



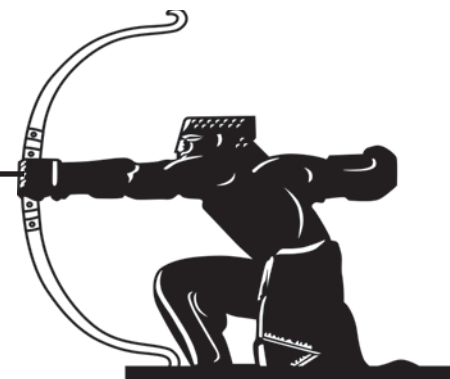
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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



January 2022 No. 333

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Controlled parking could spread to new roads in N2

By John Lawrence

Households across large swathes of East Finchley are being invited to give their views on parking in a consultation that could result in the introduction of new controlled zones.

Controlled parking zones (CPZs) currently exist up to a line between Trinity Avenue, Leslie Road and Hertford Road. Barnet Council is now asking whether residents north of that line want them too. The area to the west of East End Road is not part of the consultation.



Nose to tail: Is parking a problem in your road?

The council says parking and access are particular issues on the Thomas More estate; in Long Lane, Church Lane and King Street; and in Creighton Avenue. It has also received a

petition from residents of Chandos Road requesting parking controls.

Other parking issues

The consultation additionally asks for comments on short-term parking and loading facilities for local shops, whether parking near junctions is causing safety issues, and what appetite there is for more electric car charging points.

"Many parts of East Finchley currently have no parking controls," states the council's survey document, "and there have been reports, substantiated by visits of council officers, of high levels of parking congestion, some of which is unsafe, obstructive, or otherwise unsuitable."

Charges

CPZs, of course, mean the introduction of charges. Barnet Council currently charges £71.25 for a 12-month resident parking permit. A second permit costs £96.25. Blue badge holders are exempt, and fully electric vehicles are charged £15. Visitor permits cost from £1.10 per day.

An imaginary world on a café wall



With a huge blank wall as his canvas, artist Joshua Drewe creates a sumptuous scene mixing human habitation with lush vegetation. Find out where in East Finchley he was painting and see the finished work on page 4.

Barnet sets 2050 target for net zero

Barnet Council has set a target of becoming a carbon net zero organisation by 2030 and for the whole of Barnet to be net zero as soon as possible after that, and by 2050 at the latest.

Their path to net zero emissions includes improving the energy efficiency of the borough's housing and buildings, exploring renewable energy across all Barnet's property, installing 500 electric car charging points by November 2022 and a wider network by 2030, plus establishing a scheme to let residents borrow essential household items.

The council says next steps will include resident focus groups early in 2022, followed by wider consultation in the summer to give residents, businesses and partners the chance to help shape a sustainability strategy.

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Construction to start soon on derelict site

By Janet Maitland

Have you wondered why someone, anyone, doesn't do something about the bleak wasteland surrounded by ugly concrete blocks on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, N2?

Six years ago the land was home to an unremarkable but convenient Esso petrol station. Then the owners sold it to development company Leopold Properties, who submitted a planning application in late 2016 to build eight homes with roof terraces, some with three storeys, others with two.

ing among the drifts of rubbish.

A Barnet Council spokesperson said that although permission to build the homes was valid until November 2022, they couldn't confirm that they will be built because, they said, the owner had not yet met certain conditions, such as the submission and approval of the



New homes: An artist's impression of the High Road development.

The plan was refused on the grounds that it would be an overdevelopment of the site and at odds with the surroundings. It took three years, another failed submission, a successful appeal to then Housing Minister James Brokenshire, and then yet another submission, before Barnet Council agreed that the development could go ahead.

This was despite the protests of some local residents who were angry that the density had almost doubled in the final application and now consisted of 20 flats in two large blocks, rather than the three terraced houses along Leopold Road and one block of six flats that the Secretary of State gave permission for in 2018.

No homes in sight

That was over two years ago and nothing has happened on the site itself, other than more buddleia bushes sprout-

ing among the drifts of rubbish.

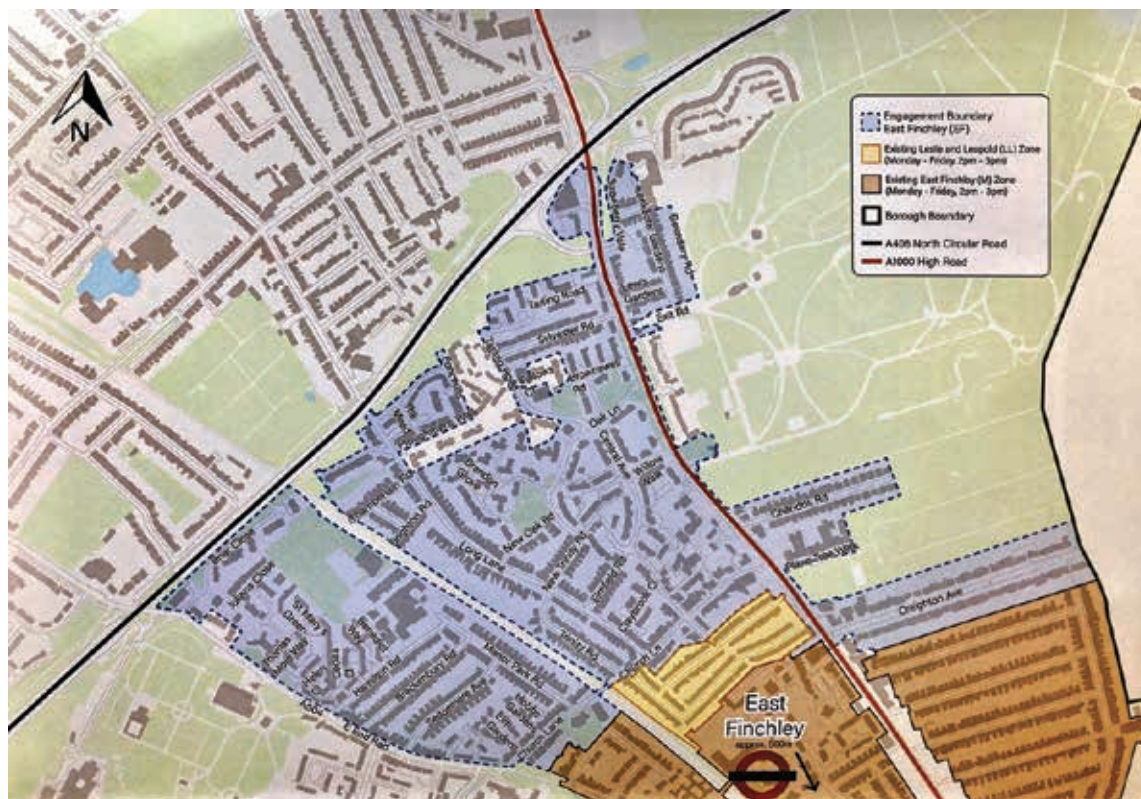
'Leopold Court' for sale

However, Joe Henry, the landowner's agent, informed us that his client "confirms they intend to implement the planning permission before it expires".

