



Where to find warm spaces these winter months

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Council's website describes Warm Spaces as 'a community-led initiative where businesses, community, faith or social enterprise organisations provide a welcoming space for residents to stay warm and engage with others in their community'.

Although some libraries feature in their list, East Finchley's is not included. At the time of writing these are the local warm spaces for which TheArcher has been able to find details. Please tell us if you know of any not mentioned below:

Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2: Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm; a warm hub and IT drop-in with volunteers to help with your phones, tablets and laptops; occasional talks and presentations, teas, coffees, a warm space to chat, read and relax; fully accessible and free; donations welcome. Tel: 020 8203 5040.

Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2: Hosted for Grange Big Local in the cosy community space at the back of Holy Trinity Church on Thursday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm, this is an opportunity to meet and chat, with a warm drink and biscuits, and hopefully to save on the heating at home for a couple of hours. The plan is to run for 10 weeks from Thursday 11 January to the end of March.

There will be introduction to local interests and enthusiasms, including poetry, local history, family history, gardening and allotments. Grange Big Local will also present its current projects, such as the Trinity Road Underpass Upgrade, Universal Basic Income, and a Community Grants Offer.

They will also support any quick and easy crafting, making, or upcycling ideas. However, if you just want to sit quietly in a corner or do a jigsaw, you will be just as welcome!

All ages are welcome to the launch day on Thursday 11 January from 3pm at Holy Trinity where there will be mulled fruit juice and cake for a festive flavour. The space is wheelchair accessible.

Jacksons Lane Centre, 269a Archway Road, N6 5AA: Open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 10pm and Sundays from 10am to 6pm; offering a warm space; café open most days and there is also plenty of kind company; wheelchair accessible. Tel: 020 8340 5226.



Rollercoaster of emotions: A scene from Cold War at the Almeida Theatre.

REVIEW: COLD WAR

Almeida Theatre, Islington, N1, until Saturday 27 January

By Jessica Holt

Cold War, Conor McPherson's play adapted from Pawel Pawlikowski's 2018 film, is a rollercoaster of different emotions. Directed by Rupert Goold, the play follows the lives of Zula (Anya Chalotra) and Wiktor (Luke Thallon), who fall in love after 1945 when Poland is cut off by the Iron Curtain.

They participate successfully in the emergence of Polish folk song and dance ensembles. Zula sings and dances, Wiktor composes and conducts. But when the company is forced to promote propaganda for Stalin, Wiktor defects to the West whilst Zula stays in Poland.

The strong themes of artist suppression and loss of integrity are explored through the beautifully sung folk songs and the exquisite choreography of Ellen Kane's dance sequences. The

lover's separation is symbolic of Poland's separation from its own culture and, when they reunite in Paris years later, their new lives seem to be unsatisfactory as again their artistic integrity is challenged. They eventually return to Poland with tragic consequences.

But this production has much joy and humour provided by the ensemble actors and the character of Kaczmarek (Elliot Levey), a lovable rogue who ensures the audience is kept informed

at all times, historically and culturally. Like a chameleon, he adapts to all situations keeping himself on top of all of them.

The play is cleverly balanced, with quiet moments when the audience can reflect, musical interludes when the audience listens, and lively moments when the audience can just watch and enjoy. But at its heart it is an extremely sad story both for the lovers and for Poland at this particular time in its history.

Catch them if you can

By Ruth Anders

CATCH stands for Community Action To Combat (Asian) Hornet. As reported in our October issue, local beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton, of Miel de Lucie, is committed to slowing the invasion of this destructive insect across the south east of England.

Asian Hornets can spread into 60km of new territory a year and by last September they were already known to have reached Hackney. Sadly the speed of their arrival means our native insects have had no time to develop defensive behaviour, so honey bees and other pollinators are perfect prey for the invaders.

they leave hibernation (when the temperature reaches 14C for three consecutive days) and before they establish their nests.

Lucie told *The Archer*: "Worker numbers then grow until peak predation period in August-September, which continues until first frosts. I will be distributing information posters around the area, as well as free traps made from upcycled materials.

"Traps should be deployed every 350m to cover a hornet's typical flying range of one kilometre, and it's illegal to trap and then release a hornet. The most humane way to kill them is in the freezer."

Lucie now needs help in

sourcing materials for traps, and hosting and monitoring the traps. Two green semi-transparent bottles with their screw tops make one trap (see photo), with exits allowing smaller insects to escape. Please leave suitable bottles in the porch of 18 Beech Drive, N2: sorry, no clear plastic (Lucie has to paint those) and no San Pellegrinos (too pointy).

Could you be one of 50 hosts by late February? If you're interested in hosting a trap email your postcode to ef.catch@gmail.com and Lucie will contact you if your site is suitable (to ensure even distribution).

Lucie's initial goal is to raise £200 to help pay for the commercially sold bait "Trappit",



On guard: Lucie Chaumeton with a hornet trap

which attracts hornets but repels bees and moths. If you can donate or if you think you see an Asian hornet in the spring, email

a photo to ef.catch@gmail.com and Lucie will follow up. For further information visit www.bit.ly/miellucie.

ASIAN HORNET
Report any suspected sighting on bit.ly/AH_report

INVASIVE SPECIES
A single nest of Asian Hornets can eat 12kg of native pollinators a year

Body - velvety black/dark brown
Head - black with an orange/yellow face
Abdomen - black/brown segments bordered with a yellow band on the 4th segment
2.5-3cm (twice the size of a wasp)
Legs - brown upper segment with yellow lower segments

Designed by @miellucie for @londonbeekeepersassociation
Photo courtesy of Isle of Wight Asian Hornet Watch

What to watch for: Asian Hornet information

The best response is to trap Asian Hornet queens as soon as

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