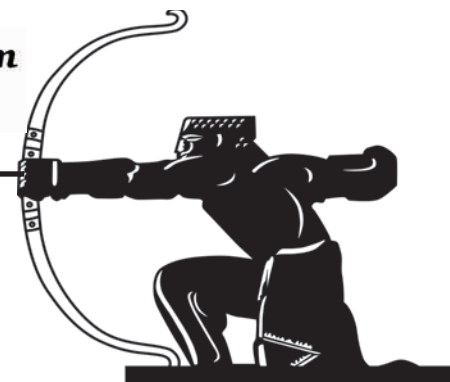




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# The Archer

30 Local News is our Aim  
30 years 1993-2023



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## Two arrests as detectives reopen unsolved murder case 40 years on

By Claire Biek

**Police have arrested two men after reopening the unsolved murder case of Anthony Littler who died from head injuries sustained in a brutal attack on a footpath near East Finchley station 40 years ago.**

The 45-year-old Customs and Excise executive had been on a night out and was on his way home to Leslie Road, N2, shortly after midnight on 1 May 1984, when he was set upon on the path that leads from the present-day station car park to East End Road. At the time, it was unlit and had trees and hedges on either side.

family. No piece of information will be considered too small.”

### Public appeal

DCI John and two police officers handed out leaflets to the public at the station in early December appealing for information about what they believe was a random killing. The case was formally reopened following a review by senior officers, having been investigated twice since 1984 in 1993 and 2013.

With little surviving forensic evidence, the Met are heavily relying on reviewing the original statements and on new information coming to light. They are hoping to trace

29 April 1984 to report he had been assaulted by two young people with a baseball bat close to the station.

A statement from the store owner described that person as 6ft tall, of medium build with short brown hair, with severe facial injuries including a badly bruised black eye. The victim was never traced at the time.

DCI John told *The Archer*: “We can’t say at this stage whether that incident is linked to the murder of Anthony Littler but we have to keep it open as a possibility. The circumstances of another violent attack taking place in the same location within 24 hours I would suggest is significant.”

### Shocked family

Mr Littler, who was single, was active in the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association where a colleague remembers him as “tall, smiley, friendly and pleasant”.

His cousin Tricia McClure told us her family had been shocked by the brutality of his murder and were still hoping for answers four decades on. She said: “After all this time, we hope this new investigation puts those responsible behind bars. It won’t bring Anthony back, but it will give us some closure.”

Anyone with information should contact police on 020 8358 0100 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

**Victim’s family: We need justice, page 6**

**Investigators: Someone must remember, page 6**



Murdered: Anthony Littler, 45, was walking home to Leslie Road, N2, when he was attacked. Photo Met Police



Station path: The scene, on what is now Deanery Close, where Mr Littler was set upon. Photo Met Police

On Sunday 10 December, the Metropolitan Police arrested a 58-year-old man on suspicion of murder. Three days later, a 54-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of murder. Both men were released on bail to dates later this month, pending further enquiries.

Detective Chief Inspector Neil John, who is leading the investigation, said: “These arrests come just days after our latest appeal, and I would like to thank everyone who has already come forward with information. However, we still need to speak with anyone who may have witnessed the events leading up to Anthony’s murder.

“The length of time passed has not diminished our efforts to get justice for Anthony and his

the anonymous caller who called 999 to report the fatal attack. Detectives know that the call was made from a public phone box near East Finchley station.

They also want to identify a man who came into the former Galleon Wine Stores on the High Road two days earlier on

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## Tennis players fear loss of green setting

By Diana Cormack

**East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra, pictured, met with residents living around Fortis Green Tennis Club, off Southern Road, N2, who will be affected by proposals to build eight new homes on the club's grounds.**

As we reported in November, developers the Capstone Group have put forward plans for a new clubhouse and eight homes, with the loss of one of the four courts. This is supported by the site's owners Muswell Hill United Reformed Church but not by the tennis club itself. Although the club is inside the Haringey boundary, surrounding roads Summerlee Gardens and Cherry Tree Road would be particularly affected if these plans came to fruition and are in Barnet. Councillor Mittra listened to the many concerns expressed by club members. These included worries about the disturbances caused during the building process particularly to Cherry Tree Road, which could provide the only access to the site by losing its cul-de-sac status. Parking problems were envisaged after completion, and there were concerns about access to the development for Haringey

Council vehicles.

Tennis club members say they would also lose their current green and tree-lined setting to play in the shadow of a brick wall, if indeed many of them remain. The fear is that some may move to new clubs during the building process.

Cllr Mittra made various suggestions for the residents to investigate and took on some to consider himself. He is willing to keep in regular touch and plans to follow up his visit. The meeting was described as "productive and helpful" by one resident.



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## Change of date for East Finchley's Got Talent 2

By Diana Cormack

**East Finchley Town Team events group are excited to announce that East Finchley's Got Talent will be returning to the Phoenix Cinema this month. The contest will be held on Saturday 27 January, not Sunday 28 January as originally planned.**

Last year's event saw a huge range of acts from the local area take part and organisers are seeking new performers to join them in celebrating the wonderful range of talent in the community.

Hosted by MOBO Award winner Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock of East Finchley Festival, the contest is open to all ages and talents. Various prizes will be on offer, including the East Finchley's Got Talent trophy and the opportunity to perform live on the community stage at East Finchley Festival in June.

Please email details of your act as soon as possible to [EFgottalent2024@gmail.com](mailto:EFgottalent2024@gmail.com). All acts will be contacted after the selection process.

As part of the weekend at the Phoenix, the East Finchley Town Team will be running their Bake Off competition again. All budding bakers are invited to create a bake on the theme 'The Silver Screen' to pay tribute to the fabulous films

shown at the Phoenix.

They will be judged by local councillor and cake expert Arjun Mittra alongside one of the winners of last year's competition, 11-year-old Essie. Slices of the cakes and bakes

will be available during the intervals of the talent competition, with all funds raised going to the Phoenix Cinema charity. If you'd like to take part in the bake off, please email [EFtownteam@gmail.com](mailto:EFtownteam@gmail.com).



## PLANNING

### Barnet Council

**Land rear of The Bobath Centre, East End Road, N2**

Submission of details of condition 5 (parking layout) and 6 (visibility splays), pursuant to planning permission.

**50 Brim Hill, N2**

Replacement of front windows with single glazing, and side and rear windows with double glazing.

**22 Deansway, N2**

Part single, part two-storey rear extension with new patio area.

**6 Elm Gardens, N2**

Erection of a garden room.

**78 High Road, N2**

Conversion into two self-contained flats, including a single-storey rear extension and mansard roof extension with front and rear dormers. Modifications to rear access to maintain one car parking space and external amenity space, cycle storage, and refuse and recycling facilities.

**43 Leopold Road, N2**

Roof extension, including rear dormer window and one front roof light.

**Adj to 48 Lincoln Road, N2**

New two-storey dwelling with rooms in the roof space. Associated refuse/recycling and amenity space.

**Market Place Playground, N2**

Submission of details of conditions 7 (Biodiversity Net Gain Plan), 9 (ecological enhancement measures), 11 (Levels) (Construction Management and Logistics Plan) and 14 (Cotoneaster Control Measures), pursuant to planning permission.

## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

The team at the **North London Hospice** shop on East Finchley High Road is looking for more volunteers. Whether you want to get work experience, help temporarily whilst between jobs or are looking for a long-term role, call in to the shop and talk to the manager Anastasiya. Age is no barrier, ages 14-94 welcome. You will play a vital role in funding the vital work of the hospice and enjoy the camaraderie of a very inclusive team.

**Finchley Foodbank** is supporting a growing number of people who rely on this outstanding organisation to manage through the week. Help clients with choosing their food, toiletries and baby goods, or come in when the food bank is preparing stocks on the days before opening. There's a number of roles and food bank manager Anna Maughan and the volunteer team will welcome you with open arms to find your niche. New recruits are urgently needed to carry out this valuable work. Email [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com) to find out more.

**Driving Aid to Ukraine** is a non-profit organisation based in N2 started by local resident Michael Byrne, who delivers lorries of humanitarian aid across Europe to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. They require all kinds of volunteers: to help scale up in building and sustaining a social media campaign, fundraising and grant writing and to organise collections of warm clothes and other vital humanitarian aid items, as well as people who would like to drive locally to pick up the collections. A fantastic opportunity, whatever your skill set, to bring vital aid to an utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grassroots level. Find out more at [Drivingaidtoukraine.org](http://Drivingaidtoukraine.org) or get in touch with Michael on 07791 912389.

**Bin There Donate That** is a successful local initiative that has made East Finchley a trailblazer in promoting sustainability. It is driven by resident Emma Frampton, whose passion is to create a more responsible neighbourhood. All types of help needed for research, liaising with local 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, or have ideas to contribute, email [bintheredonatethat@gmail.com](mailto:bintheredonatethat@gmail.com) for more details.

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please send details (max 80 words please) to [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk) or complete the form at [www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it](http://www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it).





Best dressed: Sharon McGoey models an auction outfit and, right, comedian Alan Carr cuddles a canine guest. Photos Mike Coles

## Stars come out for four-legged fashion fundraiser

By Ruth Anders

Tails were wagging furiously when East Finchley's Engine Rooms opened its doors one night in late November to host a glamorous fundraiser for the charity All Dogs Matter, also supported by Osbornes Law.

Dog-loving celebrities, including Ricky Gervais, Jonathan Ross, Michelle Collins, David Harewood, Vanessa Feltz and others had donated their designer clothes for a fashion show to raise money to help the charity fund its ever-rising vet bills and dog care costs.

Wine and refreshments flowed generously to welcome guests into the brightly lit venue. Dogs large and small, adopted from All Dogs Matter, attended along with their owners with loud enthusiasm. The charity's eye-catching merchandise was on sale whilst a rail of donated designer items attracted much attention. Canine attendees were busy sniffing each other and party bags filled with doggy treats awaited guests on each chair.

Welcomed to the catwalk as a "global animal rights superstar", actor Peter Egan introduced a moving film about

the charity's work before the main event, the Paws for Fashion auction, where he modelled donated outfits with a flourish.

Comedian Alan Carr modelled his own designer jacket and an outfit from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Actor Michelle Collins (along with her dog Peggy) and our own Sharon McGoey from Cherry Tree Café were also on stage to show off the outfits.

Sadly, largely as the result of a huge increase in dog breeding and ownership across lockdown, All Dogs Matter is completely full of dogs at their kennels and in foster homes. Fundraising is an even more pressing priority than usual.

CEO Ira Moss told The Archer: "We were so excited to host this event and have been blown away by the generosity of our patrons, celebrities, and friends in donating so many wonderful items to the show. It's been a difficult time

for our rescue and rehabilitation activities, with so many dogs needing our help, and we're stretched to capacity. However, we raised just over £6,000 from our Paws for Fashion event which is amazing and was just in time for Christmas." For further information, visit [alldogsmatter.co.uk](http://alldogsmatter.co.uk)

## No drop-off at pharmacy

Please don't take items intended for the Driving Aid to Ukraine charity to C W Andrew Pharmacy in the High Road, East Finchley. We wrongly stated in our December edition that the pharmacy is collecting items for Ukraine. They have donated medical items but are unable to accept donations to pass on. We're sorry for the confusion. Any items to help families facing a harsh winter in Ukraine are still welcomed by Driving Aid to Ukraine and can be donated via their official collector Nicola Cousins, who lives in Springcroft Avenue, N2.

Email her at: [nicolacousins0812@gmail.com](mailto:nicolacousins0812@gmail.com). New toiletries and medical aids are all desperately needed. Find the full list on the charity's website [drivingaidtoulkraine.org](http://drivingaidtoulkraine.org)



One careful owner: Alan Carr shows off his Ru Paul's Drag Race suit

## Strawberry Vale residents win reprieve over heating costs

By John Lawrence

Twelve months ago, residents on the Strawberry Vale estate were facing a potentially massive rise in their heating and hot water costs under plans to introduce meters into every home. But now they are starting 2024 with some good news after the move was shelved for at least four years.

As we reported in December 2022, housing association Peabody wanted to install the meters and take individual readings from the 268 homes and flats on the estate. This would have replaced the current controlled annual charges for all residents using the communal gas heating system.

The Strawberry Vale Residents Association said at the time that this could see some bills soar by as much as 180%, although this figure was disputed by Peabody.

### Pause

The housing association agreed to pause the installation while they examined the likely impacts. Now they have written to all residents to say the meters won't be installed for at least the next four years.

In the letter, Peabody's managing director for North West London Annemarie Fenlon wrote: "We were planning to put heat meters in homes at Straw-

berry Vale because of government rules for organisations with heat networks. We know from speaking to residents that some of you are worried about how this might affect your heating costs. We talked to the OPSS (Office for Product Safety and Standards) about it, and they have agreed that, for now, it doesn't make sense to go ahead with the project."

Laurence Williamson, chair of the residents association, said the four-year delay was "a surprise and very welcome". He hailed it as a major victory for Strawberry Vale and particularly thanked Mike Freer MP for his help in opposing the new meters.

At the same time, Peabody announced that work has been completed on upgrading the pump room and boilers on the estate to ensure heating and hot water can be provided uninterrupted to all homes, following several winters when residents had to endure lengthy breakdowns.

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# Your questions on the new controlled parking zone

By David Melsome

As we reported in our last edition, a new controlled parking zone (CPZ) will come into force across a large part of East Finchley next month. From February, residents living in the northern part of N2 will be required to pay an annual charge to park close to their homes between the hours of 11am to 3pm from Monday to Friday.

Barnet Council says it is introducing the restrictions in response to concerns about commuter parking and general overcrowding raised by respondents to its public questionnaire two years ago.

*The Archer* has received a large number of comments from readers, some of which are printed on this page, so we asked Barnet Council's parking team to address them directly. Here are their responses.