This was echoed by Richard Humphreys, Director of Goldschmidt & Howland, who are advertising the sale of the site, now named Leopold Court, for £6 million. Clay Street Property Consultants, joint agents for the site, are "inviting unconditional offers for the freehold interest".

No affordable housing

When permission was given for the flats, the council asked the developers for a cash in lieu payment of £276,758 because there are no plans for affordable housing. A council spokesperson informed us "this money is usually used to subsidise opportunities for affordable housing".



Consultation: Barnet Council's map shows roads in yellow and brown where parking zones are already operational and roads in blue where the new survey is being conducted.

Controlled parking could spread to new roads in N2

Continued from page 1.

"This is just another money-making scheme for the council," said one survey-taker. "Nobody likes charges but we do have to do something about the number of people who drive their cars in from outside and clog up the area," said another.

Barnet Council says it recognises that recently-introduced CPZs on roads like Leopold Road and Leslie Road can displace parking problems onto nearby roads that don't have controls and that is why it is consulting over such a large area of N2. It also states that it would be willing to introduce any new

controls on an experimental basis to assess their effectiveness.

Last chance

The East Finchley Engagement on Parking consultation

began last month and runs until Wednesday 12 January. You can see an interactive map and take part at www.barnet.gov.uk/parkingconsultation

Memorial woodland

Children from Brookland Infant School were part of a project to plant 500 trees as a tribute to all those affected by the pandemic and ill health generally.

Pupils from the school in Hill Top, NW11, helped to create the new memorial woodland in Mill Hill Park for National Tree Week last month.

It is made up of six different species of native trees: Field Maple, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn, Alder and Goat Willow. The project was organised and funded by Barnet Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

76 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey side extension; depth 5.50m, eaves height 3.00m, maximum height 3.50m. Also, Lawful Development Certificate for roof extension involving rear full width L-shaped and outrigger dormer with a Juliet balcony and two front rooflights.

29 Beresford Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension and garden wall.

Drummond House, 50 Font Hills, N2

Prefabricated grp plantroom unit, housing water tanks and pumps for a sprinkler system.

186 East End Road, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormer window and two front roof lights.

62 Hertford Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extensions, following demolition of rear conservatory and side chimney. Additional front entrance with new access steps. Roof extension, including raising ridge height, two rear dormers, five front rooflights, and one (obscure glazed) side gable window to

provide conversion of two flats to two single family dwelling houses. Associated alterations to doors, windows and landscaping, including new raised patio and new glass balustrade and railing to front, and access ramp, side/front gate and railing to side. Cycle storage, plus refuse and recycling storage.

12-18 High Road, N2

Non-material amendments to planning permission dated 17/06/21. Include correction to line of boundary wall and introduction of two angled windows on the 1st floor central eastern, and corrections to the neighbouring buildings to the north and east of the site.

174 High Road, N2

Change of ground floor use from F1(a) (Educational/community use) to E(a) (Retail)

401 High Road, N2

Swapping of steelwork to support existing antennas; two additional cabinets; ancillary development thereto.

Old White Lion, 121 Great North Road, N2

One externally illuminated fascia sign, one pictorial panel to existing post sign, one post-mounted directional sign, and one wall-mounted directional sign.

14 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Plus, Lawful development Certificate for Roof extension with rear dormer window, Juliet balcony and three front rooflights.

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Flats 'in breach of planning permission'

By David Melsome

Residents have raised concerns over the new block of flats and offices under construction opposite East Finchley tube station, after discovering that it is being built too close to their homes.

People living in Ingram Road and Baronsmere Road, N2, alerted Barnet Council who sent in planning inspectors last autumn to take measurements. Subsequent correspondence seen by *The Archer* shows that the council has ruled the development is "in breach of its planning permission".

Barnet Council's planning regulations state that a new building must be at least 1.5m from neighbours' boundary walls. The inspectors found that the development has been built 0.9m too close to the rear brick boundary wall.

council are expected to issue an enforcement notice, which the developer can appeal. It seems such action, however, has to wait until the building is complete," said one resident of Ingram Road, whose home backs directly onto the development.

Ball in Barnet's court
A spokesperson for Barnet Council told *The Archer*: "The council has investigated and we are now in the process of considering what further enforcement action is necessary." They did not give details of what their options might be.



Under construction: How the High Road flats looked last month

Residents' concerns

Residents are angry and frustrated that construction work has gone ahead despite the situation. At the time of going to press, the main concrete structure of the block was in place and brick work was about to begin.

They say having the building closer to their homes and gardens will have a much greater visual impact, block more light and further diminish their privacy from being overlooked.

"There are no signs of work to change what has been built to comply with the original planning permission. Therefore, the

The Archer has contacted the developers Deniz Investments to ask for a response. The same company recently completed the new block of flats next to Viceroy Close, to the rear of Budgens and Iceland.

Their High Road development will provide 24 flats along with ground floor office space. The original plan for 21 flats was given planning permission in 2018, in the face of opposition from more than 1,200 people whose objections centred on congestion, risk of traffic accidents, insufficient waste storage, fire safety and lack of parking.



Pie in the eye: A youngster pastes a teacher at Monkey Puzzle Nursery.

Splat! Nursery staff in the stocks

Things got messy when Monkey Puzzle Nursery, based on the High Road opposite East Finchley tube station, held a fundraising event in aid of Children in Need. Children, families and staff paid £5 to buy a pie to throw at a member of the nursery management team of their choice. It was a very fun, if sticky, morning and most importantly they managed to raise £350 for the children's charity.



Pros and cons of musical buses

By Daphne Chamberlain

There may still be just enough time to contact Transport for London about its proposed changes to the 263 and 143 bus routes in our area. You can submit your views online until 9 January.

As we reported in last month's issue, the proposal is to swap the routes of these two services between East Finchley and Archway. The 143 would continue straight down Archway Road, while the 263 would travel up North Hill and through Highgate Village before resuming its current route at Archway.

Depending on where you live, there are undoubtedly pros and cons to this. Direct access to Highgate Village and Hampstead Heath, as well as to Whittington Hospital, is likely to arouse the most debate.

The changes are linked

with the proposal to remove route 271, which currently runs between Highgate Village and Moorgate, Finsbury Square.

