

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Cycle lanes: keep them or kick them out?

By David Melsome

Barnet Council has launched a consultation on the High Road cycle lanes through East Finchley to help decide whether they should be made permanent, altered or removed.

The consultation will include a series of workshops and focus groups where local residents and businesses can get involved and the council says the outcome will help inform how it reaches its transport, sustainability and environmental targets.

Since late 2020 when the cycle lanes were installed from just south of North Finchley town centre, through East Finchley High Road to the borough boundary with Haringey, they have generated praise from some cyclists and residents for encouraging more people to cycle, and criticism from some drivers and traders for causing traffic congestion and robbing the High Road of parking spaces.

Experimental

The lanes were installed rapidly as part of a Government and Transport for London-funded response to Covid-19 impacts on public transport. At the time Barnet Council called them 'experimental'.

Now, the Government says such schemes must be subjected to independent and impartial consultations prior to making a final decision on their future.

Cllr Alan Schneiderman, Barnet Environment and Climate Change Committee Chair, said: "We want to encourage cycling and make it safer to help people live healthier lives and make Barnet a greener borough with cleaner air for everyone to enjoy. With workshops and resident input, I believe we will come up with the best solution and hopefully some helpful ideas for the borough going forward."

Places to take part are limited. The council says it will invite a cross-section of residents, including those who live directly on the A1000, and a range of businesses, community groups and interest groups. You can register your interest at tinyurl.com/2854jrcm. Registration will be open until Tuesday 11 October and those allocated places will be contacted in the week beginning Monday 17 October.

Vandalism returns to wildlife haven

The Long Lane Pasture nature reserve is again keeping its gates closed on weekdays after experienc-



ing another incident of vandalism, pictured.

Volunteers at the pasture opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3, say a young acer tree was violently destroyed, possibly by someone wielding a knife or similar weapon, or by someone training a fighting dog to be aggressive.

As a result, the Friends of the Pasture have reluctantly decided to keep the wildlife haven closed, except when they are working there on Saturday mornings. This follows an earlier incident of vandalism in the spring when items were thrown into the pond, causing the pasture to be closed on weekdays for a period.



Beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton was kept busy handing out samples and selling her honey products in aid of Finchley Foodbank at the successful Sustainable High Road day on Saturday 17 September.

Eco-friendly exhibitors generate a real buzz

Lucie Chaumeton keeps four bee hives in the garden of her home in Beech Drive, N2, and four elsewhere in the area.

This year, her bees have been as busy as ever, allowing her to produce jars of clear honey and chunk honey, bottles of honey vinegar, honey lollipops, beeswax polish and beeswax candles, all of which flew off her Miel de Lucie stall at the event. Lucie donated proceeds from her sales on the day to Finchley Foodbank. Find out more at mieldelucie.wixsite.com/website.

Turn to pages 6-7 for more pictures and a full report on

East Finchley Town Team's eco-friendly event.

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The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

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.

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Go-ahead given for new housing on the Grange

By Janet Maitland

Plans for two blocks of flats on the Grange estate have finally been approved after two years of controversy. Construction is scheduled to start in spring 2023 and finish in summer 2024.

Each block, one on the High Road and the other on Central Avenue, will have just eight flats and are all that remain of original proposals to build up to 100 flats on the estate and surrounding streets to tackle an acute shortage of council housing.

Following protests from residents and a change of administration at Barnet Council, plans by Barnet Homes to build housing on green spaces on Brownswell Road and Tarring Road were dropped. However, the two new blocks still met with 79 objections, nearly all of which were about traffic congestion and parking issues.

Many objectors claimed that Barnet Homes does not appreciate that Elmfield Road and King Street are the only access roads into the estate and that these are already effectively single-lane routes due to parked cars on both sides. Residents also expressed concerns that the long construction period will worsen traffic congestion in the area and increase noise and pollution.

Parking overspill

Many existing parking spaces on the estate will be built over. Barnet Homes plans to re-provide 63 spaces but this will still mean "an overspill of 15 cars" which will have to be parked on nearby streets. Barnet Homes claims there is spare capacity and that the overall impact of the development will be "negligible", including the construction phase.

We asked if residents will be able to influence the construction plan. "It will be produced by the appointed contractor and so any resident input will occur after a contractor is appointed," said a Barnet Homes spokesperson, adding that they are "committed to following an 'informative' from the planning committee (part of the approval) to continue to engage with local councillors and the public about the traffic and parking issues raised".

"We are pleased that the informative had been added to the approvals," said a spokesperson for Elmfield Road Residents Association. "We continue to engage with Barnet Homes and



Short of space: Parking is an issue for the proposed new Grange housing block in Central Avenue

the council to ensure that road and pedestrian safety are given much needed consideration."

Planning informatives are

advisory rather than regulatory. They do not carry any legal weight and are therefore not enforceable.

Health club to host new art and gift fair

By Lynn Winton

Following on from The Muswell Hill Club's successful foray into exhibiting works by local artists this year, owner Hussein Lalani is hosting an inaugural pre-Christmas art and crafts fair on Saturday 29 October from 6pm to 9.30pm, and has held back the few remaining spaces for any creatives reading about it here.

Unusually for this kind of event, there will be no charges to exhibit at the club in Fortis Green, no entry fee for visitors, and there will be free refreshments and snacks. As well as creatives and gift exhibitors, including some members of East Finchley Open Artists, there will be wine and food tastings.

Hussein said: "Since offering our space to local artists to showcase their works, the team

here at MHC have further established a true sense of community. Our passion for supporting local artists now extends to local arts and crafts, with what I hope will be a great local experience for members and non-members to come together and enjoy an event celebrating local talents."

If you would like to apply for a table to display and sell your work, contact the curator Natalie at info@muswellhill-club.com



Mind how you go: A video advertising screen in Finchley Central

New obstacle to avoid on our crowded pavements

By David Melsome

Anyone walking past Iceland in the High Road will have noticed they now have to perform a sudden body swerve to avoid bumping into a new cabinet that has appeared in the middle of the pavement.

The large metal box is the base unit for a new 7ft or 2.2m advertising hoarding that will have a giant video screen on one side, possibly both, like the one pictured in Finchley Central. Other versions also have a payphone and defibrillator on one side.

Its installation was approved by Barnet Council but there is consternation at its position in the middle of an open area

of pavement. One shopper said it was "thoughtless and another obstacle to negotiate". A partially-sighted resident said it was a potential hazard to anyone with sight difficulties. There is little hope of reversing the planning permission now that the base unit has already been installed and in fact the full hoarding may already be in place by the time you read this. So watch where you're walking!

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council
56 Bancroft Avenue, N2
 Single-storey rear extension: depth 6m, maximum height 3m, eaves height 3m.: first floor rear extension.
6 Brighton Road, N2
 Single-storey rear extension.
Development site north of 215, at former 217 To 223 High Road, N2
 Details of conditions for electric vehicle charging details, hard and soft landscaping, means of enclosure and privacy screens, pursuant to planning permission.
2 King Street, N2
 Mounted solar PV
3 Oakview Gardens, N2
 Single-storey rear extension.
33 Park Hall Road, N2
 Rear outbuilding.

