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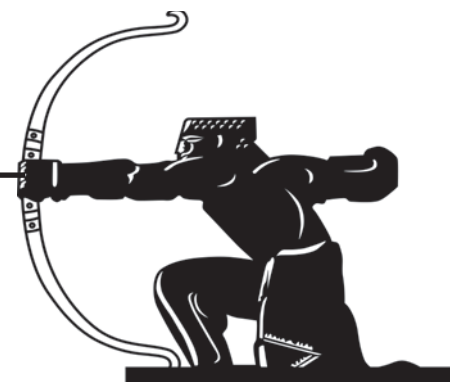
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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



June 2021 No. 326

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



Take your seats: The audience settles in to the magnificent Phoenix auditorium on its first day of reopening. Photo Mike Coles

## Phoenix filmgoers back where they belong at last

By John Lawrence

**It was a momentous day for East Finchley film fans and the whole team at the Phoenix when the historic cinema finally re-opened its doors last month and fired up its projectors for a full programme of screenings.**

The Oscar-winning *Nomadland*, starring Frances McDormand, was among the first films on the bill on Monday 17 May and the loyal Phoenix audience lost no time in taking their seats again after more than a year away.

For operations manager

Ewelina Sadlowska, it was an emotional day. She said: "I could see customers smiling behind their face coverings when they came in the building. Their eyes were wandering around our redecorated foyer and they were hungry for a little chat about films and

the Phoenix. It's cathartic for all of us to be able to win back a bit of normality and go to the movies again." Aside from a few days last autumn, the Phoenix has been closed to paying customers since the very start of the first lockdown in March 2020. As we reported last month, it has managed to weather the pandemic thanks to two generous arts grants from the government, and its future finances now look more secure than they have for a long time.

## Tackle litter scourge from ground up

By Diana Cormack

**As London emerges from lockdown it seems that some citizens are looking around and not liking what they see. Maybe taking walks along the same route for months has stimulated us to study our surroundings or perhaps caring more for the environment has raised an awareness of what is lying there – LITTER!**

With abandoned face masks and general rubbish still evident on most streets, few can deny that we need to deal with it.

*The Archer* knows of two regular monthly litter picks held by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood and the Friends of Market Place Playground. And two members of Barnet Friends of the Earth have started the Let's Pick It Up group to coordinate litter picks across Barnet and Camden.

### Lone rangers

Lone collectors are sometimes seen, people generously doing their bit for the community. And what are they usually picking up? Cigarette butts, inevitably, and particularly in parks, items from consumables like coffee containers, plastic spoons, wooden forks, sugar wraps, wrappers from biscuits, sweets and snacks, tissues, bottles,

cans and juice cartons. Plus plastic bags along with their remains after they've been shredded by animals.

Also from animals, presumably in the charge of humans, dog poo. Whilst many owners do pick up their dog waste, some then leave it in bags hanging from trees or fouling someone else's property. One resident with a garden fence backing onto Southern Road



Bin it: Bags of litter collected in a Barnet park

installed a camera with a warning notice to those leaving pooches' poo on their patch. Incredible!

### What next

So what's to be done about this and are there any areas in N2 with a particular litter problem? Please send your views (and photos) to [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)

For further information about Let's Pick It Up, email [letspickitup2021@gmail.com](mailto:letspickitup2021@gmail.com), or follow @LetsPickItUp on Twitter and @letspickitup2021 on Instagram.

On 28 May, Keep Britain Tidy launched its sixth 'Great British Spring Clean' running until 13 June. Visit [www.keeptobritaintidy.org](http://www.keeptobritaintidy.org) for more information.

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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.

Copy deadlines – **July: 11 June** **August: 16 July**  
**September: 13 August**



Trunk call: Decaying wood like this tree in Coldfall Wood can be a haven for insects and small wildlife.

## Dead wood is not waste wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

If you're walking through Coldfall Wood you may notice a flash of colour here and there, on tree trunks, log piles and some of the bridges. Small posters, in three different designs and packed with photos, have been put up around the wood by the Friends of Coldfall Wood group. They carry a simple message: dead wood is worth protecting.

Heavy footfall in woodlands over the last two years has had some worrying side-effects but it's also shown people's appreciation of nature. The strong reaction to the proposed felling of some Coldfall trees is an example: over 66,000 signed a petition against it, as *The Archer* reported in April, and the decision to remove the trees was suspended... for now.

So living trees are valued but dead wood's important, too. One use of it is the stacked or interwoven branches known as 'dead hedges' which mark off parts of the wood for coppicing, protection and regeneration. Dead hedges also make

excellent habitats for small animals and birds. Volunteers build them; sadly their work sometimes gets dismantled by people building dens.

Every living thing in Coldfall has a use for dead wood, from insects to fungi to robins. Food, shelter, sites for hibernating or nest-building: dead wood is a precious woodland resource. That's why managers of parks and woodlands nowadays leave fallen branches lying and dead trees standing. And the Friends are hoping their posters will provide not only information but fun for families. Look out for the very charming wood mouse!

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

**Barnet Council** 020 8359 2000  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Benefits 0800 882200  
**Haringey Council** 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  
Tarlton Rd Community Ctr 02070186560  
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

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Citizens Advice Barnet 0300 4568365  
Cruse Bereavement Care 0808 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  
SENDIASS Barnet 020 8359 7637  
SENDIASS Haringey 020 3667 5233

### Health Advice

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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555  
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

## Help in a charity shop

Both our local RSPCA charity shop and the one in North Finchley are looking for volunteers. Anyone with a few hours to spare would be welcome to come and help there.

This sort of voluntary work is a good way to meet others and to make new friends. It can provide practice for language skills should you need this. It is also helpful for building confidence before returning to or entering the world of paid work.

Gap year students or those wishing to widen their experi-

ence in the working environment could enhance their CVs by undertaking such work.

If you are interested, pop into the East Finchley shop at 160 High Road or the one at 763 High Road, N12 (next but one to Poundland) and have a chat. For further information on the work of the RSPCA, visit [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk).

## Indoor car boot sale

The Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale will take place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 26 June at Hornsey Parish Church Hall N10 3AH, at the foot of Muswell Hill, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road.

Admission is 50p and refreshments will be available. For information, contact 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

**111 Abbots Gardens, N2**  
Roof extension involving rear dormer window, one front rooflight and two rooflights over flat roof of dormer.

**129 Abbots Gardens, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension.  
**14 Bedford Road, N2**

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window, and new solar panels to pitched roof.

**32 Brackenbury Road, N2**  
Two-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer window.

**66 Brackenbury Road, N2**  
Roof extension involving rear dormer window. Removal of first-floor rear window. Addition of first-floor side window with obscured glazing.