**The Archer: What level of response did Barnet Council receive to the initial public consultation on the new zone two years ago?**

Barnet Council: Following concerns raised in relation to parking issues in the East Finchley area, the Council undertook an informal parking engagement between Wednesday 1 December 2021 and Wednesday 12 January 2022. 51 per cent of respondents either actively supported a CPZ or identified parking problems in their road, which can be tackled by a CPZ.

the statutory consultation period for EF CPZ.

**Roads such as Sedgemere Avenue, Brighton Road and Sylvester Road are a long way from any tube stations and many residents say they have no commuter parking problems. Why have these been included in the CPZ?**

Officers look for natural boundaries such as neighbouring CPZs, main routes, railways and rivers etc. to define the extent of the CPZ. Any CPZ has the potential to have knock-on effects on the surrounding area, but the probability of this is reduced by natural boundaries. The East Finchley engagement area is bounded by the A504 East End Road, A406 North Circular, neighbouring East Finchley M and M1 CPZs and London Borough of Haringey. Sedgemere Avenue, Brighton Road and Sylvester Road fall within that natural boundary. Also, if such roads are not included they are likely to suffer from displaced parking.

How much money is the new

the Council time to consider any comments received, assess the effectiveness of the parking controls, and make changes if required.

**How will the trial period be assessed by the council? Is it all or nothing, or would the council be willing to consider removing some roads from the CPZ if it is found to have made no difference or if it has been detrimental in some ways?**

Parking stress surveys are carried out three months after implementation of the scheme. All comments received as part of six-month consultation are reviewed. The results are then presented to Ward Members, with recommendations from officers.

The removal of some roads will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, as their removal could lead to increased parking in those roads from vehicles displaced from roads that remain in the CPZ.

The scheme will either be retained in its current form and made permanent, removed, or amended (e.g. changes to the times and days) and made permanent. **What signage and road markings can residents expect to see in the new CPZ area?**

The works will include the marking of parking bays, yellow lines, and erecting signs and posts. Where possible, roads will be designated as Permit Parking Areas (PPAs). This avoids the need for marked parking bays and posts and signs, whilst max-

imising kerb space and reducing the environmental impact on the street scene.

Before works begin, we will erect warning notices on lamp columns in your street which will advise residents to keep some areas free from parked vehicles (usually 10m from road junctions and across driveways). In other areas, residents should park close to the kerb so that bay markings can be laid.

**Have the existing parking zones in the southern half of East Finchley been effective in controlling parking?**

As part of the process, we review CPZs to get an understanding of how effective they have been, and a review of the existing East Finchley zones will be progressed at the same time as the review of the new experimental EF CPZ in Autumn 2024.

**How will visitors pay to park in the new CPZ, and what are the arrangements for regular callers like carers and nurses?**

We have proposed pay-by-phone and shared use bays near amenities to support non-residents visiting the area. Residents can apply for visitors' vouchers and applicants can apply for carers' permits online at [www.barnet.gov.uk/parking/parking-permits-and-vouchers](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/parking/parking-permits-and-vouchers) **Are there alternative methods of payment for people who are unable to pay their annual parking charge online?**

The council offers resident permits as three-month or annual.

Applicants who are unable to purchase permits/vouchers on our website can contact our Client Parking Team directly at [parking.clientteam@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:parking.clientteam@barnet.gov.uk) for assistance. If you do not have internet access, please contact us on 020 8359 7446 (Monday to Thursday 9am to 5.15pm and Friday 9am to 5pm).

Applicants with disabilities, preventing them from being able to apply online will be referred to the council's Customer Service Group (CSG), who can assist.

**Your letters p11**

## From The Archer archives...

10 years ago:

January 2014

The Archer Academy's Stanley Road campus site received £500,000 from the London Marathon Charitable Trust to provide sports facilities to be made available for community use in perpetuity. The money would provide an all-weather pitch on the Stanley Road site, plus an inclusive climbing wall within the school. Roger Chapman, of Sport East Finchley, said: "The grant from the LMCT will enable this sports field to be brought back into active sports use for local people."

15 years ago:

January 2009

*The Archer* hailed a new competitor 'The Martin', a newspaper produced by Year 6 pupils at Martin Primary School. The first issue was sold to parents and carers during a parent consultation evening, with proceeds adding to school funds. Teachers were given complimentary copies. Deputy headteacher John Pickering said "If their good work continues it won't be long before a new generation of journalists takes over duties on *The Archer*."

23 years ago:

January 2001

Kevin Murphy of English Heritage accused London Underground staff of misleading passengers by telling them the lack of ticket machines at East Finchley station was the responsibility of his organisation, who would not let them alter the building. He said: "There have been a number of occasions on which London Underground has misrepresented English Heritage in this way. This is not acceptable and we will be taking it up with them directly." Now of course the ticket office is long gone and ticket machines have taken over the role of serving customers.



Pay to park: Resident parking signs will be springing up across the northern half of East Finchley

Having considered a number of factors, including the feedback received during the engagement and to address the majority of residents' parking issues it was therefore agreed to progress with the implementation of an experimental (trial) CPZ scheme.

**How many households and/or vehicles are expected to fall within the new EF parking zone?**

Barnet Council: 2,667 properties will fall within the EF CPZ, of which 2,539 properties will be eligible for permits. Residents living in private developments or on private roads are not eligible for permits.

**Why were the hours of 11am to 3pm chosen for the new CPZ, when others in the area are 11am-12pm and 2pm-3pm?**

Over time, the demand for parking has increased and one-hour zones have become ineffective, resulting in complaints from residents to review their CPZ operating hours. The implementation of CPZs for one hour is therefore no longer favoured and the council will be reviewing the neighbouring CPZs at the end of

CPZ scheduled to generate for Barnet Council each year, and what will that extra income be spent on?

At this stage the council cannot confirm exactly how much revenue the scheme will generate due to the fact it will be experimental and there may be changes as a result of feedback received from the statutory consultation. However, CPZs are intended to be self-financing, and the council has a legal obligation to reinvest any income generated to maintain and enforce the scheme. Any surplus income is used to maintain roads and other transport schemes.

**The trial period for the new CPZ is scheduled to last for 18 months but the window for accepting public comments is just the first six months. Why is this?**

The EF experimental CPZ will be implemented for a period of up to 18 months, during which time comments received during the first six months constitute the statutory consultation. An experimental scheme enables



Winding up: Lisa Jones and Stephen Thomas with Ernie at East Finchley Festival's Late Summer Social in 2021. Photo Mike Coles

## End of the road for Ernie's refill service

**Sad news that the People's Pantry door-to-door recycling and refill service is shutting down after two and a half years. Co-founders Lisa Jones and Stephen Thomas made the announcement to their customers last month.**

The couple couldn't be missed as they drove their refurbished 1973 milk float Ernie around the streets of East Finchley and Muswell Hill offering plastic-free refills for food and household goods. "It's been three wonderful years that we wouldn't change. During that time we tweaked and honed our trailblazing little business model and created something unique that we are very proud of," they said.

"But a force for change requires a will to change. And, as a low margin business, The People's Pantry required them in greater numbers than we were managing to regularly engage." Signing off, they thanked all their customers for their commitment and support.