The introduction of a double-decker between East Finchley and Highgate Village would also reduce the overcrowding on this stretch currently experienced on the 143.

However, a definite advantage to East Finchley would be the plan to extend the N271 night bus from Highgate to North Finchley, giving our section of the A1000 a night service at last. The dedicated school bus link between

Bishop Douglass School and Highgate Village would be retained and renumbered 620 to avoid confusion.

There is an extensive FAQ section on <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/routes-21-143-263-271>, which covers details such as bus stops and interchanges, fares and route frequencies, as well as explaining the reason behind the proposals. This is also where you can submit your comments.

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Scenic seating: The new mural in La Gourmandise

An imaginary world on a café wall

By Tess van Leeuwen

You might think Joshua Drewe, local artist and illustrator, based his abundantly leafy, wall-high mural in La Gourmandise on an existing place, but you would be wrong. "Apart from the drawing of the café itself, it's all in my head," he clarifies. "I'm interested in creating imaginary worlds that break the barrier between unadulterated wilderness and human urbanisation."

His work at the High Road café patisserie develops as he goes along, each brush stroke

of lush green, bright ochre and deep cyan bringing a different shade to the evolving magical landscape, each added texture



Artist: Joshua Drewe

creating a fine pattern of detail.

Joshua isn't new to the art of the mural. His circular mural of the history of New Cross at Goldsmiths University in South-East London was shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards in 2017 and his Docklands-inspired piece on the wall of the Greenhouse café in Deptford is still a firm local favourite.

"What I love about creating murals is the interaction with the public," he explains. "People really get involved and come back every week to see the progress." But it's not just the process. "Ultimately, it's creating a piece of work that speaks to people's imagination every time they engage with it."

What better gift: a work of art that interacts with you, allowing you to discover something new every time you cross paths with it. And all that whilst enjoying a fabulous cup of coffee and a delicious cake. Win-win.

Café at the centre of life in the park

By Diana Cormack

Just four months after opening, the Cherry Tree Café is turning into a hive of activity in the heart of Cherry Tree Wood.

On Sunday 12 December dogs and their owners took part in 'Santa Paws', a mini fundraising event hosted by the café and organised by All Dogs Matter. There was plenty of dog merchandise on sale, plus the chance for the best dressed Christmas dog to win a prize. Over £400 was raised for the charity.



Part of the pack: Dogs and their owners at the Santa Paws event. Photo Mike Coles

Also fundraising was a group of singers who were rattling the tins for their school, Tetherdown Primary, with a festive sing-along. Mince pies and mulled wine added to the seasonal atmosphere.

On the previous day the People's Pantry returned to Cherry Tree Wood with their converted milk float Ernie (see *The Archer*, October 2021, page 8). They will be pitching up at the café on the first Saturday of every month, giving people the chance to live more sustainably by buying from their zero waste refill service of staple food and goods. Locals can refill their pantry whilst ditching their plastic.

Local food, local support

Café co-owner Sharon Hall told *The Archer* that everything they use in the café is biodegradable and compostable and customers who bring their own cups get 10% off drinks. Their food is all locally

sourced and baked and cooked by locals. She also announced that the Food Standards Agency has awarded the café its top level hygiene rating of 5.

The café has a notice board for community use and would welcome approaches from community groups wanting to use the board or the café. Both



The People's Pantry will make a regular appearance in the wood. Photo Alison Roberts

Sharon and her fellow owner Sharon Harding are delighted with how things have gone since opening the café last summer and spoke highly of the wonderful community spirit in East Finchley. Sharon Hall said: "We feel blessed by the magnificent response we have had from such a great community."

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Car boot re-boot

The Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale returns for 2022 on Saturday 29 January in its usual venue at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH, from 10am to 1pm. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. More information from 020 8368 8180.

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They got rhythm: Dancers get into their stride at a Caramba Party class. Photo Mike Coles

Yay Caramba... it's time to dance

By Diana Cormack

Are you missing your weekly fix of *Strictly Come Dancing* or hoping to find a New Year fitness activity that is also fun? If so, The Engine Rooms at 82-92 Great North Road, N2, might have just what you're looking for.

On Tuesday evenings you won't hear the sound of engines revving up, only the rhythmic beat of Caramba Party's Salsa, Tango and Bachata, where you can learn to dance whilst socialising. The restaurant, wine bar and events space situated just beyond the junction

with The Bishops Avenue is the setting for Fredy Montero's Latin Soul dance classes.

Fredy, who is originally from Cali, Colombia, trained as a professional dancer and has extensive experience working as both a professional performer and as a teacher. He has been passing

on his knowledge and sharing his passion for dance through private events entertainment, group and one-to-one tuition since 2010.

For details of these and other activities in his Latin-inspired events company, visit www.latinsoul.co.uk



Celebration: Hair 202 manager Kelly Leach with a customer

Hair 202's 20 years

By Debby Hiller

The team at High Road salon Hair 202 celebrated its 20th birthday in November, having served East Finchley throughout all of this time, except for the nine and a half months they were forced to close during lockdown.

Team members who have been there since the beginning include Bill Hussein, Kelly Leach, Yasmine Hussein and Kenji Takahashi. They have been joined by Grace Ferrie, Georgia Dalton, Finola Santarelli and Holly Dolby, and form an intimate and friendly team. Their clients include TV presenters, actors and musicians.

There have been four refurbishments of the premises over the years, and the last one was done during lockdown to create more space for staff and clients to be in the same room safely. The salon still retains its perspex dividers and other safety measures for virus protection.

New clients who bring this article to the salon will be given 10% off the cost of their first appointment. Existing clients with appointments will be given vouchers allowing them £10 off their next appointments in January and February.

Grange Estate: Fewer new homes but demolitions still planned

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Homes will provide fewer new homes on the Grange estate and surrounding streets in East Finchley than originally planned (*The Archer*, May 2021). But Brownswell Road and Tarling Road green spaces will still be built on and three homes will still be demolished, despite protests by local residents.

Two thirds of the 47 new homes now proposed will be built on land currently covered with grass and trees even though Barnet Homes said in response to a petition signed by 700 people that a "key aim of the project is to add more high-quality green space".

Grange homes because the proposals were not classified as a regeneration scheme but as redevelopment.

We understand they were also told that Barnet Council's allocations policy does not allow anyone over the age of 18 who is not in education



Brownswell green: Children play in front of the three homes set for demolition. Photo Mike Coles

Major change to plans

Last year, Barnet Homes originally submitted plans to create 100 homes in the Grange estate area. Over 40 would have been built on the Brownswell Road play area and on a green space and car park in Tarling Road.