**22 Cromwell Close, N2**  
Roof extension, involving rear dormer windows and three front rooflights.

**221 Creighton Avenue, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension, two-storey side extension. Roof extension involving hip to gable, one side gable, three side rooflights, rear dormer window and three front rooflights.

**30 Durham Road, N2**  
Roof extension, involving rear dormer window and three front rooflights.

**198 East End Road, N2**  
Roof extension, involving hip to gable, one side gable window, rear dormer window, and three

front rooflights.

**213 East End Road, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension with rooflights and double folding doors, following demolition of existing extension. Replacement of lean-to tiled roof with apex zinc.

**232 East End Road, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension. Replacement of window with UPVC double glazed windows.

**East Finchley Cemetery, East End Road, N2**  
Rebuilding leaning/damaged site boundary walls (Listed Building Consent)

**27 Fairlawn Avenue, N2**  
Removal of front window. Replacement of approved rear single-storey rear extension window with anthracite grey windows.

**41 Fortis Green, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer window and three front rooflights. Rear boundary wall. Relocation of drainage. Replacement of two first floor rear windows. Replacement of external soil-vent stack and gas boiler flue. Removal of chimney breasts.

**21 Hertford Road, N2**  
Single-storey side and rear extension with four rooflights. Roof extension involving rear dormer windows, Juliet balcony and three front rooflights.

**84 Hertford Road, N2**  
Non-material amendments to planning permission dated 13/01/2021 include increase in size of rear

extension window and side extension rooflights.

**25 Howard Walk, N2**  
Replacement of windows on ground and first floors with like for like replacements.

**Osterley, King Street, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension: depth 5 m, eaves height 3m, maximum height 3.3m.

**51 Leicester Road, N2**  
Roof extension involving rear dormer window with Juliet balcony, one side window, one rear window and three front rooflights.

**60 Lincoln Road, N2**  
Roof extension, involving rear dormer window to rear roof and outrigger roof, three front rooflights, pitched roof to existing rear extension, and replacement of rear window with door.

**379 Long Lane, N2**  
Single-storey rear extension. Replacement and enlargement of existing patio door.

**Lyttelton Court, Lyttelton Road, N2**  
15m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraparound Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works.

**7 New Trinity Road, N2**  
Roof extension involving rear dormer window, one side and two front rooflights.

**17 New Trinity Road, N2**  
Single-storey side and rear extension.

**Prospect Ring, N2**  
Details of condition 4b pursuant to planning permission.





# Dilemma over traffic in the county roads

By Ruth Anders

In the photo below, from around 1905, Huntingdon Road looked much the same and yet completely different from now. Most notable is the absence of trees and cars.

That peaceful scene is very changed now. Those living on the county roads know that the chances of finding a parking spot anywhere near their homes after 6pm are slim. They also know that vehicles frequently block the roads, engage in aggressive head-to-head stand-offs or tear up and down at a dangerous speed.

Is there a solution? Huntingdon Road residents Pablo and Annabelle Sueiras are the latest to take the initiative to launch a survey to gauge county road residents' views before deciding whether or not there is a case to take to Barnet Council.

## The case for change

The survey identifies those completing it by their road and house number, with no further details required. The second question on the survey asks: "Regarding the flow of motorised traffic through the county roads, are you in favour of a change in how this is managed or would you prefer it remains as it is today?" giving plenty of scope to maintain the status quo. A series of possible solutions to change traffic management follows, including the installation of speed cameras, speed signs, road humps (not popular so far) and one-way systems.



Car-free: Huntingdon Road in a photo from around 1905.

## Find a new interest

The Hampstead Garden Suburb U3A group is inviting people to sample its interest groups for free during June and July. Potential new members can try up to three groups on a diverse range of subjects from jazz to languages, and from art to literature.

U3A is aimed at people of retirement age. All sessions are run by members who have a special interest to share, and the Suburb group is welcoming guests from all adjoining areas. Find a list of sessions and a guest enrolment form at <https://hgsu3a.uk/>

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Building site: Above and below, Prospect Ring residents have faced disruption and lack of parking outside their homes for months. Photos Mike Coles.

# Compensate us for building chaos, say residents

By Janet Maitland

Residents in Prospect Ring, N2, think they should be given compensation by Barnet Homes for the stress caused by two years of continuous major building works.

Work on demolishing houses and building a new 13-storey high rise between two existing tower blocks began in 2019. Gas risers have been replaced in the older blocks and repairs done to roofs and lifts. The installation of fire safety alarms and sprinklers in every flat started early last year and still hasn't finished. The central green is currently being landscaped and playgrounds constructed.

## Residents' concerns

"So much work going on at the same time has affected us all mentally and emotionally," said Sasha Cheevers, chair of the Residents Association. "We want the council to acknowledge the disruption and compensate us."

"The trucks, the diggers, the drilling through concrete, the grinding of metal and the dirt pouring into our homes have been torture," said resident Naomi Watts.

"We should be due something for having our lives turned upside down and our environment ruined," said another resident. "But Barnet Homes does not care about us in the slightest."

Resident Maureen Antoinette said they had met with a representative of Barnet Homes and voiced their concerns but appropriate measures were not taken.

## Response from Barnet Homes

The Archer asked Barnet Homes if they considered they had taken all reasonable steps to minimise the disturbance to residents. A spokesperson said they had done "everything possible", including "regular tenant newsletters, dedicated phone

pite area in a separate flat".

The spokesperson added that they felt the "benefit of providing 50 homes for people in acute housing need goes some way in justifying the disruption" and thanked residents for their patience, understanding and support.

We were also informed by Barnet Homes that Hill Partnerships Ltd, the contractors for the new block, have donated money for laptops and also labour and materials to a local school and community garden project.

One resident was against



numbers, a Resident Liaison Officer, minimising weekend working, and providing a res-

asking for compensation, partly because the Hill's site manager is "doing a good job and is very popular with residents" and partly because "Barnet Homes would just ignore such a move. They always ignore us."

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# Space to be found for up to 100 new homes on Grange

By Janet Maitland

**Barnet Homes plans to demolish a nursery, the surrounding trees, and a row of garages in order to build a four-storey block of new homes. The new housing on Red Lion Hill, N2, will be made up of two maisonettes and six flats and there are plans for an orchard and walkway between the block and Garden House.**

A nursery space will be created on the ground floor of the new block with its own private walled garden. In the meantime the existing nursery will have to be relocated.

The proposals are part of a redevelopment project encompassing the whole of the Grange estate, plus Brownswell Road and Tarling Road. A planning application will be submitted in the autumn.

## Gains and losses

Sixty four new council homes are proposed in order to tackle the housing shortage, a third of which will be on the Grange estate. If it is structurally feasible, additional storeys may also be built on Oak House and Garden House, taking the total number of new homes to around 100.