# 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.

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Body - velvety black/dark brown  
Head - black with an orange/yellow face  
Abdomen - black/brown segments bordered with a yellow band on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

freezer." Lucie now needs help in

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Police appeal: One of the leaflets handed out at East Finchley station

## Sadness of a family who just want justice

By Claire Biek

**“The sadness never goes away”, Anthony Littler’s cousin Tricia McClure told *The Archer*. “He was a gentle giant; he wouldn’t have hurt a fly. He didn’t deserve what happened to him.”**

Although Anthony Littler’s photograph has been all over the news as part of the recent appeal and the reports on arrests made in connection with his murder, there hasn’t been much written about his character. Tricia generously shared all the stories she could remember about her beloved cousin who was so brutally murdered 40 years ago.

Anthony was born and grew up in St Helens, at that time in Lancashire, now in Merseyside. An only child like her, his mother and Tricia’s mother were sisters. Due to the large age difference, Tricia saw Anthony as her big brother: “He was always very kind and gentle to me when I was a little girl. He always gave me presents at family dos.”

### ‘Gentle giant’

They were quite close. Even though Anthony worked away, he always came home for Christmas and made sure to send cards for birthdays. Without a driver’s licence, he would bring small gifts with him on the train, declaring that one day he would learn to drive in order to bring them bigger presents. He was a thoughtful and sweet “family guy” who they thought of as a ‘gentle giant’ due to his tall 6ft 3ins stature.

He and Tricia used to take “daft photos” at family parties. Tricia fondly recalled one she found recently in which she held a three-tiered cake over Anthony’s head unbeknownst to him. “I thought he’d have made a wonderful father,” Tricia said. “It’s a shame he never got married.”

When asked about Anthony’s interests, Tricia shared his love for CAMRA, the campaign for real ale. He and his friends would travel on weekends to try ales on tap. She believes that he

was planning another weekend away with his friends the night that he was murdered.

### In limbo

Tricia cried when she found out. “It was horrible, it felt like we were in limbo. It’s hard to describe the feeling.” She remembers that his mother “went very quiet”. When asked how they all coped with Anthony’s death, she shared that looking back now, her aunt must have been a “tough cookie”. They had to wait a year to hold the funeral due to the inquest. Anthony’s work colleagues attended and spoke very highly of him.

Although time is a great healer, the sadness doesn’t go away. She was keen to help, saying that it would give her great satisfaction if whoever committed this horrible crime could be brought to justice.

Anthony Littler is buried in St Helens, his hometown.

## Detective determined to find answers for victim’s family

By John Lawrence

**There are still many unanswered questions surrounding the murder of Anthony Littler 40 years ago but the detective leading the reopened investigation is confident that someone, and possibly someone still living in East Finchley, will have information that leads to the killer or killers.**

Speaking to *The Archer*, DCI Neil John said the science and methods that police rely on today, such as CCTV and mobile phone records, were entirely absent in 1984. “But I would be surprised if there is not still someone in the East Finchley area who remembers the case and perhaps even the details of the scene that night,” he said. Mr Littler’s murder has been investigated twice since, in 1993 and 2013, and has been brought to the fore again now after a Met Police panel of high-ranking officers decided there was still a chance of uncovering crucial evidence.

### Key witnesses

One key line of inquiry is the attack on another man close to East Finchley station two days before Mr Littler was killed. He walked into the Galleon Wines off-licence on the High Road with severe facial injuries saying he had been attacked by two men with baseball bats.

“Who was that person and is there anyone around who knows who he was? The injuries he sustained and the violence of that attack mean it was a significant event in his life which suggests people who knew him would have known about it,” said DCI John.

“We can’t say at this stage whether that first incident is linked to the murder of Anthony Littler but we have to keep it open as a possibility. The circumstances of another violent attack taking place in the same location within 24 hours I would suggest is significant.”

Another potential key wit-



Search for evidence: DCI Neil John

ness who has never been traced is the person who made the 999 call to report the attack on Mr Littler. DCI John revealed his team have already spoken to many people who helped with the original investigation but the passage of time means some have since passed away.

### Puzzle over motive

The detective is unable to speculate on the motive behind Mr Littler’s killing but inevitably he has some working theories.

One is mistaken identity. Perhaps returning home shortly after midnight and walking up the dark path from the station Mr Littler was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time and fell into the hands of attackers who were lying in wait for someone else.

Was it a fight? “What little

we know of Mr Littler’s character suggests this is unlikely,” said DCI John. “Possibly it was a robbery gone wrong. But then we know that none of Mr Littler’s belongings were actually taken from him after the attack.”

### Search for evidence

As the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unsolved murder approaches in May, this fourth investigation remains in a very active phase and DCI John is determined to find the truth before memories fade forever.

He told us: “I am new to the case and my aim is to try to uncover evidence that leads to charges against a person or persons so that we can finally bring an end to the investigation and settle the case for the sake of Mr Littler’s surviving relatives.”

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# Thanks to Ianthe and Milo... and all deliverers of The Archer

By Diana Cormack

The Archer team would like to start the year by thanking all our deliverers who turn out loyally every month to bring the newspaper to nearly 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley.

They are a much-appreciated band of volunteers who are the last crucial part in the process of delivering news to our thousands of readers in dozens of roads around N2.

active service.

Among them are Ianthe Lloyd and her husband Milo, now in their 80s, who have delivered *The Archer* for more than 20 years. It was Ianthe



Long-serving volunteers: Milo and Ianthe Lloyd

A number of our longest-serving helpers have retired in the last 12 months after years, and in some cases decades, of

who first volunteered and was allocated the Ossulton Way round, with Milo joining her over time.

His help became more necessary as Ianthe developed the health problems which have led to her giving up an activity which they both enjoyed. Married for 58 years, Milo is now devoted to supporting his wife at home.

They moved into their Church Lane home in 1988 and were immediately impressed by the kindness of their neighbours. Both feel good about delivering the paper as they consider it brings enjoyment to those who read it. They also thought it was a good way to get some exercise.

The icing on the cake for Milo was when the door he was posting the paper through opened and there stood an old colleague he'd not seen for years. Contact was happily renewed with him and his family.

### Can you deliver for us?

Could you spare 30-45 minutes once a month to deliver The Archer? We currently have vacant rounds in Brim Hill, Ossulton Way, Lyttelton Road and East End Road and we particularly need drivers who can drop off 10 or so bagged-up rounds to the homes of our deliverers.

If you can help, please leave a message on our free voicemail line at 0800 612 0748 or email [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk). Thank you and Happy New Year!



Ceramics artist: Peter Hale with his winning pieces

## Ceramics with an architectural edge

Peter Hale is a member of London Potters, a forum for professional and non-professional potters and ceramicists and for all those with an interest in ceramics.

His ceramics were awarded Judges Choice Winner at a recent exhibition organised by London Potters at the Morley Gallery, south London. This open exhibition involved 90 members exhibiting up to three pieces each.

Peter, an architect by background, submitted functional and sculptural pieces influenced by his interest in space and form, constructed from slabs of different coloured clays, textured but unglazed.

Much of his work is wheel-thrown using stoneware clay. He also constructs hand-built stoneware sculptural pieces for interior and exterior display. Peter is also a founder member of East Finchley Open Artists group, which will be celebrating 20 years since formation in 2024.

