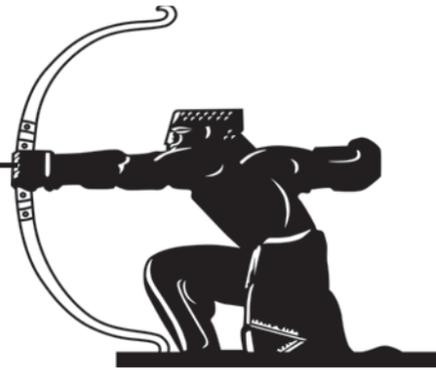




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# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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**Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley**

## Second screen will transform Phoenix Cinema

By John Lawrence

**The Phoenix Cinema has revealed £500,000 plans for its long-awaited second screen that it hopes will ensure the historic venue's survival for "another 100 years".**

The new 23-seater is being designed to fit in the space previously occupied by the café, radically altering the layout of the cinema's upper level.

last November for £400,000.

### Huge investment

The Phoenix will be hoping to emulate the Rex Cinema in Dalston and the Lexi Cinema in Kensal Rise, which opened second screens in 2017 and 2021.

"Single-screen cinemas struggle to survive," said Mr Kenny. "We've wanted a second screen for many years and this is our opportunity. It's a sizeable investment to make but it will be the salvation of the cinema. We want to be

around for another 100 years." Planning permission for the second screen has been granted and construction is expected to start this month, lasting around six weeks. Refurbishment of the main auditorium will start after that and last around a month.

The Phoenix will remain open throughout and maintain its programming by swapping between the two screens. Ticket prices are expected to be reviewed once the whole project is complete but the cinema has not yet confirmed by how much they will change.

*Inside the new Screen 2, turn to page 3.*



New era: The Phoenix Cinema

This major construction work in a building that originally opened in 1912 will be accompanied by an extensive refurbishment of the existing main auditorium to introduce more comfortable seating throughout, a bar area at the rear and new speakers



Executive director, Rob Kenny

to improve sound quality. Rob Kenny, the Phoenix's executive director, said the entire project was "a major step forward" and would be "the salvation of the cinema". It has been made possible by the recently completed sale of a largely unused car park space behind the main building, which was put on the market



All to play for: Yuliia Humeniuk is hoping to make a career out of her musical talent

## A new future in the world of music

When Russia invaded Ukraine, Yuliia Humeniuk took the painful decision to leave her family in the Russian-occupied zone north of Crimea and make the difficult journey to a new life here in the UK. Two years after arriving in East Finchley, she has a place to study at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music. Read the full story on page 7.

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First steps: East Finchley station could have lifts installed to improve accessibility. Photo Mike Coles

# Tube station to be assessed for step-free access

By Ruth Anders

Many of us would welcome step-free access to the platforms of our underground station, and Transport for London (TfL) have now prioritised the next group of stations where it might be introduced. East Finchley is among them.

However, many steps (forgive me) must be taken before any work can begin, not least feasibility studies and corresponding cost calculations. Following the completion of such studies, design work is already starting at Alperton, Arnos Grove and Eastcote stations, all on the Piccadilly line.

A further seven stations will undergo assessment for step-free access. They are: Croyley (Metropolitan line), East Finchley, Colliers Wood and Tooting Broadway (Northern line), Neasden (Jubilee line), Northwood (Metropolitan line) and Turnham Green (District/Piccadilly lines).

### No barriers

John McGeachy, Campaigns Manager for Age UK, said: "Step-free stations have the potential to transform the daily lives of older and disabled

Londoners, as well as many others. Increasing the number of step-free stations on the Underground network will make life easier for people who have faced too many barriers for too long." When I spoke to three members of staff at East Finchley Tube station, they knew nothing about any plans for accessible platforms. However, one of them did tell me that because East Finchley station is a listed building, any adjustments would be especially complex and costly.

More than a third of Underground stations across the city now provide step-free access, with the Mayor of London's ambitious goal of making 50 per cent of Tube stations step-free by 2030.

While continuing to increase the number of Underground stations with step-free access, TfL stresses that progress will

depend on deliverability and TfL's future funding position, with schemes prioritised where third-party funding is available.

## Turn your negatives to positives

Neuroscientist Professor Catherine Loveday is giving a talk on how we can use sadness, anger and frustration to actually make us feel better.

To book your free place at the event on Wednesday 11 September at 8pm at Age UK's centre in Oak Lane, N2, contact Teresa on 07502 989403 or email [teresa.gallagher@ageuk-barnet.org.uk](mailto:teresa.gallagher@ageuk-barnet.org.uk)

## BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

- **Finchley Foodbank**, based in East Finchley, is looking for more volunteers to support their vital work. Under the supervision of a session leader, tasks will include sorting food donations, restocking shelves and giving a warm welcome to clients. If you are over 18, have a few spare flexible hours every month and want to take part in a really valuable service, please contact Anna Maughan at [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com)

- East Finchley's **Community Gardening Project** needs new volunteers. There is a small, sloped garden near the entrance to East Finchley Station, known as Station Bank. It has been tended by volunteer gardeners since 2012. It currently grows a mixture of flowers and fruit but could grow vegetables too. This would be an ideal project for flat dwellers who enjoy gardening. Contact Kate at [k.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:k.brown@btinternet.com)

- **Number Champions**, also based in N2, is an award-winning charity that helps young primary school children who are struggling with numeracy or lack confidence in maths. Its trained-in-school volunteers use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children. If you have good basic numeracy, plenty of enthusiasm, 1.5 hours/week during term time and you're interested in volunteering from September, please have a look at [www.numberchampions.org.uk](http://www.numberchampions.org.uk) and then contact [volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk).

- **U3A** ([hgsu3a.uk](http://hgsu3a.uk)), based in Hampstead Garden Suburb, offers its members a diverse selection of courses, talks and events. They have two volunteer requests: one is to recruit someone for social media and public relations. Get in touch with Carole: [chair@hgsu3a.uk](mailto:chair@hgsu3a.uk). They are also looking for someone with reasonable computer skills to manage their Zoom accounts. If you can help please email: [groupsorg@hgsu3a.uk](mailto:groupsorg@hgsu3a.uk)

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column and listed on the East Finchley community website, please complete the form at [www.iloveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it](http://www.iloveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it).



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## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Barnet Council

#### 217 East End Road, N2

Alterations to the existing ground-floor rear extension including new windows/doors to rear elevation and insertion of one roof light to replace existing three roof lights

#### 41 Chandos Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension

#### 352 High Road, N2

Submission of details of conditions 4 (Refuse) and 5 (Means of Enclosure) pursuant to planning permission 17/4081/FUL dated 17/10/17

#### 231 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension with three rooflights. Roof extension including hip to gable,

rear dormer window with two Juliet balconies, three rooflights to front roof slope and two side gable windows

#### 21 Beresford Road, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable rear dormer with Juliet balcony and four front-facing roof lights

#### 11 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension with strip roof lights, erection of a rear garden room and associated landscaping

#### 52 Lincoln Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension with eight rooflights. Roof extension including replacement of existing rear dormer window and one front-facing roof light. Changes to side and rear fen-

estration

#### Strawberry Vale Play Space, N2

Regeneration of existing Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) including new boundary treatment, new seating, new pathways

#### Haringey Council

#### 30 Fortis Green Avenue, N2

Construction of single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension and garden decking

#### 19 Southern Road, N2

Demolitions, new side and rear extensions to ground floor, remodelled ground, first and second floor, replacement windows, structural works, amended electric, gas, water, heating services and amended drainage.



# Inside the new Screen 1 and Screen 2 at the Phoenix

By John Lawrence

The installation of a second screen at the Phoenix Cinema, as reported on our front page, along with new seating in the main screen, will be the largest construction project undertaken at the venue since 1938 when the frontage and walls were given an Art Deco makeover and the direction of the seating in its main auditorium was reversed. Although from the outside there will be no noticeable changes in 2024, the Phoenix trustees and staff hope the opening of the second screen will be transformational for the cinema's fortunes. They say it will enable them to show more films and be more responsive to audience demand.