Sixty four more would have been on the Grange itself by adding extra storeys to existing blocks and constructing new blocks on Red Lion Hill, Central Avenue and on the High Road side of the estate. Assessment surveys have caused Barnet Homes to reduce the total of new homes by more than 50%.

With the new total at 47, we asked why the demolition of existing homes was still necessary. A Barnet Homes spokesperson said that although ten fewer homes will be built on Brownswell Green, the demolitions will "allow the development of more affordable homes and the community amenity space".

Effects of demolitions

The two families who rent the houses (the third is owner-occupied) were informed last November that they could not be rehoused in any of the new

or a carer receiving Carer's Allowance to be considered for rehousing, nor anyone who is not vulnerable because they have a job. In fact, both the households under threat suffer from health problems and rely on other members of their family for care.

We asked Barnet Homes if they had any discretion when applying the policy. A spokesperson said that families would not be split up providing they could provide "evidence to show medical need for the family to be together".

They also said that "when, on occasion, a tenant has to move out of their home to allow for redevelopment, the council would use its discretion to prioritise a move to suitable alternative accommodation".

We understand that the owner of the third house will be given its market value plus compensation.

More details next month

Barnet Homes says 'in-person events' will be held with residents in February to provide details of the new designs. The planning application will not be formally submitted before "at least spring 2022".

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Team effort: Long-serving volunteer Maureen Hajdu, centre, with colleagues Mark, Marina, Rose and shop manager Saedeh with her son.

Volunteer marks 25 years at hospice charity shop

By David Melsome

Maureen Hajdu runs a charitable trust that was set up by her father nearly 50 years ago to provide financial support to scientists undertaking a medical degree to pursue research projects.

But every Friday morning she can be found behind the till in North London Hospice's Muswell Hill shop. Maureen began volunteering at the Muswell Hill shop just three months after it opened 25 years ago and she's rarely missed a shift.

"It's a role I take very seriously, and I love the people I work with and meet," says Maureen.

"I've done a bit of everything over the years but am now mainly on the till and on the shop floor. It never fails to amaze me how much money the 17 shops raise to support the hospice. When you consider the average price of an item is £4.50, we provide almost a million pounds in income each year to support patient care."

As a charity, North London

Hospice relies on donations and volunteers to support its specialist palliative and end-of-life care services for more than 3,500 patients and their families each year in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, and Haringey.

Sociable work for an important cause

Maureen added: "It's not my profession and people often ask me why I choose to work in a charity shop when I have a busy working life already. It's very different from my day job. It's very sociable work, my manager is fabulous, and I have no responsibilities. I do my shift and I leave, but I really feel attached to the hospice and it's a nice feeling to know we are supporting this wonderful organisation."

The hospice welcomes new volunteers who have a few

hours to spare. Find out more at www.northlondonhospice.org/work-for-us

Pasture winter opening hours

Now the weather has deteriorated over the winter and conditions underfoot have become difficult, Long Lane Pasture is restricting its opening hours to Saturday mornings between 10am and 12noon.

Weather permitting, volunteers are on site during these hours at the nature reserve opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3. Visitors are asked to be aware that the paths and grass of the pasture can become waterlogged and unsafe in places.

Pollinator project starts to take wing

By Roger Chapman

The nature project aiming to create pollinator trails in East Finchley based on a series of 'nectar cafés' formally starts this month and there is an open invitation for everyone to get involved.

Kate Brown, Chair of the East Finchley Community Trust, which is promoting the Pollinator Project, said: "We know many gardens and public spaces in East Finchley are already pollinator-friendly. This project is about expanding our existing pollinator potential and supporting local people to do this."

The nectar cafés will be areas full of flowering plants or trees that provide a network of food sources and habitats across N2 for insect pollinators.

Project organisers say they are grateful for support from Sim Branaghan at East Finchley Library for purchasing adults' and children's books about pollinators for the library. They plan to mount a display on the project in the library foyer soon. Project volunteers have also planted up the bed in front of the library with wallflowers and bulbs.

New garden

Work has also begun on creating a small community garden on The Walks at Oakridge Drive led by the Friends of Market



Pollinator: A mining bee foraging in an East Finchley garden. Photo Alison Roberts

Place, East Finchley Community Trust and local Leopold and Leslie Road residents. Part of the garden has been planted up with daffodil bulbs and other flowering plants. It is a work in progress.

To find out more about the project or to join the launch call on Zoom on Monday 31 January, email: efpollinators@gmail.com. If you can't make the meeting but want to know more, or to invite a project member to speak to you and others about the project, you can email the same address.



Festive: The carollers sing in the High Road. Photo George Baughan

Fine voices for the food bank

Carol singers were out in force in East Finchley on Saturday 9 December singing along the High Road and spreading festive cheer at The Old White Lion, The Bald Faced Stag, Budgens, Gertie Brownes and Madden's. On the day they raised more than £215 for the Finchley Foodbank and there is still time to donate to this local project, which supports many people in need, by donating via BACS Account no 62229714 and sort code 40-05-20.



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Gifts and treats: WI members Alison, Caron and Claire ready to serve at the craft stall.

Hordes snap up handmade treats

By Maralyn Fraser

The Frost Fair hosted by Finchley Women's Institute's truly lived up to its name this year. By 9.30am on the morning of the event in late November there were eager stall holders keen to get out of the cold and into Stephens House in East End Road. Even before we were officially opened a stream of customers was arriving and this soon turned into a river.

Organising the Frost Fair this year was an act of faith, not knowing what the winter would hold. Our trust paid off and we were happy to accommodate 34 talented local businesses offer-

ing everything from craft beer to stained glass.

Our own members produced delicious baked goods, jams, a variety of handmade craft items and clothes. A runaway success

was our tombola; everyone a winner! This year proceeds from our own stalls will be supporting Solace Women's Aid and Finchley Foodbank.

ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

First collection point for zero waste project

Bin There Donate That (BTDT) is an ambitious project that aims to avoid waste. It is in the early stages of setting up collection bins in local shops to pass seemingly useless items on to new homes (The Archer, Nov and Dec 2021). Co-founder Emma Frampton updates us on progress.

Tablet packaging

Our first collection point is established! The good news is that your empty medicine blister packs can now be donated to Oakdale Pharmacy on the High Road for recycling. So those painkiller packs left over from New Year hangovers, and any tablet or capsule packs, can be taken there.



Recyclable: Tablet packs

Children's scraps

We are aiming to start a children's scrap collaboration with <http://childrensscrap.co.uk/> very soon. There will be collection places in East Finchley to drop off a range of items from stationery, paper and cardboard to clean fabric remnants.

Can you help?

