

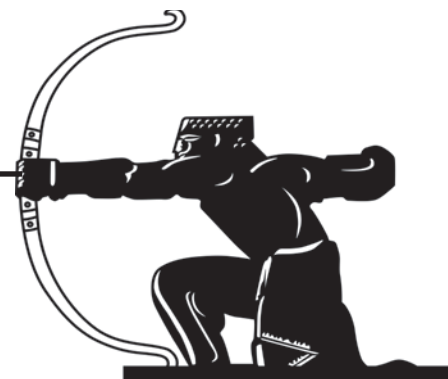


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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



June 2022 No. 338

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Roll-up, roll-up, for Festival 2022!



Party time: Hundreds of people packed Cherry Tree Wood in 2019. Photo Mike Coles

By Alys Wainwright

East Finchley Festival returns to Cherry Tree Wood, N2, on Sunday 19 June with an afternoon of free entertainment for the whole community, packed with good music, good food and good vibes.

Now in its 48th year, entry is free and visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and settle down for the day to enjoy all that's on offer.

MOBO award winning DJ,

Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock will open the musical entertainment on the main stage, hosted by Kate Galston, followed by a diverse line-up of live artists. The community stage will fea-

ture performances from local school and community groups.

Young festival-goers will be catered for with a whole host of activities, including a storytelling tent, arts and crafts, basketball and tennis coaching in the adjoining sports courts and, new for this year, laser tag in the woods, tickets for which are available in advance online at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/laser-tag

A large selection of food stalls will ensure that every taste is catered for, from Asian-inspired vegan street food to hog roast to deep-fried ice cream.

Muswell Hillbilly Brewers will be on hand to quench festival goers' thirsts with a range of locally brewed ales, including a festival ale brewed specially for the occasion, and local wine aficionados Bottles'n'Jars will be selling wine.

Last year's Late Summer Social in September quickly established the festival as a not-to-be-missed makers' market, so this month you'll find over 60 local crafters, makers and creatives selling their wares in the central marketplace.

And if you need to wind down, the wellbeing zone will be offering yoga, breath workshops and a range of therapies.



Main Stage

DJ Pat "Have Mercy" Leacock
12.30: Yucca Candy
13.10: Sovereigns
13.50: WondRWomN
14.30: Zach Koullas
15.10: Crock of Bones
15.50: Charlotte Besley
16.30: Model Society
17.00: Raffle / Announcements
17.15: Dex & SoulMates

Storytelling Tent

12.15: Story time with Keilly Swift
13.00: Ilana Banana
13.45: Garden Suburb Theatre presents *James and The Giant Peach*
14.30: Puppeteer Jake with Madge the Parrot
15.15: Story time with Sonia: *Granny Franny's Big Red Bus*
16.00: Jake & Madge,
16.45: Singalong with Sally Seery
17.30: Ilana Banana

Wellbeing Zone

12.30: Family Fitness with Fitmylife
13.15: Kids Yoga with Rose School of Transformational Yoga
14.00: Teen Yoga with Charm D
14.45: General yoga with Yogalogy
15.30: Baby yoga with Yogababies
16.15: Hatha Yoga for all with One Love Lane
17.00: Breathing and soundwork with Breath4Life

Community Stage

Dorten Yonder, Fixation Academy of Performing Arts, The Archer Academy School Choir, Archer Academy Community Choir, Nameless, Brookland School Choir, Madhuriya - Indian classical dance, Coldfall Community Choir, ADC Stars, Patrick's Jazz, Class, Rob Thom

Running orders correct at time of going to press. Please check www.eastfinchleyfestival.org for up-to-date listings and timings for other activities.

Lend a hand on the day

Our annual festival is run entirely by volunteers at the East Finchley Festival CIC (Community Interest Company) and receives no funding from outside bodies. They rely on kind donations and a huge team of helpers to keep the festival free.

Volunteers are needed to help the event run smoothly on the day with stewarding and selling raffle tickets. There's still time to get involved, so if you have an hour to spare on Sunday 19 June, please sign up at: eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved



East Finchley Festival: Sunday 19 June
Website: www.eastfinchleyfestival.org
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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines – June: 13 May July: 10 June
August: 15 July

N2United: Invitation to Town Team launch

By Chris Stavrou

Everyone is invited to come along to the Engine Rooms at 82-92 Great North Road, N2, from 8pm on Thursday 9 June for an extra special N2United meeting to introduce the East Finchley Town Team. See N2United.co.uk for details.

As reported last month, this is an exciting collaboration between East Finchley Community Trust, N2United, *The Archer* newspaper, East Finchley Festival CIC and East Finchley Open Artists that aims to bring new life and business to the High Road. The Engine Rooms restaurant, near the station has kindly offered to host the event.

Meanwhile, there was another action-packed N2United meeting for local businesses, organisations and residents at the Constitutional Club in May. For the first time in its 58-year history, the London Borough of Barnet is Labour controlled and the re-elected **East Finchley Labour councillors** Claire Farrier, Arjun Mittra and Alison Moore were present.

They said the Labour Party intended key changes, some of which will revolve around the environment and town centres. They are hoping for Barnet to be a more modern, serviceable and accessible council.

Ewelina Sadlowska and Zalan Pall of the **Phoenix Cinema** described how they intend not only to screen films, some of which can only be seen at very select cinemas, but also to provide a space for live performances and a platform for local filmmakers.

Grange Big Local has teamed up with Mills Power Architects with the aim of transforming the underpass between Manor Park Road and Trinity Road. Phyllida Mills' presentation showed the creative designs that would transform the path from its current unkempt state to something that will feel safer for those who use the cut-through.

Finchley Food Bank reported that over the past nine years the Foodbank has gone from feeding 70 people a week to close to 500. Food and financial donations have dropped as everyone feels the pinch. Find out how you can help at www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk

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Show your support for project to improve unloved underpass

By John Lawrence

The long-delayed project to improve the safety and appearance of the pedestrian underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road, N2, is taking another step forward.

The underpass is a well-used link between neighbourhoods on either side of the tube line. Barnet Council is responsible for its maintenance and Transport for London is responsible for the tube track above it and embankment alongside. Plans to regenerate the underpass were first announced as far back as 2016 but have been delayed by funding constraints and the pandemic.