However, the majority of the 64 homes proposed so far would be built on Brownswell Green, where three homes that house 21 people would be demolished to make way for a five storey block of 38 flats, as we reported in last month's *Archer*. Tarling Road will also lose green space to create room for three new homes.

## Residents mobilise

At the time of going to press, 676 residents had signed a petition to save the Brownswell Green playing area and prevent the demolition of the homes. Resident Associations have been formed at both these sites to register their green spaces as community assets in order to protect them.



Going: The nursery building on Red Lion Hill will be demolished

## Consultation

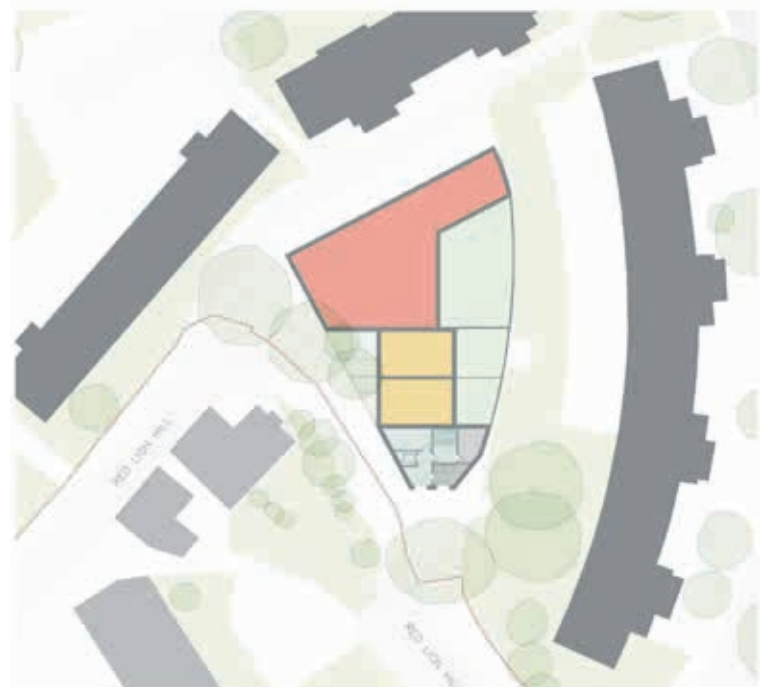
NewmanFrancis, the engagement agency contracted by Barnet Homes, stepped up their consultation in May to include knocking on doors and zoom surgeries, as well as newsletters and monthly meetings with a small Resident Interest Group. At the same time, they also corrected

their inadvertent omission of Brownswell Road and Tarling Road from the consultation process, which began back in September.

The proposals can be viewed in full at [www.givemyview.com/grangeestate](http://www.givemyview.com/grangeestate). Alternatively ring 0800 644 6040 or email [grangeestate@newmanfrancis.org](mailto:grangeestate@newmanfrancis.org)



Going: A row of garages are also earmarked for demolition.



New build: A four-storey block will occupy the triangle of land on Red Lion Hill, with a new nursery (in red) on ground level. The orange blocks are three-bedroom homes. The rest of the new block will be one and two-bedroom homes.



New build: A five-storey block will be built on land off Brownswell Road, currently occupied by three homes and a playing area. An existing oak tree will be protected and new trees planted.



New build: Three three-bedroom homes will be built on green spaces in Tarling Road. Car parking will be provided adjacent and opposite. All diagrams taken from the Newman Francis consultation document available for viewing at: [www.givemyview.com/grangeestate](http://www.givemyview.com/grangeestate)

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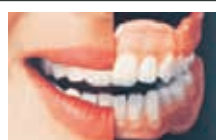
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## How heavy is your carrot?

Age UK Barnet is running a gardening competition this summer with prizes for the tallest sunflower, the heaviest carrot and the most creative recycled flower container.

Schools, care homes, businesses and local residents are all being encouraged to enter. Tickets cost £5 per entry and all proceeds go towards Age UK Barnet. Sign up at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AGEUKB](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AGEUKB)

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# Food bank donations go missing from front garden

By David Gritten

One late evening early in May, a suspected thief made off in the dark with bags full of food left outside a house in East Finchley. They had been brought there by neighbours, wishing to donate it in support of Finchley Foodbank, which distributes food to local people struggling to make ends meet.

The teenage son of the couple who own the house is one of many young people in N2 involved in collecting food from streets near where they live. He was distressed that he had inadvertently forgotten to bring in the food that particular night.

But there was a happy ending to the story when the family discovered the food had been collected by a local priest who thought it was a donation for his church. He returned it with his apologies.

## Generous community

Anna Maughan, vice-chair of Finchley Foodbank, based at St Mary's church hall in the High Road, N2, expressed

her gratitude for the generous response of the locals who donated in the first place.

"Street collection has already been invaluable to the Foodbank," she says. But in this case, "the money coming in to help people has been phenomenal. It really is community help for those in need."

Each month Anna writes certificates of thanks to local residents or organisations who have contributed.

"This last month, we had 70 people or organisations to thank!" she said. "That included people who donated to us, gyms, schools, businesses—you name it. The truth is, every donation makes a difference."

# Flower show and open gardens

For the second year running, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's June Flower Show, scheduled for Saturday 12 June, will be a virtual one.

Competitors can send in photos of their flowers and produce, from roses and sweet peas to chocolate cake, and they will be viewed by a panel of judges. Full details of categories can be found at [www.hortsoc.co.uk](http://www.hortsoc.co.uk)

All being well, the society's Autumn Flower Show will take place at the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11, from 3pm to 5pm on Saturday 4 September, with live music in the garden from Grimsdyke Brass Band and home-made teas in the small hall.

## Come into the garden

Meanwhile the following private gardens will be open for viewing to raise funds for the National Garden Scheme: 74 Wilfield Way, NW11, on Sunday 20 June; 18 Park Crescent, N3, on Sunday 20 June and Sunday 18 July; Oakwood Gardens, NW11, on Sunday 4 July (85 Northway, 92 & 94 Oakwood Rd); 86 Wilfield Way, NW11, on Sunday 25 July. Also, 79 Church Lane in East Finchley will be open for the RSPCA on Sunday 4 July and for Combat Stress on Sunday 1 August.



# Coiffure on camera

There were some unusual customers in the chair when a TV production crew turned up to film a new show at Jo Sutherland's hair studio in East End Road, N2, last month. One was dressed in an animal costume as the crew got a few shots in the can for the drama called *Psyched*. Jo, a part-time professional actor, has a role of her own in it as a medical practitioner. The crew were on site for three hours, early on Thursday 6 May before normal appointments resumed.

# An epic adventure into epilepsy

Tom Ryalls was diagnosed with epilepsy when he was eight. His first seizure happened while camping in Scarborough and then for 10 years he would have seizures in his sleep that could stop his heart. For those 10 years he was taught to talk about his medical health in order to avoid seizures, but nobody taught him and his family to deal with the emotional and psychological strain of the condition.