## Small but stylish

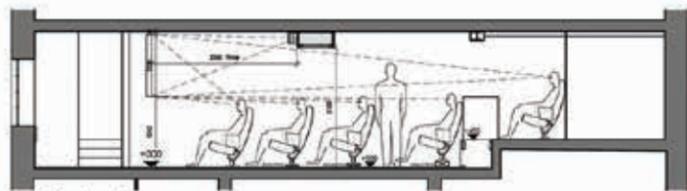
Screen 2 will fit into the space at the front of the Phoenix's first-floor level where the café operated until four years ago. There will be a corridor stretching almost the width of the building over the top of the interior foyer and a single door entrance into the screen.

same cinema magic," he said. Seats and speakers

As soon as the second screen is open, currently planned for October, work will start on upgrading the cinema's main auditorium, renamed Screen 1. All the existing 250 seats will be ripped out and replaced with 188 new higher-backed chairs



New space: How Screen 2 could look, above, and a plan of how it fits into the café and foyer space, below, plus a side view of the layout, left.



Auditorium 2  
Section Scale 1:50

Inside there will be 23 seats, spaced over five rows. The first four rows will be on a level surface and the rear fifth row will be raised slightly, where the café serving area now stands. Two seats will be removable to make one accessible space. There will be one double set of doors onto the exterior balcony. The 2m-wide screen will be positioned above seated head height and the projection box will sit in the ceiling midway back. Phoenix executive director Rob Kenny acknowledged it won't give the same 'big screen' experience as the main auditorium but predicted filmgoers would still love it. "Once you're in your very comfortable seat, the lights go down and the excellent sound system comes on, it will have all the

with more leg room and cup holders incorporated into their arms. There will be two rows of



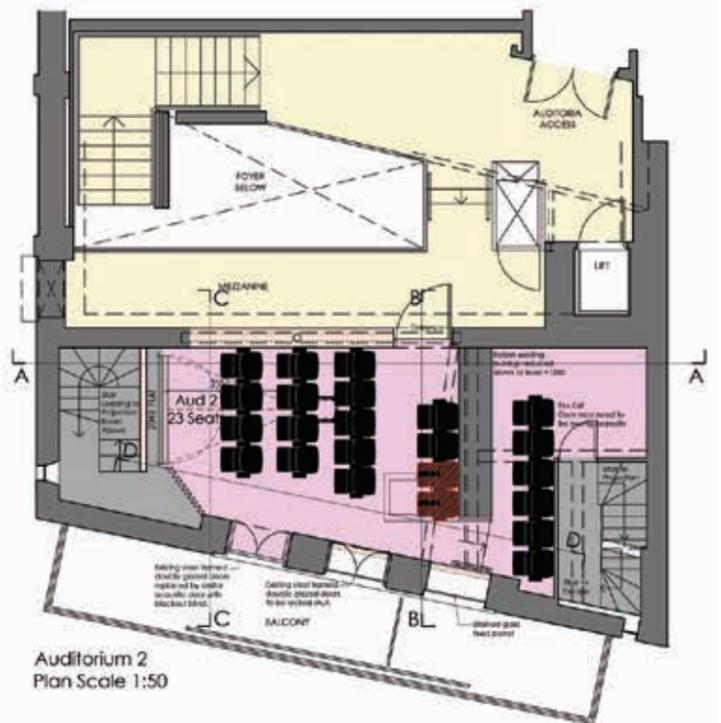
Plush: High-back seating will be fitted in the Phoenix's main auditorium

double seats that can be used as sofa seating.

The slope of the auditorium will be altered to ensure everyone can still see the big

screen. At the same time, new surround sound speakers will be positioned towards the front of the auditorium. "The most common complaints we have got from our audiences have been about the sound and the seating. This project will greatly improve both," said

Mr Kenny. "The new seats are superb. They are the same model that have just been put into Screen 3 at the British Film Institute on the South Bank."



Auditorium 2  
Plan Scale 1:50

There will be a new carpet throughout the main auditorium and a refreshments area will be introduced at the back. This will be open before each showing and during the intervals of longer productions like the popular Metropolitan Opera and National Theatre Live shows. "We will have fewer seats

but that's a sacrifice worth making because it's rare that we ever sell out our existing 250," added Mr Kenny. "All these improvements are about bringing a whole new level of comfort to our audience and giving them a different experience when they come to watch films at the Phoenix."



Where to donate your unwanted household items for recycling

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Dental products (toothbrushes and heads) to Cavendish Dental Practice, East End Road
- Electrical cables 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

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  - Report crime to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by email to [eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk) gardensuburb.snt@met.police.uk or fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk
- Find full contact details for the local SNTs at [loven2.co.uk/local-government-and-policing](http://loven2.co.uk/local-government-and-policing)
- Stay anonymous and report information to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

September 2014

Around 3,500 local residents were left having to find a new GP after plans were announced to close the surgery at 91 High Road, N2. Patients received letters during August saying the surgery would close at the end of the year. The shortage of NHS GP services in the area was highlighted then and continues to be a subject of local concern today.

15 years ago:

September 2009

Several local residents and their families were trapped in Cherry Tree Wood for two hours in the dark after an over-zealous Barnet Council mobile unit locked them in at dusk. No warning was given or checks made before the gates were locked and it took several calls to police to get the families freed. Barnet were profuse with their apologies when approached for comment and assured us that this would not happen again.

23 years ago:

September 2001

The Archer celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> edition, after eight years delivering local news to East Finchley homes and businesses. Our lead story was the start of the long saga concerning the fate of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood, now no more after many years of schemes and abortive attempts by Barnet Council to lease the building for development.



- Open air. Cherry Tree Wood has organised activities and plenty of space to play. Photo Mike Coles

## The hardest-working park in London?

By Louis Victor

**Cherry Tree Wood is a place I used to play as a child. This little (13-acre) park has a delightful mix of grassland, woodland, plantations, sports and play facilities within its compact space and there is so much going on there.**

A (very) brief survey of local residents revealed that the park is used for walking, playing, picnicking, dog walking, making art, staring into space, sitting and existing, running, tennis, appreciating nature, basketball, football, rugby, kite-flying, eating and drinking, children's and family parties, yoga and pilates (thanks to Mark Whooley for much of this list) ... but there is so much more than that.

### Regular activities

Cherry Tree Wood has recently gained Green Flag Award status, the only public park run by Barnet Council to hold one, partly because of having an active Friends Group. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood hold regular litter picks on the second Sunday of each month (except December and January) meeting in the park at 4-5pm during the spring and summer and 2-3pm when the clocks go back.

They undertake conservation work ranging from planting and maintaining hedgerows, planting Forest Gardens, and maintaining the park orchard. On top of this regular gardening events are held to look after different flower and wildflower beds. The Friends are always looking for more people to help arrange activities and run events. Contact: [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com)

### Wellbeing walk

The East Finchley Wellbeing Walk meets every Wednesday at 10am for a gentle-paced, one-hour, sociable stroll in Cherry Tree and Highgate Woods. The walk is free and is open to everyone. For more information look for '@efwellbeingwalk' on Instagram, email [efwellbeingwalk@gmail.com](mailto:efwellbeingwalk@gmail.com) or call Louis on 07779 392911.

### Cherry Tree Café events

The wonderful Cherry Tree Café is a great place to meet, eat, drink and socialise. It is often

the centre of special events like the recent celebration of the life of George Michael and parties to mark St Patrick's Day, back-to-school, Halloween and Christmas. You can find out what they are doing next by searching '@cherrytreewood-scafe' on Instagram (or by going to the café and asking).

