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Final journey: The tank hearse arrives at Islington and St Pancras Cemetery. Photo Phillip Raphael

Tank hearse rolls up for funeral of an enthusiast

A former British Army tank converted into a hearse was seen being driven into the Islington and St Pancras Cemetery in East Finchley for a funeral on Wednesday 3 March. The FV432 was modified by enthusiast Nick Mead, who runs Northamptonshire-based company Tanks A Lot, and has been used in many funerals of former soldiers.

In this case, according to the MyLondon website, the funeral was that of London nightclub owner Mayuan Mak, who died suddenly in December aged 55. Mr Mak was a big fan of military hardware and owned

a number of tanks himself. Our photo was taken by reader Phillip Raphael who said he was passing the cemetery when he heard the sound of an armoured vehicle rumbling up the road.

The tank had been trans-

ported on a lorry from its base near Milton Keynes to Mr Mak's home in Angel, Islington, before carrying his coffin through the streets of north London to East Finchley.

More than one World Book Day

By Daphne Chamberlain

World Book Day wasn't quite the same this year. The first Thursday in March is usually a big celebration day for children's books, but that was before lockdown, when schools and fancy-dress shops were open, and libraries able to offer live as well as digital outreach services. Wait a minute though. 'World'doesn't always mean what it says.

Oh yes, World Book Day (officially World Book and Copyright Day) was designated by UNESCO in 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and it's observed by all UN members. The original designated date was 23 April, though several countries don't keep to it.

23 April was probably Shakespeare's birthday, as well as the day he died. It also marks the death, in the same year of 1616, as the Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes, who wrote Don Quixote. In fact, that date gets rather crowded, as it's also St George's Day.

St George is the patron saint of both England and Catalonia, and his flower is a red rose. Since the Middle Ages Catalonians have given red roses to loved ones on St George's Day, and nearly 100 years ago that tradition was extended to books, in honour of Cervantes. Apparently, that's how the idea of World Book Day originated.

Brit Book Day

Ironically, though, England decided to observe a different date so we celebrate it in March, along with the rest of the UK and Ireland.

Intended as a day to promote the book industry in general, it's now generally centred around children. The aim is to encourage children from all backgrounds to develop the lifelong habit of reading for pleasure.

Children dress up as their favourite characters, and writers and illustrators meet their public. The www.worldbookday.com charity is funded by UK publishers and booksellers, supplemented by funding from Arts Council England for areas of low literacy and high deprivation. This March there was full digital provision, including £1 book tokens, videos and activities, and Barnet libraries ran an online programme. So how have you been celebrating books and reading? The Archer would love to know.

Regulators move in to shut down solicitors

Solicitors firm Cree Godfrey & Wood, one of East Finchley's longest-standing businesses, was closed down on Thursday 25 March by the industry's regulators.

Notices appeared in the windows of the firm at 28 High Road to inform clients and customers that the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) was handing over all ongoing cases to an intervening agent based in Bournemouth. A statement on the SRA's website said the decision had been taken because there was "reason to suspect dishonesty"

on behalf of a manager, and because the same manager and House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8EX. Enquirers were directed to call 01202 786341 or email interventions@la-law.com.

The SRA is the regulator of more than 200,000 solicitors and law firms in England and Wales. It states its purpose is to protect the public by ensuring that solicitors meet high standards and by acting when risks are identified.

London N2 8AU

Not quite end of the road for café

By Diana Cormack

After 30 years in business the New Local Café, currently at 42 High Road and previously at the corner of Lincoln Road, is to close though not, as some might think, a victim of the pandemic.

Throughout these difficult times the café has continued to serve its many customers wherever possible. But in mid-March a notice on the front window revealed that their lease had come to an end with the landlady being unwilling to renew it.

No connection

Disappointed with her decision, from June of this year they will have no connection with the premises which they say she proposes to run herself as a café at the front with a studio flat at the rear.



New start: The New Local Cafe team are moving on.

Staff at the Local Café want to say a massive thank you all their customers for supporting things are not at an end. They

Cup of Joy Take heart, however, for

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the firm had failed to comply with the body's principles and accounts rules. Just last year, Cree Godfrey & Wood marked 200 years of providing legal services. For 65 of those years it has been based in East Finchley. It offered residential and commercial conveyancing, landlord and tenant advice, a wills service and services connected to business law.

Existing clients were told the firm could no longer act for them and instead to contact the intervening agent Chris Evans, of Lester Aldridge, Russell

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them for many years. They said: "It has been a great pleasure to be a part of such an amazing community."

recently opened Cup of Joy at 117 High Road, which has been well received by locals. Staff will be happy to see you and serve you.

Holy Trinity Parish Church 67 Church Lane, N2 0TH www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

We are a community who welcomes everyone seeking comfort and strength in love, faith, and hope. We meet both in church and online. Please do 'come and see'. Holy Communion: Sunday @ 9.30 am - In Church Bible Readings & Prayers: Sunday at 11.00 am - Online Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday, at 9.00 am - Online

For more information please contact us: Email: marius.mirt@htef.org.uk Tel: 020 3565 4430