If your family is anything like mine, at some point on Christ-

mas Day your living room was full of wrapping paper, cardboard, bubble wrap, tree chocolate foil, bits of Sellotape and a thirsty Christmas tree. Then you, or someone else either grabbed a bin bag or thought, hmm, what can I save, what can be reused, what am I about to throw out that could have another life in a children's nursery or busy foster home? Bin There Donate That needs volunteers to help answer those questions. Help us help East Finchley. There is now a small team beginning to help with research, but we need more help.

Are you able to offer time to research organisations that could give items another life, drive items to their destination or speak to local shopkeepers to get them on board?

We also need help with keeping our website up to date and with handling social media and spreadsheets. To get involved, email us on bintheredonatethat@gmail.com or visit us at <https://bintheredonatethat.wixsite.com/reuse> where you can also

give your ideas and views in a questionnaire. Follow the project on Facebook by searching 'Bin There Donate That'.



Non-recyclable: Cards with glitter

Diary date

The project organisers will also be giving a talk at the next meeting of local community network N2United at 8pm on Thursday 10 February at East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, which is open to all traders, businesses, community groups and any other interested individuals. See n2united.co.uk for details.

Silent film pianist refuses to be silenced

By David Gritten

The pandemic has played havoc with the careers of actors, musicians, and many others who depend on performing live to earn their income. One striking example is East Finchley's Stephen Horne, a pianist and composer who specialises in accompanying silent films being watched by live audiences.

Stephen has pursued this distinctive career for more than 30 years, travelling to more than 20 different countries. That all came to a sudden stop, of course.

"It's been difficult in my career, going through Covid," he acknowledges. "For two years, I've had to stay away from live performance."

Obviously it could have been a bleak period. But having created and developed literally hundreds of musical themes for his film accompaniments, Stephen decided to use his work in a different way.

"It's long been my ambition to record an album," he says, "incorporating some of these themes into musical pieces."

He taught himself to make high-quality recordings of his piano accompaniments at home, with his keyboard con-

nected to a computer. "This way," he notes, "you don't have to bother to record an orchestra."

Haunting sounds

And as a consequence he has released his first CD, called *Silent Sirens*. All the tracks are inspired by silent films from the past, some of them long forgotten, that Stephen has watched and loved: titles such as *Stella Dallas*, *The Manxman* and *The Informer*.

"They all share a certain haunting quality," he says. "And the music is inspired by the performances of their lead actresses."

The cost of these CDs is a mere £10, and though sales have been rather slow to date, Stephen has the satisfaction of knowing his work is also widely streamed. "We'll see how it all turns out," he says cheerfully. "This could be an interesting year."



Movie magic: Accompanist Stephen Horne has recorded an album. Photo Mike Coles






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YOUNG ARCHER



Eco-education: MP Kate Green, third from left, with staff and students at Bishop Douglass School

Green politics comes to the classroom

Students and staff at Bishop Douglass School in East Finchley welcomed Shadow Education Secretary Kate Green on a visit in November as they raised a green flag to mark the award they received from the Eco-Schools organisation to recognise their environmental achievements.

After addressing the sixth form in assembly, Kate Green had a lively political conversation with Year 13 politics students, the Geography Society, the school's Eco-Committee and other interested students about the COP26 summit, which was taking place in

Glasgow at the time.

The school in Hamilton Road, N2, has been flexing its green muscles for more than 10 years. Students are involved in growing produce for the school canteen after building a greenhouse and growing beds. They have also dug a pond and set up

bee and bug boxes to increase biodiversity.

One member of the Eco-Committee said: "Ms Green gave an impassioned presentation about her life as an MP, and spoke frankly and with vigour about the state of Britain, the climate and the changes needed."

A winter pantomime for the NHS

By David Melsome



Puppet panto: Jake and his characters

An East Finchley puppeteer is putting together a pantomime to help raise more funds for the Whittington Hospital. *Duck Whittington*, created by Jake Eiseman-Renyard, is a puppet animal spin on the traditional tale.

Jake has already raised cash for the hospital by touring his singing nightingale puppet so an online pantomime that everyone could enjoy and then make donations seemed a natural next step.

Members of the cast have been trained at performing arts organisations such as Chicken Shed, Anna Scher and Yellow Poppy and their version of *Dick Whittington* has a hero duck, a villainous rat, a family of rabbits and a talking cake as the Dame.

"I've now worked with puppets and wanted to be in a pantomime for years, so I willingly rose to this challenge," says Jake. "The production not only uses the arts to support the NHS at a time when funding is needed more than ever, but mentions and honours the work done day in and day out by lifesavers in our hospitals."

"I'm so proud of the cast who are working on this with me. We are still filming and we hope to have the final production on YouTube by the end of January." To watch the panto and to make donations, keep an eye on the fundraising page at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jake-Eiseman-Renyard

Youth club celebrates

Maureen Clemetson, founder of East Finchley youth group The Monday Club, recently invited past and present members to a reunion celebrating its 16th anniversary.

Launched on 31 October 2005 in the High Road's Methodist Church hall, the club has had a number of homes over the years and is now based at the new community centre in Tarling Road.

Here on Saturday 30 October Maureen had prepared plenty of food and drink for her guests, as she continues with her passion of providing activities for East Finchley youngsters, particularly those from The Grange and Strawberry Vale.



Big number: A Monday Club member marks the special birthday

Here's looking at you-hoo

By Mike Coles

The ever-popular Martin School Christmas Fair took place in the second week of December and was held entirely outside for everyone's safety with concerns over Covid. Attracting a lot of attention were owls from Jambs Owls, also a popular feature of recent East Finchley Community Festivals in Cherry Tree Wood.

Many parents and friends braved the cold weather to join in the fun. There was no real snow but there was a very convincing snow machine which was appreciated by the younger children. Whack-a-Mole, books, toiletries, gifts and some tasty food stalls completed the line-up.



Owl are you: A feathered visitor at Martin School's fair. Photo Mike Coles

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Churchgoers are still singing after 200 years

By David Isaac

Anyone who has noticed the handsome red brick building that sits on the High Road, opposite the end of Creighton Avenue, may have wondered what goes on behind its doors.

That building is the East Finchley Methodist Church and it's been on that site since 1897 when Queen Victoria was on the throne, a loaf of bread cost tuppence and Aston Villa won the FA Cup.

Many years before this, however, in 1822 an earnest young man called John Freeman set up the very first Methodist society in East Finchley, singing his heart out in a cottage on Strawberry Vale.

Two hundred years later, we Methodists are still here and still singing; celebrating our bicentenary this year with gusto and inviting the good folk of N2 to get involved. What we lack in numbers we make up for in noise, cake, enthusiasm and the warmth of our welcome.