Visualising improvements

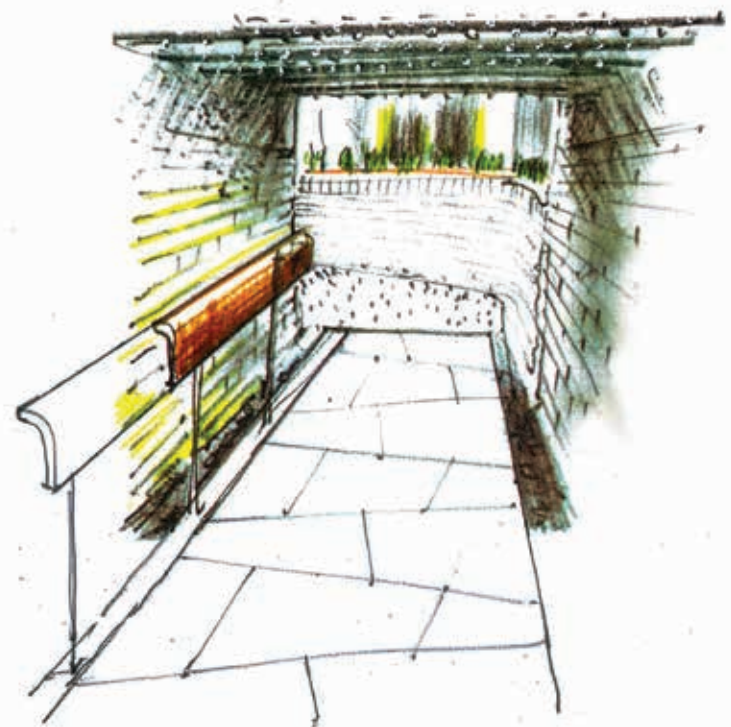
The Grange Big Local regeneration group has been working with local architecture practice Mills Power to produce drawings of how the walkway could look. They show smart new paving, lighting and planting on both approaches and in the underpass itself.

Now they are asking for everyone who uses the cut-through and anyone in the wider community to show their support for their plans by signing their petition, details below. The more support they get, the more likely the project is to get the go-ahead.

Safety and interest

Mariella Hill, from Grange Big Local, said it had been a longstanding issue for her team as the poor condition and unsafe feel of the path had often been highlighted in surveys of residents.

"We want improvements to maintenance, lighting, paving and drainage and we are asking you to support Grange



Revamp: Paving and new borders are some of the ideas to smarten up the walkway beneath the Northern line

Big Local's project for a new playpath, community artworks and planting to make the walk through the underpass interesting, safer and more enjoyable for everyone," she said.

As we reported last September, the walkway beneath the railway line was constructed 140 years ago following the tragic death of nine-year-old William Bowman, who was struck by a train as he crossed the tracks on his way home through the fields that covered the area where Trinity Road and Manor Park Road houses

now stand.

To support the underpass project, go to www.change.org/underpass_n2 or scan the QR code below.



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

27 Abbots Gardens, N2

Rear outbuilding.

72 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single, part two-storey rear extension. Enlargement of existing patio and a new pergola. One skylight to existing roof. New front porch. New front driveway to provide off-street parking spaces and cycle parking. Replacement windows and roof tiles to match existing.

47 Brackenbury Road, N2

Single-storey rear/side infill extension: depth 3.66 m, maximum height 3.50 m, eaves height 2.75m.

Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension, including one rear dormer window, one outrigger dormer window, and two front rooflights.

62 Church Lane, N2

Conversion into three self-contained flats, including two-storey front and side extension, first-floor rear extension, roof extension involving side and

front dormer window with juliet balcony, changes to fenestration and internal alterations. Associated amenity space, cycle storage, refuse and recycling.

47 and 49 Edmunds Walk, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats to single family dwelling.

14 Elmfield Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

35 Elmfield Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer window.

2 Hawthorn Dene, Strawberry Vale, N2

New front hardstanding and vehicular access to provide off-street parking.

61 - 63 High Road, N2

Conversion of rear part of ground-floor shop and first-floor C3 unit into four self-contained flats.

Associated alterations and amenity space include ground floor rear extension, and roof extension to two-storey flat roof to create new pitched roof with two side dormer

windows and three rooflights.

340 High Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extensions.

343 High Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with juliet balcony and two front rooflights. Single-storey rear extension. New vehicular access and front hardstanding to provide off-street parking. New access steps to main entrance.

80 Leicester Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window with juliet balcony and two front rooflights.

366 Long Lane, N2

Conversion of two self-contained flats to single family dwelling, including new front porch, repositioning of rear window, roof extension involving hip to gable, rear rooflights, and new windows.

11 Sylvester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension to existing rear outrigger.



CCTV review as burglars target shops

By Janet Maitland

CW Andrew Pharmacy on the High Road, N2, was burgled over the Easter bank holiday weekend, the latest in a string of attacks on small businesses around East Finchley. Alerted by the alarm at 4am on Easter Monday, CW Andrew staff rushed to their shop only to find the door smashed in and cash stolen. Owner Paresh Shah told us his family-run pharmacy was also broken into last August.

Over the last couple of months burglars have tried to break into two other shops on the High Road. "Both had shutters which kept them secure and deterred the suspects," said Jan Lovell, from the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood police team.

Attacks on local businesses

In the last 18 months several small businesses in N2 have been broken into: the now-closed New Local Café twice in 24 hours by different burglars, the East Finchley tube station shop, the Ella Food Centre, the N2 Food Centre and now CW Andrew, for the second time in less than a year. Last July the King Street Food and Wine shop, off Church Lane, was also burgled by thieves forcing their way in despite the locked metal shutters.

Camera locations to be reviewed

ACCTV camera close to CW Andrew covers a large area and

is one of several cameras on the High Road. We asked Barnet Council where their cameras are positioned and a spokesperson said they "weren't in a position to confirm exact locations", but added that the council was undertaking a comprehensive review of its CCTV cameras to "ensure they're in the right places to monitor and deter crime."

The review will take into account crime statistics and involve the police, parking services, libraries, Barnet Homes and Street Scene services.

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra said there was now a more streamlined process for requesting CCTV and added: "However, what would make a big difference is the government properly funding the Met Police."

You can find current police security advice for businesses by going to www.met.police.uk and searching for 'business crime prevention'.



Workshops: Angie Anuforo with leisure centre partner Annalisa Cellini at the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green

Angie's Jubilee knees-up

Local singer Angie Anuforo has been awarded community funding from the National Lottery to support her singing group project that helps bring people together as well as improve their wellbeing.

She is using the award to fund her Better Breathing and Keep Calm and Sing workshops, along with special dance and live music performances to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee weekend at the Copthall Leisure Centre, Hendon, on Thursday 2 June at 2pm, and at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green, N2, on Sunday 5 June at 5pm.

Angie says: "I would like to thank the National Lottery for their amazing support plus all

the wonderful people who buy lottery tickets. It's been great to re-connect and partner up with local organisations with this project called 'Connect 2 ReConnect'."

Tickets for the Clissold Arms event are available via Angie's website at www.angieskeepcalmandsinggroup.co.uk where you can also get in touch if you would like to try her regular socially-distanced in-person workshops at artsdepot, North Finchley.



Freeze frame: Linda Dolata alongside her nine-year-old self as she appeared in the winter 1963 documentary.



Fame at last after 59 years on ice

By John Lawrence

Deep in the bitterly cold winter of 1963, Linda Dolata's mother took her and her brother to play in Waterlow Park, Highgate, so that they could try out the new toboggan made by their father.

While there, a man with a large cine camera asked Linda to toboggan down the slope, fall off and turn to laugh at the camera. He said the clip would be on TV some time. Linda never saw herself on television... until 59 years later when earlier this year Channel Five aired a documentary called *The Big Freeze, Winter '63*. Linda happened to watch it and there suddenly was the footage of her nine-year-old self having fun in the snow.

Linda, an expert naturalist and botanist living in Leopold Road, N2, said it was worth the wait: "It was a complete surprise, except that I had a tiny hope as I remembered the film being taken very well. I had to watch it a couple of times to be certain but when I showed my brother and sister they recognised me instantly."

