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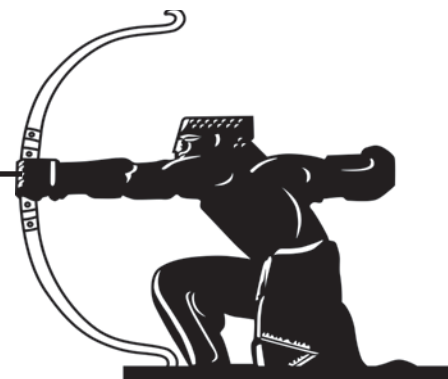
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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



August 2022 No. 340

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

## Grange plans to be fast-tracked

By Janet Maitland

**A Barnet Homes application to build two blocks of flats on the Grange estate in East Finchley will be fast-tracked by Barnet Council, with a decision expected in the autumn. The flats are all that remain of a plan unveiled in 2020 to build up to 100 new homes on the estate and nearby streets, to tackle a shortage of council housing.**

We reported last month that, following the recent change of administration at the council, the controversial proposals to demolish three existing houses and build some of the new homes on green spaces on Brownsell Road and Tarling Road were immediately scrapped.

### More flats, less parking

Under the revised plans, officially submitted at the end of June, there will be two new blocks, one by the High Road and the other close to Central Avenue, each with just eight flats of varying sizes. They will be built on some of the estate's parking spaces, reducing the number of these spaces from 64 to 33. Cycle spaces will increase from zero to 44.

Residents from nearby streets fear the consequences. "We already suffer from heavy congestion, frequent road rage incidents, dangerous parking on pavements and the lack of an updated local traffic management plan," said a representative from Elmfield Road Residents Association. "We raised these concerns with Barnet Homes in October 2021 and again three months ago."

In a document outlining the amended plans Barnet Homes tells residents: "Based on feedback and concerns around parking on the estate,

the Willow Walk is proposed to be re-landscaped. This will provide rationalised, safer parking, along with landscaping improvements and more biodiverse planting."

up their larger flats for families to move into.

Barnet Homes confirmed that any tenants choosing to move into the new flats would have to pay the higher London



### Tenancy and rent concerns

Another uncertainty facing existing estate residents is what would happen to their tenancies if they chose to downsize into one of the seven one-bedded flats in the new block close to Central Avenue, in order to free

Affordable Rent, not the social housing rent they currently pay. Whether or not their secure tenancies could be retained would "depend on individual circumstances and the date their tenancy began".

"If there are any who want



New blocks: Top and above, how the two extra sets of Grange flats are expected to look

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to downsize, we will work with them to find the best solution," said a Barnet Homes spokesperson. "We are not transferring or forcing any residents to move from their current homes."

To view and comment on the proposals, go to <https://publicaccess.barnet.gov.uk/online-applications> and enter 22/3544/FUL (High Road) or 22/3539/FUL (Central Avenue).



Prime Minister's questions: Harriet Connides buttonholes Boris Johnson as he comes out of a Greggs store. Photo Vicky Connides.

## The day I met the PM

By Harriet Connides

**I'm an East Finchley-ite, but recently ventured to wild West London to have lunch with my sister Vicky. As we left the café she hissed: "Oh my God, there's Boris Johnson going into Greggs!"**

"Right," I thought, wheeling myself into the doorway to try to block his exit so he would have to speak to me. To make doubly sure he didn't try to get past, I stuck my hand out and said: "Hello. I'm Harriet, I have Multiple Sclerosis, an incurable, degenerative condition, as well as arthritis and have had a brain hemorrhage. Please can you explain to me why I have to be medically assessed every three years to claim disability benefits?"

Reply to my question came there none, except that next winter I would get an extra £150 towards fuel bills and that I should come to see him in his surgery.

Well, of course, I can't do that, I'm not a constituent, so I was told to contact my MP; which I have done (again). I've had a ministerial answer via Mike Freer's office but, without going into details, I'm afraid it raises more questions than it answers.

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## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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**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

Childline 0800 1111  
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

AIDSline 020 8363 2141  
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

# Five ways to make our high streets healthier

By Diana Cormack

**Barnet Council is encouraging local businesses to sign up to five schemes in an attempt to promote healthier high streets in the borough. This could blend in with the East Finchley Town Team's plans to improve and promote our town centre, see page 3. The schemes are:**

**The Healthier Catering Commitment:** open to all food businesses with a hygiene rating of three or above. The idea is to make small changes in how food is prepared with the intention of making it healthier.

**Refill Barnet:** your business can become a Refill Station by offering free drinking water.

**Breastfeeding welcome:** Mothers have a legal right to breast feed anywhere. Sadly some still feel uncomfortable at breastfeeding in public. Window stickers will show that nursing mothers are welcome.

**Dementia-friendly:** There is a borough-wide attempt to provide for people living with dementia. Local businesses can participate step by step, gradually improving accessibility, establishing clear signage and educating staff.

**Community toilets:** This scheme encourages local businesses, pubs, restaurants and shops to make their toilets available to the public in Barnet town centres and to supplement the existing toilets in libraries and parks. An annual maintenance fee of £800 - £1,200 will be paid to

premises that participate and open their toilets to the public free of charge.

For fuller details visit [barnet.gov.uk](http://barnet.gov.uk) and search 'Healthier High Streets'

## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

**Driving Aid to Ukraine** is a new non-profit organisation based in N2 and started by local resident Michael Byrne, who delivers humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones via border transfer points. His team needs volunteers to help them scale up their work, by building and sustaining a social media campaign, raising funds and grant writing. You can find out more by searching 'Driving Aid to Ukraine' on crowdfunder.co.uk or get in touch with Michael at 07791 912389.

**East Finchley Pollinator Project** aims to bring the bees back to N2. It is seeking interested gardeners to help develop new nectar café sites and maintain existing ones throughout East Finchley. If you love the outdoors and want to be part of the camaraderie of working with like-minded volunteers please contact [efpollinators@gmail.com](mailto:efpollinators@gmail.com)

**Number Champions**, based in East Finchley, helps transform the lives of young children in state primary schools who are struggling with numeracy or lack confidence in maths. They provide training for in-school volunteers to use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children. If you have good basic numeracy, plenty of enthusiasm, 1.5 hours/week during term time and you're interested in volunteering from late September, then please visit [www.numberchampions.org.uk](http://www.numberchampions.org.uk) or contact [volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk). This is the last call for this school year so if you're interested, don't delay!

**Bin There Donate That** is a successful local initiative, driven by Emma Frampton's passion to create a more sustainable neighbourhood. Huge steps have already been made in getting shops on board to take in reusable goods. All types of help are needed for research, liaising with local shops to take in items for recycling/reusing, web and social media updates and project managing. Whether you have one spare hour a week or much more, email [bintheredonatethat@gmail.com](mailto:bintheredonatethat@gmail.com) for more details.



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to [volunteer@n2united.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@n2united.co.uk). Max 60 words please.