We plan to hold a series of activities (social, instructional and hopefully inspirational) throughout the year and will be delighted to welcome everyone from the mildly curious to the fervently committed.

We meet every Sunday at 10.30am. Our preachers vary from week to week, but our aim remains the same: to offer fellowship, friendship and an understanding of faith to all those who come along. Our main bicentenary celebration will occur in June with a service of commemoration and

rededication and a party to which everyone will be invited. We look forward to welcoming you through our doors and, in

the meantime, will keep you posted on what's happening through our website: www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk



Welcome in: Worshippers are marking 200 years of East Finchley Methodist Church

Concert season strikes up again

East Finchley Methodist Church is restarting its popular programme of Sunday evening free concerts after pausing them during the pandemic.

The first new date in the diary is Sunday 13 February at 7.30pm when cellist Maryan Balkwill, violinist Junko Ishigaki and pianist Caroline Soresby will perform Glinka's *Trio Pathétique*, Josef Suk's *Elegie for Piano Trio* and Dvorak's *Dumky Trio*.

Admission to the Sunday concerts is free and in this case there will be a collection in support of the Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy charity.

The church, situated on the High Road opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue, is fully accessible. Please note that the appropriate Covid precautions will apply.



In business: Touba Bakhtiary and Shiva Karimi in their spa studio. Photo Mike Coles

Friends set up their own spa venture

By Ruth Anders

Enter the door at 98A High Road, N2, walk up the wooden staircase and you will find yourself in a luxurious world of fragrance and calm, candles and aromatic oils. Here, Touba Bakhtiary and Shiva Karimi have launched their new spa-style venture Serene Wellness, offering the citizens of East Finchley and further afield a variety of treatments from body massages to nail care.

Both single mums and originally from Iran, Touba and Shiva met when working at a London spa. Having been employed extensively by agencies and organisations, they decided they would prefer to run their own business and, when the space came up at Yogalogs, they jumped at the opportunity.

"We were putting in such long hours at spas in Central London," Touba told *The Archer*, "and we wanted the freedom that comes with working for ourselves, despite the inevitable challenges." The two business partners trained and worked for years in the many different disciplines embraced by the heading of Beauty and Wellness, Shiva in Iran and the US, and Touba in Dubai and London, most recently at Barnet College.

"The pandemic hit the industry badly," said Shiva, "and this new opportunity is so exciting." Touba moved to East Finchley almost ten years ago, and her

son, now studying computer science at university, was a student at Bishop Douglass. "He helped us put the website together," she added, "and Shiva's daughter modelled for some of the photos, so it's a family affair."

Winter special offer

Their list of treatments includes body massages including hot stones and maternity therapies, facials, manicures, pedicures, waxing and threading, and even birthday packages with a glass of Prosecco.

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, this representative from *The Archer* was captivated by the scent of the special essential oils the pair use, so much so that it was difficult to leave. Touba and Shiva are offering *Archer* readers a 20% discount until the end of January, by appointment only. Full details can be found at www.serenewellness.org and you can email wellnessserene@gmail.com. East Finchley could always do with a taste of luxury and we wish them every success.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Give the dog a phone

Back when this whole pandemic and lockdown scenario started, the whole world discovered its inner baker and the joy of exercising in the front room. Home workers found that they only needed to dress from the waist up for meetings with their boss. All that was needed was some actual company, and naturally many got a dog.

Now many of us are heading back to the office, we've binned the baking bibles and are using the exercise machine as an additional clothes rack. And the dog? Well, we've discovered that the cute puppy has now grown into a demanding shoe-chewer who whines when you leave for work.

What to do? Battersea Dogs' Home is crammed full of sad and disappointed lockdown accessories, but fear not, what you need is a dog phone.

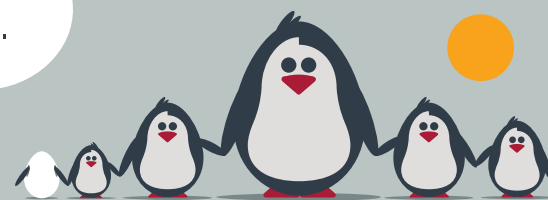
This new must-have for the exhausted dog owner is a soft ball that when moved, chewed or sat on sends a signal to your laptop and launches a video call, complete with the sound of a ringing telephone. Now your dog can call you whenever it gets lonely, bored or just feels like winding you up.

Never mind naked Zooming, this could be worse. You are in the middle of a major presentation and your screen goes blank to be replaced by Rex barking and slobbering. When you have a deadline, your best friend will have you on speed dial just for the hell of it. He may not even want to contact you, he may have just run out of shoes to eat.

What next? Technology that will let your labrador call the poodle down the road for a mutual bark-a-thon? Luckily for me, I've got a cat and cats are just too smart to get bored. As long as you're home to give them their tea at the right time, there will be no trouble.

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On two wheels along the Thames

Greta Brambilla has a rather adventurous bike route for us this month, which takes a full morning or a good chunk of the afternoon so make sure you're prepared, with sunny weather on your side. The route takes you into town and makes full use of the train network.

To start, cycle down Twyford Avenue and onto Fortis Green, going straight over and down Queens Avenue. In the centre of Muswell Hill, turn left at the roundabout onto Dukes Avenue (enjoy the steep descent but watch out for the sleeping policemen).

At the bottom of the road, head straight into Alexandra Park with the boating lake on your left. Make your way down, following the path which eventually becomes a rubble road, and veer left at the bottom to enter Alexandra Palace station. Here you take the Great Northern service to Finsbury Park. Bikes

are allowed on the train outside rush hour; just make sure to give the other passengers enough space.



Marvellous sight: Hammersmith Bridge

Take the tube all the way to Hammersmith, exit and ride up Beadon Road, veering right after The Swan pub and then on through the underpass. Once onto Hammersmith Bridge Road cross leisurely over the Thames – it's a marvellous sight and all for pedestrians or cyclists only!

Over the bridge take a right to cycle on the river path, with a detour up Barnes High Street, which will eventually appear on your left, to admire the nearby pond. Circle back via Station Road, Cleveland Road

and Cleveland Gardens. Then continue, all the way up to the cemetery if you have the energy.

Otherwise turn around and retrace your route to get back to Hammersmith Station, Ally Pally and then home.

If you'd like to spend a bit longer in Barnes, however, admiring the river view, The Waterman's Arms is a local gem where you can sit on the outdoor balconies upstairs while enjoying a delicious pub lunch: the perfect pit stop!