That unmistakable grin

The clincher for Linda was the glimpse of her practical dad's wood, steel and rope handiwork on the beautifully made toboggan she was riding.

"I was delighted to see it as I'd always had a hunch I would one day, but a bit sad too to think that my mum had made the time to take us but she wasn't also on the clip." After re-watching it several times, Linda realised there

could be no doubt it was her. The clip ends with her shooting a gap-toothed grin at the

cameraman, and Linda has an official school photo from that year with the exact same look.



The weight of snow and ice stretched the copper telephone wires until they reached the ground. East Dundry Lane, Somerset, January 1963

Our councillor to be mayor

Congratulations to Councillor Alison Moore who, with Labour having gained overall control of Barnet Council, has been selected as the next mayor of the borough.

Alison has represented the East Finchley ward for over 20 years, during which time she has also served on the London Assembly. Her inauguration into her new role was due to take place at the end of May.



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Green our street: Lynmouth Road residents Sally, Morley and Sara are looking forward to more trees.
Photo Zoe Norfolk

Green growth at last for the street with bare pavements

By David Melsome

East Finchley is lucky to be a pretty leafy area, which has always left residents in Lynmouth Road wondering why their street didn't have any pavement trees at all. They haven't quite got to the root of the mystery but they have found a way to do something about it by signing up to the Trees for Streets scheme.

This urban tree charity aims to get an additional 250,000 street trees planted nationwide over the next ten years by supplementing council budgets with public and corporate sponsorship.

People can sponsor a tree in their street for a donation amount of £250, and if the spot they've chosen is suitable their council will plant a 3-4 metre tall 'instant impact' tree the following winter, as well as caring for it during the first three years. If residents help out by watering the tree themselves, the donation amount reduces to £200.

Making Lynmouth leafy
Neighbours in Lynmouth

Road got together on their WhatsApp group and raised enough money to sponsor 19 trees. Haringey Council, one of the charity's partners, then sent a tree officer along to identify potential spots where trees could be safely planted.

Sally, a resident who's a gardener by trade, helped to choose trees that would complement each other, and the street now boasts a beautiful array of pear, cherry, crab apple, rowan, and junberry trees.

She said: "We wanted to have varieties that would attract wildlife to the street. I'm pleased every time I come home, the *Sorbus* crab apple tree

outside my garden gate looks fabulous. The trees make the street look so cheery."

Neighbour Morley, who kicked off the fundraising, added: "It's so great that we've come together to fund these trees as a community. The other neighbouring streets always looked so much better, but not any more."

Trees for Barnet too

If you live in Haringey, and would like a tree outside your house, visit treesforstreets.org/haringey. Barnet residents can complete an expression of interest form on the Trees for Streets website at treesforstreets.org and the council will be informed.

Tribute tells rip-roaring story of the greatest showman

By John Lawrence

The intriguing story of Victorian showman 'Lord' George Sanger is now told on the site in East Finchley where he once kept the paraphernalia and animals for his three-ring circus, including lions, tigers and elephants.

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Alison Cornelius last month unveiled a new information board provided by The Finchley Society in Park Farm Close, off East End Road, N2, on land once occupied by Sanger's 70-acre Park Farm.

The showman was internationally famous in the second half of the 19th century, touring his circus acts across Britain and Europe. Closer to home,

he would set up his big top in a field off the High Road where Martin School now stands, and parade his animals through the streets of East Finchley to draw in the crowds.

Sanger retired to Park Farm in 1905 and sold his business. He met a grisly end in 1911 when he was murdered with a hatchet by a disgruntled employee. Thousands of people attended his funeral.



Circus master: Mayor of Barnet Cllr Alison Cornelius with William Pettigrove, left, and Lorenzo Crick, from the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain unveil the plaque commemorating George Sanger.
Photo Mike Coles

Here's to the next 100 years



Finchley Bowling Club's centenary year began with a friendly fixture against old rivals West Finchley on Sunday 1 May. The match in Etchingham Park Road, N3, saw the home side overcome a team whose club was forced to close in 2016. The ex-West Finchley players re-grouped for this special occasion.

Plans for further celebrations during Finchley's centenary year included a celebration match against a Bowls England team on Tuesday 24 May. If you'd like to give bowls a try this summer, call Chris on 020 8455 5761.

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Phoenix Cinema looks for ways to broaden its appeal

By David Gritten

Like so many East Finchley businesses, the Phoenix Cinema suffered mightily throughout the pandemic. It was first forced to close its doors early in 2020, and though they re-opened for a spell, the cinema remained shut for long periods, often opening and closing in quick succession.

Only recently in this post-Covid period have audiences started to return to the picture-house. Late last year the Bond film *No Time to Die* brought audiences back, as did Kenneth Branagh's coming-of-age drama *Belfast*.

But these were exceptions. Phoenix executive director Oliver Meek notes that other high-profile films could not entice potential viewers from their homes. These included *The Duke* and, surprisingly, Stephen Sondheim's lavish remake of *West Side Story*.



New attractions: The Phoenix

As Oliver points out: "Their release coincided with the outbreak of Omicron, people were still weighing up whether to go to a cinema, and they wanted to see their families at Christmas."

Gradually, though, Phoenix audiences are returning. As Oliver points out: "They're back and some are coming regularly. It's just the full recovery that's going to take longer. I think it will be autumn again before things are back to normal."

Unique venue can be live

Meanwhile the Phoenix is looking for ways to broaden its appeal. As Oliver puts it, "This involves diversifying audiences, developing the building a little bit beyond films. We're always going to be a cinema, but this is a unique, extraordinary venue, and we should open it up to other audiences."

With this in mind, he has plans for a wider range of attractions beyond films: poetry, comedy, book events, readings, live podcasts, and events likely to be embraced by black and gay communities. "I feel we're part of a tech industry and we need to evolve and offer new things. So we can use our space at the Phoenix as a live venue, alongside being a cinema," says Oliver.



Settling in: Tetiana Shedko with her children Dasha and Sasha at their new home in East Finchley. Photo Mike Coles.

Family flees horror of war

By Lynn Winton

Chatting over tea and cake with Tetiana Shedko and her children in their cosy garden flat in the heart of East Finchley, it was easy to forget that she and her two children had only arrived 10 days before after a harrowing 4,500km car escape across Europe from Ukraine.

Born in the now devastated southern city of Mariupol, Tetiana graduated in Economics and Business and settled in Kyiv, where she married, had two children, a successful career as a photographer and a "good life".

When Russia sent in the troops and her children's safety looked impossible to predict, Tetiana wasted no time, hurrying Dasha, 11, and Sasha, 9, into her car with as many essential items as she could fit in. She drove south-west towards Romania, stopping short of the border to rent an empty dacha or summerhouse away from the bombs and mayhem. Giving shelter in freezing temperatures to other fleeing families meant the house was soon overcrowded with 20 people and often no water because it froze in the pipes.

Crossing borders

Only two weeks passed before there were bombs in a neighbouring town, much too close for comfort, and Tetiana at that point decided to drive over the border to Romania without a clear plan. She just knew she must flee.