### Fitness bootcamp

Georgina Mackie runs classes in Cherry Tree on Thursdays at 9.30am and Saturdays at 8am and 9am. They're fun relaxed fitness sessions for local women of all abilities. Her number is +447736443170. Her Instagram is @georgina\_fitmylife

### Music and fun

Ilana Banana runs music classes next to the Cherry Tree Café in the summer months, with live music and sing-alongs for under-fives and their families. These sessions will continue every Thursday and Friday in September and October if the weather stays fair. For more information her website is [www.lanaland.co.uk](http://www.lanaland.co.uk)

### Tennis classes

FGcherrytreewoodrun children's tennis camps during holidays. For more information contact [fgcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:fgcherrytreewood@gmail.com)

### Annual events

The annual East Finchley Festival is a true highlight of the local year. Find out more at [www.eastfinchleyfestival.org](http://www.eastfinchleyfestival.org) and save the date. Next year's festival is scheduled for Sunday 22 June 2025.

Cherry Tree is also the annual start point for the North London Hospice's Big Fun Walk in May/June and Race the Neighbours in June/July. More information is available at [northlondonhospice.org/events](http://northlondonhospice.org/events)

*Are there other regular activities that take place in Cherry Tree Wood? Let us know by emailing [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)*

# Leak creates new lake in wood... but who's to blame?

By Roger Chapman

**The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood noticed in early May a new lake developing next to the Tube line beyond the playground. Water was up to 30cm deep in places and flowing across the path into a drain.**

The flowing water indicated a serious leak, although some speculated it was the nearby Mutton Brook re-emerging in the very wet weather.

Thames Water were contacted but replied that it was nothing to do with them. Barnet Council investigated but couldn't find the source and sought specialist contractor help which would have cost £5,000.

to do with them. A mix-up over job numbers led to the 'small assets team' being sent to investigate. They went to the café and thought the leak was coming from the water fountain. Nothing to do with them again!

Eventually, and after much more cajoling, the 'large assets team' came out in late July and they agreed to repair it.

Work should have been



Running water: The leak across the path. Photo Mike Coles

A suggestion was made that TfL, who installed a new perimeter fence earlier in the year, could have caused the leak. TfL investigated but said no, nothing to do with them either. The weeks ticked by and the area of standing water increased. Stalemate.

### Track and hack

A couple of members of the Friends, James Davidson and John Attree, donned wellingtons and, armed with shears, came to the rescue. They tracked and hacked their way back to a defective valve clearly leaking in the Thames Water 42-inch main pipe which runs under the Tube line and beneath Cherry Tree Wood to Fordington Road reservoir. A video was taken and sent to Thames Water.

This time they agreed the water may have something

completed by the time this edition of *The Archer* reaches you. We hope it is. Our estimate is that 15 litres of fresh drinking water are being lost every minute. That means since May over 2 million litres of water, which we all pay for, has literally been going down the drain.

## The Archer online

**Did you know you can catch up with past issues of *The Archer* online? Every edition since the start of 2000 is available on our website [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk).**

**The site also gives information on advertising in our pages and how you can contribute to the paper.**



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# Jobs project pilot for Grange Estate

By David Melsome

A new project is being piloted on the Grange Estate and the immediate surrounding area in East Finchley to help residents find or stay in paid employment.

BOOST is a government-funded initiative under the Jobs Plus umbrella that is open to anyone aged 16 or over, living on or very close to the Grange Estate, who is not working or who is looking to improve their current job situation.

## Tailored support

The range of assistance on offer includes creating and updating CVs, sourcing vacancies, writing applications and preparing for interviews, along with financial support and incentives whilst in work.

Project manager Andrew Potter said: "We understand that everyone's situation is unique, so we tailor our support to meet your specific needs."

"Our goal is to help residents into work by developing essential employability skills, overcoming barriers to employment, boosting motivation, and increasing confidence."

BOOST is part of The Barnet Group. Find out more at [boostbarnet.org](http://boostbarnet.org) or contact the project team by emailing [boost@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:boost@barnet.gov.uk)

Jobs Plus is being delivered to pilot sites across the UK in collaboration with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Learning & Work Institute.

All eligible individuals with the right to work in the UK, whether receiving benefits or not, are able to join Jobs Plus. For more information, email [JobsPlus@barnethomes.org](mailto:JobsPlus@barnethomes.org)



Device advice: Joseph and Ruby together at a digital workshop

## Free digital skills workshops

The Five Bells Computer Club, which has been active since 2016 providing help with laptops, smartphones and tablets, is starting new classroom-style sessions on Thursday mornings.

Funded by The Good Things Foundation, these will be free, tutor-led workshops at the Set Tuition Centre above East Finchley Library in the High Road, N2, which is a fully accessible venue. The first takes place on Thursday 19 September from 10.30am to 12.30pm, welcoming complete beginners who are looking for help getting started on their computers or devices. That's followed on Thursday 26 September by a session on using emails and avoiding scams. Other topics to be covered later in the autumn include internet search, online shopping, online banking, staying in touch with friends and family on social media, managing your health online, security online and how to take, edit and store photos. There will also be a session on using programs like Word, Excel and PowerPoint. All workshops will be free, but booking a place is essential. You

can book a range of workshops or just one as appropriate. Book via email at [FiveBells.ComputerClub@gmail.com](mailto:FiveBells.ComputerClub@gmail.com) or leave a clear voicemail message on 07729 258139.

These Thursday workshops are in addition to the club's regular term-time Tuesday 2pm-4pm drop-in sessions at the Five Bells Pub on East End Road, N2. These resume on Tuesday 10 September and again offer free help with using computers, smartphones and tablets.

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Enlightening and funny: Joe Dennis on stage in Tides

## Review: Tides

Camden Fringe, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate

By Jessica Holt

Written and performed by Joe Dennis, this production takes the audience into an individual's experience of autism. Based on the real-life story of Dylan Ward, it is simultaneously enlightening, moving, funny and educational.

The audience witnesses the complexities of autism such as heightened emotional states, sensitivity to sounds, lights and smells, misunderstandings leading to conflict, the inability to read facial expressions and body language leading to miscommunication on a grand scale.

However, what is fascinating about this drama is all of this is presented not in a self-pitying way but in a way that questions the nature of our society and asks why society is unable to accommodate human beings

with autism.

The design elements serve the play well with a backdrop of twinkling stars and sketches pinned on the black curtain illustrating peoples' faces. The lighting ranges from reds to blues to greens aligning with the landscapes and places Dylan's imagination is taking us to. The music and sounds match Dylan's moods and emotions, all drawing the audience closer to his experiences.

There are figurines on stage which are meticulously arranged

and rearranged throughout to provide some sense of security for Dylan at difficult moments. There is much humour as other characters are drawn on an artpad in caricature and Dylan mimics them as they speak to him.

There are audio clips of his mother and other characters speaking to him from the past. Dylan's 'superpower' as he names it is his talent for creative writing and achieving a first-class honours degree. Joe Dennis gives a first class performance.

## Summer's not over yet

Age UK is throwing a Late Summer Music Festival at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, on Saturday 21 September from 11am to 3pm.

They are inviting people to join them on the last day of summer for live music, from show tunes to popular classics, nearly new stalls, a plant sale, tombola, raffle, plus cakes, food and drink. Entry is £2. For more information contact [teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk) or call her on 07502 989 403.

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# Funding runs out for Food Hub

By Ruth Anders

Funding has come to an end for the Barnet Food Hub, originally established in response to the Covid pandemic. Barnet Council has maintained funding for the vital facility longer than other London boroughs, where similar hubs have already closed, but the budget runs out this month.

The council is in discussion with food banks and partners in the area about future provision. The Food Hub itself does not directly receive or distribute food donations but encourages visitors to its website to find their local food bank and donate directly to it.

It has centralised distribution networks in the borough whilst also diverting food away from the waste cycle. To date the Hub has supported 17 food banks in Barnet.

East Finchley's Councillor Alison Moore told *The Archer*: "The cost-of-living crisis over the past few years has been challenging and it's a sad reality that there are families and individuals who have had to rely on food banks.

"The council is working with the Food Hub and the food

banks to help them find more sustainable ways of working and has been working with them through a period of transition. In addition, there are several ways that the council helps those in financial hardship."

