



Cloud over tennis club as housing application is lodged

An application has been submitted to Haringey Council for the redevelopment of the site of Fortis Green Tennis Club, off Southern Road, N2.

As reported in previous editions of *The Archer*, the proposal is for five houses and a block of three flats to be built on part of the site while the rest remains a tennis club. The number of courts will be reduced from four to three.

The site is owned by Muswell Hill United Reformed Church and the case put forward

in the hope that a mutually acceptable site plan can be designed. The contents of the present planning application have not been pre-agreed with the club.

Members of the club, which has been on the site since the 1920s, say the loss of much of their green space to housing is particularly problematic, as it



Green and pleasant: Members see the Fortis Green Tennis Club as a hidden oasis

in the application is that the club is tired and the development is intended to save it and secure its future. However, the club itself does not agree with the proposals.

The club has been in talks with developers the Capstone Group for more than five years

impedes their social events and curtails children's activities on the lawns during coaching.

Local residents are arranging meetings to prepare their opposition to the proposals. The consultation period for the application (ref. HGY/2024/0871) ends on 10 May.



Red and whites: The Finchley U16s show their dominance on the pitch in a tight victory against Dings Crusaders from Bristol. Photo Andy Stone

Rugby girls make it to the final

Finchley Rugby Club's Under-16 Girls have reached the National Cup Final after a hard-fought win over Bristol's Dings Crusaders in front of a packed grandstand at

Imagine a future with a basic income

Last June, the Grange Big Local project team announced they would be piloting a Basic Income scheme in East Finchley, where unconditional payments of £1,600 per month for two years would be made to those selected to take part.

The aim is to assess the impact of the regular income on the participants' physical health, mental well-being, and on their work, education and life opportunities. East Finchley was one of two locations in the country chosen to run the pilot. While the project is still currently in its fundraising phase, Grange Big Local is inviting local people along to an event to

bring the idea of the basic income to life, exploring "what life could be like if everyone had enough". Tickets are free and there will be free pizza and childcare provided. It takes place at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, on Monday 13 May from 6.30pm to 8pm. To secure your free ticket, visit Grange Big Local's Eventbrite page: <https://tinyurl.com/ImagineUBI>

Finchley's Summers Lane ground last month.

The two sides fought hard for the win and at half-time Finchley were 10-14 down. Bristol maintained their lead until the last four minutes of the game when Finchley scored a try to make the final score 22-21.

Finchley Rugby Club coach Chris Grilli said: "This was one of the most exciting and intense games hosted for many years. From the kick-off, Finchley pressured Dings into mistakes." Their victory took them on to the national final against Sandal RUFC at Worcester's Sixways Stadium, scheduled to take place on Sunday 28 April after this edition went to press.

One last hurrah at Black Gull

By Ruth Anders

Crowds of supporters and well-wishers crammed into the Black Gull Bookshop on the High Road at the end of March to enjoy generous quantities of wine and nibbles. A party yes, but one more like a wake than a celebration as the shop was winding down to closure after 16 successful years.

As we reported in February, the shop's new leaseholder Chris Masson was unable to come to an agreement with the landlord over the terms of his lease renewal and took the difficult decision to move out. Those present at the farewell and those unable to join them mourn the departure of Chris, plus previous leaseholder Chris Overfield, shop staff Brian and Robin, and this much-loved East Finchley institution.



Close the book: The farewell party at Black Gull. Photo Mike Coles



LIVE AT THE PHOENIX WITH SARA PASCOE

AND
AMY GLEDHILL (MC)
KUAN-WEN HUANG
LOUIE MCLEAN
STEEN RASKOPOULOS

12TH MAY 2024
DOORS: 19.30
SHOW: 20.00 - 22.15
£22.50/£15



140 FORTIS GREEN, N10 3EF
TEL: 0208 883 0500

THE
MUSWELL HILL CLUB
FITNESS AND LEISURE

Membership from £35.95 (T&Cs apply) • Day passes £10
Over 100 classes per month • Swimming Pool • Sauna
Steam • Fully equipped gym • Spin • Yoga • Pilates
Studio • Free weights room • Pop in for a tour or free trial

WWW.MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM



INFO@MUSWELLHILLCLUB.COM
@THEMUSWELLHILLCLUB