47 Park Hall Road, N2
 Single-storey side/rear extension with roof lights. Changes to rear fenestration.
Haringey Council
34 Eastern Road, N2
 Single-storey, rear and side ground floor extension. Replacement of rear 1st and 2nd floor windows as detailed in proposed plans.
1 Ringwood Avenue, N2
 Demolition of existing detached house and erection of new three-storey detached house. Associated amenity space, including refuse storage and two off-street parking spaces.
32 Springcroft Avenue, N2
 Part extension at first-floor level with glass roof.



My 1,300-mile expedition from end to end

When lawyer Stuart Kightley was in search of a post-pandemic, mid-life climate-crisis challenge he decided to hike from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money to help re-green Britain via the National Trust's Plant a Tree scheme. Here he recalls his adventure.

I trained by walking to work for six months: a daily nature ramble from my home in East Finchley to Camden via Little Wood, Hampstead Heath and Primrose Hill.

Then on 13 April 2022, starting from the famous Land's End signpost, I kept off-road and took the high route where possible through varied and beautiful countryside, along the South West Coast Path, over Exmoor, the Quantocks and Mendips and on to the Cotswold Way. Then the Midlands lowlands to the Pennine Way and the Scottish Borders; the West Highland Way, the Great Glen Way to Inverness and a final push up the John O'Groats Trail to arrive at the other signpost on 29 June.

Sleepless night

It was a journey of 1,282 miles and 65 walking days, with two rest days and 11 days injured. After one soggy, sleepless night under canvas I stayed at places where there was a duvet and tea and cake. I ate Cornish pasties and Scotch eggs



Start and finish: Stuart Kightley sets off from Lands End, left, and arrives at John O'Groats, right, after walking for 65 days



and nut bars with peanut butter. I took walking poles to shoo cows, and my luxury items were a pair of binoculars and my daughter's beanie rabbit called Smallest.

Highlights were, well nearly everything: it was one big

adventure. Lovely people, some I met, some I took with me, family and friends joining en route; superb springtime scenery, fascinating places, a different pub every night. Most spectacular were the start and the end: the stupendous skyline

cliff-top paths around the wild and rocky coasts of Cornwall and Scotland.

Lessons learned: there is a lot out there to explore even (especially) if you are 57, and Britain's amazing landscape is definitely low on trees. My target

was to plant a tree for every mile walked, and I currently have about 950 saplings in the bag, so any more kind donations will be gratefully received. My Justgiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuart-kightley2>



Love it or hate it: Ma Mite by Clare Roels will be on display in Crouch End

Art has wheel potential

Art works made from repurposed bicycle parts will be on show at a charity shop in support of Muswell Hill-based CPotential, which provides therapy and support for children and young people with movement disorders. The Bicycle Works art has been created by Clare Roels and will be exhibited at the charity's shop at 25 Broadway, Crouch End, on Saturday 8 October from 1pm to 6pm.

Grants for good works

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is making grants of up to £750 available to local groups and organisations for projects which will benefit the local community in Muswell Hill.

Last year, the grant scheme helped The Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln restore the most complete Roman pottery kiln found in Greater London for display in Highgate Wood where it was excavated. Grants were also given to Muswell Hill Rhythmic Gymnastics and community art programme Welcome.

For more details about this year's fund and to make an application, visit mhfga.org/fund. The deadline for applications is Monday 31 October.

Membership secretary wanted

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is currently looking for a membership secretary. The voluntary role is the first point of contact for new and existing members and includes management of the membership database. For more information, email chairman@mhfga.org.

Brush up your digital know-how for free

Free sessions are being held by the Grange Big Local team to help residents feel confident online. Four spaces are available in each 'how-to' digital session at East Finchley Library, covering topics such as how to use email, how to master a keyboard, and how to get the best out of computer software.

Each session will run on Wednesdays from 3-5pm as follows: 5 October, how to be safe online; 19 October, how to use Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word; 2 November, managing money online; 16 November, how to use online video calls; 30 November, how to apply for a job online. To reserve a place, call ahead on 07402 834108 or email mariella.hill@grangebiglocal.org.

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BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

You will probably have seen the **N2 Food Project** in action, giving out healthy, delicious meals to those who need them outside the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday mornings. Would you be able to help make these meals? They need volunteers who have a passion for cooking. No major skills are required, as you will be working with first-rate professional chefs. Cooking times are weekends from 11 am to 3pm in the kitchen at Martin School, East Finchley, and they ask you to commit to a minimum two-hour shift. Check their socials @N2foodproject or email efnsfoodproject@gmail.com

Driving Aid to Ukraine (see right) is a new non-profit organisation based in N2 started by local resident Michael Byrne, who personally delivers lorries of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. His team requires volunteers to help scale up in building and sustaining a social media campaign, fundraising and grant writing. This is a fantastic opportunity to use your skills to bring vital aid to utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grass roots level. Find out more at drivingaidtoukraine.org and get in touch with Michael on 07791 912389.

Could you spare an hour or so a week to make a real difference to an older isolated person? **Age UK Barnet** is looking for befrienders to offer friendly chats, support and companionship. The charity also needs walking buddies to help older people to get out and about. Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older person in East Finchley. As a thank you volunteers receive a free day pass from The Muswell Hill Club where you can spend a day using all the facilities. Please contact Age UK's volunteer manager Lisa on 020 8432 1422 or lisa.robins@ageukbarnet.org.uk

The Archer, your very own newspaper, needs YOU, ideally in the first part of each month, to help distribute the paper to readers. We are particularly looking for people to cover Trinity Road, Mansfield Heights, Manor Court, Doran Manor, and Linksvie, all in N2. Even if you can only manage half an hour most months, it will be a tremendous help. Please contact: news@the-archer.co.uk

East Finchley Festival CIC is looking to fill some key positions before planning begins for the 2023 festival, specifically: food stalls co-ordinator, volunteer co-ordinator and a bookkeeper/administrator. All roles are flexible and training can be given. Please visit eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved or email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to N2United@ILoveN2.co.uk Max 60 words please.

Heartwarming response to Ukraine aid mission

By Lynn Winton

Driving Aid to Ukraine, the N2-based organisation delivering desperately needed goods into the most devastated communities of Ukraine, has seen support flooding in from local people and businesses.

The tube station newsagent's owner Harsha Raja was so moved reading last month's update in *The Archer* that she requested a donation tin to keep by the till. Additionally, she has pledged to help fill the truck leaving this month by donating extra supplies.

Another collection tin is now on the bar at The Bald Faced Stag, and the mission's co-ordinator Michael Byrne will be delighted to take one into any other business that wants to help him get aid to Ukraine.

Local offers of help have kept rolling in. Toiletries company Matrix donated 104 pallets of hand sanitiser. Local families contacted Michael offering piles of goods, including toys and clothes. All in all, 60 tons of goods were donated. But much more is needed for Michael to take regular supplies and fulfil his pledge to actively help Ukraine.

Additionally, Olga Stefanyshyna, a current Ukrainian MP and previous Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Healthcare, got in touch and has joined as an advisor. She is currently living nearby with her two children under the Home Office relocation scheme.

Winter campaign

Michael is starting his winter campaign to collect coats, sleep-



Collection tin: Tube station newsagent Harsha Raja and Driving Aid to Ukraine founder Michael Byrne. Photo Mike Coles

ing bags, tents and anything for warmth to people that have lost their homes and livelihoods.

"Ukrainians face a harsh winter, one of cold, hunger, darkness, thirst and a continuing war," he said. "Driving Aid to Ukraine aims to raise £30,000 to deliver humanitarian aid every two weeks to refugee centres and communities in the conflict zones throughout the winter. They are fighting for all of us. I promise I will not stop until they no longer need me."