Whilst the Finchley Foodbank based at St Mary's Church in N2 will not be directly affected by the planned closure of the Barnet Food Hub, its resources may come under additional pressure. For further information, see [www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk) Barnet Food Hub is part of Barnet Together, a collaboration between Inclusion Barnet, Volunteering Barnet, Groundwork London and the Young Barnet Foundation. For a map of other food banks in the area, go to [www.youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk/foodbanks](http://www.youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk/foodbanks)



Well stocked: Bozena Merrick inside the new Terapia charity shop. Photo Mike Coles

# Therapia charity opens shop to support its work

By Lynn Winton

Terapia is the name above the new charity shop at 56 High Road, N2, now open for business in the premises that used to be Aliyah J Boutique. It's a local charity based in The Bothy, one of the historic buildings in Stephens Gardens in East End Road, N3.

From there they provide therapy and counselling, mainly to troubled children, young people and families who have experienced difficulties or trauma in their lives. Their therapists also visit or are contracted to many schools, pupil referral units and other locations.

Profits from sales in the East Finchley shop, their second, will go solely towards funding this work. The Bothy is also their training hub, as Terapia provide a full range of accredited courses for those who want to work in child and adolescent psychotherapy and counselling.

One therapist, Lesley Kolliko, described the creative

Terapia training: "I love the idea of incorporating play and art into therapy as I know how limiting language can often be, especially with children and I learnt such an incredible amount about myself and the human condition."

## Donations welcome

I met with Bozena Merrick, CEO OF Terapia, at the new shop to find out more. A psychotherapist herself, she founded the charity 20 years ago.

"We are very much looking forward to building up connections in East Finchley," she said. "It seems like a wonderful place to live and work. We welcome all donations, such as clothes, CDs, vinyl records, books and

bric-a-brac. Please bring us what you can.

"And we have some good support from the fashion world, so do keep a lookout for our regular new stock, including well-known brands such as Karen Millen".

Terapia's next courses start in January 2025 and there are open days this autumn. On the shop front, they are looking for a salaried assistant manager for two days a week. To find all information on shop vacancies, counselling services and training courses, go to [terapia.co.uk](http://terapia.co.uk)

# Cherry Tree Wood gets Green Flag

Cherry Tree Wood has become Barnet's Council's first, and only, green flag public park. The award ceremony was attended by Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Chair Roger Chapman and Barnet Council parks officer Richard Young in July.

The Green Flag Awards scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world. The Green Flag Award is managed under licence from the UK Government by Keep Britain Tidy.

Roger Chapman said: "In large part this award reflects the hours of hard work put in by

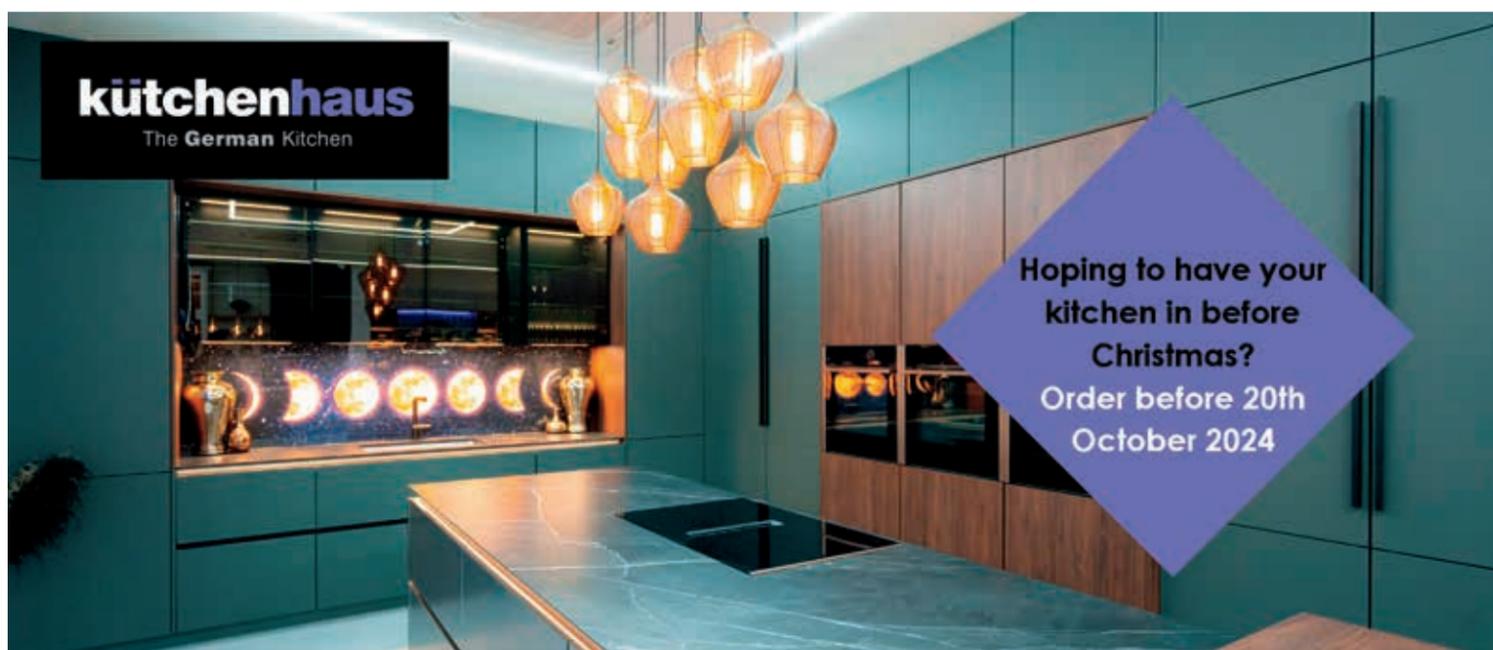
so many volunteers in making Cherry Tree Wood so special for our community. We will be working hard to keep the flag flying in future years."

Look out for the new flagpole and green flag which should be erected near the tennis courts soon. It follows on from the volunteer-run nature reserve Long Lane Pasture close to Finchley Fire Station being given the same status.

# Traders talk together

East Finchley Town Team is endeavouring to encourage local traders to become members of a WhatsApp group. Various businesses have been approached to discuss the benefits of this. The organisers hope it will help traders connect with other local businesses, report any issues quickly to alert neighbouring shops to any thefts or incidents, and to keep up with East Finchley news.

Some traders have already signed up, with others about to. The group is being managed by the Town Team, whose website is [www.eastfinchley.london](http://www.eastfinchley.london) and email is [EFTownteam@gmail.com](mailto:EFTownteam@gmail.com) but it belongs to the businesses themselves. If you wish to join, send a WhatsApp to 07519 804 810.



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Moments of pleasure: Ukrainian children enjoy toys delivered to them by the Driving Aid to Ukraine team

## Ukraine aid: 26 deliveries done...

By Lynn Winton

It was just over two years ago that Michael Byrne vowed he would dedicate his abilities and energy to helping the people of Ukraine. From his family home in Lynmouth Road, N2, he followed the rapidly unfolding horrors of the Russian invasion on the news and wasted no time in putting together humanitarian aid transports.

Fast forward two years, and the non-profit organisation he founded, Driving Aid to Ukraine (DATU), has now completed a staggering 26 massive articulated truck deliveries to the bombed-out regions of Ukraine, liaising with organisations on the ground to find out what the most-needed items are for each journey.

### Current priorities

I asked Michael about the current priorities and they are "to help protect the 4.1 million children affected, support healthcare facilities to function and supply general humanitarian aid".

A generation of children have spent more than 930 days engulfed by violence, fear, loss and tragedy. The situation is especially acute for the millions of people who are currently

displaced within Ukraine. DATU bring them medical aid, educational supplies, clothes and toys.

Emergency conditions are a daily reality in many parts of Ukraine and DATU brings supplies to cancer, acute, rehab and children's hospitals including a recent delivery of 56 new hospital beds directly to Kyiv and Kharkiv.