Constantly moving, she drove through many countries seeking accommodation wherever she could find it. Arriving in Italy, they were allowed to stay in a Red Cross emergency hostel, where Tetiana made the decision to apply for a UK visa. This country had always

been her first choice; they had visited many times and the family's English is good. Visas came quite quickly in just under three weeks. So she drove to Dieppe, took the ferry to Dunkirk and finally reached her new home.

Death, and a new life

Whilst driving, with all the stress of living with her children on the road, she received some terrible news: her father in Mari-

life is going well with their English rapidly improving.

Whilst her first weeks here were consumed by huge amounts of bureaucracy, she sent me a message: 'I have just filled in my work permit application. What a weight off my shoulders. Every time I complete one of these tasks I feel I can do anything!'

Back to work

Tetiana is determined to get



Striking: An example of Tetiana's photography

upol had been killed. She has no knowledge of how he met his death as communications with Mariupol are severely limited, but at time of going to press she has had word that her mother and brother are still alive.

Her UK sponsors were known to the family, and their furnished flat in East Finchley is Tetiana's to use until she gets settled. Living in a friendly road, she has nothing but praise for the typical N2 welcome she has received.

Neighbours have been a huge source of information, help, resources and invitations to Sunday lunch. Both children have been given scooters, football-mad Sasha has found games to take part in and school

her photography career back on track, to be in charge of her own destiny and to provide for her family. She brought all her professional equipment with her and is eager to start work; she has just received her first commission, to do an informal photoshoot for a family in N2.

She is experienced in all kinds of photography including events, family, reportage, and business commissions and has readily volunteered to be a roving reporter at the East Finchley Festival later this month.

You can contact Tetiana on 07748 136262. If you would like to see some of her work, her Instagram account is @tetiana_shedko.



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How I found the stories behind the headstones

Stuck at home during the lockdowns, former BBC news correspondent Valerie Jones discovered there were still stories to be found on her daily walks.

Stuck at home, nowhere to go, and only one hour's exercise outside a day. Coldfall Wood was close at hand, but soon its charm began to pall. A tree was just a tree, a squirrel a squirrel. Until I found a gap in the fence.

As I squeezed between the metal bars I entered a kind of lost world. A corner of the Islington and St Pancras cemetery, forgotten and neglected, the Victorian gravestones overgrown with weeds and ivy. The remnants of fine monuments poked above the greenery, family gravestones were starting to sink and tilt. It could have been the set for a Victorian gothic film.

As I wandered round, one gravestone caught my eye. In brown marble with a carved head in a medallion, it commemorated an actor who'd drowned in a terrible sea disaster. I knew nothing of this, but looked him up on the internet when I got home.

Edward William Elton had been a moderately well-known actor in his day. He'd worked with the noted Charles Macready company for a while and, through this, was known by Charles Dickens. After a month's engagement at a theatre in Edinburgh in 1843, he'd taken the paddle steamer, The Pegasus, from Leith to Hull on his journey home.

But the paddle steamer struck rocks near Holy Island. Of the 57 passengers and crew on board, only six survived. At a meeting to organise benefit theatre performances to raise

money for Elton's children, Charles Dickens took the chair. And he kept in touch with the children for several years.

Now I was hooked. What other gems were hidden in the undergrowth? On future walks I took a notebook and pencil with me, trying to spot something written on a gravestone or a carving that might suggest a story to be investigated.

Like the man who'd been a missionary in Madagascar for 33 years. His photo was on the internet. There was the son of a woodcutter, born in 1835, who became a singing teacher at the Stockwell orphanage; the biologist and mushroom expert, born in 1825, who wrote a book on hallucinogenic plants, which you can still buy; the feminist poet and essayist who'd known Karl Marx in her childhood.

On my walks I wrote down many names. Some of the searches led nowhere. And, aware that not everything on the internet is accurate, I followed the principles of my working life as a BBC national news correspondent: always find two independent sources. But I learnt a lot of the social history of Victorian and Edwardian times, of ordinary people who did well in their lives, of charities and trade guilds that filled the gap before the welfare state.

And I learnt something else. When it's our time to go, as it must be one day, have something written on your memorial stone that says who you are. Not just a loving mother or friend,

but what you did in your life. Then, in the future, someone like me will wander past and say, "That looks interesting, I'll see if I can find out more."

By the way, the gap in the

fence alongside Coldfall Wood has since been closed by the cemetery. Undaunted, I now use the main entrance on East Finchley High Road.



Stories to tell: Valerie Jones makes notes at a headstone in Islington and St Pancras Cemetery.

Photo Mike Coles

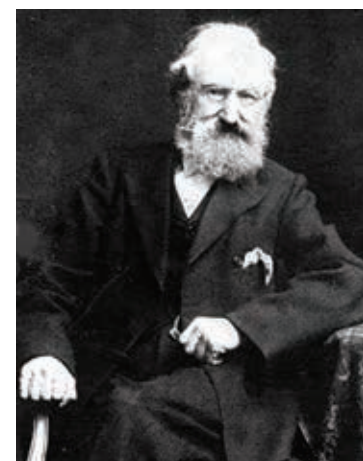
Lives well lived

Here are three of Valerie's favourite biographies discovered on her walks around Islington and St Pancras Cemetery.

Percival Green Spencer, 1864-1913, was a pioneering balloonist and parachutist. The third generation of a balloonist family, he made more than a thousand ascents, over land and sea, and in the 1890s went on a world tour with his brother, demonstrating his skills in India, Singapore, Egypt and Japan. His special trick was to go up in a balloon and descend by parachute. But in Calcutta things went wrong. A crowd of a quarter of a million people had gathered to watch him, including the Viceroy of India and several Indian

carrying his obituary.

He actually died years later at his home in Highbury, at the comparatively young age of 48. A stone balloon used to stand on top of his tombstone. Does anyone know what happened to it?



Botanist: Mordecai Cubitt Cooke

Mordecai Cubitt Cooke 1825-1914, was a botanist and mycologist (expert in fungi). His tombstone has a carving of mushrooms on it. Born in Norfolk, he received little formal education but living in the countryside, he developed a love of nature. He eventually got a job as a natural history teacher at a school in Lambeth, and then as curator of the botany collection at the India Office. When that moved to Kew, he went too and ended his career at the Royal Botanic Gardens there.

He founded a society of Amateur Botanists and wrote many books and articles for adults and children, on such things as fungi, mildew and what to find in ponds. In his 70s he was given the Victoria medal of honour by the Royal Horticultural Society. One of his books, *The Seven Sisters of Sleep*, a survey of mind-altering

drugs, was said to have influenced Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* books, and is still available on the internet.

Mathilde Blind, 1841 -1896 was a writer and a feminist. Born in Germany, she came to London with her family as political exiles. A rebellious child, she was expelled by her school, the Ladies Institute in St John's Wood, for her free thinking and barred from attending lectures at Zurich University, because she was a woman. She studied philosophy and political thinking herself, influenced by other exiled revolutionaries who frequented her parents' home, including Karl Marx.