As part of his developing winter appeal he will also be sponsoring a refugee centre in Poltava, Ukraine. The refugee centre acts as an aid coordination and distribution hub for 30,000 displaced children from the frontline regions of Ukraine.

If you would like to help Michael Byrne's organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine with donations or support, please contact him on 07791 912389 or find out more at drivingaidtoukraine.org

New life on the court

Vlad Kulykov, 22, is building a new life after coming to London a few months ago having left Ukraine at the beginning of the war. While some of his family are still in a safe village in Ukraine, and some are in Germany, Vlad has been adopted by The Avenue Tennis Club in Finchley Central.



Courting success: Vlad Kulykov

Sally Bentley, the club's head coach, said: "Vlad is a first-class tennis coach. Thanks to the members, the club found him a sponsor and a visa to stay here safely for three years." Sally is also helping him to obtain British Lawn Tennis Association coaching qualifications.

Anyone looking for a tennis

coach who is fluent in Ukrainian and Russian, can email Sally@avenuetennisclub.co.uk or phone her on 07958 758 580. The Avenue has three floodlit courts, fields five adult and 10 junior teams, and runs a comprehensive coaching and social programme for all ages and abilities. Find out more at www.avenuetennisclub.co.uk

Free concert to say thank you

Talented Ukrainian musician Yuliia Humeniuk, pictured right, is performing a free recital to say thank you to the community of East Finchley who have welcomed her so warmly.

Yuliia is a music graduate from Kharkiv University and is living in N2 with a host family. Her own family live in the Russian-occupied area of Kherson. She made the hazardous journey across Crimea in June, and will now be continuing her studies at the London Performing Academy of Music.

The Royal Academy of Music have very kindly lent her the accordion she will be using for the recital, as she had to leave her own instrument in Kharkiv when the war started in February.



Everyone is invited along to All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2, at 6pm on Friday 7 October to hear Yuliia play a short programme of tangos, waltzes and songs.

There is no charge for the recital, and Yuliia says she is most grateful to All Saints for generously allowing her to use the church.

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Clean-up ahead of underpass upgrade

By John Lawrence

A big clean-up operation got underway at a pedestrian underpass in East Finchley which campaigners hope to transform with a £300,000 refurbishment project. Volunteers removed rubbish, vegetation and even an abandoned road sign from the walkway under the Northern line between Manor Park Road and Trinity Road.

Their next step is to go to Barnet Council to ask for approval for the investment, backed by a petition signed by more than 500 people.

The bid to transform the dark and damp underpass is being led by the Grange Big Local regeneration team after it was identified as a heavily-used route where local residents wanted safer surfaces and improved security.

East Finchley-based architects MillsPower have drawn up a proposal that includes installing mirrors or reflective surfaces at each corner, resurfacing the whole path, adding lighting and a handrail through the tunnel, improving drainage, painting and planting, and possibly adding public art works.

Architect and project manager Phyllida Mills said: "We want to make it an enjoyable experience to walk through the underpass. We want to transform it for the community. There are a lot of elements but

each piece on its own is quite small. We have plenty of ideas and a team of willing volunteers and we would like the council to work with us."

Unlock funding

Mariella Hill, from Grange Big Local, said they hoped to win approval in principle from a council area committee this autumn, followed by full approval from the council in January, which would unlock funding up to £300,000 and active support from council teams to work alongside the volunteers.

As we have reported previously, the underpass was constructed in the early 1880s following the tragic death of nine-year-old farm boy William Bowman, who was killed by a train as he crossed the tracks at a level crossing on the same spot.

Hundreds of local people now use the walkway every day, including students going to and from Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road.



Dumped: Volunteers pull rubbish and fly-tipped items from behind a fence in the Trinity Road underpass. Photo John Lawrence

A step back in time on guided walk

By Diana Cormack

On Saturday 10 September a large group of people enjoyed a walking tour led by local historian and East Finchley Town Team member Roger Chapman.

They set off from the Manor Park Road side of the tube underpass at 11am, eager to learn about old East Finchley but saddened by the reason for the underpass being built: the death of a nine-year-old boy in 1878 (The Archer, page 12, September 2021).

Once through the underpass, Roger led the group along The Walks, stopping to mention objects and places of interests including old dwellings, public houses, highwaymen's haunts, woodland and commons, even apple trees which might have survived from those days.

Hog market

This ancient walking route through the middle of the 'Old Village' was the main thoroughfare long before the High Road existed. It passed through the place where hog markets were regularly held, East Finchley at that time being one of the main centres for pig marketing, leaving us with the street name Market Place.

Some participants commented on other walkways they noticed adjoining the route and were determined to return to explore the area more



History man: Roger Chapman, right, explains the story of Market Place to his walking tour group. Photo Mike Coles

thoroughly. Everyone enjoyed the stimulating walk and some returned to the High Road to chat about it over coffee.



In rehearsal: The Garden Suburb Theatre cast for *The Game's Afoot*

High jinx in Highgate

With East Finchley resident Mary Musker in charge of the all-important sound-mixing desk, mystery, suspense and lots of laughs will be on offer at the Upstairs at the Gatehouse theatre in Highgate from Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 October when an experienced Garden Suburb Theatre cast performs Ken Ludwig's acclaimed *The Game's Afoot* (or *Holmes for the Holidays*).

It is December 1936 and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role in the play *Sherlock Holmes*, has invited his fellow cast members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous and it's then up to Gillette himself, who just happens to think he's Sherlock Holmes, to track down the killer before the

next victim appears.

Tickets are obtainable online at www.upstairsatthegatehouse.ticketsolve.com or by calling the box office on 020 8340 3488.

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Ways we can all reduce our impact on the planet

By John Lawrence

East Finchley Town Team's first community event on Saturday 17 September was a roaring success with hundreds of shoppers stopping by to find out how we can make our High Road, and our lives in general, more sustainable.

'What do you like about the High Road?', 'What could a sustainable High Road look like?' and 'What can we do to make our buildings more sustainable?' were just some of the questions generating ideas on the Town Team's own stall.

The Power for People

organisation explained how community energy schemes could work, the People's Pantry provided a food and cleaning items refill service from their milk float parked up outside Budgens, Barnet Cyclists advocated the benefits of two-wheeled transport, and

general store Amy's displayed energy-saving goods and publicising the long list of items they collect for reuse and recycling. Also there was Tee Tarjan and the team of trainers from Mightee Fit, and James Drewe from Taiji giving demonstrations and advice on keeping

yourself healthy, the N2United network promoting local business and community connections and our own team from The Archer (we are printed on recycled paper).

Next in the Town Team's plans to breathe new life into the High Road and East Finchley

more widely is a day of music and arts in January and a food and drink event in March. Keep an eye on www.ILoveN2.co.uk/town-team for updates or follow their socials @eftownteam on Twitter and Instagram and @eastfinchleytownteam on Facebook.



Ideas from the adults of the future

Children at Martin Primary School came up with a wealth of ideas for ways to make our High Road more sustainable. They suggested swap shops,



where people can exchange items without money changing hands, and all-organic shops. They also wanted to see solar panels installed along the High Road and new flowerbeds or wildlife areas. The most ambitious ideas included a nature museum and a lido! Staff members Linda Kelly and Caroline Freedman were on hand to show off the models and drawings that the pupils had made to illustrate their ideas.