Michael's mission also delivers a vast selection of requested children's clothing, food, and camping equipment as well as new blankets, heaters, tools, generators, hygiene products, and other specific requests to selected organisations, who distribute aid according to their priority lists.

### Wish list

Springcroft Avenue resident Nicola Cousins has been

volunteering for DATU since its inception. I asked her what was on her wish list from her local community. She said: "At the moment some of the things we are focusing on collecting are sleeping bags and mats, mobility aids, heaters, baby food, school stationary and hygiene items but there's a full list online.

"Another huge help would be a storage space large enough to load an articulated truck within easy reach of north London. Maybe someone reading this could give us a lead? And lastly, we would love to hear from someone with some social media expertise that could lend us a hand."

Get in touch with Michael on 07791 912389 or Nicola on 07762 096551 and find out more at [drivingaidtoukraine.org](http://drivingaidtoukraine.org)

## Swirl of interest as school plays host to a different kind of globe

St James Primary School in Muswell Hill was chosen last term to host one of 103 works of art created to recognise Black History, the slave trade and how the world might look or be reimagined with this part of our past.



The St James globe was created by British-Trinidadian artist Bryony Bengé-Abbott, a British-Trinidadian and called 'Tributaries of Knowledge'. It was inspired by Kenyan Nobel peace prizewinner Wangari Maathai, who encouraged women to think locally but act globally by planting trees to replace the ones cut down by large companies.

The school was chosen to host the World Reimagined globe because of its work on racial justice and equality, including the Unicef Rights Respecting Award projects, developing class champions and holding an International Week.

Head of School Annie Moore commented: "It made a beautiful addition to our playground. I hope the children of St James have been inspired to be advocates for positive change."

Striking: One of the World Reimagined globes at St James Primary School

# Musician seeks fees help to follow her dream in life

By Sue Sutherley

Some of you may remember the talented young Ukrainian accordionist Yuliia Humeniuk, who gave a wonderful recital at All Saints' Church in Durham Rd, N2, in October 2022, shortly after she arrived in London.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, she made the painful decision to leave her family in the Russian-occupied zone north of Crimea and make the difficult journey to a new life here in the UK.

Against all the odds, she carried on studying online with Kharkiv National University of the Arts, and she has just been awarded her Bachelor of Arts degree. She has also been thrilled to hear recently that she has been accepted on the MA course at the Royal Academy of Music in London, starting in September, which is a dream come true for her.

The professor there was very impressed by her musical ability when he heard her audition and told me he "has exciting plans for her".

Yuliia has been living with me in Lincoln Road under the Homes for Ukraine scheme since June 2022. I admire her resilience, her inner strength, her thoughtfulness, sensitivity and humour, as well as her musical talents.

The tuition fees for her two-year course at The Royal Academy of Music are £14,000 a year. She has managed to raise over half of the fees for the first

year of her studies and now needs to raise the rest, about £6,600, for this coming year and more for the second year.



Talented: Yuliia Humeniuk

All Saints' Church are generously allowing her to use the church for a fundraising concert to help towards this goal. On Saturday 26 October at 6pm, please come along and support Yuliia in the next stage of her courageous journey and hear her musical talents for yourselves.

In the meantime, Yuliia has also begun a fundraising campaign for the rest of this year's fees with Go Fund Me. If you wish to contribute the link is <https://gofund.me/a5a13079>



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Mind games: Six-year-old Hera enjoys one of the summer challenges

## Summer reading challenge gives youngsters plenty to do

By Diana Cormack

With a recent survey suggesting that the academic ability of 75% of children can slip over the summer holidays, it was good to see Barnet Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge available again.

In this annual event children aged four to 12 are given the opportunity to keep their minds busy by taking part in a variety of tasks, with this year's theme being 'Marvellous Makers'. They could join the challenge at any of the borough's libraries when staffed or online.

East Finchley Library held two events, both on a Saturday morning. One was a book trail in July where five to 12-year-olds had to find clues along the book trail to win a prize. In the other, rather more complicated, for six to 12-year-olds in August, they had to make two cubes from templates.

On the sides of one they stuck six characters they had coloured in, cut out and named. On the other they stuck six topics they had coloured in and cut out. By throwing the cubes, one revealed the selected character and the other the topic to be put together in a story.

Six-year-old Hera, pictured continuing her writing at home, threw the Two Fairies and the Science Shop. Not an easy subject, but she managed it! Her comment on the event was: "It was fun doing it because there was colouring and I like colouring."

## Car boot sale is on

The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 28 September from 10am to 1pm at its usual location in Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, phone 020 8368 8180.

## Manager of food bank moves on after 10 years

By Lynn Winton

After 10 years at the heart of Finchley Foodbank, manager Anna Maughan has announced she is leaving her role and applications are invited for the position. However, she is continuing as a volunteer and will serve on the management group when she leaves to work at a local school.

Dipo Oyewole, Chair of the food bank, paid tribute to Anna's decade of service and said: "Simply put, Finchley Foodbank would not be what it is today without her."

I spoke to Anna about the huge changes she has witnessed. She told me: "In 2014, we saw about 30 families a week. Compare that to now when we see 250 families a week. The pandemic changed everything. We now needed a much higher level of professionalism and I took on the first paid position of manager."

### Fabulous volunteers

Anna had come from a background of managing pubs so she knew all about food handling, and connecting with people. But there was one new skill set that was a revelation: having to manage volunteers. "Our 200 volunteers are the best in the business," said Anna. "They are a fabulous group of people - committed, united in a common purpose and kind. And we always need more of them."

Anna described a very emotional moment at a recent client session that is all too frequent. "I went to talk to a man who seemed to be taking a larger amount of food than is usual. He told me he hadn't eaten for five days and when I showed him empathy he burst into tears of relief that he had been able to come and that someone cared. People who

come here have been going without to feed their kids".

### Wraparound service

Finchley Foodbank is unique in that people can come and get food without vouchers or referrals. It's also what's known as 'wraparound'. On hand during their client sessions are a Citizens Advice Bureau representative, digital champions to help complete forms, energy charities to advise on bills, and a Barnet Council member offering employment opportunities. These are all ways to help clients reduce their dependency on food banks.



Stepping down: Anna Maughan

Enquiries for the manager or volunteer positions can be made to [Finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:Finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com). Closing date for applications for the role of manager is September 10th. Find out more at [finchleyfoodbank.org.uk](http://finchleyfoodbank.org.uk)

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Associate Member

## Picnic season treat

Comedian and author Rosie Jones helped launch a series of summer picnics to support movement disorder charity CPotential. She met with families and took part in a Q&A session at the charity's therapy centre in Muswell Hill.

The aim of the CPicnic campaign was to encourage neighbours and families to come together for summer gatherings and raise funds at the same time. Rosie Jones said: "I am so excited to take part in the launch of CPicnic, not just because I love sausage rolls and scotch eggs, but because the work CPotential do is amazing."

CPotential's Trust Manager Paul Catton said it was an unforgettable day filled with laughter, inspiration, and family community spirit. "Rosie's presence not only entertained but also highlighted the importance of inclusivity and support for children with cerebral palsy



Party: Comedian Rosie Jones and friend at the CPotential picnic

and movement disorders." Find out more at [cpotential.org.uk/support-us/cpicnic](http://cpotential.org.uk/support-us/cpicnic)



# So what exactly is the Town Team?

By Kate Brown, Chair of East Finchley Town Team

It's a frequently asked question. And the answer is that East Finchley Town Team is a collective of representatives from East Finchley Community Trust, East Finchley Open Artists, *The Archer* and the Phoenix Cinema supported by East Finchley's local councillors and established to promote and support the High Road in N2.

In other parts of the borough of Barnet, and elsewhere in the country, Town Teams have been around for quite some time. However, the East Finchley version only came about post-pandemic in order to apply for a grant which was available to run some public events.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Town Team ran a series of successful events to encourage people to use the High Road: one with an emphasis on reuse and recycling, one featuring live music and the arts and the last a very popular food event supported by local shops, cafés and restaurants.