Work to do: Students from the Climate Council at Christ's College Finchley Council with lead Ms Moris

## School awarded £1.9 million to become energy efficient

**An East Finchley secondary school has won a £1.94 million government grant to help it reduce its carbon footprint. Christ's College Finchley, on East End Road, will use the money to modernise its heating system.**

It is the largest amount awarded to any single London school in a recent round of funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy aimed at promoting carbon net zero and clean growth projects.

Christ's College Finchley will replace its existing gas boiler with new energy-efficient, low carbon air-to-water heat pumps. Additionally, cavity wall and roof insulation will be installed into the school's buildings to reduce power consumption further.

### Carbon reduction

Students on the school's Climate Council announced: "We are striving to make our school more eco-friendly. The news of this low-carbon heating technology has made us excited to take the next step on our ambition to achieve net zero carbon

and also to be established as an Eco-School."

Headteacher Samson Olu-sanya said the measures will reduce the school's carbon footprint significantly in line with its sustainability goals. He added: "We are committed to giving our young people a practical understanding on how we can make a positive impact on our climate whilst providing them with a much-improved environment for learning."

Installation of the new pumps begins during the summer break and the project is due to be completed by March 2023.

The grant money was awarded as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which supports the aim of reducing emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037, compared to 2017.

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## TOWN TEAM: ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

# Three events to make High Road the place to be

By John Lawrence

Three major events are being planned as part of the East Finchley Town Team's mission to breathe new life into the High Road and to support our friendly local shops, cafés and restaurants. On Saturday 17 September, a whole day will be given over to an event promoting 'A Sustainable High Road' with stalls and activities based around the theme of keeping East Finchley eco-friendly. Then further ahead in January there will be a day of music and arts, followed in March by a third event showing off all our great local food and drink offerings.

## September's event

The Town Team's Chris Hampson said the plan for the Sustainable High Road event in September is to have around 20 stalls run by traders and local groups in the area outside Budgens, Amy's and Iceland.

Chris says: "Already we have 10 confirmed and we want more. There is plenty of time to get involved. Simply send an email, expressing interest, to [eftownteam@gmail.com](mailto:eftownteam@gmail.com)."

Of course, sustainability means many things. Chris adds: "It's based on the principle that everything we need depends on natural ecosystems, balancing everything and thinking about the longer term. In simple terms, what are the small changes we can all make to help look after our planet?"

Everyone is welcome to come along on the day to find out more about what's already being done in East Finchley to

recycle, reuse and repair, and to reduce packaging and plastics. There will also be a focus on renewable energy, energy improvements to our homes, reducing transport costs and pollution, and promoting green spaces and planting.



Target: A vibrant and busy High Road

## Ideas from festival-goers

Alongside its three headline events, the Town Team wants to push ahead with general improvements to the shopping environment in the High Road. They surveyed visitors to the East Finchley Festival in June to find out what they saw as the priorities.

Those who took part praised N2's variety of shops, its friendly traders, its cafes and the community feel. Concerns were the levels of traffic, parking costs, cycle lanes and bike parking, refuse and bins, lack of planting and the lack of a 'village square' for meeting and market stalls. "We are working on what we learned from the survey and will reveal more later in the year," says Chris.



Big plans: Kate Brown and Chris Hampson of East Finchley Town Team with Barnet Mayor Cllr Alison Moore and councillors Arjun Mittra, Claire Farrier, Anne Clarke and Helen Gordon at this year's East Finchley Festival. Photo: Mike Coles

## Test yourself on recycling for a chance to win £25

Get ready for the big Sustainability event in the High Road on Saturday 17 September by answering part one of the Town Team's quiz. Our September edition will carry part two with more questions. Bring your answers to both parts along to the Town Team stall on the day for a chance to win a £25 cash prize. We'll print all the answers in a future edition.



## Walk the old ways

On Saturday 10 September starting at 11am there will be a free guided walk along some of the historic walking routes of East Finchley. It will start in Manor Park Road, N2, near the entrance to the Northern line underpass, follow The Walks and end on the High Road near Budgens.

Roger Chapman, East Finchley Town Team member and local historian, will explain why we are so fortunate to have a network of walking routes through the middle of N2. The walk will look at improvements already being made and the Town Team are seeking ideas for further improvements to make these walking routes more attractive.

## LB Barnet population up

By David Melsome  
New data from the 2021 Census have revealed that the borough of Barnet's population grew by nearly 35,000 from 356,000 in 2011 to 389,000 in 2021, an increase of 9.2%.

Barnet, which is one of the largest London boroughs, has the second largest population after Croydon.

The population of Barnet has increased most in people aged 75 and over, with growth of around 11% (2,700 people). The population aged 20 to 74 has increased by around 10% (24,000 people) while the population aged 0 to 19 has increased by around 7% (6,000 people).

Cllr Barry Rawlings, Leader of Barnet Council, said accurate Census data was important to the residents and businesses of Barnet because it helped determine government funding for council services.

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## Sustainability quiz: Part 1

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Barnet Council supplies grey waste bins and blue recycling bins. Which of these items goes in which bin, grey or blue?                                     | 10%<br>20%<br>30%<br>40%  |
| 2. What percentage of recycled waste in the UK is sent to other countries?  | 0-10%<br>11-25%<br>25-40%<br>Over 40%                               |
| 3. Give the names of four shops on the High Road that recycle or repair   | 1.<br>2.<br>3.<br>4.  |
| 4. What percentage of the UK electricity is from renewable sources to the nearest 10%?  | 10%<br>20%<br>30%<br>40%<br>50%<br>60%<br>70%<br>80%<br>90%<br>100% |
| 5. To reduce global warming, the UK government has a carbon neutral deadline of when?   | 2030<br>2040<br>2050<br>2060  |
| 6. What percentage of a mobile phone can be recycled?   | 20%<br>40%<br>60%<br>80%  |
| 7. A 'smart' washing machine reduces water consumption. How many years does it take to save the same amount of water that a person would drink in a lifetime? | One<br>Three<br>Five<br>Seven                                       |

Please bring your answers to the Town Team stall on the High Road on 17 September





# Church reunions and fellowship to celebrate 200 years

By Andrea Whittaker

Following the creation and dedication of the Susanna Wesley sculpture in their garden, East Finchley Methodist Church celebrated another high point in their 200th anniversary year on Sunday 19 June.

A sumptuously decorated church welcomed around 80 people, past and present, to a special birthday celebration service, led by their minister Rev. Martin Wellings. Guest preacher Rev. Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist

Rev. Wellings said: "It was an amazing day, the culmination of much creativity and hard work in the planning and preparation and brought real joy to us all."

There were many positive comments about the day



Celebration: Guest preacher Rev. Sonia Hicks, second from right, with members of the East Finchley Methodist Church congregation.

Conference, made a valuable and welcome contribution, both in her address and her fellowship among us afterwards.