For more about London Potters and East Finchley Open Artists, visit [www.londonpotters.com](http://www.londonpotters.com) and <https://eastfinchleyopen.org.uk>.

## Plans for the wood

The venue for the annual meeting of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood on Tuesday 23 January at 7.30pm is the Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Park House, 16 High Street, N2 (use the side door adjacent to the wood).

Everyone is welcome to

go along and hear an outline of events planned in the wood for the year ahead, and also an update on the woodland management plan and new forest gardens. In addition, there will be an update on dealing with flooding issues in the wood.

The Friends can be reached any time if there are any queries, or you would like to get involved, by emailing [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com)

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## Dance away the winter blues

By Lynn Winton

Do you love to dance but don't get much opportunity? Whatever your age, you can put on your leggings and trainers, enjoy the music and learn some new fitness dance moves from a dozen different Zumba instructors at the third Dance for Ukraine event.

Lead instructor is Gemma Barlow of Gemma B Fitness, who teaches at many local venues, including The Laboratory Gym in Muswell Hill, Martin Primary School and the prestigious Oti Mabuse Dance Studio in Wembley.

She has gathered together a roster of the country's most charismatic Zumba instructors, who will create another fun programme to keep dancers on their feet for up to two hours. That will be followed by a long stretch routine so they go home in great shape.

Tickets are a suggested donation of £20, and £10 for children aged eight to 16 who are very welcome, as long as they are accompanied by an adult. As the event is underwritten by a generous benefactor, 100% of the proceeds go straight to the East Finchley-based organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine.



Move it: The Dance for Ukraine event is a fun workout

The Dance for Ukraine 3 event takes place in the South Hall at Fortismere School, Tetherdown entrance, on Saturday 3 February from 11am to 1pm.

You can book by using the QR code below or visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk) and search for 'Dance for Ukraine 3'. Contact Lynn on 07973 432086 if you have any questions.





# Poppy the Pea breaks free at book launch

By Diana Cormack

Apart from *The Princess and the Pea* you might be hard-pressed to think of many other stories about this humble little legume. However, Farzad Sharifi-Yazdi of North Finchley has recently written, illustrated and self-published a rhyming picture book all about one particular pea named Poppy.

Intriguingly the story is a reflection of Farzad's own. He faced a challenging time after coming to the UK from Iran at the age of five and had particular problems to overcome during his school days. However, he went on to obtain a PhD in geopolitics at Kings College, University of London, and has written about Middle Eastern politics for adults. But writing for

up to her fears and anxieties, overcoming setbacks and being helped along the way by others to fulfill her dreams of freedom.

It is made for small hands with child-friendly illustrations and relevant refrains at the end of every page designed to promote discussion and teaching points. The book is now recommended on The School Reading List and is



Self-published: Farzad Sharifi-Yazdi with his children's book.

Photo Mike Coles

children has been Farzad's long-held ambition, so the title he launched at Black Gull Books in the High Road, East Finchley, is the first of a series published by his own Fuzz Books, taken from the nickname he was given at school.

Youngsters will be able to empathise with this rhyming short story, where Poppy faces

available as an ebook and audiobook with future workbook activities planned.

Farzad describes his own story as one "of ups and downs, fear and adversity, friendship and support, resilience and courage and, above all, hope". Visit [www.poppythepea.com](http://www.poppythepea.com) to learn more about Poppy's progress.

## Light in the depths of winter

By Diana Cormack

A large crowd braved the cold for the annual Christmas tree lighting-up on Saturday 2 December. Greeted with festive music played by the Metropolitan Brass Band, there was great delight when the lights on the tree, which was kindly supplied by Budgens, with decorations courtesy East Finchley Town Team, were switched on at five o'clock.

This was followed by children from Brookland School choir and the Fixation Academy singing carols and seasonal songs. At the very end some football shirts were handed out by members of the East Finchley football team.

Many of the onlookers enjoyed the mulled wine and

hot drinks generously supplied by Budgens. Inside the shop a long queue formed for these as well as the free mince pies and delicious gateaux on offer. Thanks are due to the store for all this and also for providing the Christmas tree outside with its electric power lighting up our High Road for the festive season.



Tranquility: Carolyn Pickles and Tark Butler in their garden with his painting *Reciting Vermeer*

## Actor and artist review each other

By Jessica Holt

Actress Carolyn Pickles has had a long career in theatre, television and film, most recently in *Broadchurch*, with David Tennant and Olivia Coleman, and *Beyond Paradise*. Tark Butler took up painting at the age of 43 as more of a hobby than work. He attended short courses at Central Saint Martins and became inspired by the work of artists such as Paul Klee.

The couple met through a mutual friend and moved to East Finchley in 1988. In the garden of their home, I asked Carolyn and Tark to talk about each other's work.

### *Reciting Vermeer*

#### by Tark Butler

Carolyn: "I love the tranquillity as represented by the milkmaid as she pours the milk from a jug. Unaware of being watched, the canvas opens through not just one door but infinite doorways. Curtains edge the painting, and the floor is richly tiled and reflect the drapes. I see something different every time."

Tark: "I always struggle with my work. [Carolyn nods vigorously] This one gave me no opposition, it only took two and a half days, a twin perspective, creating the room in blues (an easier colour to work with, also an emotional colour) and yellow ochre. I gave the Delft interior a modern feel. I'm still okay with this painting, no changes required."

Carolyn asked Tark to categorise the painting's style. He called it semi-abstract. Carolyn added that the blues are wonderful and finished by saying she loves all his paintings and if she had criticisms, she would express them "loud and clear".

### *Broadchurch* and *Emilia*, starring Carolyn Pickles

I asked Tark to talk about his favourite role Carolyn has played. He spoke about two, one on TV where she played the journalist in *Broadchurch*, and a contrasting role in the theatre where she played a man in *Emilia* by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm.

Tark: "In *Broadchurch*, Carolyn played a lesbian who kisses Charlotte Rampling, which is something I've always

wanted to do. [Carolyn laughs as Tark adds: "When I was 21."] In *Emilia*, her role was to convey a macho male in 17th century England in a feminist play about the lack of recognition for the female poet Emilia Bassano and the poor treatment of women more generally both then and now."

Carolyn: "Once I conquered how men walk and talk with power, the part worked for me. The audience became so involved; they understood the oppression of women. Being a journalist in *Broadchurch* was a wonderful role and at my audition, I used a pretend cigarette

as a prop and spoke with it in my mouth which they rather liked. The script was great, and we were never told throughout the first series who the murderer was. This helped the actor playing the killer to give a nuanced performance."

Tark helps Carolyn with learning her lines and suggests ideas that she often takes on, but as Tark puts it, "She turns them into her own." He continued by saying how, when listening to radio plays, he often only realises Carolyn is in the play once the cast's names are read out. For Tark, this is definitive proof of how talented she is.



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# Chef conjures up a cooking show

A chef who ran the only Scandinavian restaurant in Hong Kong for nine years rustled up some tasty dishes at the opening of a new German kitchen showroom in Hampstead Garden Suburb.