She was a leading feminist and member of London's literary bohemia, writing a much debated poem, *The Ascent of Man*, as a feminist response to the Darwinian theory of evolution. She also wrote the first biography of the novelist George Eliot (Mary Ann



Feminist: Mathilde Blind

Evans). Ms Blind had a long standing friendship with the Pre-Raphaelite painter Ford Madox Brown, who is buried nearby.

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Aeronaut: The headstone of Percival Spencer

princes, when he lost control of the balloon and drifted 40 miles before landing in the middle of nowhere. By the time he got back to Calcutta, three days later, the newspapers, assuming he must have been killed, were



Playground: The Toy Library at the Green Man Centre in Strawberry Vale would welcome new items to lend. Photo Mike Coles.

Declutter and donate those pre-loved toys

By Diana Cormack and Nina Gentry

The original East Finchley Toy Library was active nearly 40 years ago. Founded by our now local councillor Claire Farrier, it was run by a group of local mothers, with a variety of toys and games available in the Herbert Wilmott Centre, now the site of The Archer Academy car park.

Children could try out their choices before taking them home, many in draw-string bags made by the organisers. After the centre was demolished the team of volunteers tried unsuccessfully to find a home in the then recently closed Cherry Tree Wood pavilion, which had housed a nursery.

Nowadays the Green Man Community Centre at Straw-

berry Vale hosts Finchley Community Toy Library twice a week. At present it is holding a pre-loved toy and book drive to raise funds for the service.

Can you help by sorting out your children's unwanted items and donating them to the library? All good quality toys and books for children aged 0 to five will find a good home.

The Toy Library welcomes

families on Monday afternoons from 1.15pm to 3pm and Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am. There is toddler stay-and-play time with creative art activities and singalong songs for children plus tea and coffee for parents and carers with an opportunity to meet other local families.

You can donate your preloved items at the Green Man Community Centre on Mondays and Tuesdays. For more information email kealey.kissiedu@blpc.org.uk or call 07518 825429. The website is www.blpc.org.uk and you can follow 'barnetloneparents' on Facebook.

Faith and Peace walk

By Daphne Chamberlain

Saturday 25 June is the day planned for a Faith and Peace walk around East Finchley. It will coincide with the 200th anniversary of East Finchley Methodist Church, but is a multi-faith venture. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to follow a specific faith or belief to join in.

The organisers told us: "We will look at the area's long and rich history, and see how it has evolved into the present vibrant village community of many different traditions." The plan is to visit places of interest, including those used for worship.

The timetable is from 11am to 4pm, with regular stops at various venues to hear about their work, enjoy light refreshments and use facilities. Full details

will be available nearer the day.

If you would like to attend, please register by going to www.eventbrite.co.uk and searching 'East Finchley Faith and Peace Walk'. To volunteer as a steward on the day, or if you have any questions, email the organisers from Barnet Multi-Faith Forum at: faithwalk@barnetmulti-faithforum.org or contact the walk telephone number: 07548 743245.

Nature reserve closes after damage by vandals

The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture were forced to close the nature reserve temporarily last month after vandals caused damage to the site and its wildlife habitats. A table top and cycle tyres were thrown into the pond and equipment was damaged.

The pasture, opposite the fire station on Long Lane, N3, is a refuge for wildlife and is much loved by visitors as a place to enjoy some natural beauty. As we went to press, the pasture volunteers were hoping

to reopen the gates soon.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

June 2012

Legal action to block a rise in Barnet Council's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) charges was back on track after the Court of Appeal overturned a deputy judge's earlier dismissal of the case. A Court of Appeal judge reinstated the legal challenge brought by East Finchley resident David Attfield against the huge increase in parking permit charges from £40 to £100.

15 years ago:

June 2007

We reported on the amalgamation of Martin Nursery and Infant School and Martin Junior School into a new two-form entry primary school from September 2007. Head of the new school was to be Maggie Driscoll, the then headteacher of Martin Juniors. Since then the school has been enlarged and now has a thriving three-form entry system.

25 years ago:

June 1997

Long-time High Road supermarket Budgens celebrated its parent company's 125th birthday with staff dressing up in Victorian costumes to serve customers with free drinks. Also, Hampstead Garden Suburb celebrated its 90th anniversary this month with a festival in Central Square, while Holy Trinity School's 150th anniversary was marked with performances of a play entitled *Oranges and Lemons*, a musical history of East Finchley.

Yesterday's news today

You can explore all the news from East Finchley over the last 29 years in our online archives, where nearly every edition of The Archer since 1993 is available to browse for free. Find them at www.the-archer.co.uk



Made it: A team of walkers reaches the finish line near Westminster Abbey.

Hospice walkers have fun

More than 1,000 people took part in the Big Fun Walk at the start of May, North London Hospice's biggest fundraiser of the year, which this year raised £120,000 for patient care.

It's the first time since the pandemic that supporters have gathered together to take part in walking the traditional 8.5-mile route through London's royal parks from Cherry Tree Wood in East Finchley to Westminster.

They walked in memory of friends and family who have been cared for by the hospice or just to raise cash for the charity, which cares for more than 3,500

people facing life-limiting or terminal illness each year in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

North London Hospice Chief Executive Declan Carroll said: "It was wonderful to welcome people back to Big Fun Walk after three years. At times I could see a sea of green t-shirts snaking their way through the parks, which made me immensely proud."



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


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YOUNG ARCHER



Free fall: A young scout from the 224 North London group tries indoor skydiving.

Air Scouts fly high but need help

The 224 North London Air Scouts, located on the border of East Finchley and Highgate, have been making up for two years of being unable to run activities due to the pandemic. Now they are doing everything possible to give the Scouts an enviable range of evening and weekend adventures.

Most recently they have been taking to the air with indoor skydiving, using a system of high-powered fans at the iFly Centre in Milton Keynes. They've also been snowboarding, learned to shoot air-rifles and archery, played laser tag and tried scuba diving, kayaking and capoeira. And they are doing all the traditional Scout activities, such as earning badges for photography, first aid or camping.

As with all Scout groups around the country, the 224

North London Air Scout Group is run 100% by volunteers and meets in the evenings and weekends. Anyone can volunteer from late teens through to pensioners; no previous scouting experience is required, just a passion to help young people and a willingness to also learn new skills.

Join us

Currently the 224 group doesn't have a Beaver Scout Section (six to eight years) and would love to support a team

of adults who may wish to volunteer with Beaver Scouts. If you are interested, contact the Group Scout Leader, Del, at gsl@224northlondonscouts.org.uk

For any boys or girls, interested in joining Cubs (for 8 to 10.5 years, meeting on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm) or the Scouts (for 10.5 to 14 years, meeting on Wednesdays from 7pm to 8.30pm), contact the 224 on the above email or come along and talk to them at East Finchley Festival.

Why netball could be so good for you

By Anna M, aged 13, Archer Academy student
I have been playing netball for around five years now. My love for the sport started in year four when my PE teacher in primary school recommended I try joining a netball club called AP Saints, as I was enjoying it in school PE so much.

Funnily enough, in the beginning I hated the idea and told my parents that I wasn't ready to join a club with so many new people. So, I skipped the first session. That was a huge mistake, however, because my friends who did go told me that it was so much fun and I should give it a go.