Well-earned break: A riverside drink

This is an inexpensive 20-minute journey where you just need to change platforms at Finsbury Park to carry on to King's Cross. Once there, head outside the main station and take lift C ahead on your right hand side. Go down a floor and pick up lift F for the Hammersmith & City line. This is a tube line where bikes are allowed on every station and train, again outside weekday rush hours. Folded bikes are allowed on all lines at any time.

When one reads these strange pages of one long gone...

Russell Raphael explains how his mission to demystify an 'impossible' novel has led him to believe it could be the greatest book ever written.

It all started with a post on local social media: did anyone fancy meeting weekly in a pub to read *Ulysses* by James Joyce? It finished with my publishing a book on the novel itself. Strange where life goes.

It was February 2020. I'm a lawyer and no literary academic and having limped once through Joyce's book I realised I needed help to understand it and what better way than sharing views with like-minded people down the pub, the Clissold Arms.

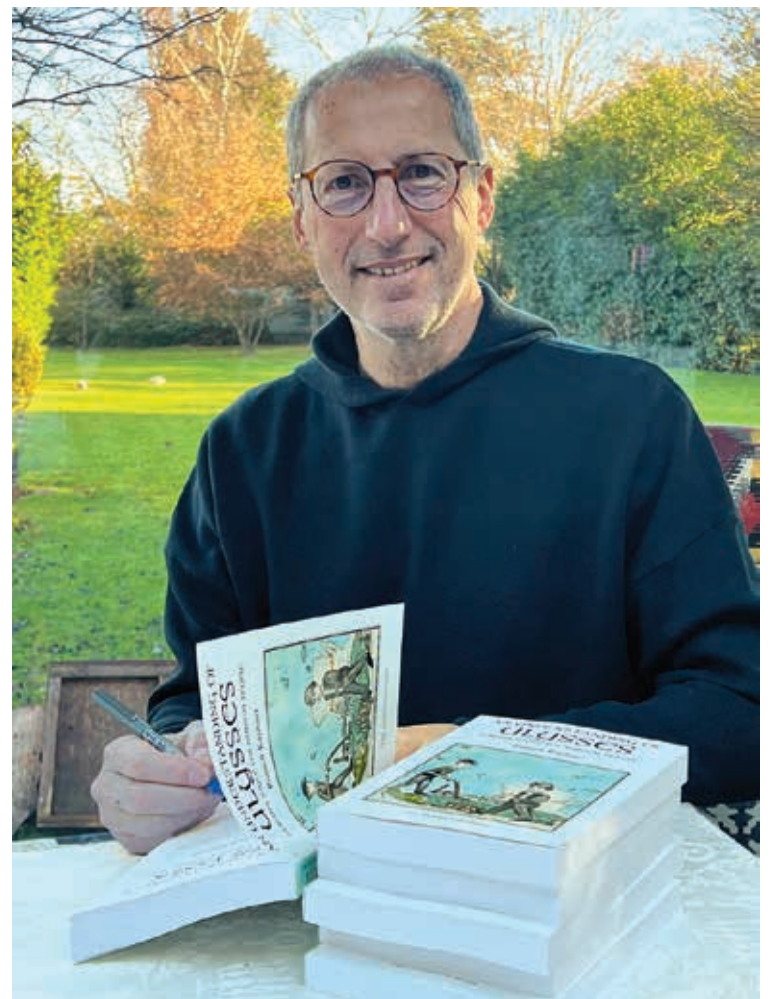
Two weeks later: full lockdown. We switched to video meets and carried on, although generally it was me reading and I'm afraid butchering the Irish accent. Reading aloud especially in a group is an amazing way to learn. We realised that the book was far from easy but not the impossible nightmare people think and was often very funny.

We took it slowly, line by line, and as I grew in confidence I felt I could offer more, so through the learning organisation U3A and other contacts I found 40 or so people committed to attend my 20-plus online lectures explaining the book.

I was determined to demystify it and show that with a little help the enthusiastic reader can get to grips with it and enjoy even some of the infamously dense passages. So much is to be enjoyed. It is funny, very rude and with various dips along the way, life affirming.

Meet the cast

The three main characters are: Stephen Dedalus, a 22-year-old version of Joyce himself at that age, a young pretentious know-it-all; Leopold Bloom,



Masterwork: Russell Raphael with his book on Joyce's novel

a middle-aged non-pretentious practical sort of chap who is generally content except that he suspects his wife Molly will be unfaithful to him that afternoon and, being of Jewish heritage, he's also something of an outsider in 1904 Dublin; and finally Leo's wife Molly Bloom. We hear everyone else's views on her throughout the book (lots of mansplaining) but have to await the final amazing episode to get her version of events.

It's all set on a single day, 16 June 1904, but in so many

respects is timeless in what it reveals and teaches. A book for all time. Possibly the greatest ever written.

An Understanding of Ulysses is available from www.russellraphael.com, selected bookshops and as an e-book for Kindle. The original reading group starts up again this month, in a pub or online, as guidelines permit. It will be ideal for both first time and more experienced readers. To join, use the Contact link on www.russellraphael.com

Alleyway art sale in aid of food bank

Hazel Mason, of Summerlee Avenue, N2, reports on a pop-up art sale in aid of Finchley Foodbank, which is run by dedicated volunteers at St Mary's Catholic Church in the High Road.

Just before Christmas some members of the East Finchley Open Artists group were delighted to give an additional boost to Finchley Foodbank by holding a sale of artwork in one of East Finchley's many back lanes.

Our lovely neighbours braved the wet and cold to visit the stalls of pottery, jewellery, cards and seasonal handicrafts. We could hardly believe the sum of money raised. It was over £1,000. Thanks to all who came to buy artwork and seasonal gifts to raise money for the charity.

The food bank will continue to need our local support. As other food banks have closed, they have opened their doors to those beyond the borough of Barnet and, as they say on their website, they work from a position of trust and respect, and welcome all who visit them in need.



Garage sale: Ceramics and artwork raise funds for the food bank



Letters



Twinkling: Dozens gathered for the switching on of the tree lights, see letter below. Photo Mike Coles

Fir tree fundraiser
Dear Editor,

I very much enjoyed the carol singing and the turning on of the Christmas lights outside Budgens at the start of December. Thank you to everyone who organised this event for the community. Everyone who was there seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The fir tree planted in the flower bed was made to look as cheerful as possible with lights and tinsel but perhaps the time has come to consider a more healthy replacement in time for next Christmas. Could we set up a fundraiser where everyone could contribute a few pounds to buy a better specimen that we can all be proud of?

Margaret Banks,
Long Lane, N2.

Happy to wait
Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter from Lawrence Robinson in your November edition about queuing for vaccina-

tion, I too visited Torrington Park Health Centre on 16 October to have my booster jab.

