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The Archer

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 2DE. www.the-archer.co.uk

Caroline comes up roses

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society has elected Caroline Broome, of Church Lane, N2, as its Chairman. Caroline, who was previously Vice-Chair, has left her London County Volunteer role as an Assistant County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme to concentrate on her new post.

The Society would normally have published a full programme and an annual members' handbook in January, but this year decided to wait until actual meetings and visits become possible.



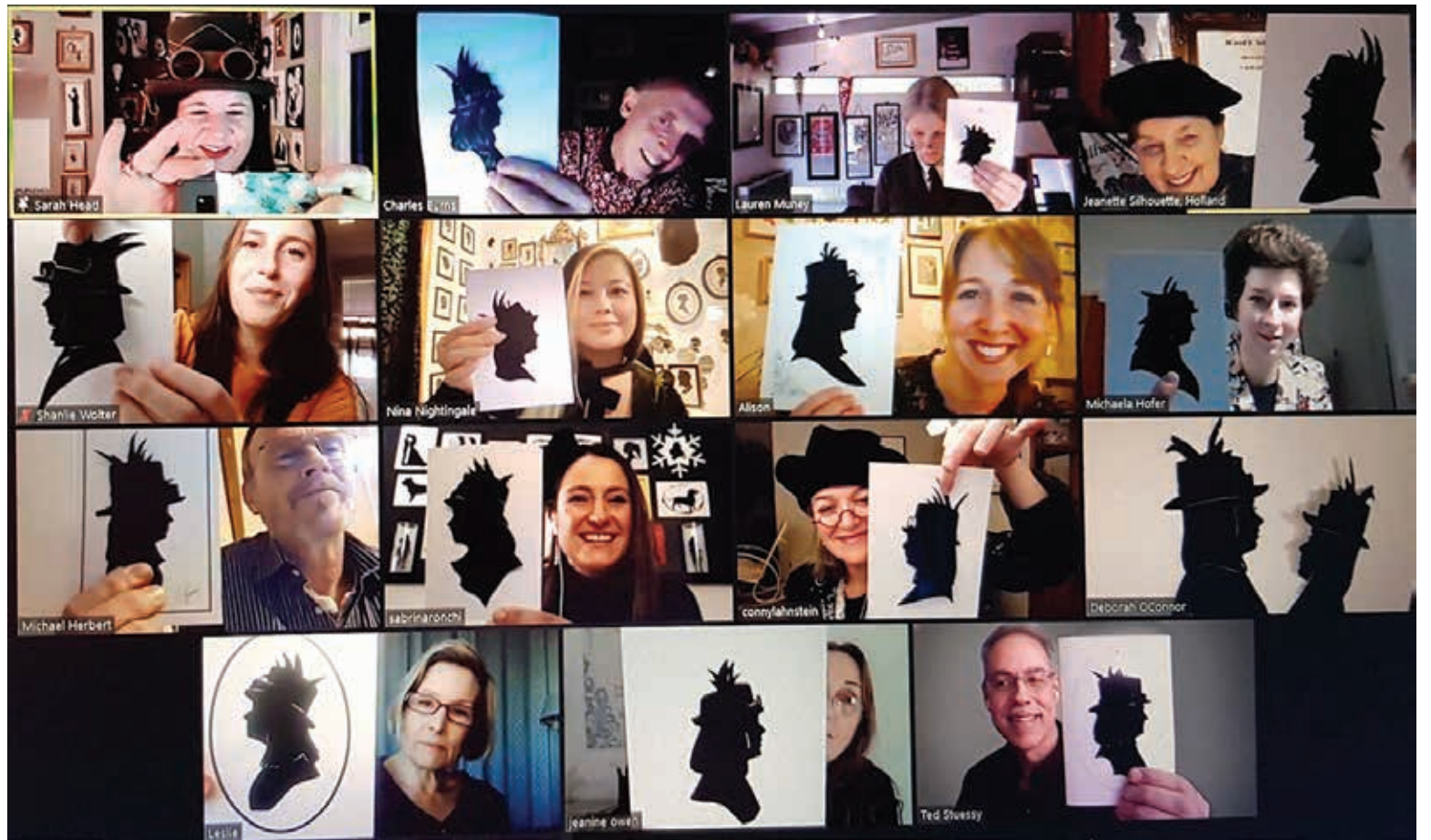
At the moment it looks as if the Society's June Flower Show at least will be a virtual one, but there is still hope, especially for home-made cake lovers, that perhaps we will all be able to meet at the Autumn Show in the Free Church Hall in Northway, NW11, in September.

Membership is open to anyone interested in gardening, regardless of whether you live in the Suburb or not. If you would like to join, email hgshs.membership@virginmedia.com.



Yesterday's news today

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World's first cut-out-and-keep call

By John Lawrence

A Muswell Hill artist found a new way to liven up an online group call by hosting the world's first international convention of silhouettists.

Alison Russell is skilled at the popular Victorian and Edwardian art of cutting profiles of a loved one or well-known person using paper and scissors, a cheaper alternative to photography at the time.

Before the pandemic, she was in demand at weddings, trade fairs and corporate parties, and also worked with the Royal

family and with celebrities such as Victoria Beckham, Dame Shirley Bassey and fashion designer Paul Smith.

Stuck at home for the last year, she realised that being in isolation was no barrier to practising her craft, so she tracked down fellow professional silhouettists from around the world on Instagram and Facebook, and invited them to join her for the special gathering.

Live portraits

By way of introduction, each artist sat in profile for five minutes sharing how their

love affair with silhouette cutting was first ignited, while the rest of the group cut their silhouette live. The resulting 15 versions of each participant were then posted for the recipients to keep as a memento. Alison said: "Rather than becoming deflated by the isolation caused by our current circumstances, I decided to utilise the tools at hand to reach out further than our own borders

and boost everyone's morale." The convention was a huge success and everyone who attended was keen to turn it into a regular event. Once Covid restrictions lift, Alison expects the trend for online experiences to continue. "We have found a new platform for our art," she said. Find out more about Alison's work at www.alison-russell.co.uk and follow her on Instagram @alisonlouiserussell

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