England one day. To be playing at such a high level is so inspiring and netball finds new ways to push me every single day.

Over the weekend we sometimes play tournaments in addition to league matches. Last weekend, my team came first in the regional championships, making us the best netball club



Team spirit: Anna's NP Saints team celebrate a win

The following week I decided I would go and see what it's like. That was the best decision I've ever made. To this day I play in that same club and in the past years have worked my way up from the junior team to the A-team, making so many friends along the way.

Commitment ... and fun

Not long ago I went to trials for the London Pulse Academy and got in! That team trains girls all over London to play for

in London and the southeast. Soon we will be attending nationals and I can't wait.

For anyone who's thinking about taking up netball, just know it's a lot of commitment if you are looking for something serious, but it is also such a great way to de-stress and spend time with your friends. Netball has helped my mental health a lot and the feeling when you succeed at something you love so much is truly amazing.

Football team scouting for new players

A local youth football team is looking for new players ahead of the next season. Hampstead Hill Wanderers play in the Regents Park Youth League and train on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12pm on Hampstead Heath extension.

Any child born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August

2009 will be eligible. The side is particularly looking for new outfield players and two goalkeepers to fill this age group. The Wanderers are a voluntary team who do not charge for coaching and their ethos is to allow sport for all. The only costs are contributions towards pitch hire and equipment. For more details, contact Mark Simons at marksimons2@me.com



Superheroes: Four youngsters from The Learning Experience nursery in their fundraising costumes

Nursery children help to grant wishes

Youngsters and staff at East Finchley nursery The Learning Experience have raised more than £2,500 for the Make-A-Wish UK charity, which helps dreams come true for critically ill children. Their fundraising activities have included a pyjama day, raffle, bake sale and a superhero day when everyone got to dress up as their favourite character.

Make-A-Wish, established in the UK in 1986, creates life-changing wishes for children aged three to 17 who are living with a critical condition. Six-year-old Sophia, from Harrow, was granted her wish to "have lots and lots of

chocolate" by the charity in October 2021, having been diagnosed with heart failure at 10 weeks.

"It's been a really good way of talking about illness with the children, especially our pre-school rooms," said

Chantelle Gudgeon, manager at The Learning Experience. "When we first started talking about Make-A-Wish UK, they kept asking if the children could come and play with them, so that they could be happy with us."

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Protect your skin as summer arrives

By Katie Leuw

Summer is approaching and whether you're going on holiday, having a staycation or spending a lot of time outdoors for work or pleasure, you're going to be exposed to strong UV rays.

May was Melanoma Awareness Month and a charity called Melanoma Focus has set up a campaign to encourage people understand their skin better. Susanna Daniels, the CEO, is based in East Finchley and is a cancer services hospital pharmacist with 20 years of experience.

She points out that melanoma skin cancer is the fifth most common cancer in the UK and the rates are rising. One in 36 males and one in 47 females will be diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer in their lifetime. If you have exposed yourself to five sunburns in your lifetime you have already doubled your risk of getting melanoma skin cancer. But 86% of melanoma skin cancers are preventable and if detected early it is highly curable.

Free helpline

Melanoma Focus offers a free helpline of qualified nurses who are experts in providing information and support for melanoma patients. These nurses won't be able to diagnose over the phone, and will always signpost you to your GP, but they will give you tips on what to do if you're concerned.



Know your skin: Susanna Daniels

The Helpline is also targeted at patients and their carers who have been diagnosed with melanoma and who would like emotional support or confidential information. You can call it on

Top tips from Melanoma Focus:

- Check your skin regularly.
- Contact your GP if you notice new or changing moles or lesions – if an area looks odd to you and looks different to other areas on your skin, get it checked out.
- From May to October, protect your skin using minimum SPF 30+ sunscreen.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"THE VOICE OF SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY"

Nothing like nul points

Eurovision excitement is over for another year. The 66th running of the musical cheese fest came fresh from Turin last month and in a bizarre form of torture I watched it. Yes, I know it's a dirty job, but someone had to do it.

Any trawl back through history shows just how dreadful most British entries have been. Yes, there have been highpoints down the years, Sandy Shaw, Lulu, Buck's Fizz with their exploding skirts, Katrina and the Waves, but mostly it's been the sound of barrels being scraped. Who can listen to Cliff warbling *Congratulations* without cringing at the smug lyrics? And what about Olivia Newton-John? In 1974 when ABBA won with *Waterloo* she turned up dressed in what looked like a set of net curtains nicked from her mum's front room.

The last few years have been the real dregs for Britain and in 2021 we not only finished last but joined Germany, Turkey and Norway on the list of countries who got 'nul points'. Why? Maybe it's because you won't find anyone really good doing it. No Adele, Oasis or even the blandness that is Coldplay giving it a go. I guess they have more sense.

But this year, it was always going to be different, if only because we all knew who was going to win.

The music was as expected, a weird mix of Euro disco and oddities like the Norwegian entry encouraging you to feed wolves bananas. Only this time, Britain came up with something that wasn't an embarrassment; this time, we were in with a chance.

This year the UK won the jury vote ahead of Sweden, Spain and Ukraine. But then came the popular vote. Ukraine won that, and a quick bit of maths revealed that just about every country gave maximum points to their strange mixture of folk music and 1980s rap. It wasn't a bad song, but if the Kalush Orchestra hadn't taken time off from defending their country, then maybe Sam Ryder in his suit of lights would have done better than second. Still there is always next year. Chicken Kyiv, anyone?



In business: Evi Prengezaj at work in Barber Troy and, right, his cousin Poli Prengzi in Aroma Cafe.

Photos Mike Coles.



Cousins keep commerce in family

By Diana Cormack

Two new businesses opened on Aylmer Parade, N2, in April, right next door to each other. Not only are they close in location but also in relationships, for they are run by Albanian cousins.

One is a well fitted-out men's hair salon called Barber Troy, named after the young son of owner Evi Prengezaj, who lives in East Finchley. He trained and worked as a professional hairdresser in Albania for 20 years and, five years ago, followed his cousin Poli to this country.

Poli Prengzi used to run a beachside café and fish res-

taurant on the Adriatic coast before leaving his home shores six years ago. His Aroma Café next door has a definite Italian flavour, with all the coffees on the beverages menu being Italian, as are the fresh cakes on offer alongside croissants, baguettes and sandwiches.

Aroma Cafe's prices are very reasonable, so it's worth

popping in for a bite between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday. Phone 07460 082 337 for more information.

Barber Troy is open from 9.30am to 7.30pm weekdays, 9am to 7pm Saturday, and 10am to 6pm Sundays. Phone 07366 199 106 for more information.

Neighbours dig holes to help hedgehogs

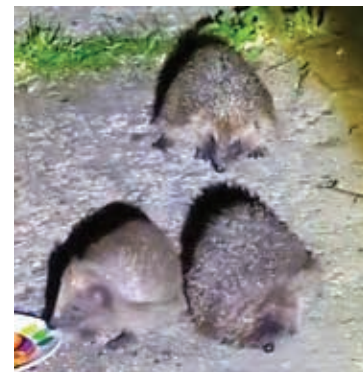
By Diana Cormack

According to a report this February, Britain's rural hedgehog population has fallen by 75% during the past 20 years (www.nhm.ac.uk). They are the innumerable victims of vehicles despite being reluctant to cross roads when it can be avoided.