Now Tom, an East Finchley resident for the last six years, sets out to explore the effects of his epilepsy in a new show running at the Iris Theatre in Covent Garden later this month. Called *Can You See Into a Black Hole?*, the show follows astronaut Tom on a solo space odyssey using innovative soundscapes.

Tom said: "I had epilepsy for 10 years and the director has epilepsy, so it's really exciting to be leading from the front and to bring the show to Covent Garden, it's a huge platform for a show like this. I hope it shows kids who are living with the condition that there's an incredible future possible for them."

The production runs from Monday 28 June to Saturday 3 July. Find full details at [iris-theatre.com/whats-on](http://iris-theatre.com/whats-on).



Star man: Tom Ryalls on stage in his one-man show.

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# Guess the gadgets and win a prize

By Daphne Chamberlain

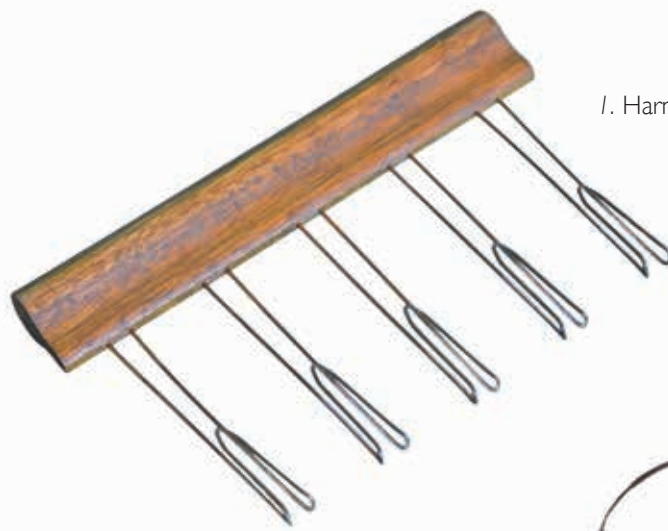
**Did you identify the Victorian apple peeler in our April issue? Awed congratulations if you did; and if you didn't, you are certainly not the only one.**

Now local resident Maurice Collins has given us another challenge: five gadgets from his collection to identify. This time, though, we do have clues.

Maurice, co-founder of children's charity, Kith and Kids, is offering 10 signed copies of his book on historical gadgets as prizes.

## How to enter:

Email what you think each gadget is to [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk) marking your email 'Gadgets Quiz', or post them to Gadgets Quiz, The Archer, PO Box 3699, N2 2DE, remembering to include your contact details. The closing date to receive all entries is Friday 25 June 2021. Winners will be chosen at random from all email and postal entries. Answers will appear in our July 2021 edition.



1. Harmonious times in the classroom



2. Up with the larks



3. Used on the farm



4. Basic pain stopper



5. Ladies may figure this out

## Mystery of the missing Archers

By Jane Marsh

The Archer distribution team were mystified last month when they were notified late one afternoon that the usual 10,000 copies had been delivered to their house... only to find nothing outside.

Frantic texts and emails were circulated and, eventually, contact was made with Sharman's, our printers in Peterborough, who promised to investigate.

Meanwhile, one of our readers in the county roads had a bit of a shock when she returned from work to find 50 large bundles of newspapers piled up in her front garden.

Luckily, she located the delivery note with the correct

address on and kindly contacted us, after which we were able to arrange collection and delivery to the right address in the next road.

Fortunately, despite the slightly delayed arrival, distribution of rounds to our team of deliverers was not affected. Thanks to all who helped solve the mystery and, drivers, remember always to follow your satnav carefully!

## To bee or not to bee

By Ann Bronkhorst

In September 2020 there was a scary moment at the Market Place and Park Road playground in East Finchley: a swarm of bees was seen hanging from a branch. Lucie Chaumeton, the local beekeeper we wrote about last October, buzzed round to check it out but found the swarm had moved on. Sighs of relief from parents.

Capital Bee, a London organisation, explains that a bee swarm hanging on a bush or tree isn't preparing to attack us but is waiting for scout bees to bring news of a permanent home. If we don't disturb them they will soon leave.

Lucie thought, however, that the 'bees' in this case were probably wasps. Wasps don't swarm like bees but dozens of male wasps gathering round a queen might look like a swarm. By September, usually, bees would have found a place to hibernate or would have died, although last autumn honeybee swarms were seen later than usual.

### Learn to love them all

Wasps hang around a bit longer than bees before dying or hibernating. Most of us like and protect bees but are uneasy, even fearful of wasps and hornets, as the many pest control ads on the

internet show. But wasps are the gardener's friend, providing natural pest control by feeding greenfly and caterpillars to their larvae. And, like the 'good' bees and many other insects, they do the planet an accidental favour by getting covered with pollen and spreading it around.

Bumblebees are easy to identify and are much loved. [www.bumblebeeconservation-trust.co.uk](http://www.bumblebeeconservation-trust.co.uk) can tell you which bumble is which (and much more) and Capital Bee even run a bumblebee rehoming scheme. To sort out all these bees and bee lookalikes, including soldier flies and the unfairly dreaded hornets, [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) has plenty of photos and information. So put away the insecticide, plant some bee-friendly flowers and herbs for them now summer's here and help them survive.

## The Archer on the move

The Archer's website is now easier to use on your mobile phone. Our online pages have been redesigned to make it quicker to find important information like contact details and deadlines, and simpler to read our latest edition or search and browse past editions of the newspaper in our archive stretching back to 1993.

So now you really can take The Archer with you wherever you go. Bookmark our website at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk) and if you have a QR reader on your phone use the code below to take you straight to our site.



## East Finchley Baptist Church

We meet each Sunday for worship at 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)





# Thousands sign up for better safety on station footpath

By David Melsome

**Thousands of people are backing a campaign to improve safety for commuters, residents and schoolchildren using the narrow pedestrian path section of The Causeway, which runs from Cedar Drive to East Finchley Station and through to Great North Road.**

As we went to press, more than 3,500 people had signed the petition set up by Causeway residents in the wake of two recent incidents. Last October, a girl walking home from school was subjected to a serious sexual assault and then in March a man allegedly exposed himself to another girl in exactly the same spot, before attacking two police officers.

also avoid using this footpath at dusk and at night which is a quick way from my home to the stations and shops."

## Reactions to campaign

East Finchley's Labour councillors, Alison Moore, Arjun Mittra and Claire Farrier, who have been pushing for better safety measures in this area for some time, and the LibDem councillor responsible for this part of East Finchley, Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg, have had meetings with local residents as well as with Barnet Council officials.