In the true Methodist tradition of hospitality, the service was followed by an excellent lunch, complete with three-piece, 200th birthday cake. Then came the dedication of the re-modelled church garden, including the new children's playground, a feature made possible largely through a legacy from the late Rene Bell, a lifelong and much-loved church member.

in general, particularly how wonderful it was to meet up with so many old friends and acquaintances not seen for many years.

## Exhibition

The church's celebrations will continue throughout the year, including a substantial exhibition of the church's life, past and present, which will develop further as the year progresses. Everyone is invited to call in at the church, particularly on Sundays or on Thursday mornings to Wesley's Coffee Bar.

# The woman who inspired a carving that inspired a poem



In March, we reported on the unveiling of a sculpture of Susanna Wesley in the grounds of East Finchley Methodist Church. Wood artist Simon O'Rourke created the towering tribute to Susanna, often called the Mother of Methodism, from the trunk of a large tree. It is already established as a popular landmark on the High Road, so much so that Archer reader Maggie Eiseman-Renyard was inspired to write this poem in Susanna's honour.

## Susanna (an Ode)

By Maggie Eiseman-Renyard

Our urban landscape furniture contains a mystery:  
Why do monuments and statues show such partial history?  
They're almost always just of blokes when many folk are other.  
Well done, East Finchley Methodists, for honouring your mother.  
*Oh, Susanna, you are back on the map*  
*Above East Finchley High Road in your foliage and cap.*  
There are men we used to think in robes of honour shone  
When re-examined in our time, don't deserve bronze or stone.  
Sometimes their statues are removed or torn down in righteous rage  
Or re-labelled to explain to us the foibles of their age.  
*Oh, Susanna, you are back on the map*  
*Above East Finchley High Road in your foliage and cap.*  
I went to Wikipedia to see what I could see.  
Mrs. Wesley was extraordinary. Did you know? Not me.  
So hard, so well, so long ago she raised her family  
So numerous! still taught and formed spiritual community.  
*Oh, Susanna, you are back on the map*  
*Above East Finchley High Road in your foliage and cap.*  
Cast or carved, women you see on plinths in London Town  
Are rarely shown with clothing on unless they wear a crown.  
Simon O'Rourke, the sculptor, found this image in a tree  
That once was sad and dead— now shows who was, and what can be.



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# Top to bottom of the Northern line on foot

By David Melsome

**To raise money to help the thousands of animals affected by the war in Ukraine a couple decided to walk the 24-mile length of the Northern line from High Barnet to Morden, all above ground.**

Katie Leuw and Liron Mannie, who live in East Finchley, walked for seven and a half hours, racking up 50,000 steps in total, to cover the distance above ground, stopping at each of the 32 stations to take a photo.

spirits high and helped me find the determination to complete the walk."

## Bike ride too

So far the couple have raised £1,125 for IFAW and Liron was hoping to add to the total by



North to south: Liron and Katie take a quick detour via Hyde Park on their way through London.

The couple wanted to do something to support the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and specifically its work saving pets and animals in distress in the war-torn regions of Ukraine.

## A challenging walk

Katie said she can't swim, run or cycle too well so, along with avid footballer Liron, decided on the walking challenge as the best way to raise funds.

"Seven hours is a long time to spend walking with anyone, even your boyfriend," said Katie. They varied the walk by chatting, listening to music, stopping for coffee and window shopping as they went through the streets of London.

"By mile 20 I was really struggling," said Katie. "My legs were cramping, my foot had gone numb and my knee was giving way. Liron kept my

doing a 500-mile bike ride over the course of two weeks last month. Every penny counts and they would love to receive more donations at [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) (search 'Liron Mannie and Katie Leuw')

James Sawyer, UK Director of IFAW, said: "I want to thank Katie and Liron for their incredible support. Their dedication to fundraising for our Ukraine Emergency Appeal has been exceptional. Well done to them both. Our UK supporters have taken this appeal to their hearts: the response has been phenomenal."

In the first 100 days of the war, IFAW directly helped over 42,000 pets, most of whom were cats and dogs, and wild animals like bears and bats. In addition to helping animals in crisis, they also support the families and caretakers of these animals.

# History of the wood

By Roger Chapman, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

**Where is Rail Fall Wood? What runs under Cherry Tree Wood and starts its life 17 miles away at Staines on Thames? Where did the name Dirt House Wood come from?**

If you are interested, all the answers to these questions and more are available in a beautifully designed booklet called *The History of Cherry Tree Wood*, written and designed by the Friends group to raise money for the work we do.

The booklet costs £5 and is available from the Cherry Tree Café in the Wood. Thanks to the generosity of the two Sharons at the café, all monies will go to the Friends. Do buy a copy and have a coffee and a cake while you are there.

Those who can't get to the café can send an email to [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com) and we will let you



know the post and packing costs on top of the £5 price and send you a copy.



For those in need: Michael Byrne, second from right, and fellow volunteers load a van for his Ukraine aid mission.

# "Ukraine is fighting for all of us"

By Lynn Winton

**Michael Byrne is a man on a mission. He is determined to deliver desperately needed aid personally to the Ukrainian people: as much, and as often, as he can. And he hopes his neighbours in N2 will help him rise to the challenge by becoming volunteer drivers and helping with fundraising.**

Michael, who has lived in Lynmouth Road since 2014 with his wife Rachel and two sons, found the heartrending news reports from the war over the last five months compelled him to take direct action. Throwing himself into the task, he started making gruelling journeys driving lorries packed with aid to the border of Ukraine in March.

## Collect, load, drive

As a former director of services in the NHS, he first used his contacts to procure four and a half tons of donations in the form of essential medical and first aid items, sanitary and baby essentials, tinned food and other specifically requested goods.

He also picks up other donated items from collection depots in Telford and Fulham. Since then he has been fundraising tirelessly so that he can continue his monthly runs and hopefully increase them to fortnightly. All Michael's time is given for free.

Travelling alone in his hired seven-and-a-half ton truck, and sleeping on the roadside or in the cheapest hotels, he travels 1,200 miles through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and then finally to Poland's border with Ukraine, where he is met by highly efficient volunteers who transfer his aid into Ukrainian vehicles to complete the journeys to the cities, towns and villages where it is most needed.

He has now built up trust and relationships with these brave border volunteers and says many are visibly moved and deeply grateful for contributions coming from Britain for people who have lost everything.

## The grim reality

"I have the easy part," he says, modestly. "They deliver to the final destination at great risk, zig zagging through conflict zones to get to previously thriving towns which are now bombed-out rubble. And even



Crucial supplies: Desperate Ukrainian families are given the UK aid items once they have arrived in the border regions.

when the fighting stops, the rebuilding will take decades.

"Ukraine is now dropping off the front pages in the UK but it's getting worse there. It is a democratic country, just like ours. They are fighting for all of us, and the aid volunteers tell me it makes a huge difference to know they are not alone."