I am 80 years old and walk with a stick. I left home in very good time because I wasn't entirely sure where the centre was and I needed a long bus journey to get there.

I arrived in good time and joined the queue for the vaccination area. I joked with an elderly lady that we might get our jabs in time for Christmas and I offered to fetch a chair for her but she refused. Neither of us was overly troubled by the long wait.

My appointment had been for 11.30 and I had my jab at 11.15. I was home again just after 12.00. My only gripe was the time it took to get to and from the centre in the first place.

Your correspondent should learn not to knock the NHS workers. We are in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Nothing is likely to be perfect.

Chris Mathewson
Park Hall Road, N2.

Recycling advice
Dear Editor,

I love the project Bin There Donate That that you described in your December edition. May I request that you link this topic with some follow up on the very dismaying article in September about what happens to our bin-collected waste?

That piece suggested it was actually better to put our plastic waste in the grey bins for incineration or landfill than to put it into the recycling bin, because plastic needs 50% new plastic added before it can be recycled? Surely there is something we can do about this?

Monica Lanman,
Address supplied.

Editor's note: The recommendation to put plastic into grey bins in the September article referred to by Monica applied to single-use plastics only, such as films and wrappings. Any packaging with a recycling symbol should still be placed in blue recycling bins.

Beauty business is a dream come true

By David Melsome

A year after going into business for herself and opening her own beauty salon in East Finchley, Niny Almazo says she couldn't be happier. Niny Beauty Studio, in East End Road, has been a big success in its first 12 months, earning 258 five-star ratings out of 260 online reviews. Before opening the salon, Niny worked in many different salons in Spain and London and she says she had long dreamt of being able to work with her own ideas and vision of what beauty treatments should be.

"People deserve special moments in their life; far away from the stress of their job and life and I am honoured to be able to be part of those moments," she says. "For this reason, it has been very important to build a team of people who share the same standards and passion. Yolanda and Ximena are now part of my team and, like me, they give their all for our clients."

"After a year of being open, I could not be happier. Obviously, Covid made our lives a bit more difficult and I would be lying if I said that it has not been difficult on some occasions but today, I can say that my dream has come true."



Going strong: Niny Almazo celebrates the first year of her beauty salon. Photo @malsphotographyuk

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"
The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or
e-mail news@the-archer.co.uk

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.

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.
Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com or check out our website:

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

Coffee morning for community

Volunteers from the Tenacious Life Church (TLC) are inviting everyone to come along to their coffee mornings on Wednesday mornings at the community centre in Tarling Road, N2.

Pastor Karl Garwood, who leads TLC says: "This will help us to find out the real needs of our community. It's also an opportunity for those of a religious persuasion to pray for any needs or problems."

Centre manager Jon Woolfson for YMCA London City and North says: "The YMCA is eager to attract local residents to the centre to chat and get to know each other."

The first coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 19 January from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Tea, coffee, homemade cakes and other light refreshments will be available for a small donation. Everyone is welcome.

Cherry Tree orchard grows ready for spring

Roger Chapman wishes a happy new year to all lovers of Cherry Tree Wood and looks forward to a busy time ahead.

Orchard planting

In early December we were gifted five sapling trees via the Barnet Multi Faith Forum and planted these in memory of all the people who have lost their lives in the Covid pandemic. These saplings should appear on the Royal Horticultural Society Roots of Remembrance tree map soon. Visit www.rhs.org.uk

In March we will be receiving via the Woodland Trust another 30 trees to plant. We will also be ordering a plum tree to add to the orchard area by the tennis courts in order that, hopefully, our plumcot will be able to have a nearby pollinator and bear fruit this year.

Spring ahead

We planted 3,000 snakes head fritillary and bluebell bulbs in the area where the old pavilion used to be and are looking

forward to them coming through in early spring.

We will be taking part in the East Finchley Pollinator Project including a seed swap near the Cherry Tree Café (lovely coffee, tea cakes and snacks available) in March and our wonderful gardening group will continue its planting programme throughout the year. The water bottle filler mentioned in *The Archer* last month is now on order and should be installed near the orchard area soon.

Get involved

If you want to join the Friends (it's free!) or come along and find out more at our Annual General Meeting on Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 11 January then please do drop us an email to: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com



Revealed: Where they all are in East Finchley

Last month, we gave you ten teasers showing mystery locations dotted around East Finchley and asked how many you could identify. Thanks to our photo editor Mike Coles for laying the trail and we hope you enjoyed seeking them out. Our photo montage shows the close-ups we used and here are the answers for where they can be found:



1 Children's climbing frame in Prospect Ring; 2 Road sign in Plane Tree Walk, close to Martin Primary School; 3 The sign above Cootes Pharmacy on the High Road; 4 The oven at Meze & Shish restaurant on the corner of Lincoln Road and the High Road; 5 Lights outside Black Gull Books in the High Road; 6 Decoration on the fruit and vegetable stall outside the tube station; 7 The very Italian waste bin outside Amici delicatessen in the High Road; 8 The old East Finchley Baptist church, now converted into flats, in Creighton Avenue; 9 The derelict former Esso petrol station site, on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road; 10 The distinctive roof of the building housing Iyengar Yoga in Leicester Road.

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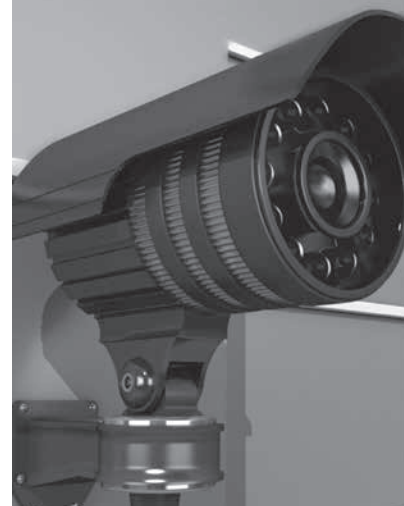
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RIP 'Rainbow' George Weiss

Long-term listeners to LBC may well remember George of Hampstead, who was a frequent caller to Clive Bull's night-time programme as well as contributing to many others on the air waves.

George, who died last month, was often aided and abetted by comedian the late Peter Cook, his friend and neighbour, posing as Sven, a Norwegian fisherman living in Swiss Cottage.

He was also known as Rainbow George, a reference to a political party he established,

one of many forays he made into the world of fringe groups and idiosyncratic activities.

Such ventures took up much of the money he eventually inherited from his diamond merchant father and from selling, at enormous profit, the Hampstead house he acquired after claiming

squatter's rights.

George spent his final years in a retirement home in Lanchester Road, N6, where he died aged 81 on 1 December. Rest in peace: an amazing character worth Googling to find out about the fascinating life he led and the people he knew.