Barnet Council has said that its Community Safety Team is working with the East Finchley Neighbourhood Police Team to assess crime prevention options for The Causeway, including the deployment of CCTV.

Head of Community Safety for Barnet, Declan Khan, stated "I have redeployed council officers to carry

out high visibility patrols in The Causeway between 4pm and 6pm, with a further team patrolling between 6pm and 8pm daily 7 days per week. This will continue until such time that a viable CCTV solution can be identified, installed and operated."

To view and sign the petition, go to: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/thecauseway>



Safety calls: Residents are asking for CCTV on The Causeway

The campaign calls on Barnet Council to improve the lighting on the footpath and to install CCTV cameras as a further safety measure and deterrent.

Some of those signing the petition posted reasons for giving their support. One wrote: "When I'm coming back from school I'm too scared to come this way and have to go the long way." Another commented: "I

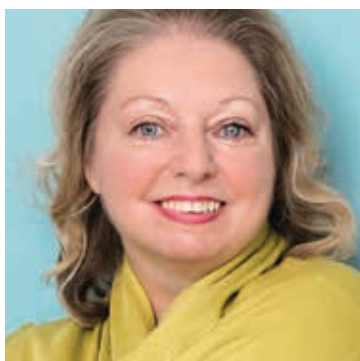


Vocal group Voces8. Photo Kaupo Kikkas

# Music and literature back on the live stage

**The Proms at St Jude's Music and Literary Festival had to cancel its live performances last year but it is back for 2021 with a starry line-up of world-class musicians and authors.**

To meet demand while still staying socially distanced, there will be two performances each day, one at 5.30pm and one at 8pm, each lasting about an hour. Musical highlights include the Jess Gillam Ensemble, Voces8 and baritone Roderick Williams. The Last Night of the Proms will feature violinist Thomas Gould playing Mozart's *Violin Concerto No 5 in A major K 219*.



Best-selling author Hilary Mantel. Photo Els Zweerink

The Literary festival kicks off with double Booker Prize winning author Hilary Mantel in conversation with presenter Mark Lawson, and also features evenings with Marina Wheeler, Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason and John Preston. All literary events will be streamed live simultaneously.

The Proms take place at St Jude's Church and Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb from Thursday 24 June to Sunday 4 July. Funds will be raised for Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice. There is also a programme of heritage walks. Proms chairman Richard Clegg said: "We are delighted to be among the first festivals to help musicians get back to live work. Meeting the challenge of social distancing means we have had to suspend our lunchtime concerts, but as in previous years, our education programme and outreach to local schools continues apace." For the full Proms line-up and details of how to book, visit [promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://promsatstjudes.org.uk)



Saxophonist Jess Gillam. Photo Robin Clewley Photography



Baritone Roderick Williams. Photo Benjamin Ealovega



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## YOUNG ARCHER



Hair to share: Alice Jones before and after, with the locks she donated to charity.

### Long locks get the chop

Alice Jones had been growing her hair long for years but last month she chopped it back by a full 33cm to donate to a charity that makes real-hair wigs for children undergoing treat-

ment for cancer or other medical conditions.

At the same time, the 11-year-old raised almost £700 for the Little Princess Trust, which will go a long way to the cost of making two wigs.

Alice, a pupil at Wren Academy in North Finchley, said: "I remember my form tutor telling us that she'd donated her cut hair to Little Princess Trust. I can't imagine what it must feel like to lose your hair as a child and

wanted to do something that might help.

"Cutting my hair felt very different and strange but after a few hours I definitely got used to it. I got to cut the first locks off myself and I was

kind of scared I might take all my hair off by accident. But I definitely don't regret it." Alice is still welcoming donations via her page at [www.just-giving.com](http://www.just-giving.com). Search for 'Alice Jones Big Chop'.

### Games that lead to new skills

By Ruth Anders

Creativity, comfort and experimentation are the watchwords for lively north London children's author Ivan Brett's tabletop role-playing games that form the heart of his kids' programme. Ivan will lead his fun project in a weekly summer school programme over the first three weeks of the summer holidays at Cherry Tree Tuition Centre opposite East Finchley tube station.

Ivan and centre manager James Boyle are very aware of the need to help children of all ages with the challenges facing them as a result of the last fifteen months, especially those concerning issues of self-confidence and social skills. Their primary objective is to provide a safe alternative learning space away from home and, importantly, away from their screens.

Firmly based on collaboration, the summer school programme is designed for children aged 11 to 16 as a fun way to develop the ability to make decisions. The children will work in groups of four to six, embodying characters in a fantasy world, joining together as a force to overcome some sort of fantasy evil. Ivan will act as referee while playing all the other characters from kings and queens to dragons and sea monsters.

#### Creative kids

Ivan said: "My aim is to give children an outlet for their imagination. Some just don't have the opportunity to express themselves in this way. Kids have wonderful, zingy brains and they need to be allowed to



Imagination: Ivan Brett

let their creativity burst out." He added, "At the same time they can be learning and developing valuable new skills in a fun way."

The Tuition Centre generally offers after-school tuition for children of all ages. James, who lived in Sedgemere Avenue, N2, for 13 years, is very excited about the new summer camp. He and Ivan agree that, while adults can enjoy learning online via game playing, for children face-to-face activity is essential.

For more about Ivan and his kids' books, visit [ivanbrett.com](http://ivanbrett.com) and to find out more about the summer school programme, email [mryan@cherrytreetuitioncentre.co.uk](mailto:mryan@cherrytreetuitioncentre.co.uk) or call 020 7998 5797.



### Park needs a Pied Piper

By Diana Cormack

In May another impressive batch of chalk drawings appeared on the footpath in Cherry Tree Wood. These creations by Jake Eiseman-Renyard often reflect or underline an on-going situation. Amongst them this time was the one pictured, a reference to the rats now prevalent in the park.

Regular visitors will already be well aware of these creatures and there have been arguments on social media as to whether or not they should be culled. Living beside the park we sometimes see one

sauntering across our patio, so have to be particularly careful

about keeping the kitchen door closed!

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# Early intervention counts for a lot

By Diana Cormack

**Number Champions is a charity helping primary school children struggling with numeracy or lacking confidence in maths. Set up by East Finchley residents Bernard and Sarah Manson in summer 2018, it was active in six boroughs just 18 months later.**

Specifically targeted at Years 2 and 3, where initial research has shown there is already a strong need for such intervention, the charity supplies volunteers who go into schools on a regular basis to work with six- to eight-year-olds.

Results have shown a very positive impact on children who take part, in both numeracy skills and self-esteem. Pupils at Holy Trinity, Manorside, and Martin Schools have benefited from Number Champions' assistance.

Bernard told *The Archer* that, as he approached retirement, he had been looking for something to occupy his time. Having studied mathematics at university he thought of supplying numeracy support similar to the reading help scheme his wife was involved in. Advice from teachers and friends led to him launching the charity in two schools, little realising it would lead to

a full-time occupation.