The name of Michael's non-profit organisation is Driving Aid to Ukraine and you will find

it on [crowdfunder.co.uk](http://crowdfunder.co.uk) where he goes into more detail about funds needed for fuel and lorry. You can go straight to the page by using the QR code at the end of this article.

Michael would be pleased to hear directly from anyone who'd like to get involved or help him with fuel and lorry hire costs. Contact him directly at [michael@drivingaidtoulkraine.co.uk](mailto:michael@drivingaidtoulkraine.co.uk) or 07791 912389.

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# Memories of our festival in the 1970s

*East Finchley Festival has been running since 1974, though as you'll see in The Archer Archives (see [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)) May 2014, page 6) it could even have been much earlier than that. Here, one 97-year-old reader\* remembers helping out with the festival in the mid-1970s.*

I was a volunteer in a make-shift crew for the first East Finchley Festival held in Cherry Tree Wood. My memories start with deliveries of timber for stalls and stages, Portaloos, platforms etc. being unloaded there during Friday before opening day. That evening, committee members and their hardy adolescent children slept in sleeping bags on site to ward off marauders.

On Saturday at crack of dawn the layout of stalls, stages and catering venues began. My job was to prepare food for the masses. This involved displaying mostly home-made contributions of mouth-watering cakes, tarts, pastries plus oodles of filled pitta bread and various sandwiches. All were pounced on and enjoyed, so we soon sold out. Then only a few local businesses provided any refreshments so our takings plus those of the beer tent were bolstering the Festival accounts.

As I lived, and still do, near the Wood, during the afternoon the treasurer with a couple of 'minders' would call in to deposit instalments of cash on the dining room table to be counted and collected later.

The festival opened with children from local schools wearing fancy dress parading down the High Road with musical accompaniment. These groups provided the amateur entertainment throughout the afternoon, all vigorously applauded by friends and neighbours. Everyone knew everyone else in those days in our own 'London village' so every effort was welcomed uncritically.

We were blessed with fine weather. A rainy day would have left a debt and no hope of staging a yearly event. So at six o'clock, food eaten, beer drunk, music played and dances danced, the clear-up commenced. Soon the Wood was in pristine condition and plans were being made for the next year.

*Double word winner answers Asa's winning words were LATER and TWINS.*



Ink-credible: Double pen winner Asa at The Archer's festival stall. Photo Richard Tank

## Asa's a double word winner

**Thanks to everyone who came to see The Archer team on our stall at the East Finchley Festival back in June. It was wonderful to chat to you and to hear your ideas and stories.**

And a special thanks to all you wordsmiths who took part in our fun free game 'Not Quite Countdown' where we challenged you to make a word from five Scrabble letters picked at random from a bag. Winners received a coveted Archer pen. It was the luck of the draw and

not as easy as it sounds but eight-year-old Asa, a pupil at Garden Suburb Infants School, made it look like a breeze. He amazed us all when he made a five-letter word on his very first attempt, just as he had done when he visited our stall at the last festival in September 2021.

Here are the selections Asa had on his two attempts. Can you guess the five-letter word he made each time to make him a double winner? Answers are at the foot of the page.

A R T L E, I W T S N

## A vision for tolerance in memory of Miriam

By John Lawrence

**Last month marked the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 7/7 London terrorist attacks that killed 52 people, among them Miriam Hyman, of East Finchley, who was on the bombed bus in Tavistock Square.**

Three years after her death at the age of 32, her family set up the Miriam Hyman Memorial Trust, which is working to build community cohesion as her legacy.

In time for the new school year, the trust has created a set of education resources that it hopes will be taken up by teachers of 11 to 14-year-olds to help them approach sensitive issues surrounding violent extremism and wider community issues.

Built around six national curriculum subjects, the Miriam's Vision material also incorporates values including tolerance, rights and democracy, and themes including resilience, empathy, conflict resolution and

diversity.

Miriam's mother Mavis said: "We have carefully addressed some of the issues surrounding 7/7 and extremism, so relevant today, and hope that any student whose school uses Miriam's Vision will never be drawn into hateful ideologies. Quite the opposite, they will be inspired to help build a more cohesive society."

Esther Hyman, Miriam's sister, added: "We have improved Miriam's Vision in response to feedback, so it is ready for more schools to embed it in their planning. So, KS3 teachers, try Miriam's Vision in your classroom. Parents and young students out there, talk



Legacy: Miriam Hyman

to your school about it."

All Miriam's Vision materials are freely accessible in the Miriam's Vision section of the trust website at [www.miriam-hyman.com](http://www.miriam-hyman.com).

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

August 2012

The long saga of the dis-used, and now demolished, pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood began in August 2012, when Barnet Council gave notice of its intention to grant a 25-year lease on the building. Previous plans to turn the pavilion into a community café had come to nothing and, following its deterioration and eventual demolition in 2020, the site has now been grassed over.

15 years ago:

August 2007

Popular local hostelry the Bald Faced Stag re-opened after major works, having been transformed into a 70-seater, open-plan gastro pub. General manager Tom Foley said at the time: "East Finchley has been crying out for a quality pub serving quality food, a great wine list and fantastic service." However, some locals regretted the loss of the pub's pool tables and fruit machines.

23 years ago:

August 1999

This month saw council approval and funding awarded for a much needed new zebra crossing in Fortis Green, near the junction with Durham Road, N2. A long running campaign for the crossing was given added impetus by the sad death of a local resident at the site earlier in the year, following a hit-and-run accident with a motor cyclist.

## Thanks from Angie

**Local singer Angie A says a big thank-you to all who came along and all who performed at her Connect2 ReConnect Platinum Jubilee Shindig at The Clissold Arms on Sunday 5th June.**

She says her vocal group performed really well and with poetry from Ruby Joseph, comedy from Maggie McHugh and a few songs from Angie herself plus more, it was an uplifting event for the local community.

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# Friends fundraise for a playground for future generations



Transformation: A preliminary design showing all the new elements that could be incorporated into the Market Place Playground. Photo courtesy of Friends of Market Place Playground.

Friends of Market Place Playground have begun the next stage of fundraising for their plans to turn the dated and neglected playground close to Holy Trinity Primary School into a natural play space.

The Friends commissioned landscape designer Aileen Shackell and play consultant Phil Doyle to create a concept design, in consultation with the community at an engagement day earlier this year, and to deliver a full costing for the design, which comes in at £354,000.

The design is innovative in its use of wood, trees, sand, planting and kit and will ensure the site becomes more accessible, sustainable, inclusive and a social hub for the entire community. Importantly the design will 'green' the space in Market Place, N2, providing pollinator friendly plants, shade, local cooling and will help mitigate against hot summers and high air pollution.

So far, the Friends group has secured a total amount of £110,000 towards the plans with Barnet's Green Spaces division committing £50,000 in June to add to commitments already in place from Grange Big Local and Barnet Council. Barnet's East Area Committee, which funds community infrastructure projects, gave in principle support to the plans at their meeting in June.