Dishing up: Chef Chan Wing Kuen

Chan Wing Kuen, the former head chef at Finds, put on a cookery demonstration for guests at Kutenhaus, which is now trading in the building previously occupied by Barclays Bank on the corner of Ossulton Way and Lyttelton Road, N2. Mayor of Barnet Councillor Nagus Narenthira officially opened the showroom and its five working display areas at the event last month.

Owner James Nicholson said: "Ultimately, what I love most about my job is meeting



Fully fitted: The new Kutenhaus showroom on its official opening night. Photo Mike Coles

new people, getting to know them and what they need, and then seeing their reaction when their dream kitchen is complete."

# More than a store... Farewell to a High Road favourite

By Justine Csaky

Much-loved boutique Aliya J sadly closed its doors last month. Owner Aida Khaledi has been a chic presence on the High Road, N2, since 2014, when she originally opened a pop-up shop in Rykker Kids (also unfortunately since closed).

With a loyal customer base, it wasn't long before Aida opened her own shop near Josephine's the florist. For eight years, Aliya J sold a flattering mix of well chosen, classic pieces, suitable for everything from a walk in Cherry Tree Wood to a glamorous party.

Aida recounted some favourite memories from her time in the boutique, including reminding one customer who popped in to say goodbye in the final week that she had also been her very first customer when she opened all those years ago.

For the owner and customers alike, Aliya J wasn't just a shop. Many friendships were formed over conversations about life and families, and mutual support for those who needed it. The



Close down: Aliya J owner Aida Khaledi

community nature, the feeling of space and time to chat, as well as Aida's excellent eye as a fashion stylist, meant that exactly the right piece was purchased, whatever the occasion.

The collaborative community of East Finchley was also a pull for Aida. All the neighbouring shops support each other and came together memorably for a Macmillan coffee morning that Aida organised. It raised more than £650 for the cancer charity that had been such a support to many of her shop's customers.

Unfortunately for Aliya J's customers, due in part to the shop's lease coming to an end, it felt like the right time for Aida to move on to her next chapter. With a background in accounting and her love of styling, it remains

to be seen whether it will be fashion or finance next. If you want to follow Aida's journey and keep in touch with styling tips, follow her on Facebook and Instagram @aliyajboutique

# Leonardo invented contact lenses

By David Hillel, optometrist

Amazingly, contact lenses were invented by Leonardo da Vinci. He got the science right in 1508, but his ideas could not be put into practice until 1887. Contacts were not available in the UK until around 1930, becoming more popular in the 1950s and being followed by more comfortable soft contact lenses in the 1970s.

Nowadays there are so many different types of contacts that, with specialist fitting, almost anyone can wear them all day for the best eyesight possible and in comfort. They can be worn from about age eight to over 80 and have many clear advantages over specs, but also some disadvantages, so be sure to discuss them with your optometrist.

Babies and toddlers are not too young to have a proper eye

checkup. The NHS pays for the appointment, and it's not necessary to be able to read. Children seem to love having their eyes checked; it's quick, easy and comfortable, and an enjoyable experience.

If no trouble is suspected it's good to start at two years old, and younger if there is a query. This is because some eyes can grow weak but, with early attention, such 'lazy eyes' can be helped or even

cured, for life. Find out more at [davidhilleloptometrist.co.uk](http://davidhilleloptometrist.co.uk)

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# RICKY SAVAGE ...

## Apex predator

Every ecosystem has something at the top of the pile that sees the rest of the world as lunch. Back when Steven Spielberg invented dinosaurs there was T Rex chomping its way through the local Jurassic fauna and what was true then is true now, except they ain't scaly reptiles anymore.

Take the plains of the Serengeti, and the life-and-death struggle between wildebeest and lions. How about tigers in India on the lookout for deer or pumas stalking any mammals they can get through the South American forests?

Yes, they are all apex predators and they are all cats. Okay, big cats, but still related to the cute furry thing that sleeps next to the radiator. And when it comes to the suburban garden, Tiddles is top of the tree.

### Little psychopaths

Since humans first domesticated the little psychopaths 10,000 years ago they have established themselves as the biggest threat to the ecosystem since steam trains. Well, that's what the RSPB reckon and they should know.

They claim that our soft and purring house guests kill and eat more than 2,000 different species worldwide. Or put it another way, 981 different types of birds, 431 different mammals and several hundred assorted reptiles and amphibians. Cats are each capable of demolishing several hundred small furry animals and birds each year, including the robin he brought you for Christmas.

And cats have impact, something birds know all about. Take the New Zealand Quail; it wasn't long after cats arrived that the quail had gone. Or how about the South Atlantic seabird that discovered what happens when you share a small island with a lighthouse keeper and his cat. It's just the same for the increasingly rare dormouse, heading for extinction partly thanks to our cats' taste in snacks.

So as you stroke their ears remember that you are sharing your home with an apex killer who should be collared and belled to give the rest of the creatures in the garden a chance. And be grateful that cats aren't any bigger. If Pussykins was Labrador-sized it would probably be you he was having for lunch.

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Crazy trip: The cast of *Going Dutch* at *Upstairs at the Gatehouse*

## Take a ferry ride from Highgate

Garden Suburb Theatre's next show will be the hilarious *Going Dutch* by John Godber, running from Thursday 1 to Sunday 4 February at *Upstairs At The Gatehouse* in Highgate Village.

Join Mark and Sally on 'The Pride Of Hull' as they embark on a celebratory reunion with their old friend Gill. Mark, nursing a lingering flame for Gill, discovers that she has arrived with her new boyfriend, Karl, who knows a lot more about Amsterdam's murkier side. They navigate the absurdities of a mid-life crisis with side-splitting humour and heartwarming moments.

Award-winning director Dave Barron isn't phased by the challenge of taking an audience from a North Sea ferry to the red light district, saying: "We've assembled a cast of

actors who are captivating, funny, inventive and above all creative. We're letting the collective creative process in rehearsal dictate our direction for the play, and it's working out beautifully. It is a cracking play, and this is a cracking production!"

Tickets priced £13/£15 are available from the theatre and [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com). Anyone in groups of 10+ can contact [boxoffice@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk) for group discounts. More details can be found at [www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk](http://www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk)

## Poetry publication's 10<sup>th</sup> edition

By Daphne Chamberlain

Dennis Evans is known to many East Finchley residents as a poet and a teacher of poetry. In the last few months, he has been celebrating two events: the 10th issue of *N2 Poetry* magazine and the display of two of his poems at the Royal Society of Arts.

Dennis is a Fellow of the RSA and has worked with them on several projects designed to make poetry accessible to everyone. This included mentoring two London communities to help create the Children's March for the Notting Hill Carnival. His work has been published in the UK and abroad, and translated into Urdu, Portuguese, Swedish, Romanian and Russian, and used in Talking Books for the Blind.

As for *N2 Poetry*, Dennis founded this annual publication, and is on the editorial



Poet and publisher: Dennis Evans

board. He said: "There was such a good feeling at this launch. I'm so pleased that we've got

to issue 10."