## Competence and confidence

As well as being enthusiastic about helping children, Number Champions volunteers need to be competent in simple arithmetic and confident in explaining it. After receiving training the volunteers work one-to-one with children in school time but outside the classroom. These sessions may have a flexible structure reinforcing basic skills or can be guided by the class teacher. Former teachers provide remote support to the volunteers.

With schools all now reopened and the charity's work back on a more even keel, Bernard is looking forward to further expansion into other boroughs. Volunteer recruitment for the school year 2021/22 is currently in progress. For more details visit [www.numberchampions.org.uk](http://www.numberchampions.org.uk).



Summer shower: Lady's Mantle, one of the art works by Mike Wasser that will be in his exhibition.

## Art show back on the wall

An art exhibition cancelled at the very start of the pandemic last year is making a comeback. *Inner Landscapes*, featuring beautiful images by Mike Wasser, will be open for viewing in person at Lauderdale House, Highgate, from Wednesday 16 June until Sunday 11 July. Mike will be donating 10% of any sales

to the North London Hospice and a further 10% to Lauderdale House. Find the

exhibition and confirmed details of opening at [www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk](http://www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk)

## Chamber music

Live music is returning at the High Barnet Chamber Music Festival in St John the Baptist Church, just five minutes from the tube station in High Barnet. Three concerts in July will feature works by Schubert, Mahler and Boulanger among others. Find dates and booking details at [www.hbcmf.co.uk](http://www.hbcmf.co.uk).

# Saved by three teachers

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Darryl Telles arrived in London from Kenya in unhappy circumstances. If you watched the BBC series *Saved by a Stranger*, you might have seen him searching for three schoolteachers who had changed the course of his life.**

If you are also a regular *Archer* reader, you might remember his mother Philomena, who still lives in Leopold Road, N2, telling us in July 2019 about the background to their journey here, as well as their direct descent from William the Conqueror.

Darryl's parents were born in Goa, but moved to Nairobi, where his father worked in the Civil Service. Life in Kenya became dangerous. His grandmother was killed by the Mau Mau, leaving his father permanently traumatised, and in the 1960s the family sought refuge here.

They valued their British passports, but were shocked to encounter racism. This was the time of Enoch Powell. His father felt betrayed and had a breakdown, from which he never fully recovered. Life at home was troubled, and Darryl described himself as "very shy, nervous and anxious".

In 1970, he started school at St Theresa's RC School on East End Road, N3. It felt the only safe place. Darryl said three young teachers in particular inspired him. They gave him confidence and security as well as his love of reading and writing, and enabled him to develop his personality and his interest in politics.

Their names are Ann Schurmer, who has sadly passed away, Dawn Snodgrass and Irene Tufnell.



Life story: Darryl Telles

Dawn and Irene remembered him well, and in the programme he was able to thank them in person.

Perhaps you remember them too.

*If you would like to share your memories of any teachers who influenced you, we would love to hear them.*

## Guide dogs for the blind

**One of the consequences of the pandemic has been a falling-off of contributions to many charities.**

Guide Dogs for the Blind has said: "Less than 1% of our income comes from government funding and we rely on donations from the public to keep our life-changing services running for people living with sight loss across

the UK."

They are suggesting some ways in which we could help while enjoying summer activities. For example, they suggest JustGiving or GoFundMe pages for donations to back sunflower growing competi-

tions. They also have a guide for setting up pub quizzes, plus ready-made questions. And of course, you can always sponsor a puppy. You can contact them at [fundraiseforus@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:fundraiseforus@guidedogs.org.uk) or call 0345 143 0192.

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

## Mr Motor Racing

Ah, Monte Carlo at Grand Prix time: the popping of champagne corks, the jangle of gold jewellery and the sneers of the under-dressed wealthy on their yachts. Meanwhile, in the distance, there's the roar of engines and the whining of drivers desperate to find a way of beating Lewis Hamilton. Except I wasn't thinking about that, I was thinking about a weekend 60 years ago and a dentist's son from Surrey: Stirling Moss.

Back in 1961 Stirling Moss was the most famous racing driver in the world. He had finished second or third in the World Championship, for the last six seasons and won countless other races like the 1,000-mile Mille Miglia. He was the man to beat. To small boys everywhere he was Mr Motor Racing although the new season was going to be challenging even for him.

It wasn't just a new season, it was a new formula. Gone were the 2.5 litre engines and in were new, smaller 1.5 litre units. Not just that, but the wealthiest team in the world, Ferrari, had an all new car and engine. This was the iconic 156 Shark Nose with about 20% more power than anything else. This was going to be revenge time, the year to put those horrible British teams in their place after three years of playing second fiddle. To cap it all the team had three top drivers. The early season non-championship races confirmed it, this would be their year. It's just that no one had told Stirling Moss.

Moss's Lotus wasn't even new. Lotus wouldn't sell his team owner Rob Walker the latest car so he had last year's model. The Climax four cylinder was an old design as well. Not that it stopped him starting the race from pole with the three Ferraris lined up behind.

Back then the race was 100 laps and nearly three hours. Three hours when the Ferraris took it in turns to try and get past him. They failed. Mr Ferrari was not a happy man.

It probably didn't matter that much because those bloody red cars dominated the season. They won five of the seven races they entered and guess who won the other one? Yes, Stirling Moss, and that was at the 14-mile Nurburgring, the circuit they called 'the green hell' in the rain. It was to be his last Grand Prix win as the following Easter he crashed in a minor race at Goodwood, spent a month in a coma and never came back to F1.

But even Ferrari knew he was the king. Just before that fateful day at Goodwood, he'd offered Stirling a works Ferrari for the season, to be run not by the factory but by Rob Walker. Not an offer he ever made to anyone else, but no one else was Mr Motor Racing.





Glad to be home: Denise Wyllie signs prints at one of her shows.

## Artist makes the most of staying put

By David Melsome

**Artist Denise Wyllie was used to making regular trips to Japan and Russia to find inspiration for her work from natural landscapes and flower gardens.**

With Brexit hindering artist travel to Europe and lockdown affecting countries further afield, Denise has had to adapt to life closer to home at her studio in Long Lane, N2, and with her family in Bristol.

But she found the natural world can be just as revelatory wherever she works. She said: "In truth, I think I missed the people I usually meet and stay with more than the exhausting travelling and work I put myself through. "Ordinarily, I would have been

fuelled by the experiences of travelling solo through Japan and following the news reports on the areas where cherry blossom is flowering. Instead, I was cosy with my family, painting the wild, hidden nature spots here in the UK."

Denise's international connections are still alive and well. She held her annual French printmaking event at her studio last month and she is putting together an exhibition of her work in Finland this summer.

