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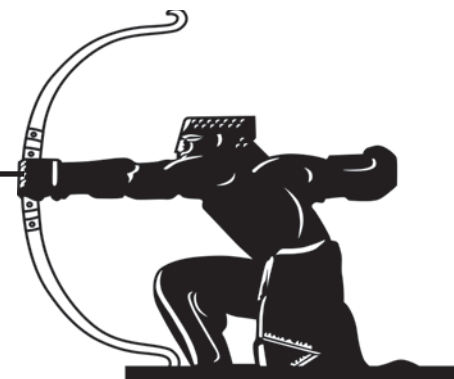
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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



May 2022 No. 337

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

## Town team wins £10,000 boost for High Road trade

By Roger Chapman

**A £10,000 pot of money has been secured by a group of East Finchley organisations to boost use of the High Road over the next year.**

The East Finchley Town Team, comprising N2United, East Finchley Community Trust, The Archer newspaper, East Finchley Open Artists, East Finchley Festival CIC and local councillors, secured the cash from a Barnet Council fund to support the borough's

related activity and publicity throughout 2022. The themed events will cover 'a sustainable and biodiverse East Finchley' looking at green ideas, improving sustainability, and getting to and from the High Road.

### Coming down the line

As *The Archer* reported in

attractive in time for the Jubilee celebrations in June.

New ideas include a food fair to promote the range of food available on the High Road, where it comes from, how we can make it more sustainable and to link in to food projects in the area.

An arts and music event on the High Road will showcase local talent and venues and focus on how they can be used to attract more shoppers and more visitors to East Finchley generally.

### "Use it or lose it"

Kate Brown, chair of the Town Team group, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to promote our town centre, its traders and the people who use it. So much is good about our High Road, but many things could be improved.

"To ensure we continue to have a vital and viable town centre we must use it or lose it. We want to use these events to show what an amazing range of goods, talent, and ideas we have locally."

### Launch event

A launch event, in partnership with N2United, is planned on the evening of Thursday 9 June, kindly hosted by The Engine Rooms at Hexagon on Great North Road. Local traders and residents are invited to attend and get involved in developing ideas. See N2United.co.uk/townteam for details.

Organisers say the events are in the initial planning stages and are keen to engage with traders to ensure that the events work in concert with the local community to build a thriving town centre into the future.

Ideas and suggestions can be sent to [eftownteam@gmail.com](mailto:eftownteam@gmail.com)



Machine learning: Keerthana Meenakshi Sundaram and Gaia Simpson with their motorised robot.

## Young robot experts take on the world

By David Melsome

**Two East Finchley students with a talent for robotics will be joining their school team in Dallas, Texas, this month to compete in a championships against other young designers from more than 40 countries around the world.**

Gaia Simpson and Keerthana Meenakshi Sundaram, both year nine pupils at the Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb, will be making the ten-hour trip together with their HBS Spark teammates in pursuit of the 2022 Vex Robotics World title.

To earn their place they had to win against multiple teams from around London and the UK and are now ranked number one in the UK for 'skills'. One of their designs they built for a game challenge called Pitch-

ing In is a motorised robot that responds to their self-generated code to collect balls and catapult them into a target.

The challenges they will face at the championships in Dallas will test their teamwork skills and design capabilities to the limit and they will have to be at the top of their game to replicate their national success at international level.

Gaia and Keerthana would welcome any financial support to help fund the costs of their travel. You can make a donation at <https://gofund.me/bd01af68>



The place to go: The Town Team has plans to revitalise the High Road town centres.

The money will be used to deliver three events on the High Road. Each event will have

March, a 'Clean for the Queen' is already planned to tidy up grubby and unkempt parts of the shopping area to make it more

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