And that might have been an end to it as the grant monies were all used up. But by then Town Team had got involved in the London Festival of Architecture canvassing local people on how they would like to see the wide pavement area between Caffè Nero and East End Road improved and this has become a project in its own right.

This is a huge challenge, and it will probably be something which will only be achieved bit by bit. We have developed our own website at [www.eastfinchley.london](http://www.eastfinchley.london) to promote our plans for that space and promote High Road businesses more generally.

So our role is developing and it has already extended beyond the High Road to the wider East Finchley area. Town Team would love to hear your ideas and suggestions on what can be improved and ideas for what they should do next. You can contact us at [eftownteam@gmail.com](mailto:eftownteam@gmail.com) and if you want to be regularly updated, ask to join the distribution list for our electronic newsletter.

Our next public meeting will be on Thursday 12 September at 7.30pm at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2 8DE and by public request, following the spate of phone thefts in the locality, the theme will be community safety.



Team talk: Wingate & Finchley have high hopes for the new season

# Blues ready to take on the challenges of new season

By Liam Blaney

The 2023/24 season for Wingate & Finchley was one of the best in their history, achieving a record points haul in the Isthmian Premier League and qualifying for the play-offs in the process.

Now our 2024/25 campaign is under way and lots has changed. New faces now roam the Maurice Rebak Stadium in Summers Lane, N12, ready to take on the challenge of picking up where the 23/24 squad left off.

Last season's deadly strike trio of Carvalho, Long, and Chukwu have moved on to pastures new (Maidenhead, Welling United and Welling United respectively), and former club captain and goalkeeper Ben Goode has returned to Chesham. All four will be

starting the new season at least one, if not two divisions higher, and it is no less than they have earned.

Ogo Obi, signed from Chesham, will be tasked with replacing some of the goal threat which we have lost, while the midfield ranks are bolstered by the likes of former Stevenage players Arthur Iontton and Andronicos Georgiou.

Manager Ahmet Rifat has been known to pick up quality players from all levels and this summer has moved to sign wing-back Ayo Tanimowo and midfielder Brian Garzon from a division below, with both players impressing in pre-season and eager to show their worth at this level. Together with numerous other new joiners, the Blues

squad is looking particularly strong this season.

The club's fixtures are packed with local clashes, including the return of Hendon to this division. And if the north London rivalries weren't enough to convince you to pop down to Summers Lane, the division has a number of new, and big names in it this season. Dartford and Dover Athletic have dropped into this division having previously played in the National League.

Off the pitch, there are London Brewing Company beers now on tap in the clubhouse bar, and a new digital ticketing system in action. There is a sense of welcome and positivity around the whole of Finchley right now.

## RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

### Kick the bucket list

Summer is almost over. It doesn't actually end for another couple of weeks, not till children have returned to their place of incarceration and the credit card bill for your two weeks of sunburn and dysentery has landed. And I can give you a date, it's Saturday 14 September.

Look back and how did you do with your summer bucket list? The big attraction that starts the season is Glastonbury. It's meant to be a weekend of music, but it's usually heatstroke central or a mud bath. This year the rain gods weren't interested, probably because they'd gone off Coldplay and had already downloaded enough Dua Lipa to keep them going.

Then there was football and the Olympics, both of which were in Europe so don't count. Interspersed by Pride: a chance for box tickers to put on rainbow T-shirts, pretend they are LGBTQ+ and get claustrophobia in the wall-to-wall press of bodies in Old Compton Street. After which, the Proms. Eight weeks of what my parents called proper music, live from the Royal Albert Hall on Radio 3 every night from July to mid-September. You get everything from Bach to Vaughan-Williams via someone you've never heard of who's written a concerto for bassoon. It isn't top-hat-and-tails or pay-through-the-nose music. If you queue up on the day you can get standing tickets for less than the price of a pint in Soho's bars. You can also get fried.

Just to give you a full-on festival experience, the Royal Albert Hall is a cauldron in a heatwave and it still echoes. But what the hell, you get to hear music that's not been downloaded onto Spotify, played by real people on real instruments. And they've been doing it for over 120 years, every year. They didn't even stop for wars or pandemics and it took the inconvenient death of the Queen for them to cancel the last few days in 2022.

And, of course there's the Last Night. You know, the one they show on TV with the flag waving, *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*, all as English as moaning about the weather. Give the Proms a go. My parents forced me to when I was in my teens and, surprise, surprise, I liked it. Even if it's too late for this year, put it on your bucket list for next summer.

## Vision for life

A special exhibition is being held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Barnet Borough Sight Impaired charity. The Vision for Life event will feature stalls from many different organisations connected with sight loss.

Visitors will be able to try the latest technology, audio books and leisure activities, and there will be a display of arts and crafts by blind and visually impaired people.

It all takes place at St James Church, East Barnet Road, New Barnet EN4 8RN, opposite Sainsbury's, on Saturday 7 September from 10am to 4pm. Buses 307, 384 326 and 184 pass the venue and it is a five-minute walk from New Barnet rail station. For further information contact 020 8343 3450.

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In good voice: Coldfall Community Choir raise money for the Bounds Green Foodbank

## Community choir sings out for food bank

By Tessa Manning

The Coldfall Community Choir were in good voice at their end of term fundraiser on Tuesday 16 July, led by choir leader Eve Gordon.

The end-of-term charity performance was an opportunity for friends and family to enjoy some harmonious arrangements of pop classics from the 1960s through to the present day. Choir members provided drinks and

nibbles, raising a fantastic £450 for the Bounds Green Food Bank, which currently supports around 1,800 people locally. The choir was founded by Coldfall Primary School parents in 2018 but is open to all adults

from the local community and welcomes new members. The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings in school term times at the beautiful United Reformed Church in Muswell Hill, N10, and has previously performed

at the East Finchley Festival as well as at Coldfall School events.

For further information about the choir or to join for a free trial rehearsal, email: [coldfallcommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:coldfallcommunitychoir@gmail.com)



Maestro: Professor Gyorgy Pauk

## Musical masterclass

Music students and junior teachers are being given the chance to take part in a masterclass with the distinguished violinist Professor Gyorgy Pauk, who has appeared worldwide with the greatest orchestras and conductors in a career lasting more than 50 years.

The students from the Youth Music Centre will meet him at Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11, on Saturday 19 October when he will guide them through concertos and sonatas by Mendelssohn, Mozart, Bach and others.

Entry is free for the audience,

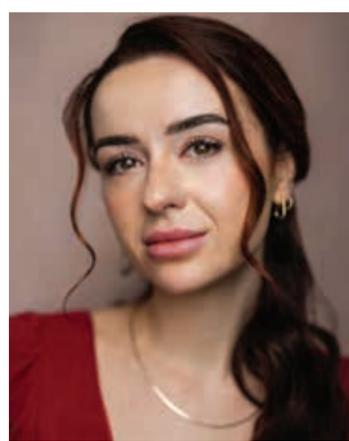
who can join any time during the afternoon between 2pm and 7pm. Everyone is welcome. Marina Solarek, artistic director of the Youth Music Centre, said: "This is a rare opportunity to see how Pauk's excellence and expertise inspires young performers."

## Revival of Shakespeare inspired musical

A revival of Rodgers and Hart's evergreen musical *The Boys From Syracuse* is coming to Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate this month. It will be the first time in 10 years that this retelling of the Shakespearean classic *The Comedy of Errors* has been on the London stage.

The musical was made into a Hollywood film back in 1940, and has been revisited continuously since its Broadway debut, including a revival at Regents Open Air Theatre in 1991 in a production directed by Dame Judi Dench. Popular numbers from the show include *You Took Advantage of Me*, *Falling in Love with Love*, and *This Can't be Love*.