## Plant your own wildflower reserve

By Piers Reilly

**This past year has shown us all the value of simply existing outside. Green spaces of all shapes and sizes became a refuge to take a break, get some exercise, and meet with friends, all while admiring the beauty of nature.**

We are lucky to have a prime example of a green haven in our neighbourhood, the Long Lane Pasture. Blanketed in wildflowers from spring through to autumn, with its butterfly border attracting insects throughout the year, it is a pristine example of what a group of determined volunteers can do and has allowed wildlife to regain a foothold.

It is not as though we can all have a nature reserve for a garden. However, after talking with Linda Dolata from the pasture team, this is exactly what I am suggesting, though on a smaller scale.

### Right time, right place

Wildflowers are easy to grow, thrive in poor soil, enjoy a bit of neglect, and provide a multitude of food and habitat for wildlife. They can be planted in a lawn, a pot, or a cut-up plastic bottle. You can get seed mixes for all locations, ranging from those containing taller speci-



Untamed beauty: Wildflowers at Long Lane Pasture

mens such as mighty sunflowers, to smaller mixes focused on buttercups and daisies, with bountiful poppies and cornflowers holding the middle ground.

Look for the bee-friendly logo, or go straight to charities supporting bees who will send you a packet of seeds for the cost of postage. June is the perfect time to plant wildflower mixes to have a kaleidoscope of colour all through to late autumn and, even for those without a green

thumb, it couldn't be simpler.

Pop some soil into a container with some drainage holes, scatter your seeds in, lightly cover with more soil and you're sorted. Keep it damp, place it in some sunlight and in a few weeks you'll have a beautiful display. They are the perfect project for children to look after, and by doing this we can expand the overall habitat friendly to wildlife across East Finchley.

## Eat to boost your happy hormone

**Nutritional therapist Serena Coan, who lives in East Finchley, shares tips for supporting your mental health through nutrition as we ease out of lockdown.**

While many of us are enjoying the return to normality, having a sense of anxiety around this new freedom is not uncommon. It's likely most of us will be feeling this to some extent and looking after our mental health is as important now as it was when we were in the strictest of lockdowns. So how can we continue to prioritise our mental health?

With the pace of life picking back up, perhaps your meals have returned to being quick and easy plates; not a problem, nutrition doesn't need to be complex. Here are three key things we can focus on for mental health.

### Healthy gut, brain and mind

1. Our gut acts as a major game-player in mental health by producing 90% of our happy hormone, serotonin. The gut loves variety so ensuring an abundance of plant foods can encourage optimal function. Ideally, we should aim for 30 different plant foods each week, including fruit, vegetables, herbs, beans and pulses.

2. Healthy brain function is vital for good mental health, and our brain is made up of 60% fats, meaning prioritising healthy fats in our diet is vital. Healthy fats

should be a small part of each meal and can be found in oily fish (sardines, salmon, trout, etc), avocados, extra virgin olive oil, nuts, seeds and good quality dairy products.

3. Mindfulness practices can encourage the body to shift into a 'rest and digest' system, where we not only calm the mind but also support the body's digestive system. Start by simply taking five deep breaths prior to eating.

For more nutrition information contact Serena on [info@serenacoannutrition.com](mailto:info@serenacoannutrition.com) or [www.serenacoannutrition.com](http://www.serenacoannutrition.com) or @theunflappable nut.

## Football coach champions children's wellbeing

By Kelly Mason

**Professional football coach and mental health advocate Manisha Tailor MBE has published her second teaching resource, aiding teachers in promoting wellbeing for children in a diverse classroom.**

After a year where children's lives have been turned upside down by the pandemic, the topic of young people's mental health is increasingly important. Manisha, who has 19 years' experience in education, has spent her career championing inclusion, equality and the importance of sport in connection to mental health.

In her new workbook *50 Wellbeing Lessons for the Diverse Primary Classroom: Teaching Through Inclusive Practice*, topics such as anxiety, resilience and bullying are cov-

ered, focusing on inclusivity and the impact of discrimination. It includes detailed lesson plans, discussion points and classroom activities.

### Manisha's path

It was the struggles of Manisha's twin brother, who suffered with severe mental health issues, which led her to a career in football, eventually becoming the first woman of South Asian heritage to coach a professional team at Queens Park Rangers. Football was a way for her to connect with her brother, but also to engage children in sport and the posi-

tive impact it can have on their wellbeing.

One of her first projects was on Summers Lane, N12, at Wingate and Finchley Football Club, where she set up weekly football sessions for children with mental health conditions. A decade later and Manisha continues to champion minority groups and tackle mental health through football.

*50 Wellbeing Lessons for the Diverse Primary Classroom: Teaching Through Inclusive Practice* is available on the Amazon, WH Smiths and Waterstones websites now.

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

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





## Bike to Bounds Green

By Greta Brambilla

We hope the warmth of spring is finally beginning to arrive, so it's time to get cycling again! This is a route which takes you east and north to Bounds Green and Oak Hill Park. To start, make your way down Creighton Avenue, turning left at the roundabout onto Coppetts Road.



Route map: The ride takes you through Bounds Green and up to East Barnet

### Three parks and a river

Turn right into Greenham Road, a quick left and right into Goodwyn's Vale, then right onto Grosvenor Road. At Albert Road turn left and when the park appears turn into it, aiming for the tennis courts behind Sunshine Garden Centre. Exit via Winton Avenue, head for Bounds Green Road and use the crossing to reach Warwick Road.

Continue until you see Wakefield Road on your right, go down there and then cross over the North Circular onto Powys Lane. Follow this until you reach Wilmer Way, then cross into Arnos Park via the path (look out for the impressive brick viaduct)! Now just keep going, admiring the greenery as you pass, with Pymme's Brook to your left.

You'll go down Waterfall Walk, then East Walk and even-

tually enter Oak Hill Park. Follow the path straight through, then out onto Cedar Avenue. Take a right, leading towards Oakleigh Park station (there's a cut-through over the railway line near the corner shop). Go straight down Chandos Avenue (checking out Carpe Diem or Greek Bites further down for something tasty). Otherwise, head down St Margaret's Avenue and keep going

until Totteridge and Whetstone Station.

### Getting home

You can now either jump on the Northern line or cycle back to East Finchley by crossing over and going left down Dollis Brook – making sure to



The imposing brick viaduct at Arnos Park

dismount when required – until Laurel View. Go down there and then right onto Holden Road, continuing straight until you finally see Lansdowne Road on your left. Follow this and then Lovers Walk (dismounting temporarily here) until you reach Ballards Lane, going down Long Lane on your left and home from there.

## Lanes make the traffic worse

Dear Editor,

For many reasons, in urban areas, cars along with buses still remain the main means of transport. In many cases it's impossible to expect people to go to the nearest tube or to shop locally using bicycles instead of cars.