Protect our pollinators

Holly Pringle, of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, showed that we can all play a part in giving bees and other pollinating insects places to feed and thrive. "Even planting a few bee-friendly flowers in a window box will give them somewhere to go," said Holly.



"The more little oases that we can provide for pollinators and the more we can link them up through East Finchley, the better they will be able to do their vital work in pollinating our plants and crops." Find out more at bumblebeeconservation.org



Thought-provoking film on life in 2040

The day after the successful Sustainable High Road event, the Phoenix Cinema screened *2040*, a visual letter to his four-year-old daughter from award winning Australian actor and director Damon Gameau, who embarks on a journey to the future, looking for ways to improve our planet for the next generation.

Difficult questions

The post-film Q&A session at the Phoenix raised questions about how challenging this would be and how much of our waste is really recycled. The panel members were Dave McCormick from Barnet Friends of the Earth, environmental documentary producer Abigail Manson and Cllr Alan Schneiderman, chair of the Climate Change and Environmental Committee on Barnet Council.

One contribution about the benefits of using charity shops came from a teenage girl and it was heartening to have youngsters there voicing concerns about their future.



Crisp packets get a second chance at life

Gillian Reynolds joined the team on the Bin There Donate That recycling project stall to demonstrate how crisp packets can be turned into life-saving insulators for people living on the street in winter. Donated packets are sent to Terracycle where they are washed, cut open, fused together and given a thin plastic coating for strength, making a warm silver insulating layer to go over a sleeping bag. Crisp packets can currently be handed into the Cherry Tree Café in Cherry Tree Wood. Find out more by emailing bintheredonatethat@gmail.com

Sustain your body over the winter

Sustenance was on hand from vegan chef Sebastien Durand, who whipped up a risotto with mushrooms and a curry broth with tofu and toasted cashews using ingredients bought in the High Road the same morning. "When I arrived this morning I didn't know what I was going to cook so I based the menu on what I found," he said. Sebastien studied Chinese medicine and has been a vegan chef for 35 years. "I base my food a lot on its health properties. Autumn is the time to prepare your body for winter."



Alec the eel is slippery... and sustainable

Inventive puppeteer Jake Eiseman-Renyard made his children's show characters from a range of recycled materials. Alec the electric eel's coat comes from a duffle jacket bought at the All Aboard charity shop in the High Road, and his red mouth is the jacket lining. The material covering his fins comes from an old hoodie of Jake's and the cardboard inside them is toilet rolls. The movable jaw and the handles that make his tail flip are all fashioned from a broken umbrella. Jake gave performances of his *Alec and Tricity* puppet show throughout the Sustainable High Road event.



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Wooden it be luvverly

Pedro Redig has been fashioning furniture from discarded wooden pallets for more than five years now. He makes sofas, planters and tables from pallets he finds on the street or rescues from building depots. "At the start I would respect the structure of the pallet to make everything look rustic," said Pedro, of Cherry Tree Road, N2. "Now I break apart and use the wood itself to give more flexibility in my designs." His finished items are protected with wood stain or paint to give them long life outdoors. Find out more on social media @planetpallet

Run out of juice? Call for Roger

Visitors to the Sustainability High Road event were able to sample delicious fresh apple juice thanks to the hand press wound down tightly by Town Team member Roger Chapman. Using donations of fruit from growers across East Finchley, Roger and his helpers first crushed the apples in a scrapper before pressing them. "All these apples would otherwise have gone to waste," said Roger. The taste-testing got very positive reactions although at least one visitor was disappointed that it wasn't cider.



Hats off to Cecilia's wearable plastic

What can you do with all those plastic bags clogging up your cupboards and your drawers? Knit with them, of course. This is what Cecilia Montero demonstrated, showing off the colourful hats and mats she had knitted or crocheted out of the supermarket carriers she had cut into strips. Cecilia has run workshops for adults and children to show off her plastic recycling skills and says, although we need some plastic in our lives, there's too much of it being used once and then thrown away.



Trees and trainers

GoodGym co-ordinator Paul Salaman was wearing two hats on his stall at the event. Besides recruiting new runners for GoodGym, which organises short runs and voluntary tasks around Barnet, Paul was also promoting the Tiny Forest planted this year at the north end of Hampstead Garden Suburb, between Mutton Brook and the North Circular Road. Scores of new trees were planted there to encourage other native woodland flora and fauna. "It was a tough start for them with the dry hot summer but they have survived," said Paul. Find out more at goodgym.org and tinyforest.earthwatch.org.uk



Space for nature

We probably imagine most rewilding projects happen in open fields or forests but in fact there's a lot we can do in the suburbs to welcome nature, says East Finchley lecturer Sian Moxon. She teaches architecture and sustainable design at London Metropolitan University and leads the Rewild My Street project, which encourages residents to create wildlife-friendly zones right outside their door, ranging in size from flower beds to pocket parks. "The pandemic helped people notice nature more and we can make space for it in our streets and cities," said Sian. Find out more at rewildmystreet.org



Power for People

Corinna Miller and Andrew Hutton representing the Power for People group, a non-profit organisation campaigning for the UK to transition to 100% clean energy, explained the benefits of the creation of neighbourhood energy schemes and co-operatives, to enable communities to generate their own electricity.



It's time to sack the plastic bag

You may never need a plastic carrier bag again. Mike Hughes and Alison Roberts of East Finchley Festival CIC sold reusable cotton shopping bags in two different designs, with all proceeds going towards the community festival. More East Finchley-themed designs can be found at www.ILoveN2.co.uk. Alongside them, Isabelle King put her crochet skills to good use by making more than 200 washable shopping bags and selling them in support of Age UK. Isabelle supplies the 100% cotton for each bag out of her own pocket and each one takes around four days to finish. "I enjoy the crocheting and particularly in winter I am always knitting," she said. Isabelle is

happy to take commissions for knitting sweaters or other items from anyone supplying wool and measurements. For more information, contact her via Age UK on 020 8432 1416.



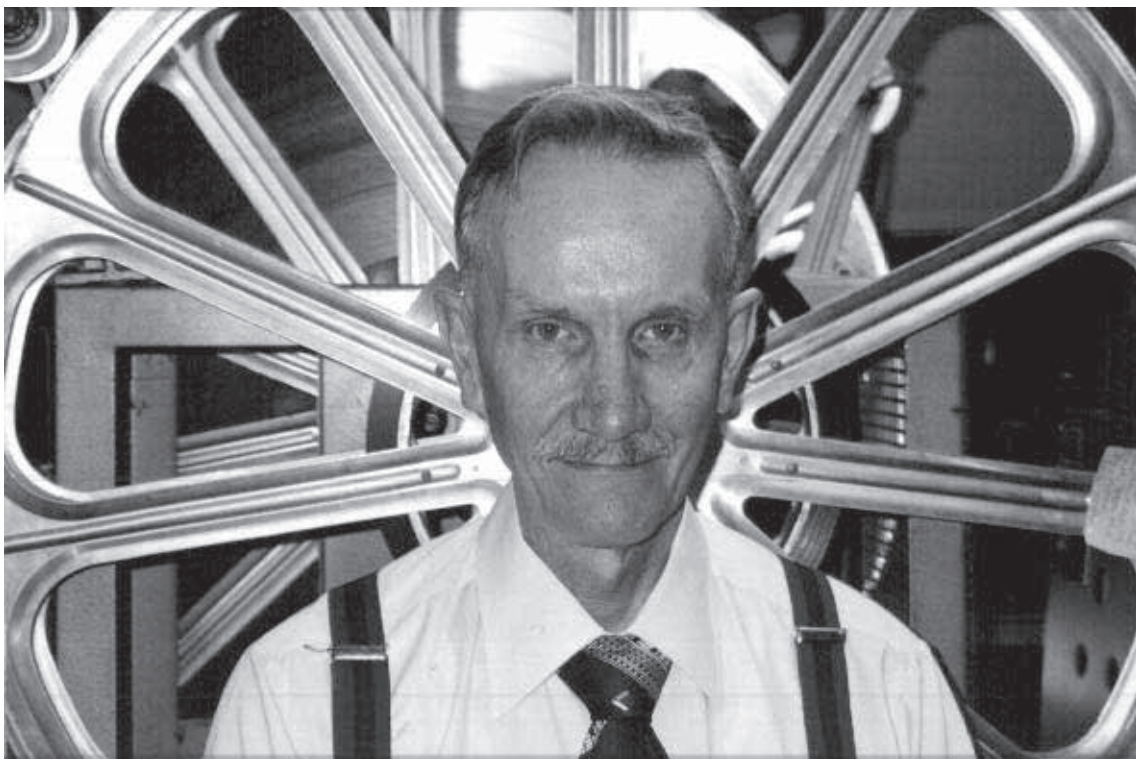
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Reel hero: Peter Bayley in the projection room at the Phoenix Cinema. Photo by David Tupman

