Letters

### Get off your bike

Dear Editor,

On reading 'Try this round route for a spot of summer cycling' in the August issue of *The Archer* I was somewhat aghast as parts of the routes are public footpaths.

Cromwell Close to Abbots Gardens has a No Cycling sign displayed and the other two footpaths from Abbots Gardens to Brim Hill and then down to Lyttelton Road are clearly marked as footpaths. Cyclists should dismount if they want to use these paths. As weeks have gone by since March there have been more and more cyclists on the pavements, which is illegal, and to then have to battle with them on paths that are clearly marked for the 'foot' not the pedal is too much.

Jenny Cohen

Talbot Avenue, N2.

*Editor's note: Our article did point out that cyclists should give priority to pedestrians on these paths but did not make it clear that they are No Cycling. We apologise for this omission.*

### Bravo on plastics

Dear Editor,

First shoots, but it is happening and right here in East Finchley! The decisions made by individual shop owners are turning things around. Dan and DeCarlo and Budgens now use paper bags and this without any government coercion.

Then our Waitrose order was delivered... plastic, plastic, plastic. We will think twice about doing that again. The lesson we have learnt is to shop local, things are changing right here.

It is by individuals and shops making the right decisions that a brake can be applied to this tsunami of plastics descending on our High Road. The tsunami is only descending because shops think that this is we want.

We must tell them emphatically NO IT IS NOT. Withdraw your custom. Possibly even on occasion take unilateral action and leave all the unwanted plastic you are given at the till.

Ann Inglis,  
No2PlasticsN2.

### Parking relief

Dear Editor,

A thank you to a member of Barnet Council's customer service department via our local MP who helped me to obtain the 'old' printed versions of visitors' parking permits, rather than the so-called virtual ones, which involve endless checking online of car registrations.

Neither the provider, the recipient nor the traffic wardens should have to spend hours of time online when all it takes is a glance at the printed version in the car.

I know these were used for normal residents' parking also which I had to have as well as disabled parking vouchers because many people from other boroughs used the disabled parking space from 8am to 8pm, preventing local people using it. I no longer drive so am pleased to give up all these shenanigans.

Jeanne Wray,  
Baronsmere Road, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)

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.

### Phones need phone masts

Dear Editor,

I don't wish to comment on a particular planning objection, of which I know little ('Giant phone mast 'out of keeping' with Garden Suburb', *The Archer*, September 2020). I would, however, like to make a general observation.

Am I alone in finding it nearly impossible to get a sufficient mobile phone signal in our area? Nearly all of us have mobile phones and they are now a major part of how we communicate. Indeed, they are pretty much a necessity. My doctor's surgery, for instance, now sends me texts. People can't understand why I don't pick up texts and mobile calls while I'm at home.

Yet, over the years I have observed several vociferous 'community' campaigns against the erection of phone masts in our area. At least some have been based around fears of health risks associated with masts, which have not been upheld by independent scientific studies ('Protests at plan for church phone mast', *The Archer*, June 2005).

Mobile phones are an important part of our lives. They are a powerful social and communication tool, not least for civic campaigners. Are we always going to campaign against phone masts being erected when they are 'in our back yard'?

Kit Snape  
Long Lane, N2.



Dumped: The rubbish left in Springcroft Avenue, N2

### Trash talk

Dear Editor,

I found this rubbish left strewn all over the pavement at the bottom of Springcroft Avenue. What a world we are living in, obviously people partied hard! The carrier bag was full of beer cans. Another bagful was left in the road. Is there no pride in our environment and neighbourhood?

Ros Goldfarb,  
Address supplied.



## Your news

Send your stories, letters, and photos to [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk) or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @TheArcherN2. You can view our online archive at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)

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# The Archer

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Spot the paintings: The tiny canvasses in position and close up. Top to bottom: East End Road/Briar Close, Viceroy Close, East End Road bridge and Dan & DeCarlo's wall. Photos: Jon Hindmarsh, Mike Hughes and Alison Roberts

## Gritty as a picture

Over the period of lockdown, a number of small cameo paintings popped up in some very odd spots around East Finchley. About the size of a table mat and positioned unobtrusively they were hard to spot but we found four.

They deliberately steered away from the picturesque. Each was a painting of the unlovely location where they were sited, sometimes nothing grander than a brick wall, a road sign or a drainpipe. In recent weeks, some have disappeared but we wondered who had created them and why. Please get in touch if you know by emailing [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk).

## Busy life of a beekeeper

By Ruth Anders

**When beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton opens one of her hives and breathes in the spicy scent of the propolis resin her bees produce, she says: "My heart lifts and all my cares evaporate."**

Lucie started her hobby five years ago after a memory from school in France was triggered on hearing a radio broadcast by another dedicated beekeeper. She joined the Barnet & District Beekeepers' Association and has never looked back.

### An Inspector calls

Her three hives sit at the end of the large family garden in Beech Drive, N2, and her passion for beekeeping is palpable. She told me about her complex pastime for two hours, and could barely disguise her excitement that my arrival was coinciding with an imminent visit from the Seasonal Bee Inspector.

Hives suffering from European foulbrood, a prevalent disease this year, had been found in the area and, as a precaution, all local beekeepers were subject to inspection.

### Full time job

While we waited for him, Lucie showed me her hives and the variety of clothing and equipment she needs to fulfil the necessary husbandry. Bee management is a huge subject and a good deal of work and vigilance is required to maintain healthy and thriving hives. The liveliest period for beekeepers is spring and summer, when she cannot be away from the hives for more than a week.

Lucie also showed me the items she produces from her bees including boot and furniture polish, soap, wax food wraps, lip balm and of course honey.

### Healthy hives

When she and the Inspector, both appropriately suited and booted, opened the hives, a vast number of bees emerged clinging to each frame. Happily the hives were pronounced disease-free.

Our conversation covered details such as how to use a



Waxing lyrical: Lucie with her hive products

"smoker" to calm the bees, a bee's three-mile flying circle, how to make the wax frames for the hives and the beekeeping certificates she's achieved through her training. Lucie also told me about robber bees and wasps, and the 'waggle dance' bees use to communicate. The life of a hive is packed with drama.

You can see more about Lucie on her Instagram account: @miandelucie and contact her via: [miandelucie@gmail.com](mailto:miandelucie@gmail.com)

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