## Fundraising ahead

The next stage of fundraising is in full swing with applications to The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund and The London Marathon Trust among others. There are plans for a crowdfunder in autumn.

Samantha Haycock, of the Friends of Market Place Playground, said: "We would love to hear from anyone in the community who has ideas, connections or fundraising experience to help us reach our goal and deliver a much-needed park for current and future generations."

Get in touch on email at [friendsofmarketplace@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmarketplace@gmail.com). Friends of Market Place Playground now sits under the umbrella of East Finchley Communities Trust (Registered Charity Number: 1141564).

## Users of underpass want to see it transformed

By David Melsome

More than 300 people have signed a petition calling for the well-used but unloved underpass beneath the Northern line between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road, N2, to be made cleaner and safer.

As we first reported in our June edition, the Grange Big Local (GBL) regeneration team started the petition to win Barnet Council's support and match funding for a full-scale refurbishment project.

Bishop Douglass School staff and students, who regularly use the underpass to reach the High Road from the school in Hamilton Road, are closely involved. Their comments on the underpass include: "It's a disgrace" and "Feels dangerous".

At a workshop with Bishop Douglas students, ideas for art installations included a light tube, stepping stones, sound installations, themes of local history and Black Lives Matter. The East Finchley Open Artists group has suggested carvings and sound installations. Com-

munity network N2United have thrown their support behind the project too.

Phyllida Mills, from architects Mills Power who have been commissioned to help with designs, said: "Lighting, drainage, path, track bed and embankments need repair and in some cases complete refurbishment to improve the sense of safety, accessibility and to reduce antisocial behaviour."

"It's an opportunity to transform the experience of walking through the underpass and also make it fun and engaging with play elements, planting and art works. Barnet Council working with GBL could grasp this opportunity to really improve the public realm and meet sustainability, community engagement, community safety and public health targets."

## Activity updates from N2United network

By Ruth Anders

July saw the return of N2United meetings to the East Finchley Constitutional Club, with a welcome breeze flowing through the room from the front door to the garden.

A well-attended gathering saw a wide variety of individuals enjoying the meeting, a drink and each other's company, with representatives from the Phoenix Cinema, the Bald Faced Stag, East Finchley Town Team, the Engine Rooms, East Finchley Festival, Grange Big Local, Monkey Puzzle Nursery, Barnet Council and more.

One newcomer wondered how she had never heard of N2United meetings before as, had she known, she would have come along months ago.

Amongst others, updates were received from Grange Big Local who are looking for volunteers to become involved with various of their projects.

The Phoenix Cinema team is planning all sorts of programmes to include classic films such as *Wings of Desire* and *Pickpocket*, and a fascinat-

ing documentary called *Blind Ambition* to be accompanied by a wine tasting.

The Bald Faced Stag's manager Louise Fawcett told the meeting about her plans for quiz nights, painting classes, live jazz nights, barbecues and kids' craft club lunches, while The Engine Rooms, who have recently engaged a new chef, are looking forward to hosting a further event for N2United.

## After the break

N2United is now having its summer break but do join us at our next meeting on Thursday 8 September. For more details and to find out about any of the items covered at the meeting, please visit [www.n2united.co.uk](http://www.n2united.co.uk)



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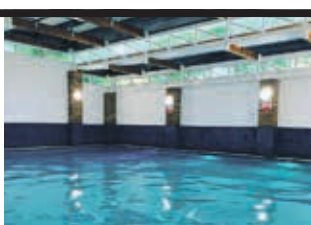
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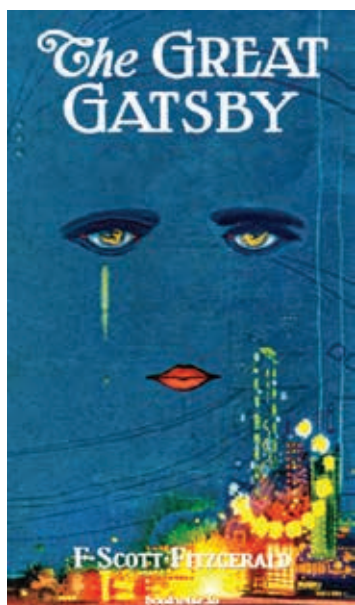




# How one man's writer's block unlocked classics for everyone

By Lynn Winton

Would you like to immerse yourself in an unforgettable book for free, even if you're stuck at the airport or on a train? Or maybe an exquisite version of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* complete with Beatrix Potter's original illustrations for your child's bedtime? Thanks to one East Finchley resident, now you can.



Richard Neville has been passionate about the joys of reading, writing and telling stories in one way or another all his life. He moved to East Finchley in 2007 with his wife and twin sons, having enjoyed successful careers in building up web design companies and commissions to make films around the world about the work of Unicef.

At the start of the pandemic, he came to a crossroads with a now-or-never moment: he would change direction and finally become the full time novelist he had dreamt of being. Despite his tenacity and commitment, however, and the purpose-built studio newly installed in his garden, he was plagued by writer's block.

And so he sought fulfilment in a new philanthropic venture to provide beautifully designed digital books for free. Hence [bookwise.io](http://bookwise.io) was created.

## Digital and desirable

A quick look at the website will tell you everything you need to know. Whilst most people are aware that once books are out

of copyright, usually after 70 years, they are entitled to read them online for free, it's usually a dismal experience.

By contrast, Richard has created versions of many classics that echo their original editions, with striking covers, the clearest fonts and, where available, illustrations, making them truly desirable digital editions.

Richard says there are already around 700 titles available through Bookwise. "They're really good ones though, beautifully formatted total classics every one. Not millions of books you've never heard of, instead, a selection of the greatest books ever written," he says. "It's early days as it's just me selecting them and setting them up. The potential is infinite but this is just the beginning."



## Great novels outclass tweets

Richard is determined to keep all out-of-copyright books free to all, whilst hoping current writers with an aversion to the publishing behemoths would be interested in making their books available too.

He is particularly concerned with the trend towards reading super short opinions on social media rather than literature. "The reader will gain more insight from the in-depth experience of reading one great novel than from reading a thousand tweets, whether the novel's a physical book or a download," he says.



Close friends: Joanna Lumley unveils the Spike Milligan memorial bench at Avenue House in 2018. Photo Mike Coles

## Calling all fans of Spike Milligan

By David Melsome

The Finchley Society has put out a call for fans of Spike Milligan to help with the publication of a new booklet about the late comedian, who died 20 years ago.

Spike lived in Finchley and his archives and memorabilia are kept at the Lodge in Avenue House in East End Road, N3. A life-size statue of him sits on a memorial bench in the gardens there, unveiled by his friend and actress Joanna Lumley in 2018. Lynn Bresler, of The Finchley Society, said: "We want to update and expand on a booklet called *Spike Milligan 1918-2002* that was published for the unveiling of the statue but we need help in pulling together all the different strands of publishing a book."