Fond farewell to a showman of the screen

By David Gritten

Peter Bayley MBE, who died early last month at the age of 85 was a legendary and hugely influential figure at East Finchley's Phoenix Cinema, where he worked for over 50 years as its chief projectionist.

At the age of 16 Peter answered an advert and applied to what was then the Odeon in North Finchley as 'second senior projectionist'. He got the job and was initially paid the modest wage of five shillings a week. But as he would often recall: "I was spellbound from the word 'go.' Quite simply, I loved films. Back then I would go and see at least one a week."

In 1960, Peter made the move to East Finchley, and swiftly made a name for himself as a projectionist at the Phoenix, which back then was named the Rex. "In those days," he often noted, "to be a projectionist was a skilled job."

And he made the most of

it, ensuring that the images on screen seen by audiences were as clear and as bright as possible. After four years he became chief projectionist, a title he held until his retirement in 2010.

Key figure

Every member of the Phoenix staff has a good word for Peter. Zalan Pall, in charge of front of house at the cinema, says: "He was a key figure here throughout the years. It's hard to imagine the Phoenix without him. He was the rock of the institution."

The cinema has also done its best to let audiences know of their admiration for Peter: a photo of him has recently been appearing on screen

prior to the opening scenes of such films as *Hallelujah*, starring Leonard Cohen.

Fitting tribute

And on the day Peter was buried, his funeral car was parked facing the entrance to the Phoenix, where the red-lettered announcements above its door, which usually advertise forthcoming movies, read: "In our hearts, Peter Bayley MBE, 1937-2022, RIP. Chief projectionist at the Phoenix for 55 years." It was a fitting tribute to an astonishing career.

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.

Lindsey helped one person realise that she'd been paying a direct debit to a fake insurance company for years. If someone has been scammed she can help them protect themselves from further risk and check if they can get their money back. Contact her by email at scamsawareness@ageukbarnet.org.uk or by telephone on 020 8432 2217.

Your recipes and the ingredients you can buy at local shops

A major community event celebrating local food and drink is being planned by East Finchley Town Team for next March. To get us in the mood, *The Archer* will be publishing a monthly recipe sent in by our readers using ingredients available in shops on the High Road or anywhere else in N2. These can be family favourites, seasonal dishes or ethnic specialities... the choice is yours.

Please send your recipes to be considered for publication, including a photo of the finished dish and details of where to find ingredients locally, by email to news@the-archer.co.uk or by post to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Max 450 words.

Holubtsi

By Allison Goodings

In February when the war in Ukraine started, I turned to cooking. My great-grandfather immigrated from Ternopil in Western Ukraine to Cooks Creek, Manitoba, Canada, in 1911, and much of my family continue to live there. Throughout my life, my Baba (grandmother) and great aunts taught me many family recipes, which I continue to cook today. In February, I turned to many of those recipes for comfort.

I've lived in East Finchley for 15 years, and feel privileged to be part of such a diverse community. Gurman, at 34 High Road, is an Eastern European shop that opened earlier this year and is owned by two



Ukrainians. The shop is filled with the foods and ingredients of my childhood, including the buckwheat, salo and smetana you need here. This recipe is adapted from London-based Ukrainian chef Olia Hercules, who started

the #CookforUkraine movement at the start of the war. I hope it will give you a connection to the culture and food of Ukraine and the strength that these dishes give to its people.

Ingredients (16 rolls, serves 4)

80g toasted buckwheat	16 medium chard or beetroot leaves
120g salo or bacon	2 tbsp vegetable oil
200g mushrooms	2 tbsp smetana or sour cream or crème fraiche
500g ripe tomatoes or a 400g tin	Salt and pepper
2 onions	
1 carrot	

Method

Cook 80g toasted buckwheat in salted water for about 10 minutes, or until cooked through but not falling apart. Drain well and set aside.

If using, dry fry 120g of salo (or bacon) cut into small chunks or lardons, until golden. Add to buckwheat.

Heat 1 tbsp of vegetable oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Cook 200g finely diced mushrooms until brown, then add to filling mixture. Turn heat down to medium-low, add 1 diced onion and a pinch of salt. Cook until softened, then add 1 carrot coarsely grated. Cook for about 2 minutes. Tip onion and carrots into filling mixture, mix well and season with salt and pepper. Leave to cool.

Remove the stalks from 16 medium washed chard or beetroot leaves. Lay one leaf on benchtop and put 1 heaped teaspoon of filling close to the stalk end. Flip the bottom of the leaf up and over the filling, fold sides in, and roll up as tightly as possible. Leave finished roll seam side down.

Using a lidded saucepan or casserole (large enough to hold 16 rolls snugly in a single layer), add 1 tbsp vegetable oil and 1 sliced onion and cook until soft over a medium heat. Finely chop the chard or beetroot stalks, add to pan, cooking for a minute.

Cut 500g ripe tomatoes in half and grate them on the coarse side of a box grater, discarding the skins or use a 400g tin of chopped tomatoes. Add tomatoes to the pan and cook for 5 minutes until broken down into a sauce. Whisk in 2 tbsp Smetana, or sour cream or crème fraiche. Season with salt and pepper.

Turn heat to low and carefully place 16 rolls, seam side down, into the pan. Cover and cook for 15 minutes. Serve with bread to mop up the juices!

East Finchley Baptist Church

We meet each Sunday for worship at 10.30 am. If you would like to join us please go to our website for further details. All welcome.

For more information please contact the Church Office
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www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

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ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

Recycle and reuse: more drop-off points for unwanted items

Emma Frampton, of the Bin There Donate That project that seeks to reduce waste in East Finchley, updates us on the range of donations to local shops and, first, makes a request.

Blister packs

It is great that so many people are handing in old blister packs. However, it is vital that pills and tablets are removed first. Any unused, unwanted or out-of-date medication needs to be given separately to the chemist for safe disposal. The plastic pill packs can then be left with Oakdale Pharmacy in the High Road and, from this month, at Links Pharmacy in East End Road for recycling.