Not all the contributors come from N2, but many of the regulars attend Dennis's workshops, where his talent as a teacher and creative helper really comes into play. To order copies or to send a maximum of four poems for consideration for the next edition, email [n2poetry@outlook.com](mailto:n2poetry@outlook.com).

If you are unable to use email, send your work, typed on white A4 paper, to Shereen Abdullah, Managing Editor, *N2 Poetry*, 3 Leslie Road, N2 8BN, with a covering letter and an SAE.

## From Cherry Tree to Glastonbury

Back last June, local artist and producer JP Rose and his band The Garden wowed the crowd at East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood.

The event proved a great warm-up for the world-famous Glastonbury Festival a week later where JP performed three sets, playing bass guitar with artist EVA, who he produces.

With a nomination for Music Producer of the Year at the upcoming State of R&B Awards on Sunday 21 January, the Baronsmere Road resident is still riding high.

"East Finchley is where I work as well as live," said JP. "I've built my own recording studio at home, and many talented musicians have recorded here with me."

"Cherry Tree Wood and several local streets feature in many of my music videos. Check out *Control* and *Driving* on YouTube and see if you can identify some local spots."

JP studied for his A-Levels at Fortismere, before com-



Up and coming: Musician JP Rose

pleting a degree in music production. Whilst producing, performing, and DJ'ing are his main activities, he also works part-time at Unitas Youth Zone in Barnet, mentoring youth in

music production and DJ'ing.

You can catch JP at his headlining show on Thursday 18 January at Colours Hoxton. Follow him on all social medias via [@jproseup](https://twitter.com/jproseup)

## REVIEW: VENUS AND ADONIS

By Jessica Holt

Shakespeare's first publication, a narrative poem telling the story of Venus the goddess of love and her attempts to seduce the reluctant Adonis, was performed by The Constellation Players at the Babel Art House in Stoke Newington.



Passion project: Mary Jensik, centre, on stage in *Venus and Adonis*

East Finchley resident Mary Jensik, whose love affair with this work began at the Edinburgh Festival with a one-woman production, has now directed herself as Venus alongside Ronan Price playing the narrator and Tim Dennett playing Adonis.

This reconstruction works really well as the text delivered by one person can be challeng-

ing for any audience. Mary's production offers a narrator who adds pace, humour and tragedy at appropriate moments.

Adonis, who would beat even George Clooney as the most handsome man in the world, is portrayed as a self-centred youth whose only interest is in hunting and who is totally bewildered by the advances of

the goddess of love.

Mary playing Venus is a delight to watch, her physicality is beautiful. Her facial expressions convey desire, rejection and sadness with great skill. There are some engaging movement sequences, in particular the hunting scene when all three actors use their bodies to portray the animal being hunted.

There are some interesting design ideas, for example the actors play with balloons at the beginning and later the balloons are popped violently to create a sense of foreboding.

The final sequence is a great contrast to the beginning, as the burial scene shows Adonis and the narrator putting flowers into containers all over the stage, creating a powerful and sombre ending.

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## Letters

### Grasping policy

Dear Editor,

Regarding your main article, we responded to the council's initial proposals for extending the CPZ by saying that we have lived in Lankaster Gardens for over 32 years, and have never had any difficulty or problems in parking near our front door, so the 'need' to control parking is not true.

The only reason is to extract still more money for the council, especially unwarranted at a time of real difficulty for most of us with rising household bills. And as for a trial period of 18 months, I will guarantee that this will be quietly extended with no further consultation.

We, and others, are furious at the council's grasping policy, and intend to let them know we are withdrawing future votes from it.

**William and Mary Tayleur,  
Lankaster Gardens, N2.**

### Parking not an issue

Dear Editor,

My initial reaction to your story about the new CPZ extension is twofold. First, 'Sedgemere Road', as named by the council, does not exist. Secondly, residents of Sedgemere Avenue did not express concern over commuter parking, it is simply not an issue here or in Brackenbury Road.

The initial survey, laughably presented as a 'consultation', consisted entirely of weighted questions that allowed no scope at all for objecting to the CPZ extension so it is no surprise to have this new parking tax imposed where it serves no purpose beyond providing a little extra income for the council.

**Louis Victor,  
Sedgemere Avenue, N2.**

### Where's the evidence?

Dear Editor,

I support the principle of a CPZ, where there is a clear need to manage supply and demand and to ensure highway safety. This should be an evidence-based approach using statistical data, not based on anecdotal feedback or the council's need to raise cash. The CPZ extension trail is a complete sham, as is the consultation which supports it. There is a lack of data to support this, little to no information made available to the public. Why would the council spend thousands of our money to implement something, only to then remove it? This is a grossly disingenuous remark for the council to make. Furthermore, they have issued notices to some, not all residents across East Finchley about this proposed change. Therefore, some residents will not be aware of this. They have concluded that it is needed based on pre-ULEZ data and will include the cemetery and roads which have no issues with parking demand. It seems odd that they have not included streets on the west side of East End Road which are geographically closer to the centre than those which are close to the northern boundary of the new zone.

**Edward B,  
Address supplied.**

### No effect

Dear Editor,

I believe there were some concerns regarding parking in Chandos Road during school pick-up and drop-off times. The proposed restricted hours of 11am to 3pm will have no effect on this.

Barnet claim 93 signatures on a petition regarding parking in Chandos Road, which is a lot for a short road. It seems more of a revenue-raising scheme to us.

**Liz and Mike Holt,  
Chandos Road, N2.**

### Bogus consultation

Dear Editor,

In your December 2023 issue, you report that Barnet Council says the CPZ scheme is a response to concerns about commuter parking congestion in several roads, including the one in which I live.

My road is a long way from East Finchley station. I do not believe that anyone parks in it for the purpose of commuting. The road has numerous spaces available for parking during the hours of 11 am to 3pm, the time of operation of the new scheme. The time when there is a problem is from about 6pm until the following morning, when the road is filled with residents' cars.

Therefore the scheme would do nothing to alleviate parking congestion, as there isn't any during its hours of operation.

You also report that the concerns about commuter parking congestion were raised in a consultation run by the council. My recollection is that it was the consultation itself that raised such (bogus) concerns, and the CPZ was presented as the only possible solution.

The consultation website was so badly designed (or, if one is cynical, cleverly designed) that it was not possible to object to the premise of the scheme: the existence of commuter parking congestion had already been decided on.

There could have been, for example, a single question which asked whether the resident completing the survey had noted any actual commuter parking congestion. There was no such question, nor anything like it. Thankfully, we expect to be moving house quite soon.

**Richard Cox,  
Address supplied.**

### School will suffer

Dear Editor,

I am very concerned about the impact of the CPZ on Martin Primary School and have made my views clear to the Borough.

Many of our staff cannot afford to live near the school and need to travel by car because they often have heavy books to transport. We do not have enough parking spaces on site to accommodate them all.

If staff can no longer park in the surrounding streets, or have to pay to do so, it will be even more of a challenge to recruit and retain good people. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the quality of education that we are able to provide for our children.