If you are interested, and have some project management experience, please email [vicechair@finchleysociety.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@finchleysociety.co.uk) for more details.

## I sang into a wardrobe for Gareth Malone

Local singer Margaret Hiscock tells us how she came to work with TV choirmaster Gareth Malone and 1,000 fellow singers on a charity single to raise money for Ukraine.

I have been singing in the choir at Holy Trinity Church in East Finchley since 2006 and also sing with the Choral Society at Henrietta Barnett School. During lockdown I missed singing, so I googled 'online choirs', found the Stay at Home Choir, and just loved what they do and how they do it.

We have done many projects, from classical music to a computer game theme tune, often with the composer, a professional vocal group, or a world famous conductor at rehearsals.

Most recently, I was involved in the *Notes for Our World* charity single, an amazing piece written collaboratively with the help of 1,000 singers all over the world and led by Gareth Malone.

## The process

It was so moving and inspiring to work together on this project. First, Gareth played us the music he had written so far, we then brainstormed ideas around a theme together on Zoom, and later, we could submit other ideas and associations we had, based on the session. Gareth then adjusted the music around our input.

The creative process took just over a month from our first meeting online with Gareth. Due to the lack of sound synchronisation on Zoom, it is not possible to record all at once, so we all recorded our parts in our own homes. When I recorded, I placed my device in my wardrobe and sang into that to get a better quality of sound.

## The outcome

Once all our parts were submitted they were very skilfully put together using whizz technology that I don't understand.

It is such a heartfelt piece that touches on the challenges



Together alone: Margaret Hiscock sings from home in her online choir

we face, and also speaks of hope and light. I loved singing and recording it. We all felt very involved in it, and it was almost unbelievable that we could be working creatively with him and with people from all round

the world.

Listen to the *Notes for Our World* single at [stayathom-echoir.com](http://stayathom-echoir.com) and buy a copy to support the humanitarian work of the Disasters Emergency Committee in Ukraine.

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[www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk)





## ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

## Neighbours transform plot of unloved land

By Diana Cormack

Since early last year, a group of residents in Chapel Court, N2, have been transforming the outlook behind their block of flats, which was once overgrown with bushes, brambles, weeds and covered in rubbish.

With a lot of hard work, they have established several flower beds and cultivated other patches with a variety of vegetables and fruit. These are grown in the ground as well as in containers and raised beds. There is also a lawn which is left partly unmown to encourage wildflowers and to fit in, like the rest of the site, with the East Finchley Pollinator Project.



Before and after: One of the overgrown plots at Chapel Court transformed into a tended garden.

The individual and community garden patches grew from an idea of flat dweller Michelle, who told *The Archer* she had wanted to improve the view she looked out on. Michelle and her neighbour Nik put in the original ground work and found the necessary finance.

Gradually more neighbours joined in and they now have a pleasanter place to sit in as well as to care for and continue to develop. Michelle and Nik paid tribute to all the participants and to local councillors Claire Farrier and Arjun Mittra for their interest and support.

### Can you help?

At the time of writing they are waiting for approval and hopefully some help from Barnet Homes Garden Club and are also on the lookout for more funding. So what else do they need? Eco friendly, they make their own fertiliser and have been given a hot bin composter by a group member's mother but could do with some more water butts, a stone bird bath and planks of wood to make raised beds. Also any garden tools such as edgers, pruners, etc. would be welcomed.

If you can supply any of these or have something else they might find useful please email [chapelcourgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chapelcourgarden@gmail.com)



## Bargains for sale

The regular Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place this month on Saturday 27 August from 10am to 1pm at the usual venue of Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and there are refreshments available.



Stick insect: A Forest School member shows off the butterfly-shaped she created from willow sculpture.

## Forest crafts give residents a new outlook on life

By Janet Maitland

A group of local residents who have just completed a 12-week forest school course found it so life changing they want to continue meeting up in the woodland indefinitely.

You didn't know East Finchley has a forest? You'll find Barnwood N2 on Tarling Road, next to the community centre. This tiny but magical place was locked away and overgrown for more than 20 years until volunteers stepped forward to create a tranquil wildlife haven.

Barnwood N2 is now a flourishing sanctuary for not only wildlife but local people, a group of whom have spent their summer going to Silver Birches, a 12-week course for the over 55s run by Urban Forest Collective, who teamed up with Barnwood N2 Chairman Leo Smith to design a range of nature-based arts, crafts and bush craft activities.

### Connecting

"Everyone has suffered in one way or another over the last couple of years," said Leo. "With a grant from Barnet Innovations Fund, this project

was designed to give Barnet residents a reason to 'surface' again and regain their lost confidence through sharing their feelings and working together."

Participants spent every Tuesday nestled among the trees and surrounded by birdsong, doing things they'd never done before, like fire lighting, weaving willow, making bird boxes, practising Qi Gong, wood splitting, balm making and foraging.

"We hope that in our work with over 55s we can support people to feel more connected to themselves, to others and to nature," said Linda Royles,

from Urban Forest Collective. "We hope to reduce loneliness and isolation and build confidence and comfort in the outdoors."

There are hopes that the group can become self-managing, sharing skills of their own, making food and helping out with planting. "We're exploring ways to make this happen," said Leo.

To contact Barnwood N2, call 020 8371 9643. For information about Urban Forest Collective, call 07971 881229 and ask for Linda, email [info@urbanforestcollective.org](mailto:info@urbanforestcollective.org) or go to [urbanforestcollective.org](http://urbanforestcollective.org)

## Recycling sign to appear at all local donation points

By Emma Frampton

The big news from the Bin There Donate That recycling project this month is the launch of our logo. Our aim is to provide this to all shops with donation points so with luck this will become a common recognisable sign around East Finchley.

The logo was designed by Ellen K Stone at [www.ellenkstone.co.uk](http://www.ellenkstone.co.uk) and we are all very grateful. If you made it to the East Finchley Festival, you will have seen the logo adorning our stall and my t-shirt.

Sitting on a festival stall was a first experience for all of us. It was lovely meeting and engaging with lots of local people and seeing the genuine interest in recycling and reusing our unwanted household items.

If you'd like more information about what we're doing please email us at [bintheredonatethat@gmail.com](mailto:bintheredonatethat@gmail.com).

Here's our running list of donation points where you can drop off your unwanted items for recycling. We'd like to give a special mention to David Hillel Opticians in the High

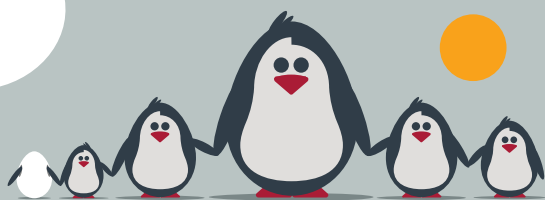
Road, N2, who have put a box by their entrance for unwanted spectacles to be recycled by The National Spectacle Recycling Scheme.