Make-up

Old, unwanted make-up can now be given to Oakdale Pharmacy too. In light of the above comments, please ensure that the make-up is in a separate bag to the pill packs. For now, this will be recycled, but in time we may look at reuse schemes.

Toothbrushes and toothbrush heads

Old toothbrushes and electric toothbrush heads can be dropped off at Cavendish House Dental Surgery on East End Road. Nova Dental Surgery nearby is unfortunately no longer able to collect, so we are grateful to Tracy and the team at Cavendish for being able to do so.

Cycle inner tubes

Cycle shop Bike and Run, on the High Road, has independently started recycling inner tubes. This is sent to a group called Green Concept and more information is available from them. So next time you change a tube, take it to them for recycling.

Soft plastics petition

At The Town Teams Sustainability Event we will have a petition for people to sign, aiming to encourage at least one of our three High Road supermarkets to take soft plastics (a facility currently only taken at big out-of-town stores). If you would like to sign add your name to the petition, please email bintheredonatethat@gmail.com where you'll find a link in our out-of-office message.

Old shoes

You may recall that there used to be a shoe recycling bin outside Bike and Run. It was unsurprisingly stopped as all sorts of rubbish was dumped in there, instead of just shoes, which is such a shame. Maybe we could get it back some time.



Volunteers and ideas

We are a new, voluntary initiative aiming to reduce waste in East Finchley and we always welcome volunteers and new ideas. Contact us any time at bintheredonatethat@gmail.com

What and where to donate

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Blister packs to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road, and Links Pharmacy, East End Road
- Bras to Aliya J Boutique, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Electrical wires to Everything Electrical, High Road
- Ink jet cartridges to UOE, High Road
- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electricals, High Road
- Make-up to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's, High Road
- Spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians, High Road



Never too old: The Age UK learners get to grips with new technology

Nonagenarians tap into tech

Raff, Pete and Dorothy, all aged in their 90s, attend computer sessions run by Age UK in East Finchley to pick up some tech skills. "It takes a while for things to sink in, but I'm learning, thanks to lovely volunteers," says Dorothy.

The charity says its IT classes can help anyone over 55 get set up online, learn how to do everyday tasks, keep in touch with family and friends, find out what's happening close to home and around the world or even research a family tree. For more details, contact Howard on howard.chapman@ageukbarnet.org.uk or phone him on 020 8432 1415.

Blue Badge crime falls

Haringey Council has reported that the number of crimes involving Blue Badge parking permits has fallen by 65% since it introduced a virtual system 14 months ago.

In the first six months of 2021, Haringey police recorded a total of 528 crimes relating to Blue Badges, including cars being broken into the badge stolen. This number fell to 185 for the same period in 2022.

Under the new virtual system, those entitled to a Blue Badge can register online for a free permit and traffic wardens are able to check their vehicle's status using the number plate, with no need to display a permit.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"THE VOICE OF SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY"

When the 60s really started

They say that if you remember the 1960s you weren't there, which is why we have historians to delve into the back pages of time and find you the truth. And the shocking fact they have come up with is that the 60s started later in 1962.

Except I can do better, I can get it down to a few days. The weird truth is that the 60s started 60 years ago this month, in the first week of October 1962, because that's when two things happened that changed everything.

On 2 October the great and the glamorous gathered in the West End for the premiere of something new in the movies, *Dr No*, the first James Bond movie. From now on spies would be glamorous and smartly dressed with a taste for quips, girls, guns and Martinis. It might have been cheap to make, but it made Sean Connery a star and the producers a fortune.

From then on, any new Bond movie would be an event. They showed just how cool and suave us Brits could be while still pretending that it was normal for girls to have names like Holly Goodhead and Pussy Galore. And that's before you mention the fact that Bond always won, got the girl and saved the world. But Bond alone does not make a decade, you need music for that.

Music in the early 60s was dying. Elvis had gone middle class and safe, Buddy Holly was dead and the best that we could offer, Cliff Richard, was looking as though his sell-by date was fast approaching. He'd even discovered religion. But on 5 October that changed because four blokes from Liverpool released their first single.

Love Me Do only made it to No 17 in the charts, but it was a start. Within 18 months The Beatles were as famous as James Bond and more famous than the Queen. The rest of the British invasion was on the way with the likes of the Stones, The Who and The Kinks hanging onto the speeding train. And poor old Cliff really struggled to keep up.

London was swinging to beat music, wearing miniskirts and driving Minis. So I guess Philip Larkin got it right, because the 60s did start between the Lady Chatterley trial and The Beatles' first LP and that's good enough for me.



Feline fine: N2United members welcome neighbourhood cat Yoshi, who gatecrashed their monthly meeting at the East Finchley Constitutional Club

N2United back in the swing of things

By Chris Stavrou

The September meeting of business and community network N2United hit the ground running with members hearing about a number of exciting new projects in the N2 area. Giuseppe Sollo, of the N2 Food Project, has started a Sunday league football team that is affiliated with the FA, this being the first time that East Finchley has had a professional 11-a-side male football team taking part in an official league. A couple of local businesses have already sponsored the team, but there is still lots of opportunity for others to get involved with sponsorship.

Phyllida Mills, of Mill'sPower Architecture, updated us on the refurbishment to the underpass between Manor Park Road and Trinity Road. Grange Big Local has collected more than 500 signatures on its petition to the area committee to move the refurbishment project forward, but they are also looking for volunteers to share ideas, join project-based task groups and lead projects in the area.

Over August, the Phoenix Cinema hosted a range of events, including a successful wine tasting in conjunction with Bottles 'N' Jars. Kate Brown of the Town Team inspired everyone with the future plans for an arts and music event to be held next January and a food festival to be held in March, and the East Finchley Festival team announced a collaboration on two East Finchley winter

markets, to take place on 27 November and 10 December. More details next month, so watch this space!

To keep up to date with the local goings on, check the community calendar at n2united.co.uk and if you would like to get involved further or just get to know other locals who care about N2, join us at the next N2United meeting which will be held on Thursday 13 October at 8pm.



From The Archer archives...

10 years ago:
October 2012

We reported the death of local character Horace White, a familiar sight along the High Road for many years, often pulling a suitcase and well known for his high-volume catchphrase "The best of luck!". Horace lived on The Grange estate and was a past pupil of Martin School. A seat placed in his memory can be seen outside Sainsbury's in North Finchley.

15 years ago:
October 2007

Newly amalgamated Martin Primary school opened its playground to East Finchley's first farmers' market, organised by the Green Artisan company. We also reported on a failed lottery bid for £875,000 to fund the upgrading of East Finchley Library and an extension of its community activities. Adam Gee, Chair of the Library Users' Group, said they were "gutted" but still hoped that, by working with the local community, more library activities could be provided.

22 years ago:
October 2000

Controversy surrounded the new traffic island constructed at the junction of Baronsmere Road with the High Road, N2. It had been installed to stop Baronsmere Road being used as a rat run by northbound vehicles trying to avoid traffic lights further up the hill. Local traders claimed it was affecting their businesses, as well as causing irresponsible drivers to undertake dangerous manoeuvres to get round the obstruction.

Bargains for sale

Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale will be held on Saturday 29 October from 10am to 1pm at its usual venue at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, phone 020 8368 8180.