This casualty rate isolates them into smaller groups, which makes them more vulnerable to disease and inbreeding. They also suffer from changes in farming methods and have to compete for the same food with other animals such as badgers.

However, urban hedgehogs seem to be surviving and may even be on the increase. This could be due to people being more aware of these animals, with many leaving out food or creating gaps in or under their fences for them to forage from garden to garden. Apparently the average hedgehog can cover up to two kilometres a night, so needs all the help it can get.

Nicola Wyatt, of Cherry Tree Road, N2, first saw two of these nocturnal creatures last spring when they came to eat some cat food she'd left on her wall.



Prickly customers: The Cherry Tree Road hedgehogs

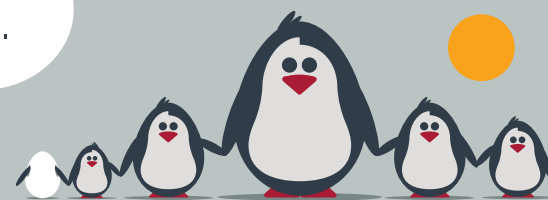
She noticed a hole had been dug under the fence on either side of her garden.

Knowing that their tracks follow a line and need up to a mile in space, she contacted her neighbours. Street WhatsApp messages have encouraged many of them to create hedgehog holes to link up their back gardens.

Whether on their own or in groups, up to four hedgehogs per night have been seen eating the food left out for them. In return, the Cherry Tree Road neighbours have noticed the creatures' hunting habits have brought about a definite decline in the local slug population.

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Best foot forward: Michael Jacobs celebrates the end of his epic 1,128-mile charity trek with wellwishers looking on.

Michael goes round in circles... all the way to Rome

By David Melsome

Michael Jacobs has completed an epic 1,128-mile charity trek, walking the equivalent distance of London to Rome, but without ever moving more than a few metres from the back garden of his home in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Being clinically vulnerable due to a health condition, Michael, 73, began walking laps of a secluded field off Wildwood Road over a year ago in April 2021, and has raised a total of £13,500 for Nepal children's charity Kidasha.

Over the course of a year, the retired tax lawyer and former chairman of the charity completed 12,500 laps of the field, a total of 2.6 million steps.

Michael said: "The pandemic has been tough for everyone, but the vulnerable families and children of Nepal have been

faced with extreme hardship. I'm glad that our efforts will be able to raise awareness of those living in extreme poverty, and provide support to those that still need it."

All of the funds raised from Michael's trek will support Kidasha's work to improve

the lives of children living in chronic poverty in Nepal. This includes working to end child exploitation by providing homeless children with safe shelter, supporting children into education, and creating new employment opportunities.



Display space: Photos on the walls at the Muswell Hill Club. Photo Mike Coles

Exercise your art appreciation

By Lynn Winton

It might sound unlikely but we now have a great new place to browse original art... and it's down at the gym. Muswell Hill Club owner Hussein Lalani has given his foyer walls and shelves over to local artists, who are invited to submit their works for inclusion.

Currently there are four artists exhibiting at the club on Fortis Green, and these will be replaced soon with another selection. An extra bonus is that this initiative is commission-free so that artists keep 100% of the sale price. Hussein told me: "With over 1,000 members and additionally

passers-by seeing in through the windows we have a huge footfall. There have already been a few sales which is really exciting for the artists and confirms there is strong interest to continue long term with this initiative."

If you are a local artist who's interested in displaying your

works of art, email a maximum of three representative images, or your website link, to info@muswellhillclub.com and curator Natalie will consider them for inclusion. For those non gym members who would like to browse, you are welcome to go into reception and look around.

Objects of desire from local artists

By Mike Coles

A huge variety of art and crafts will be available to view and buy when the East Finchley Open Artists open house weekends return this month. Following a limited event last year, the event will be returning to its usual format, with artists opening their homes and studios on the weekends of 25-26 June and 2-3 July.

It promises to be a bumper year with 15 houses opening locally and at least 55 artists exhibiting, all with free entry. On show will be paintings, prints, ceramics, jewellery, textiles, photography and more. For the latest details and locations check www.east-finchleyopen.org.uk/openhouse



Wonderful creations: Some of the art work that will be on show at the open house weekends across East Finchley.

Phoenix premiere

On Sunday 10 July, the Phoenix Cinema will host the world premiere screening of four short documentaries made by local filmmakers for the One Sunday Morning, Four Films project. Budding directors were teamed up with experienced mentors to help them create films about the work of four charities in the Finchley area.

Open gardens

Local gardens opening to the public as part of the National Garden Scheme this month are: Sunday 5 June, 19 Coolhurst Road, N8, 2pm-6pm, admission £4; Sunday 12 June, 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, (London Gardens Society award winner), 2pm-6pm, admission £4; Sunday 19 June, 92 and 100 Hampstead Way, NW11, 2pm-6pm, combined admission £8; Sunday 26 June, 5 St Regis Close, N10, 2pm-6.30pm, admission £4. Pre-booking essential at www.ngs.org.uk



Never forgotten: Strawberry Vale residents plant a rose in memory of loved ones who died in the pandemic. Photo Mike Coles.

In memory of those who died

By Ruth Anders

When the pandemic swept through the Strawberry Vale Estate as it did throughout East Finchley, lockdown rules denied residents the opportunity to mourn those who passed away. On a warm afternoon in early May a special event was arranged to put this right.

The Octavia Hill Garden, next to the Green Man Community Centre, provided the perfect spot for a group of residents to come together to watch a rose bush being planted and to dedicate a bench inscribed "In memory of those we have loved and lost 2022".

Perhaps the most moving moment was when those mourning were given large paper butterflies on which to write messages and then tie them to a large rhododendron bush. Tears of remembrance were shed in the sunshine.

Councillor Alison Moore spoke on behalf of the Mayor of Barnet, who was delayed and arrived later. Backed by a pergola of tumbling wisteria and beds of lime green euphorbia, the residents watched the rose planting and the bench dedication. Green Man Secretary

Helen Shannon read a poem and the song *There's a Place for Us* from *West Side Story* was played softly over the speakers.

Supportive community

Tom Matthews, Chair of the Green Man Management Group (GMMG), told *The Archer*: "This is a very tightly knit community where it's like living in a goldfish bowl. Everyone knows everyone and we are all very supportive of each other."

Tom, who lost his father-in-law and mother-in-law to Covid, explained that the GMMG works closely with the Peabody Trust and Hope North London. "We hold a good many events here at the Centre including activities for two youth groups each week", he added, "and funds raised by the Centre also pay for special trips for local children."

After the formal proceed-

ings, those attending were given a delicious tea of sandwiches and scones. Previous GMMG Chair Vanessa Elsley told *The Archer*, "Quite a few residents haven't left their homes until today. This event has provided a great release for many in more ways than one". The sunny afternoon's activities left everyone with a sense of optimism.

Enjoy a June Jubilee jamboree

A community celebration for young and old celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, hosted by Age UK Barnet, takes place on Saturday 11 June 2022 from 11am – 4pm at The Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, East Finchley N2 8LT.