The Highgate cast will include Caroline Kennedy (*Sweeney Todd*), Georgie Faith (*Call Me Madam*), Karen Wilkinson (*Standing at the Sky's Edge*) and Bernadine Pritchett (*Phantom of the Opera*). *The Boys From Syracuse* runs in Highgate from Thursday 5 to Sunday 29 September. Find out more and book tickets via [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com)



Cast members: Brendon Matthew and Georgie Faith

## Open morning for North London U3A

Following on from a successful summer programme, North London U3A are again running their regular open morning to showcase their regular year-round activities.

Organiser Michael Lewin said: "We believe lifelong learning should be a pleasure and we offer around 70 interest groups to suit all tastes. The open morning is our opportunity to promote what we have to offer to retired and semi-retired members of the public from Finchley (East, Central and North), Highgate and Muswell Hill, or even further afield."

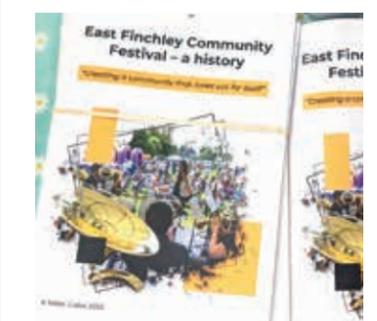
The event takes place on Monday 16 September from 10am to 11.30am at St Margaret's Church, Victoria Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1BD or you can find out more at [www.nlu3a.org.uk](http://www.nlu3a.org.uk)

## Power of making music

Renowned choir North London Chorus is looking for new members to join its ranks, with basses and tenors particularly welcome.

Rehearsals for the autumn term start on Thursday 5 September at 7.45pm at Martin School, East Finchley, and prospective new recruits are welcome to try out a couple of rehearsals free of charge before deciding to join. Its next concert will be a programme of French 20<sup>th</sup>-century works, to be performed on 23 November at St James Church, Muswell Hill. The programme includes Duruflé's Requiem, based on Gregorian plainchant, of 1947, and Poulenc's Gloria from 1959.

Lucy Ellis, of North London Chorus, said: "Being in a local choir means being part of your local community. You forge links and friendships while enjoying the power of making music together." For more details go to [www.northlondonchorus.org/joining](http://www.northlondonchorus.org/joining)



Read all about it: The history of the festival

## The story of the Festival

By Roger Chapman  
The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have written and published their own history of the East Finchley Festival held each year in the Wood. Looking back over its 50-plus year history it traces how and why the festival began.

The publication notes common features of each festival and the many differences over the years and explores why the festival was 'banned' in 1988. It also looks at how the festival has been organised and financed as well as answering the much-asked question of whether Amy Winehouse ever sang on the festival's stage. To enjoy a piece of local history email [friendsofcherrytree-wood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytree-wood@gmail.com) for a copy. The price is £5 plus postage and packing. All proceeds go to the Friends for the work that they undertake in the Wood.

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### Letters

#### 20 is plenty

Dear Editor

As a pedestrian, a cyclist and a motorist, I share your correspondent's concern about cyclists riding on pavements (Letters, *The Archer*, August 2024).

However, a much greater concern is the number of drivers who flout the 20mph speed limit on the High Road, especially when accelerating to and from the Fortis Green traffic lights. There seems to be no visible enforcement. This endangers pedestrians and other road users.

I wonder if some drivers see the large '20' signs painted on the road at frequent intervals as an indication that they should drive no more than 20 inches behind anyone obeying the speed limit.

**Nick Starling**  
Durham Road, N2.

#### Enjoy the Phoenix

Dear Editor,

I feel for the people running the Phoenix Cinema who are trying to keep their business going in the face of a shortage of films (*The Archer*, August 2024) and a general downturn in audiences.

It's so easy to take the Phoenix for granted as we pass it every day or every week on our way somewhere, but to lose this precious asset in our community would be unthinkable. Please, everyone, make a resolution to go and see more films at the Phoenix. One a week, one a month, whatever you fancy. That way the cinema will prosper and be around for us to enjoy for many years to come.

**Julie Lampert,**  
East End Road, N2



#### Garden glory

Dear Editor

In part thanks to the article in your August edition ('Now I truly know why open gardens matter', page 12), we had over 260 visitors to our open garden event on Sunday 4 August. I asked visitors at random how they knew about the event and many told me they read the article in *The Archer*.

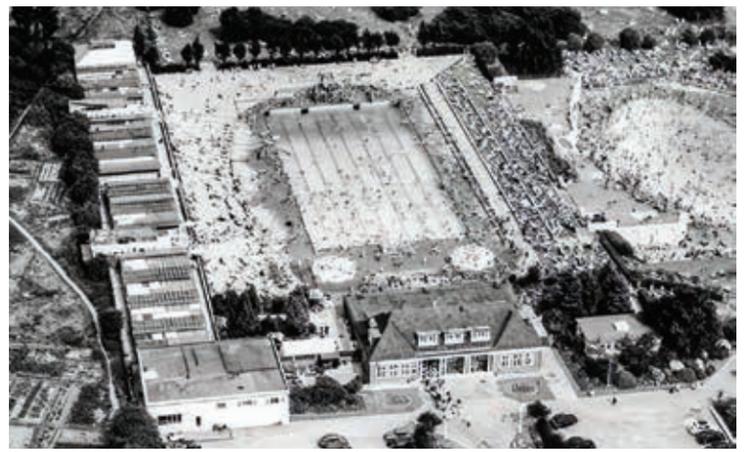
We raised well in excess of £2,500 and it was such a warm and happy event. My partner Earl's cakes were a great hit as usual, and we almost sold out of plants. Thanks to some generous donations of prizes, the raffle raised almost £300.

Our garden in Muswell Hill has been instrumental in bringing all sorts of people together, including our team of volunteers, some of whom started out as visitors. It is a catalyst for good, that seems to help balance much that is dark in our society. Visitors tell us they leave with a sense of peace. So thank you for helping to make that possible.

**Susan Bennett,**  
Alexandra Park Road, N10.



Poolside: Stands filled with spectators watching the 1948 Olympic Games water polo event at Finchley Lido



An aerial view of the water polo pool, left, and the public pool at Finchley Lido during the London Olympics of 1948. Photo Aerofilms

## When the Olympic Games were on our doorstep

By Diana Cormack

**With the glitz, glamour and guts of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad, officially branded as Paris 2024, still fresh in our minds, it is hard to imagine what the 1948 Games in London only three years after the Second World War could have been like.**

It was hoped that they would give a feel-good factor to a country and a world still in the early stages of recovering from that brutal conflict. However, they became known as The Austerity Games as, with Britain facing financial problems, rationing and bomb damage, there was not a lot of money left to spend on them.

So no Olympic village was built for the 4,104 participants from 59 nations. Instead, 3,714 men were housed in Army and RAF camps close to the capital and 390 women in college accommodation.

No new sporting venues were provided either for the 19 sports disciplines. Wembley Stadium, known as the Empire Stadium, was used, along with its Empire Pool for swimming events.

However, the water polo matches did not take place there. The 18 nations competing in that aquatic sport had their own setting with which some

*Archer* readers will be familiar. They used the open-air pool in North Finchley, the much-loved and missed Finchley Lido, now replaced by its modern version on the same site as part of the

Great North Leisure Park.

As the photos show, spectators crowded onto a stand alongside the main pool to watch the water polo players in action. And the aerial shot

by Aerofilms reveals that the oval leisure pool next to it was also extremely popular with children and youngsters. At least they must have had some good weather that year.

### Review: Argy Bargy

Camden Fringe, Upstairs at the Gatehouse

By Jessica Holt

**In this entertaining farce by new East Finchley theatre company Mutley and Minques, two incompetent kidnappers are on a barge heading towards Camden Lock and become involved indirectly with a Colombian cartel and an Argentinian drugs chemist known as The Baker.**

In keeping with farcical comedy, mistaken identity is a key feature and, yes, they have kidnapped the wrong person. This leads to a number of comic misunderstandings which Pinky (played by Imogen Farnworth) and Perky (played by Tilak Patel) finally unravel and together they devise a plan to avoid being annihilated. Their lively and entertaining dialogue is sprinkled with literary references such as TS Eliot and highlights how mismatched Pinky and Perky are.