Fringe performers: Folk group Buenos Klezmer

Jewish Fringe is back

The Jewish Fringe festival Tsitsit is returning to Finchley, Highgate, Hampstead in November with an array of 11 music, theatre and comedy events. The programme showcases new talent and traditional favourites that will be appreciated by everyone, whether with a Jewish heritage or not.

Events during the month include the toe-tapping folk music of Buenos Klezmer, an evening of music and comedy at the artsdepot in North Finchley, and Yiddish versions of Shakespeare

soliloquies by the actor David Schneider.

The full programme and booking details for the festival, running from Thursday 3 to Sunday 27 November can be found at tsitsitfringe.org.

On stage in front of a global audience

By David Melsome

An amateur actor from East Finchley has taken to the virtual stage for what is described as the largest acting event in the world and the Olympics for actors.

Nicholas Nicolaides has been selected for the regional finals of the World Monologue Games, representing the United Kingdom and pitting his skills against scores of performers from 45 countries, vying for a spot on the podium in six different categories.

Nicholas was chosen after filming the stirring St Crispin's Day speech from Shakespeare's *Henry V* as his qualifying monologue and is now performing a passage from *Much Ado About Nothing* for the main competition.

Viewers can watch the regional finals being streamed



Actor: Nicholas Nicolaides

at worldmonologuegames.com/watch and vote for Nicholas there. Viewer and judges' votes will then combine to send the best performers through to the Global Finals being held in late November.

The World Monologue Games were set up in 2020 by Australian producer Pete Malicki, as a response to actors around the world losing the chance to perform to live audiences during the pandemic lockdowns.

What's On at the Phoenix in October

By Zalan Pall,
general manager

A highly anticipated black comedy, an uplifting biopic, the Palme d'Or winner, Halloween treats and old classics can all be enjoyed at the Phoenix in October.

Amsterdam, playing from Friday 7 October, is set in the 1930s and follows three friends who witness a murder, become suspects themselves, and uncover one of the most outrageous plots in American history.

The ROH opera season starts on Wednesday 12 October with *Aida*, followed by *La Boheme* on Thursday 20th. The MET season kicks off on Saturday 22nd with *Medea*.

From Friday 14 October *Emily* imagines the transformative, exhilarating, and uplifting journey to womanhood of a rebel and a misfit, one of the world's most famous, enigmatic, and provocative writers who died too soon at the age of 30.

On Sunday 16 October we have David Lynch's *The Elephant Man* as the next entry of our clas-



sics season.

We also have exciting events: *Black History Walks: Raising Tennis Aces* on Sunday 9th, *Exhibition on Screen: Hopper* on Tuesday 18th and *Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Wednesday 19th hosted by *Barnet's Drag Troupe*.

A Halloween treat arrives early on Thursday 20 October in the shape of *Bram Stoker's Dracula*.

From Monday 24 October in Martin McDonagh's new black comedy *The Banshees of Inisherin*, two lifelong friends played by Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson find themselves at an impasse when one abruptly ends their relationship, with alarming consequences for both.

We round up the month with Ruben Östlund's Palme d'Or winner *Triangle of Sadness*, where a cruise for the super-rich sinks, leaving survivors, including a fashion model celebrity couple, trapped on an island.

New from festival storyteller

By David Melsome

Children's author Sonia Beldom, who appeared in the storytelling tent at this year's East Finchley Festival, has written a third adventure starring her character Granny Franny.

To remind everyone of summer days, Granny Franny's Big Seaside Special is available on Amazon. Sonia, of Long Lane, N3, has also written a children's book called *Mumbelievable* about

a little girl and her naughty, neurodiverse mother. Based on experiences with her own mum, Sonia said she hoped it would provoke conversations between kids and grown-ups about the differences in parents.

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telephone 0208 432 1418



Birth advice: Poppy Child focuses on pain management techniques

Mother helps others to manage birth in a natural way

By Diana Cormack

An East Finchley mother has set up an online hub providing free natural birth resources, helping pregnant women and their partners towards a happier birth experience.

At a time when there is an NHS epidural shortage and a cost of living crisis, Poppy Child decided to share the methods she had used when having her own baby during the first lockdown.

At that time she had found herself able to cope with childbirth by successfully utilising pain management techniques, so much so that she was determined to tell others about them. Initially Poppy shared her knowledge with a free podcast on Spotify, producing it in her garden shed.

With people all over the world listening to her tips and suggestions, Poppy decided to take a hypnobirthing training course, studying such things as visualisation, massage, relaxation and deep breathing techniques. She then began teaching it on Zoom and, last year, set up an online course which has had hundreds of downloads.

Epidural shortage

Recent shortages of epidural supplies prompted her to create a TikTok account. Poppy said: "As soon as I began to hear about people giving birth and being denied interventions such as epidurals, I knew I had to help in providing them with effective strategies to help them at what can be a scary time."

This has resulted in more than 10,000 new followers. In addition Poppy has formulated a free hypnobirthing kit which is available for all. Also as a trained doula (a professional assistant who provides physical and emotional support to

women and their partners during pregnancy, childbirth and for a while afterwards), Poppy holds group hypnobirthing sessions in her East Finchley home or she will come to yours.

Find out more on TikTok and Instagram @popthatmumma, and on Poppy's website at www.hypnobirthing-positive-birth.com

A celebration of black culture and food

To mark Black History Month in October, Age UK Barnet has announced that musician, celebrity chef and *Dragon's Den* success story Levi Roots will be joining them for an afternoon of music, food and spoken word. "Levi will be talking about his early childhood in 1970s Jamaica and his subsequent success with his Reggae Reggae sauce," says Age UK Barnet's Jenny Jean-Charles. "There'll also be music by fantastic steel pan orchestra Pan Nation as well as a singalong, a cookery demo and taster plus heart-warming stories and poetry from older residents."

Age UK Barnet says it will be celebrating black culture but also wants to shine a light on some of the tougher challenges

Letters

Too many charity shops

Dear Editor,

It is with almost total amazement that I see yet another charity shop has opened in Muswell Hill which I believe makes the total there and in East Finchley of about 13.

Are the local councils trying to downsize Muswell Hill's and East Finchley's facilities as the rapid expansion of just charity shops is not doing our area any service? I realise that the rent of the shops must be enormous and that charity shops have a special discount, so that in order for the shops to be utilised the councils are taking this short-sighted way out.

However this area will soon be much less desirable if it only offers 13 charity shops and a massive amount of coffee shops and restaurants. People will spend their money in better locations with a wider variety of shops. Why doesn't the council, or whoever owns the freehold of these shops, take a hit and reduce the rent for businesses rather than just running down the very nice area and community?

**Naomi Inwald,
Lanchester Road, N6.**

Be Part of It

Dear Editor,

You kindly mentioned our charity Number Champions in your Be Part of It volunteers column. We're delighted to update you that it's resulted in several great people volunteering with us. So we wanted to say a big Thank You, and what a wonderful idea to devote a section of the paper to local volunteering opportunities.

**Sarah Manson,
Trustee, Number Champions,
N2**

Editor's note: Turn to page 4 for this month's Be Part of It



Black and white: JoJo the cat at the pub. See 'Whose round?'

Stop-start cycle lanes

Dear Editor

I am responding to my friend Mike Segal's letter in the August edition of The Archer. I applaud his enthusiasm for cycling, and indeed I cycled daily from East Finchley to the City for 14 years some 50 years ago. Traffic then was a fraction of today. However I cannot see how making cars crawl along, stopping and starting, will reduce pollution, compared to the steady flow of traffic around East Finchley station which existed before the current scheme. Particularly bad is the cycle/bus lane on the left being used by buses going north which turn right at the lights into Fortis Green, as they block the road for cars behind causing queues.

