



Peaceful protest: Hundreds kneel in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement at Alexandra Palace. Photo Lloyd Winters

## September

Obina Ezeoke, 28, is jailed at the Old Bailey for the double murder of mother-of-nine **Annie Ekofo**, 53, and her nephew **Bervil Ekofo**, 21, in their home in Elms-hurst Crescent, N2, in 2016. The court had been told that Ezeoke had broken into the flat seeking a teenager in the family as part of a vendetta of violence.

New **parking rules** are introduced at the start of the school term to reduce congestion. Holy Trinity Primary School in Eagans Close, N2, is one of several across Barnet where parent parking immediately outside the school gates is banned.

Donations flood in for the **Phoenix Cinema** thanks to a public fundraising campaign and a generous financial gift from local benefactors Alex Kleiner and Michele McDowall. Staff

and trustees start making plans to reopen in October before finding themselves thwarted by the autumn lockdown.

## October

**Bus and cycle lanes** are installed along the High Road from The Bishops Avenue right up to North Finchley, creating safer spaces for cyclists but also causing congestion and confusion for drivers, and consternation for traders over the loss of parking spaces.

The Friends of **Cherry Tree Wood** secure a £20,000 cash grant to roll out a raft of much-needed improvements to the park.

Barnet Council approves changes to **parking zones** in the vicinity of East Finchley station, which will introduce a new all-day 'inner zone' for roads bordering Cherry Tree Wood and around The Causeway and Edmunds Walk.



The closed Phoenix Cinema uses its display to show support for N2United's shop local #N2unique campaign. Photo Nick Allan

## November

Community and business networking group **N2United** launches its **#N2Unique** project, throwing a spotlight on all the independent traders, craftspeople and small businesses in the East Finchley area.

**Barnet Council** announces minor changes to the layout of the new bus and cycle lanes in the wake of feedback from local residents.

## December

A group of volunteers from **East Finchley Neighbourhood Support** led by local chef **Giuseppe Sollo** cook and serve free meals for needy families from the foyer of the Phoenix Cinema. The project is set up particularly to help those who are excluded from government support.

The **Phoenix Cinema** reopens for the first time since March with a showing of *The Nutcracker*. Customers and staff abide by full Covid-safe hygiene rules but unfortunately the cinema is forced to close again after just four days when London enters Tier 3 restrictions.

# It wasn't all bad...

**Archer readers and team members recall their own personal highs and lows of 2020.**

*"For me, being in lockdown in an area that I love really made a difference to my year. I have missed the buzz of the pubs and high street but enjoyed seeing it come back to life even though it's still not 100 percent back to normal."*

**Stephanie Ogilvie**

*"Walking far more than previously and loving it. Taking up Ashtanga Yoga most mornings online with a fabulously inspiring French teacher. In so doing, losing two stone and chucking out most of my wardrobe. Reading, mostly in my tiny garden, without a guilty conscience. Growing veggies. Through my road's WhatsApp group getting to know my lovely friendly neighbours far better."*

**Ruth Anders**

*"The high point was reaching our crowdfunding target in February, but the low was then having to cancel the festival."*

**East Finchley Festival CIC team**

*"East Finchley has always had a good community spirit but it really came into its own this year. That's the high point."*

**Tessa Redig de Campos**

*"My East Finchley high of 2020 was during lockdown watching a man walk from about Bedford Road to the Underground station in broad daylight, down the middle of the High Road without hindrance from any vehicles at all! A sight I doubt anybody alive has seen before, or will probably see again, unless Covid-19 has its way."*

**John Dearing**

*"Our road had birthday sing-songs in the street for all having big birthdays during lockdown, including my 70th."*

**Jane Marsh**

*"For a high, I'd say the weekly gatherings outside our homes to applaud NHS workers everywhere."*

*Not only did it feel the right thing to do, but it also brought neighbours together on the street. Some people on our road we spoke to for the first time, and now most of us feel we know each other."*

**David Gritten**

*"After the first lockdown, some outings: Burnham on Crouch with fish and chips on the quayside, Rye with cobbled streets and a castle and the Grayson Perry exhibition near Old Street with a heron slowly catching insects in the pond in the garden. And two meals 'to help out' that turned out not to be very helpful."*

**Janet Maitland**

*"High point was filling in for the more mature volunteers, to do The Archer paper rounds with my nine-year-old daughter."*

**Semi Jo**

*"Backward walking fella R.I.P"*

**Ashley Bond**

*"A low for me this year was having to give up delivering The Archer on the High Road due to a spinal condition. Being the largest round, it could take more than three hours to complete because going into the all the shops and businesses often included a chat to the traders. I really miss my contact with everyone up and down the High Road."*

**Diana Cormack**

*"The highs were being able to cycle on the roads with my children, and seeing the joy on their faces when they were finally allowed to see their friends again. The low was having to work 18-hour days to fit my business around home-schooling."*

**Alison Roberts**

*"My highlights are cycling the many hills of north London (and it getting a bit easier), running into the sea in Cornwall on 4 July and feeling free of lockdown and hearing that roar of applause as it surged across London on the first Thursday clap for the NHS."*

**Lucy Moorman**



Sheelah Stone, left, leads an informal group of cyclists along one of the newly installed cycle lanes on the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

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## Collective creation

The East Finchley Open Artists group has gone live with an exciting collective creation... its brand new website. You can see the end result at [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)