Kevin, the slow-witted grandson of The Baker (played by Daryl Hurst) has been kidnapped instead



Farical: The cast of Argy Bargy

of Juan, son of the Argentinian cartel boss, and provides the stooge element crucial in farce.

There is plenty of physical movement by the actors providing a real sense of the barge moving slowly down the canal and the sound effects, designed by Mary Musker, successfully provide the atmosphere and comic tension when required.

## Hailstones, holidays and horse manure...

### East Finchley a century ago

By Frank Edwards

**This is some of the news from East Finchley, 100 years ago, as revealed in newspaper archives.**

#### Summer storms

It hasn't been the greatest summer in 2024 but it was not a lot better in 1924. On 22 July a "terrific thunderstorm" swept across London. More than an inch of rain and hail fell in 20 minutes. In Finchley the downpour was of "tropical intensity". Long Lane, Manor Park Road and Church Lane flooded, affecting basements, gardens and even a fowl house, where several chickens drowned.

For those affected it will have been a challenging event but some took a light-hearted approach. Whoever said Finchley has no beautiful watercourses, they asked, and do traders in Church Lane need boats for their customers?

This was not the end of the

wet weather. A second storm descended a week later, in which lightning struck a house in New Trinity Road. Church Lane flooded again, leading to the suggestion that it now be renamed "Where the Waters Meet".

#### Pack your bags

Wet weather or not, it was still the season to holiday. The London and North Eastern Railway, formed just a year earlier, offered regular day trips from East Finchley to Southend-on-Sea at a fare of 3s/6d (about £10 today).

Southend was popular but taking the train was not the only way of getting there. The boys of the Holy Trinity Church choir, treated to a day by the seaside, travelled by train from East Finchley to London Bridge and from there made the trip to Southend by boat.

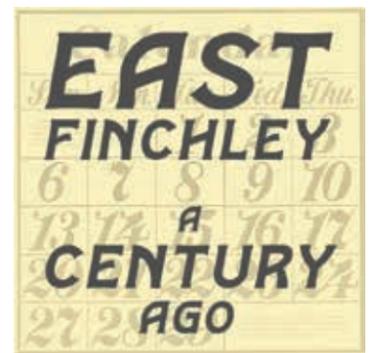
#### Empire on show

A more local attraction was

the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley (for which the Empire Stadium, later Wembley Stadium was built). The exhibition opened in April 1924 and ran through the year. Regular motor bus services from the Bald Faced Stag in East Finchley took visitors direct to the exhibition entrance. The event proved very popular but the volume of motor bus traffic along East End Road was such that it became riddled with potholes.

#### For sale

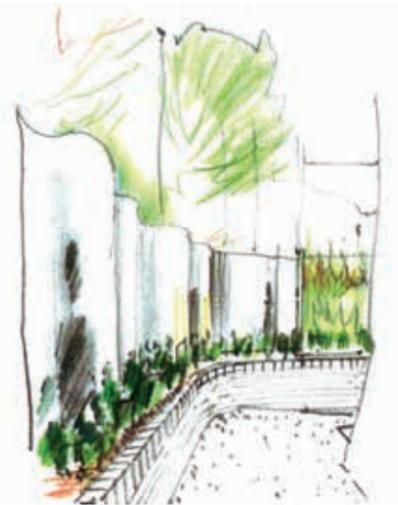
Those who remained in East Finchley had the chance to browse 'Articles For Sale' in the local paper. In just one week, on offer were a piano, a Decca gramophone with 35 records, an adjustable high chair, a lawn mower, a wheelbarrow, cycles, motor bikes, canaries, fox terriers, horse manure and even a six-month old greyhound (yours for £4).



#### East Finchley man does quite well in photography competition

Harry Wheeler of Leslie Road snapped some boys fishing and submitted the image to a national competition run by the *Daily Chronicle*. The newspaper titled the competition "a Happy Photograph" and Harry was no doubt a happy photographer when he learned he had won second prize.

While not the best, this was still an astonishing £100, which equating, perhaps, to up to six months' average earnings and enough to buy 25 greyhounds (see above) was well worth having.



Light and bright: Designs for the underpass show new pathways, extra planting and smarter surfaces to make it a route residents want to use. Images MillsPower

## Decision time for underpass project

By David Melsome

The team behind a project to revamp the underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road in East Finchley to make it safer and more pleasant for pedestrians to use will hear this month whether their plans have the go-ahead.

The aim is to improve the underpass lighting, widen it at certain points, add reflectors to help people see round its four corners, safeguard against flooding and add artwork to the walls that celebrates local artists and poets. A design proposal has been put forward to Barnet Council by East Finchley architects MillsPower with the support of the Grange Big Local regeneration project team. They have already been working with a project manager at the council and have been in regular contact

with Transport for London. MillsPower said its proposal sought "to improve the quality of space and materials as well as the safety and accessibility of the path", adding that it wanted to introduce "delight and fun through characterful elements that incorporate community generated artwork in the reflectors, lighting, play path and murals".

Crossing point The underpass is the only safe point for pedestrians to cross the Northern line between Church Lane and the North Circular but many residents say they don't currently use it because it is often dark and flooded, and its blind corners make it feel very unsafe. Grange Big Local identified



it as a priority project several years ago; one that would make a positive difference and improve links between the east and west of N2. Barnet Council is also in the process of designating the route as a scheduled footpath. This could lead to the removal of bollards at the entry point in Trinity Road and the chicane barriers at

the Manor Park Road end. The community would be consulted further on that to avoid the risk of opening up the path as a short cut for bikes and mopeds. Local people have already shown their support for the project by carrying out volunteer litter pick and rubbish clearing sessions to keep the underpass tidy.

## Twenty years of artistic excellence

The East Finchley Open Artists (EFOA) are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their group with a special exhibition of their work, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, glasswork, jewellery, and textiles.

Founded in 2004, EFOA began with a group of artists opening their houses and studios to the public, growing into a vibrant collective capped at 60 members. The group continues to enrich the cultural life of East Finchley through exhibitions, workshops, and public events.

Their exhibition runs from Monday 16 to Saturday 28 September at the Hornsey Original Gallery in Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, N8, open daily from 1pm to 5pm (1pm to 4pm on Sundays). Admission is free.

## Festival favourites join Sunday market



Some of the vendors at September's Courtyard Market

Starting on Sunday 29 September, local artisans will be showcasing their wares at the The Courtyard Market which will run monthly alongside the regular Farmers Market at The Engine Rooms, near East Finchley station.

Local makers and producers, who many will recognise from East Finchley Festival, include The Hivesman N2 Honey, Dan's Deli, Art & Dough, Fala Portugues, Woodsmith Works, NB Prints, By Kala X, Kiln Jewels, Gardenz in a Jar plus many more. For more details visit [dirthouse.co.uk/courtyard-market](http://dirthouse.co.uk/courtyard-market).

The indoor market runs from 10am to 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, starting from 29 September, at The Engine Rooms, 82-92 Great North Road, N2 0NL. Admission is free.

## Bless you, Rover

A pet blessing service is to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, on Friday 4 October. This is most appropriate as it is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

Everyone is invited to bring their pet to the church for the hour-long service starting at 5.30pm to be conducted by Father Marius Mirt. This is the first pet blessing there since Covid, giving thanks for the animals that share our lives and is being held in partnership with the Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon RSPCA.

All are welcome, whatever your age or whatever kind of pet you have, as long as it is under control with dogs on leashes, cats and other small creatures in pet carriers and birds in cages.

You are also invited to bring along your own stories to share, such as how you got your pet, how it has helped you in your

life, what changes it has brought to your family, in fact anything of mutual interest.

For more information contact Fr Mirt on 020 3565 4430 or [marius.mirt@htef.org.uk](mailto:marius.mirt@htef.org.uk) or visit [www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk)



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