### What and where to donate

- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electrical
- Broken electrical items to EF Electrical
- Electrical wires to Everything Electrical
- Ink cartridges to UOE
- Blister packs to Oakdale Pharmacy
- Unwanted spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's.

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## And the Oscar goes to...

A fabulous film ceremony came to the Phoenix Cinema when Fortismere School chose the venue for its 17<sup>th</sup> annual School Oscars.

Students from the Year 9 Film Project had worked in groups writing, filming, acting and editing their own short films, which were then judged by a panel. A full audience turned up to see the films shown on the big screen and watch the creators of the winning films being presented with their trophies.

Lauren Overs, the Head of Drama at Fortismere, said: "The Drama department is a truly special place. Over the last 17 years we have used our amazing industry contacts to broaden our curriculum: from work experience, to masterclasses and backstage visits.

"I love the creativity our students bring to the course and their total commitment to us has meant that strong bonds have formed over the years. Many alumni are still involved in what we do; often bringing their work in or sharing their expertise."



Prize-giving: Fortismere students enjoy their own Oscar ceremony



Technicolor: Sunshine and showers on the last day of June gave rise to a beautiful rainbow over the sun-dappled Phoenix Cinema, captured by front-of-house staff member Jakub Kaczmarek.

## What's on at the Phoenix in August

By Zalan Pall, general manager, Phoenix Cinema

A highly anticipated thriller, incredible documentaries plus crowd-pleasing family films, fine winemakers and old classics are all combining to make August a month to enjoy at the Phoenix.

The month starts with mysteries and secrets in *Where The Crawdads Sing*, starring

Daisy Edgar Jones. Then from 8 August, *Fire of Love* tells the true story of French couple Katia and Maurice Krafft, who died in a volcanic explosion in Japan doing the very thing that brought them together: unravelling the mysteries of our planet, while simultaneously capturing the most explosive volcano imagery ever recorded.

From 12 August Ari Folman's new animation film *Where Is Anne Frank?* opens, and promises to be one of the most bold and ambitious films this year. An important must-see for all ages.

From 13 August, we are proud to present *Blind Ambition*, a documentary about four Zimbabwean refugees who were forced to flee their home country in search of a better life. It tells the story of how they became Africa's best and most unlikely sommeliers, going on

to compete in the World Wine Blind Tasting Championships, the Olympics of the wine world. The Phoenix audience will be able to enjoy a wine-tasting session to accompany these special screenings.

Our next entry in our classics season on 14 August is Wim Wenders' extraordinary *Paris, Texas*. Meanwhile, for families, we have *Minions: The Rise of Gru* from 5 August, *Tad The Lost Explorer* from 19 August, and *DC League of Super-Pets* from 26 August.

We round August off with *Official Competition*, from the 26th, in which a wealthy businessman hires a neurotic director to produce his crowning achievement. It's a brilliant art film. For times and booking details, pop into the Phoenix foyer or visit its new-look website at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk)

## Inside a football club's year of glory

By David Gritten

It's a book with a bizarre title: *Just a Bus Stop in Hounslow*. That may not ring many bells in East Finchley but to its author, local resident Greville Waterman, it makes perfect sense.

Greville, a businessman, mediator and autogenic therapist, has long been a loyal fan of Brentford Football Club, who recently enjoyed a rare season in the Premier League, finishing 13th after enduring no less than 86 years languishing in lower divisions.

Their glorious 2021-22 season is the book's subject. And its title? It comes from a game in 2018 against Queen's Park Rangers, whose fans mocked and irritated Brentford's with the disparaging chant: "You're just a bus stop in Hounslow."

### That incredible year

Last season proved they were far more. For one thing, they beat the mighty Arsenal in their first game and Greville jumped at the chance to write a book about their year in the top rank.

"When the club was promoted, and I'm sure not many of us believed that day was ever going to happen, I thought it was an incredible time and we needed to rejoice in it and make the most of it," he said. "I also thought we needed to have a record of it that we could read, smile at and look back on in years to come.

"I made a few comparisons with the club's history and looked up 1935, the previous time they got promoted to the top tier. They survived for just



Red and white: Author Greville Waterman

one season and it was 31,449 days till they were promoted again. So the book is a record, an analysis of an incredible year in the life of Brentford FC."

### Depth and detail

Greville outlines the innermost workings of Brentford FC, while describing what went on both on and off the pitch. "I

wanted to explain the innermost workings of the club and its function. Hopefully there's something in it, both for Brentford fans and non-Brentford fans."

It's a fascinating read and he's done the club proud. Not 'just a bus stop in Hounslow', then ...

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'Unwired for sound': Simon Davies with just some of the headphones at Silent Event. Photo John Lawrence

## Head gear puts the party on silent

By John Lawrence

**Wander through Highgate Wood at 9.30 on a Monday morning and you may see a group of people exercising energetically to loud, pumping drum and bass music. Except you won't hear a thing, because they will all be wearing headphones.**

The headphones are supplied to the London Jungle Runners by East Finchley-based company Silent Event, run by operations director Simon Davies and his business partner Jerry Evans.

They have done the same for an ever-expanding range of customers, including a silent disco at the Bald Faced Stag in the High Road, a massive party at the new Tottenham Stadium and silent night tours at London Zoo in Regents Park.

### "Every job's a happy one"

Simon and Jerry were lucky to be well established before the pandemic hit two years ago but even during lockdown they found there was demand for their wireless technology from family groups who were bubbling at home and fancied a disco party that didn't disturb the neighbours.

Silent Event supply from two to 2,000 sets of headphones for a single event and the technology is so simple that music can be beamed to the partygoers from the host's own computer or mobile phone.

Simon said: "What I like about the job is that every job is a happy one. For a lot of people it's still a new experience and everyone is always knocked out by it. And it doesn't always have to be disco. Some people are using our kit for meditation."

### Language exam use

A new line of business that is opening up comes from schools who use the headphones for language exams, where groups of pupils studying different languages, say French, German and Spanish, can sit their papers together in the same hall.

Simon and Jerry are based in Bedford Road, N2, from where

they hand out their headphones to their customers or send them out for delivery in crates.

## Letters

### In favour of the cycle lane

Dear Editor

Once again, my friend Barry White has written to complain about the congestion caused by the cycle lane (*The Archer*, June 2022). There is congestion, but Barry completely ignores all the powerful arguments in favour of cycle lanes.

He says that the main problem is congestion around East Finchley station, but the real problem is that there are far too many cars on the road, in East Finchley and everywhere else in Britain.

Motor traffic is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, as well as other forms of air pollution, and Barnet Council are absolutely right to look for ways to make it easier and safer for cyclists. Anything that encourages people out of their cars, including making their journeys slower, should be applauded, not criticised.

There may well be room for improving the current, experimental system, but it would be a tragic mistake if the new Labour Council were to turn the clock back to the days when motor traffic was given absolute priority to the detriment of the environment and public health.

