



Clear winner: Stanley with his British Chess trophy

Chess champ Stanley is best in Britain

Coldfall Primary School's excellent reputation for chess players continues after 11-year-old Stanley Badacsonyi was crowned a British Champion. The Year 6 pupil won eight out of nine games to triumph in the British Under-12 Online Blitz Championships held over the Christmas and New Year holiday.

Stanley said: "It was an honour to play amongst such a strong field of players, which included some England juniors and some Year 7s, but to actually come out on top was amazing and I feel thrilled!"

The British Chess Championships are normally held in the summer. Last year they were due to be held in Torquay but were switched online due to the pandemic. In total there were over 800 entries across the Championships, hundreds of them junior players like Stanley.

Ken Carter

We are sad to have to report that Ken Carter, a former member of The Archer team and a popular figure in East Finchley, died last month.

Ken, who lived in Leicester Road before moving to the West Country to be close to family, wrote for us on music and reviewed East Finchley Arts Festival concerts each year. He will be much missed, and we hope to publish a longer tribute to him in our next edition.



The Archer online

Did you know you can catch up with past issues of The Archer online? Every edition since the start of 2000 is available on our website www.the-archer.co.uk.

Free art workshops

Local resident Vanya Georgieva is launching a series of free, online art workshops for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and create.

Supported by funding from Grange Big Local's Community Grants programme, Vanya's 'Art for All' workshops will provide a warm, welcoming space to meet new people and learn new creative skills.

There will be five Saturday afternoon workshops in total, each focusing on a different theme. The first takes place on Saturday 13 February from 2pm with a Valentine's Day special. Vanya will provide free arts kits to any participants who need them. Sign up by contacting her directly at vania_2701@hotmail.com.

Call to take part in once-a-decade population survey

By David Melsome
Every household in East Finchley should look out for an invitation from early next month to take part in the once-in-a-decade event of Census Day.

The census is a survey sent out by the government to build the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

For the first time this year it will be run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on either their computers, phones or tablets. Support will be available to help residents do this and paper questionnaires can be sent on request.

Benefits from a successful census

Emma Taylor, Census Engagement Manager responsible for the N2 area, told *The Archer* that a successful Census 2021 will ensure councils and charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed. This includes facilities like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes.

"Barnet already has one of the largest populations in London and it is expected to continue to grow to almost half a million by 2030. That is why it is more important than ever that everyone living in East Finchley takes part to make sure they are included," said Emma.

New and voluntary questions

Census Day itself will be on Sunday 21 March, but households can expect to receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Statistical results will be available within 12 months but, by law, all personal details will be locked away for 100 years. For more information, visit: census.gov.uk.

Letters

Wonderful walks

Dear Editor,

Many of us are sick to the back teeth of walking the same streets, again and again and yet again. Some of us are working as hard or harder than ever and desperately need something completely different to do to escape the unrelenting pressure.

Parents who are home schooling need to take exercise themselves and with their sometimes reluctant children. Retirees, thrashing around at home, with minds often honed over lifetimes but now in complete limbo, need to exercise.

Could there be a way through this? Why could those of us feeling our minds atrophying, not set up quiz/discovery/no-treasure treasure hunt trails that would allow exercisers to take directed walks while exercising their brains as well as their bodies?

Exercisers could learn more about our area or figure out puzzles. These can be educative in all sorts of subjects at all sorts of levels, some requiring solutions or some simply being just plain fun.

They could mine materials presently existing to educate, entertain or both: the geology of the area, what was around before the underground was built, how East Finchley developed over time. What about puzzles along the lines of the TV series *Only Connect*, although for me they would have to be very, very much simpler!

For a range of reasons I am uniquely unable to take the idea forward. Is there anybody out there in our flourishing community who is?

Ann Inglis,
Huntingdon Road, N2.

Pavement courtesy

With a daily walk being essential for many, in the early days when a two-metre gap was advised, most people did make the effort to separate. Passers-by would walk into the road or onto the grass at the path side, couples stepped one behind the other to make space, often with smiles and thank yous exchanged.

Though that does still happen, it is much less frequent. Many make no effort to move aside when passing. Often they are in groups or families with children spread across the walkway. None seem to notice that approaching walkers have tried to make space and few adults instruct their youngsters to do so. They sail by, oblivious in their chatter to each other or into their mobiles.

People stand facing one another at an unsafe distance, leaving you to walk through their

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conversation and their breath. Then there is the lone mobile user planted in the middle of the path blocking any clear passage either way.

The time has come for some rules to be set. We are still uncertain of the correct distance to keep apart. Now my approach is to wave an arm out to the side shouting: 'Make space' but perhaps yelling one of my sister's quotes: 'Keep a coffin's length away' would be more effective?

As on our roads, we should keep to the left. How much easier and safer it could make our walks if this was adhered to, especially if we also made space for on-comers appropriately. Just be kind to one another!

L. C. Ward
Address supplied.

Inept cycle lanes

Dear Editor

Barnet Council finally responded to my letter 'Lost parking spaces' published in your January edition. They say that the cycle lane scheme is a government-funded transport measure which has paid them £315,000 to encourage active travel, which they are using to implement cycling schemes.

There was no prior consultation, but the first six months is the consultation period. So far, 536 people have signed a petition against the scheme. Shopkeepers have complained about the double yellow lines, which have been introduced in places which make no sense but are put in as there is "insufficient space to accommodate dedicated cycle lanes".

It is particularly inept around East Finchley station as the cycle lane starts, stops, starts again and stops just before the traffic lights with East End Road. This means that the few cyclists actually using the lane will move in and out of the non-protected zones, where the cars are. When normal traffic volumes return, traffic congestion and the danger to cyclists will increase. Sometime later, another Barnet reply came saying that they were aware of the congestion, and are "reviewing options to improve the situation".

Barry H White,
Fordington Road, N6.

Holy Trinity Parish Church

67 Church Lane, N2 0TH

www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

We are a community where faith is shared, hope is nourished, and love comforts.

You are welcome to join us for worship and mutual support:

Bible Readings & Prayers: Sunday at 11.00 am - Online
Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday, at 9.00 am - Online

The church building is closed until further notice.

For more information please contact us:

Email: maris.mirt@htef.org.uk

Tel: 020 3565 4430