There will be live music and entertainment; a bar and food; afternoon tea; tombola and raffle; plant stall; craft activities and games for the whole family plus a make-a-crown competition.

Entry costs £2 on the door, which includes a ticket to win raffle prizes including a luxury hamper, gym membership at

The Muswell Hill Club, a meal for two at The Engine Rooms and a massage at Serene Wellness, all in and around East Finchley.

You can also pre-book a traditional afternoon tea, promising sandwiches, cakes

and scones with all the tea you can drink, for just £3 per person! Half hour/ 40 minute slots are available from 11.30am until 3pm. To book afternoon tea, contact Teresa on 07502 989 403 or teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk

Be part of it Volunteers wanted

A new regular column compiled by N2United

The fantastic **East Finchley Festival** is back on Sunday 19 June in Cherry Tree Wood from 12pm to 6pm. The team still needs volunteers to help with the large numbers of visitors expected. Sign up for all or part of this wonderful day for various tasks including stewarding and selling raffle tickets. No experience necessary! It's where East Finchley people get together as a strong community. Find more info at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved or contact volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood always need helping hands for regular monthly litter picks and general maintenance; also interesting nature conservation work such as dead hedging, hazel coppicing, tree planting. Contact: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

The **East Finchley Pollinator Project** has a mission to bring the bees back to N2. The team seeks interested gardeners to help maintain a number of existing and develop new nectar café sites throughout East Finchley. Contact: efpollinators@gmail.com

Bin There Donate That is a successful local initiative, driven by Emma Frampton's passion to create a more sustainable neighbourhood. All types of help needed for research, liaising with EF 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 for more details.

Grange Big Local is the lottery funded community project with a host of exciting plans for their pocket of East Finchley. Find one which floats your boat! These include working on the community fridge, Universal Basic Income, digital inclusion, the underpass plans, carpentry in the community garden, school holiday activities, funding applications and community events. Get in touch at info@grangebiglocal.org.

The Archer is looking for volunteers to deliver the newspaper in any of the following roads and areas: Tarling Road, Mansfield Heights, Manor Court, Doran Manor and Linksvie. Can you spare 30 minutes once a month? Email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a free voicemail message on 0800 612 0748.



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. Max 60 words please.

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>

Stay alert to scams

One-to-one support is available to any residents aged over 50 who have fallen victim to a money scam, as part of Age UK Barnet's scams prevention service.

Project manager Lindsey can work out if people need a call blocker, for instance, then arrange to get this set up. She can also check out any emails or companies people might be worried about.

Contact her by email at scamsawareness@ageuk-barnet.org.uk or by telephone on 020 8432 2217.

Letters

Cycle lane congestion ignored

Dear Editor

Barnet's previous Conservative-run Council responded to the criticism of the A1000 road scheme by making some improvements, mainly cutting cycle lanes and reducing their size (*The Archer*, May 2022).

They have not however addressed the main problem which is the congestion around East Finchley station, where jams arise due to the cutting of the road space for motorists in half.

They have refused to give figures I requested on the numbers of cyclists and cars in this area, on the basis that that this is the start of a new six-month trial.

Other boroughs are scrapping schemes of this type. But Barnet's plans persist in

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allowing congestion, with stop/start emissions, local rat-run diversions, and parking restrictions affecting local shops. After the change to a Labour Council it may be that a more rational approach will prevail and the people who have complained about the scheme will be listened to. It may even be that this scheme was one of the reasons for the demise of the previous council.

**Barry H White,
Fordington Road, N6.**

Your news

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Ground level: Cub scouts explore Long Lane Pasture in extreme close-up

Scouts hunt small critters on mini safari

By Joshua Thomas, 1st Finchley Scout Group

In a break from our usual meetings at the scout hut, 1st Finchley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts spent a spring evening at Long Lane Pasture, our local green space, tucked away off the main road.

The Cubs were kept busy with their own bug-hunting kits, scooping up all sorts of different snails, slugs and insects. They replicated the insects' natural environments inside the jars whilst they peered through magnifying glasses.

With thanks to Maureen Delandro of the Pasture committee, a tank of tadpoles and a large frog were also of great interest. At the end everything was returned to where we found it.

The Scout meeting was occupied by a game. In small groups they were challenged to find a collection of symbols across the pasture, corresponding to a colour on the map. This sent them looking in every



Pond life: Young Cubs enjoying the wildlife haven

Magic moments from two jubilees

*Last month we invited you to share your Jubilee memories to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne. Here, reader **Simone Wood** recalls being at the Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1977 and 2002.*

In 1977 I was 15 years old and visiting my mother in London from boarding school. On the morning of the Jubilee procession, my mother asked "Would you like to see The Queen today?" Of course I replied that I would and so on a whim she called for a black cab. When the cabbie enquired "Where to?" she replied "Anywhere we can see the Queen!"

The cabbie took us to Ludgate Hill, dropped us on a crowded pavement and just asked them to "make space for the young lady", which they did. A woman even handed me a small Union Jack on a stick saying "You'll need this luv".



Royal handshake: Simone's daughter greets Prince Charles

Soon the spectacle of the parade started to pass us by and it became clear, from the wash of noise that reached us from the crowd ahead of us, that the Queen was approaching. Suddenly everyone was whooping and hollering and waving their flags madly and the most magnificent gleaming golden coach passed us by.

Everything seemed to be in slow motion as I watched the Queen gently wave her hand in acknowledgement of us. I had to fight the urge to just reach out. Then, no sooner had she come, than she was gone and the roar around me subsided to an excited chitter chatter of people expressing their opinions of what they had just seen.

What I remember most about the day, was just how happy and excited everyone was. It was the first time I had experienced a crowd and the notion of us all coming together for the same reason, intent and experience was very visceral and real to me. The collective togetherness and joy that I felt that day stayed with me for quite a long time.

It was a day to never forget. When it came to the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, I had children of my own aged 12 and aged nine. I felt it only fitting that they have their own experience of a Jubilee in their childhoods, as I'd had. So on the day of the procession we got up early and headed from East Finchley tube to Green Park and chose a spot on The Mall near where it curves in front of Buckingham Palace.

At one point out of the blue, someone whispered "It's Prince Charles!" When suddenly he was in view, not only was he on our side of the road but he was shaking hands with the crowd and not only that, he was almost in front of us! I was standing behind my eldest daughter and just said to her "Stick out your hand, stick out your hand!" which she promptly did.

She did a good job of catching the eye of the Prince, who looked directly at her whilst delivering a firm handshake. It was quite a moment and one that she has never forgotten, just like my own Jubilee moment 25 years earlier.

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corner as they raced against the other teams.

It was great to be outside on a warm evening. I wonder how many others know about this hidden pocket of greenery, just opposite the fire station on Long Lane, N3.

3, 2, 1... go!

The annual Race the Neighbours 10km run between East Finchley and Muswell Hill returns on Sunday 5 June. Hundreds of runners will take part in the friendly challenge, setting off from Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley, at 9.30am.

Boot sale

The monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 25 June from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p with refreshments available. For information, contact: 020 8368 8180.



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