Also, as this is a major approach road from the north into central London, I think it unlikely that today's drivers will abandon their cars in favour of cycles. I did ask Barnet Council how many cycles used the route, and what changes the scheme had made, but they refused to answer saying the provisional experiment was still under way. I repeat briefly my earlier comments on the downside of the present set-up: rat runs, difficulties in using local shops due to new parking restrictions, shops closing, and even cyclists saying that the new lanes end then restart several times which is itself dangerous. Let's have cycle lanes indeed, but in appropriate locations

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

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

Whose round?

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the article about the lady whose cat accompanies her on her delivery round ('Kikko is the purr-fect paperboy', The Archer, September 2022). Whilst I cannot compete with that, I give you JoJo (pictured above) who, in the hot weather, followed me from home to the Windsor Castle pub in The Walks, although he didn't seem to enjoy the Guinness.

**Linda Dolata
Leopold Rd, N2.**

Plastics thanks

Dear Editor,

I was taken aback by such a validating article in The Archer last month ('Plastic group wraps up... but the fight goes on'). The visceral response of East Finchley-ites to David Attenborough's *Blue Planet* programme [in 2017] showing a turtle entangled in plastic was evidenced by the number of people who immediately volunteered to join the nascent No2PlasticsN2 group.

I want particularly to thank the group's cofounders Ruth Anders and Joanne Westgate for their enthusiasm, plus Vanessa for her wonderful brand design, Joanne for making the signs and each and every one in No2PlasticsN2.

We questioned every shop, awarded signs and spoke to residents at our Saturday tables and on our East Finchley Festival stalls. There are just too, too many to thank individually. You all know who you are, thank you (and especially the coterie of us five, there at the end).

**Ann Inglis,
Huntingdon Rd, N2.**

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

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Weekday masses as advertised on the website.

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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>

Quiz night

Join Age UK Barnet for their next Quiz Night on Thursday 17 November at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, East Finchley. Arrive at 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start.

Tickets cost £15 and include a tasty two-course meal, plus there'll be a raffle during the evening and a cash bar. To book, contact teresa.gallagher@ageuk-barnet.org.uk or phone her on 07502 989 403.

Your news

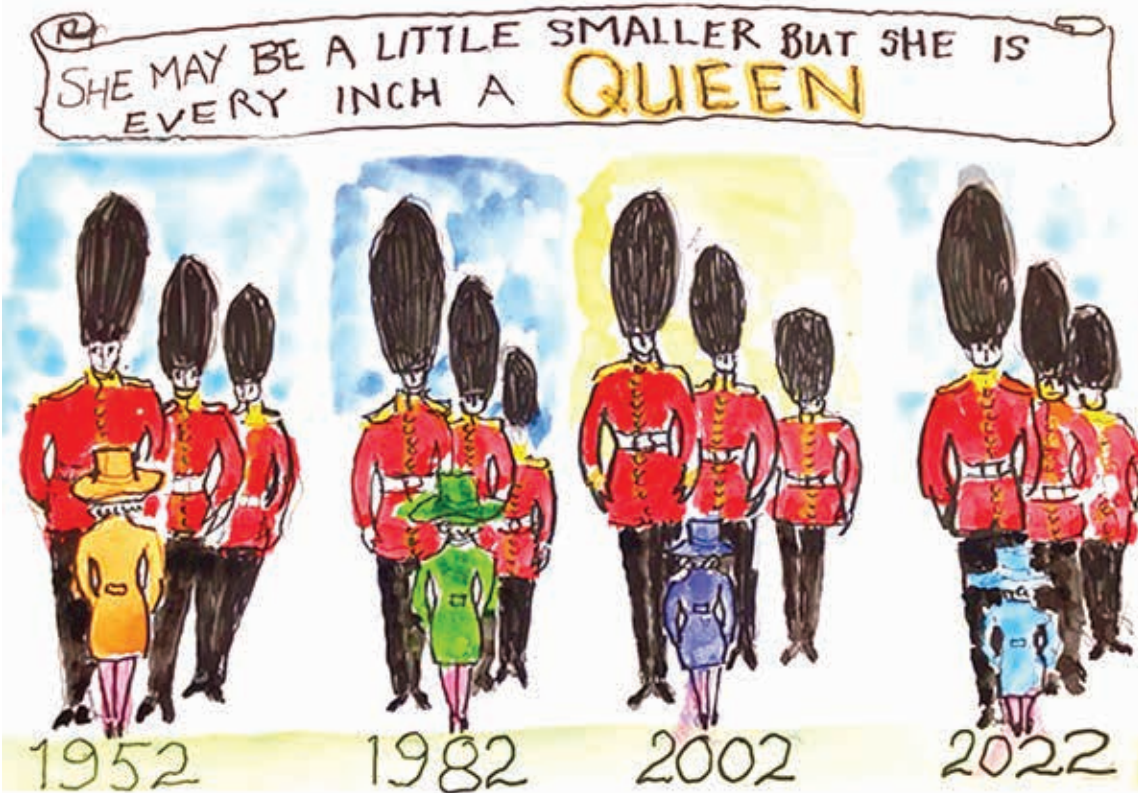
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In loving memory of Queen Elizabeth II, 1926 - 2022



As a small tribute in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we're grateful to East Finchley artists Greta Sadur and Michael Baum for letting us print these cheerful art works, originally created for the Platinum Jubilee back in June.

We think Greta's image of the Queen standing before her soldiers sums up her dedication to the official duties she carried out for 70 years and Michael's portrait beautifully captures the smile and personality of the woman behind the crown.

Tour guide explores the new Elizabeth line

By Lynn Winton

In the spring, I joined a fascinating walking tour of old Mayfair, which is just one of a plethora of tours you can book with London guide Rachel Kolsky.

After bumping into her months later in East Finchley station, I was delighted to find out that she has lived in Ingram Road, N2 since 1995. As well as being a Blue Badge and City of London Guide, Rachel is an author, lecturer, and independent cinema enthusiast; hence her long love affair with the Phoenix, where she served as a trustee for 20 years.

Her website Golondontours.com has an eclectic selection of tour titles, such as 'Baffling Barbican' and 'Bagels to Bhajis'. Rachel adores the research, which is just as well as it's a vital part of her job and lately she has been fully immersed in



Tour guide: Rachel Kolsky

what she calls the "Lovely Lizzie Line", the new Elizabeth tube line, to introduce

tours of Paddington, Canary Wharf, Woolwich and Farringdon. "It's your last chance to see Smithfield before The Museum of London moves in," she says.

South Bank book

As well as new tours, Rachel has completed her fifth book, called *London's South Bank in 50 Buildings*. Its actual publication date is unknown, but it is ready to go. She has collaborated on this, as in previous books, with Kentish Town photographer Louis Berk.

So, after seeing every square inch of London, what does Rachel think of East Finchley? "Not a day goes by when I don't think how lucky I am to live here... and there is exceptionally good cake."

Special offer for two Archer readers! Email Rachel at info@golondontours.com for a free place on one of her November walks, which include Leyton Unlocked, Perfect Pinner and Hampstead South: Plaques Galore. All names will be put into a ballot and the two who are pulled out of the 'virtual hat' will be sent the full list to choose from.

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