It is true that any vehicle on the road represents certain potential danger, which increases significantly when the driving conditions deteriorate due to poor maintenance of the streets, or new impediments appearing on our streets. That's exactly the prospect East Finchley residents face now with the new cycle lanes. It is especially true when entering East Finchley from the A406 and driving in the direction of East Finchley tube. The part of the High Road before the lights near the Martin Primary School always demanded special attention from the driver due to the bus lane, many turns to the side streets, and a pretty bad road surface. Now, with the new cycle lane, this section has every chance of turning into a real challenge to the drivers.

Another very difficult section of our High Road is going from East Finchley tube to the junction with East End Road. In the rush hours, the excessively long bus lane here has already contributed to a real mess for other vehicles. Now, with the new cycle lane, this junction can become a real bottleneck.

East Finchley has been always one of the few arteries of town where traffic jams were very unusual. However, with these new initiatives of Barnet Council the situation on the roads has changed radically for the worse.

If the council is so anxious to improve our life somehow, why can't it pay more attention to the organisation of traffic in our numerous and very often narrow side streets? There is a huge potential for improvement there, which might make the lives of the residents more convenient and safe!

Michael Jernov,  
Address supplied.

## Traffic forced onto side roads

Dear Editor

There is a significant increase in traffic passing down Leopold Road and Leslie Road, much at speed, in the mornings between 8 and 9 but more significantly between 3 and 6.30 in the afternoons.

This is clearly because the queues backing up from the North Circular right up to Martin School and even East Finchley's High Road shops are inviting cars to use an alternative route down residential roads and Long Lane.

This is an unsafe development since these vehicles are driven by frustrated speedy drivers. Installation of designated cycle and bus lanes has had a dangerous knock-on effect on local residential roads.

In my view, this makes little sense. The obvious means to keep traffic and people safe is to use the space of the High Road to contain the traffic and keep it moving.

Stationary traffic means more exhaust fumes. Furthermore, despite the better weather, I still rarely see bicycles in these lanes, although I do see bicycles and electric scooters being ridden on pavements.

On top of removing parking zones which kill our local businesses, these developments are helping nobody and simply creating new hazards.

Thomas Lane,  
Leslie Road, N2.

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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.

## Dog does a dash

Dear Editor,

One Saturday afternoon last month I was at the book exchange at East Finchley station when my dog ran off. Unable to grab him, I had to follow him up the stairs to the southbound Northern line platform. Being a somewhat infirm pensioner, this was not easy.

By the time I got there he was already inside a waiting carriage with the doors closing on his lead. Seeing my dilemma, two ladies on board grabbed him and one pressed the emergency button in an attempt to stop the train moving off. This failed and I am still wondering why.

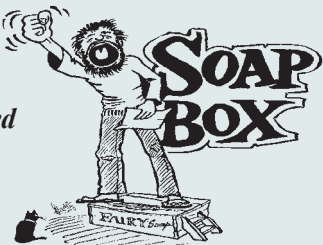
I then used the platform Help button and, despite not having my Freedom Pass, was allowed to board the next train for Highgate. There I found these kind ladies and a TfL employee waiting to hand over my dog to me.

With the hope that they are Archer readers I would like to say a big thank you to them but particularly to those ladies as they were on their way to an exhibition in London.

Edna Robinson  
East End Road, N2.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



## Sports courts need booking

By Greta Brambilla

It is lovely to see that the work on the sports area in Cherry Tree Wood has finally been completed and that the tennis and basketball courts have been totally renovated so they look brand new and attractive to play on. Unfortunately, however, since reopening I have noticed a couple of issues, not with the physical revamping at all, just with how the area is being used.

Previously there had been no need to book, hence my family and I went spontaneously to play tennis before finding our game interrupted by others who had booked the court. There is no clear signage anywhere on the courts to clarify that they must be booked online in advance. To avoid future users making the same mistake as us and ending up disappointed, here is the website for bookings: [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CherryTreeWoods](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/CherryTreeWoods). Additionally on the same day we noticed a large group of people entering the court beside us with yoga mats and a portable stereo. They then started blaring music in the otherwise tranquil park while we were trying to concentrate on our game. Although they asserted to us that they had booked a slot to be there, it seemed very unfair on others who might have wanted to use the court to actually play. They could have quite easily used the vast expanse of the park to exercise, allowing players to use the courts as intended and also considered at least lowering the volume of their music to be more considerate to park users. If possible, along with a sign for bookings, I believe there should also be visible signage stating that the courts should be used for tennis and basketball only, in order to benefit everyone using the park. Editor's note: When the tennis courts first re-opened there were two large notices on the fence about how to book, which soon disappeared.

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## Self-taught photographer spreads her wings

By David Melsome

Laura Porto enjoys her job as a nanny homeschooling a six-year-old boy with autism and looking after his two-year-old brother but they are long days and sometimes she feels burned out. So she decided to treat herself to a camera and a lens for her birthday in February and since then she has been visiting Coldfall Wood and Alexandra Park every weekend to record the resident bird life.



Green wing: A parakeet makes a spectacular sight

"At Christmas my partner gave me some binoculars because he could see I was interested in nature and I fell in love and decided to get the camera," said Laura. "It's a

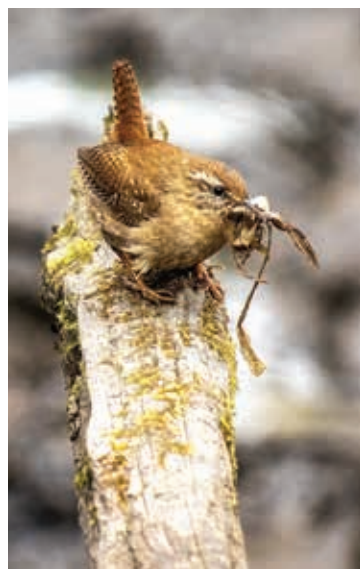
great way to connect with the beautiful local wildlife." With no formal lessons behind her, Laura has taught herself the techniques of patience and perseverance needed to



Landing gear: A crow comes descends onto the woodland floor

capture stunning photos of birds in constant motion. A tiny wren with a mouthful of nesting material and

a magnificent black crow some of the images she coming in to land are just now has in her portfolio.



What a mouthful: A wren gathers some nest-building material



Garden favourite: A robin explores Coldfall Wood

### Sing for better breathing

A weekly singing group is being started for people with lung conditions. You don't need any singing experience or musical ability, and it's free for all residents in Barnet.

Professionals from Starling Arts will lead online sessions using physical and vocal exercises to improve breathing for people with COPD, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis or the after-effects of Covid-19. For more information or to register your interest for online sessions in 2021 visit: [www.starlingarts.com/sfbb](http://www.starlingarts.com/sfbb)

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