**Mike Segal**  
Abbots Gardens, N2

Send your correspondence to: [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk) or post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"THE VOICE OF SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY"

### How holidays have changed

**The sun is beating down and you've had enough of the Northern Sauna line and that means only one thing, it's time for the summer holiday. Once upon a time, holidays were different and most people didn't have them. And I'm not talking about the last lockdown, I'm talking about the real olden days.**

Back then, any time off work might have been spent somewhere like Cornwall, eating ice cream and avoiding the rain. You got there by train; well you did until they closed the line in the 1960s on the basis that if God had meant you to use the railways he'd never have invented the Morris Minor.

Now you could all pile into the pride of British motoring and set out on the adventure that was the A303. Yes, folks, 12 hours in a traffic jam, complete with a one-hour 'visit' to Stonehenge as you sat behind a broken down caravan. You took sandwiches and a Thermos flask of stewed tea and stopped in a layby watching the tailbacks. Ah, the delights of travel. But there was no rush. When you got to Cornwall, it would still be raining.

Things just had to change and they did when someone invented the foreign holiday. Now you could take the car to France to drive on the wrong side of the road and eat funny food. Or pack yourself and your luggage into an aluminium tube and fly to Spain.

As you sat crammed in your seat like you were on a flying tube train you realised why they call it a package holiday. Yes, just what you needed, two weeks in Southend-on-the-Med complete with warm lager, fish and chips and the kind of people you left London to avoid.

The holiday scene in 2022 is, of course, quite different. Popular destinations this year include three days in sunny Sussex where Gatwick's departure lounge offers the chance of staring blankly at the departure board announcing your flight has been cancelled due to incompetence.

Alternatively you could go west and taste the getaway experience at Heathrow where they might put you on a flight but not your luggage. Or vice versa. Either way, your luggage is likely to have a better time than you do.

So the only thing is to avoid the crowds. Let the rest of them fly off for dysentery and sunburn while you enjoy the peace and tranquillity of East Finchley. You could spend your time lying in the garden, then fire up the coals to return the compliment to the idiot neighbour whose barbecue burnt down your fence last summer. Happy holidays!

## Sustainable style for baby fashions

By Hannah Duncan

**If you've ever strolled through the sunny streets of Seville, you may notice that it's not just the adults who dress elegantly. With puffy pastel dresses, picture-perfect bows and the most adorable tiny rompers imaginable, Spanish babies look stop-in-the-street iconic too.**



Sitting pretty: Just one of the stylish baby clothes designs from Depeques London

Someone who's keen to bring a little of that Spanish sparkle to East Finchley is Malaga-born mum-of-two Estefania Gamero. Together with her husband, she's created Depeques London, an online store selling beautiful clothes for babies and toddlers.

"I design and sew all of the clothes myself", she explains. "When I first came to London, I noticed that babies tended to dress like small adults. And I missed the classic 'baby' look in Spain."

Estefania crafts the tiny outfits and accessories by hand, using organic and eco-

materials. "I always try to buy environmentally friendly material," she says.

What's more, Estefania sews personal collections too. As the customer, you can pick out your favourite style, material, and even have the baby's name sewn in. "For birthdays, I can sew a full set," Estefania says. "That's an entire outfit, complete with a nappy cover, bunting with the baby's name as well as a personalised crown."

Support Estefania by following [depequeslondon](https://www.depequeslondon.com) on Instagram, or sharing the website [www.depequeslondon.com](http://www.depequeslondon.com) with new parents and grandparents.



New range: Muji Khaled at The Exchange

## Phone shop sells devices for the younger customer

By Diana Cormack

**If you were looking to buy toys, a mobile phone shop wouldn't be the first place you would think of. However, The Exchange at 54 High Road, across from the Phoenix Cinema, recently began to stock them.**

A net bag hanging outside full of colourful footballs caught my eye so I took a look inside, to find the side wall stacked from top to bottom with an array of playthings.

Suitable from babies up to primary school age, along with simple favourites like sparkling yoyos, slime and different dollies, there are creative

and educational toys including construction kits, musical toys, lap-top learners, even a ride-in racing car.

Staff member Muji Khaled told *The Archer* that the owner had decided to try and widen their market by increasing the age range and attracting more customers. The Exchange is open daily from 10am to 6pm.





## Chelsea pavilion plants a seed in our minds



Green and pleasant land: The dome greenhouse amongst the beds at OmVed Gardens in Highgate and, right, the new Chelsea pavilion exhibition by the pond. Photos John Lawrence.

By John Lawrence

**For anyone unable to get tickets to this year's Chelsea Flower Show, there's still a chance to enjoy one of the award-winning highlights of the event by visiting OmVed Gardens in Highgate Village.**

The gardeners and designers there have brought back the spectacular exhibition and pavilion they created for

Chelsea to live permanently at their hillside site, which is tucked away at the bottom of Townsend Yard.

### Saving Seed

Saving Seed is the theme of the walk-in mirrored pavilion and it explores the ways we can all save seeds from the plants, fruit and vegetables we grow. Inside, visitors are immersed in a soundscape featuring seeds erupting from their pods and the activity inside a garden compost heap.

The pavilion is approached by walking along a meandering path of circular beds planted with vegetables, herbs and flowers all grown from seed.

"This exhibition is a tribute to tiny beginnings and an invitation to join a movement to improve biodiversity, strengthen our food systems and fill us with joy," says the OmVed team.

The impressive pavilion structure has been placed on a newly cleared site next to OmVed's lily pond and close to its established market garden area. From there winding paths lead up to a glass-covered kitchen and meeting space where demonstrations and supper clubs are held throughout the season.

### Twice-weekly openings

OmVed's Chelsea Flower Show pavilion exhibition will be open until Sunday 23 October every Wednesday from 12pm to 5pm and every Sunday from 9am to 2pm. More information and free booking can be found at: [www.savingseedbyomved.com](http://www.savingseedbyomved.com)

## Many hands make light work of ribbon cutting

By John Lawrence

**Three young volunteers eagerly assisted Barnet's Mayor to cut a ribbon officially opening a refurbished shelter and path at Long Lane Pasture.**



The opening of the Long Lane Pasture pavilion. Photo Noel Lynch

Jenny, Seband and Thea, the three youngest volunteers at the nature reserve opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3, stepped up to assist Councillor Alison Moore at the event in June.

The pasture's gazebo overlooking the pond has been given a new paved floor and a robust new path surface has been

laid from the entrance to the gazebo, making wheelchair and pram access safer and easier. The money for the works was provided by the Barnet Council Area Committee Fund.

Alison Moore thanked the committee and volunteers for maintaining the pasture, and described how the two-acre nature reserve was a green oasis of calm for people to walk around during the pandemic, helping maintain both physical and mental well-being.

The pasture has reopened fully for the summer every day from 10am to half an hour before sunset and looks set to have a bumper crop of blackberries this year. Volunteers still meet every Saturday from 10am to noon and new helpers are always welcome.

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