**Ziz Chater,  
Headteacher,  
Martin Primary School**

### Good in the long run

Dear Editor,

I am no fan of parking charges but once you introduce one CPZ it only pushes the problem round to surrounding roads. This has happened with the CPZs that already exist close to the station and in Leslie and Leopold Roads. Long Lane and King Street have become the next roads where parking is still free and these have steadily grown more congested. So in some ways I do understand why the council has decided to introduce a new zone that blankets the whole area. Maybe in the long run, residents will think it a good thing, particularly as electric car charging points become installed more widely and people want to be sure they can find one close to their home.

**Mike Haworth,  
Long Lane, N2.**

### Path not racetrack

Dear Editor,

Footpaths mean 'a path for feet'. It doesn't mean it's a racetrack for every two-wheeled vehicle to hurtle down, using maximum power afforded by lithium ion battery or petrol/diesel motor.

The footpath leading to East Finchley station from East End Road via Deanery Close is becoming increasingly dangerous for the old, young and everyone in between!

I appreciate how tempting it is to race down there, but there are few public areas now where one feels safe to walk and not fear an encounter with a vehicle being illegally ridden on the pavements or footpaths.

By the way, why do so many cyclists have an antipathy to having and using a bell, to alert people as they overtake from behind on a pavement or footpath? Selfishness, thoughtlessness or a perverse pleasure in startling people?

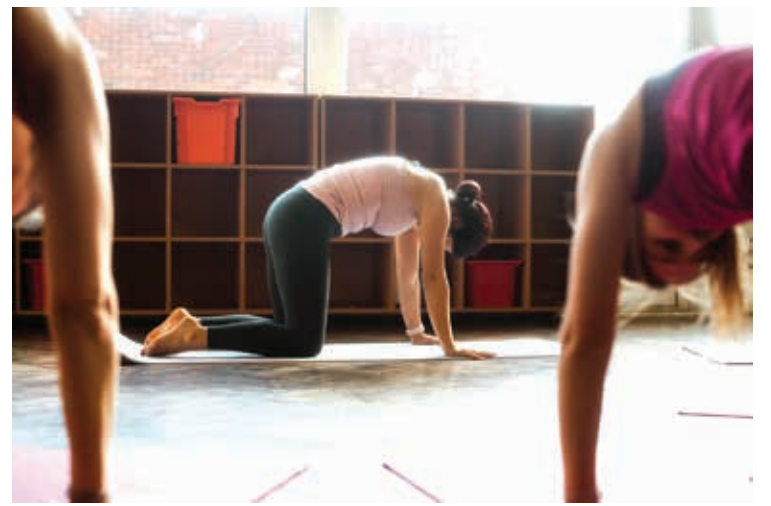
**Harriet Copperman,  
Diploma Avenue, N2.**

**Send your correspondence to: [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)**

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

## January boot sale

**The first Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale of 2024 will take place on Saturday 27 January from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. For more information, phone 020 8368 8180.**



Shape up: January is a great time to improve your health

## New Year, still you

By Sunnah Rose

**New year does seem to encourage a 'start-something-new mindset'. Whilst I am not a fan of the 'new year, new you' concept I do think starting January with some good intentions and some small tweaks to your daily or weekly routine can help you create some great changes for the 12 months ahead.**

Setting realistic and practical goals will help you not give up when you don't achieve what you have set out to do. Here are some short and sweet simple tips to get you started:

1. Find time for five to ten minutes of movement throughout the day. Aim for at least one session but you can definitely do more. This could include walking, running, a short yoga sequence, a mini-HITT session or some strength training.
2. Take a few moments to be mindful or meditate. It is well researched that you will experience all the benefits of meditation even if you only take a few minutes to reflect in the day.
3. Eat well and try a new food on a regular basis;

maybe a new grain, pulse, veg or protein.

4. Drink MORE water!
5. Try a new exercise and don't be afraid to try out something new. You may not find the right thing for yourself straight away, but you never know until you try.

East Finchley has so many amazing classes, studios and gyms which offer a variety of different sessions. There is a right exercise, a right class and a right teacher for everyone, so go out and find them, and keep still being you!

*Sunnah is a local yoga teacher and offers a variety of general yoga, pregnancy yoga and postnatal yoga with babies sessions in East Finchley. Visit [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk) for more information.*

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## Energy and positivity at charity's opening night



Party people: Singers took to the mic and DJs were on the decks at the opening of the Art Against Knives gallery in the High Road, N2. Photos Art Against Knives

By Daniel Crute

On a normally quiet Wednesday evening, the High Road lit up with music and excited young people as the Art Against Knives (AAK) official launch party went off with a resounding bang, in their new flagship space at number 162 (*The Archer*, November 2023).

Headlined by TikTok stars' Altego and DJ Tiny Nukes, ably supported by young music stars who have honed their DJing and performance skills through

AAK's music programme, revellers, clients, and supporters danced and celebrated the charity.

An open mic session gave

voice to poets, and speakers gave testimonials on the positive effects of working with AAK. There was Caribbean street food provided by One

Love Kitchen. In Our Hands ran a nail bar where attendees could get creative with their fingertips. Shelves were stacked and walls hung with fine art and print work on everything from t-shirts to mugs to phone cases, produced by both young people through the charity and recognised artists such as Camille Walalal, Jess Wilson, and Hattie Stewart.

The rooms buzzed with

energy and a real sense of excitement about what was. It was a pleasure to see so much positivity produced for so many of East Finchley's youth. Judging by the heaving dancefloor by the time this reporter arrived, and the happy faces all around me, AAK has a very bright future in East Finchley. Pop in and have a look at the work they do and see how you can get involved.

## New gym space opens its doors

A new personal training gym owned and run by East Finchley local Chris Ekeleme has opened in Aylmer Parade, N2.

Called F.I.I.T, the studio offers classes and workshops that dispense with the plethora of fads and social media-influenced 'systems' seen in many gymnasiums. Chris, a qualified personal trainer, says he wants to promote a clear approach, free of pseudo-science.

F.I.T.T stands for Fitness, Intensity, Time, & Type-of-training. Chris considers these four elements to be the pillars of quality fitness programming, and he adjusts the bal-



Studio owner: Chris Ekeleme

ance of these to fit the requirements of each individual client he works with.

He has an app to support your program, one-to-one classes, and a range of comprehensive group classes for all ages from as young as seven years old, with no upper age limit. His studio is also available for free to host community health lectures and talks. Find out more at [www.fittstudio.co.uk](http://www.fittstudio.co.uk).



Helping hand: Lucy Alterman and Diana from East Finchley Open Artists present a cheque for £1,250 to Finchley Foodbank coordinator Anna Maughan. Photo Mike Coles

## Arts and crafts help hungry households

By Mike Coles

The East Finchley Open Artists winter fair raffle held in November raised donations totalling £1,250 for the Finchley Foodbank, EFOA's charity of the year. The fair showcased handmade art and crafts by local artists in East Finchley.

The donation helps the food bank provide a variety of essential foods, toiletries, and baby items in the coming winter months. Supporting this cause made Christmas a bit brighter for families in our community who are struggling right now.

Finchley Foodbank is currently supporting 720 people from 248 households. The donation will be used to fund gaps in the food donated by shops and people in the community.



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