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Two charged with murder of Anthony Littler in 1984 attack

By John Lawrence

Two men have been charged with murder in connection with an investigation into the death of Anthony Littler close to East Finchley tube station in 1984.

Anthony Littler, 45 was found with serious head injuries on a path leading from the station to East End Road shortly at around 12.15am on 1 May 1984. He sadly died at the scene.

Despite enquiries at the time, no one was ever charged in connection with Mr Littler's death. Detectives kept the case under review, re-examining evidence in 1993 and 2013 before reopening their investigation again in November 2023, leading to the arrest of two men in March 2024.

Anthony Stewart, 59, of Old Farm Road, N2, and Michael Stewart, 55, of Station Road, New Barnet, EN5, have since been charged with murder.

The two men appeared at Willesden Magistrates' Court on Thursday 6 March and they are next scheduled to appear at the Old Bailey on Friday 30 May.

Three men who were previously arrested on suspicion of murder remain under investigation.



Victim: Anthony Littler

Gentle giant

A Met Police spokesperson said: "Enquiries into Anthony's death have remained ongoing within Met Police's Specialist Crime Unit and his family continue to be supported."

Anthony, who worked as a Customs and Excise executive, was walking up from the station to his home in Leslie Road, N2, on the night he died.

His cousin Tricia McClure told The Archer in January 2024: "He was a gentle giant and he wouldn't have hurt a fly. He didn't deserve what happened to him. The sadness never goes away."

Mr Littler, who was single, was active in the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association where a colleague told us he was "tall, smiley, friendly and pleasant".



Chalk it up: Children at the Monkey Puzzle Nursery enjoy their Holi celebrations. Photo Monkey Puzzle

Bursts of colour at nursery celebration

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery in the High Road, N2, was awash with vibrant colours and joyful laughter on Friday 14 March, as children, parents, and teachers came together to celebrate Holi in spectacular style.

The nursery's front garden became a scene of colourful chaos as little hands tossed bright powders into the air, creating a rainbow of excitement. Families joined in the fun, embracing the spirit of unity, happiness, and new beginnings that Holi represents.

Town Team hosts open meeting

East Finchley Town Team are holding an open meeting at East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, on Thursday 10 April. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Everyone is invited to this informal event where locals can discuss local issues over a reasonably priced drink from the bar.

Established three years ago to promote and support the High Road, the Town Team is a group of volunteers, including East Finchley Community Trust, East Finchley Open Artists, The Archer newspaper and the Phoenix cinema, along with our local councillors.

Topics suggested for the meeting are the falling masonry in the High Road, the rubbish regularly dumped in the High Road and an update on the Great North Leisure Park redevelopment.

You are most welcome to come along and bring your ideas and suggestions or send them to eftownteam@gmail.com

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The Archer

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

Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

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BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Could you spare an hour or so a week to chat to an older isolated person? **Age UK Barnet** is looking for befrienders to offer friendly chats, support and companionship. The charity also needs walking buddies to help older people to get out and about again after losing the confidence to leave their homes. Please contact Lisa on 020 8432 1422 for this and other volunteering opportunities.

The **North London Hospice** shop in the High Road, N2, would love to hear from people of all ages who are interested in helping out. The hospice shops play a large part in raising essential funds. There are places for students from 16 years old which can help with work experience. Please drop into the shop and speak to the manager Anastasiya.

Can you help keep the **Grange Big Local's** Warm Spaces initiative going as a coffee morning all the year round? It created a warm and welcoming get together within Taring Road Community Centre now that it has a lovely kitchen. If you would like to help please get in touch with **Karen** on 07902 900639 or karen@grangebiglocal.org

North London Festival (northlondonfestival.org.uk) takes place annually in the Free Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb from mid-March to mid-May, nurturing young musicians at all levels and ages. The festival needs help to staff the reception desk, direct performers and their parents/teachers and manage back-stage practice rooms. There is also the bonus of listening to these talented youngsters. Contact Rosemary Cook at enquiriesnlf@outlook.com

Finchley Foodbank is on the lookout for volunteers. Roles range from receiving deliveries to sorting food donations to restocking shelves and staffing Tuesday and Saturday sessions at St Mary's Church on the High Road, N2. Find out more at finchleyfoodbank.org.uk or email finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please email news@the-archer.co.uk



Green and pleasant: But pollution has been found in the Mutton Brook near Lyttelton playing fields.

Photo Mike Coles

Probe into pollution levels in the Mutton Brook

By Cobi Jacobs

Much has been made of the poor quality of Britain's waterways, but now evidence of pollution can be seen close to East Finchley.

In June 2024, Earthwatch, an international environmental charity, tested Britain's lakes, ponds and streams using 'citizen science'. More than 2,600 volunteers, each with a testing kit in hand, went out to local bodies of water to test for phosphates and nitrates.

Participants within the East Finchley area uncovered unusually high levels of these chemicals within the Mutton Brook stream. The waterway that flows from Cherry Tree Wood to Hendon remains confined in artificial channels for much of its course but briefly emerges

in the Lyttelton playing fields.

Although no pollution is visible from the surface, ecologically speaking, these chemicals could significantly impact local wildlife and lead to a process known as eutrophication.

Testing

Participants in the project tested the brook at two places, within Lyttelton playing fields and near the North Circular, finding similar levels of nitrates at both spots but higher phosphate levels near the North Circular, clear evidence of pollution.

The cause of the higher levels of phosphates there could be a result of a Thames Water drainage outfall pipe located nearby. The Archer has asked Thames Water to comment.

The next round of Earthwatch's water testing takes place in April 2025, at which point the Mutton Brook will be tested again. The testing process is open to any willing volunteers and is free to take part in. If you want to test your local water, search for the Great UK Water Blitz and order a test kit.

Cyclist collides with parked car

A cyclist was taken to a major trauma centre with potentially life-changing injuries after crashing into a parked car.

The London Ambulance Service were called at 10.50am on Saturday 8 March to reports of a road traffic collision on Great North Road. London's Air Ambulance was dispatched immediately,

landing in Cherry Tree Wood a few minutes later.

An ambulance crew, a paramedic in a fast response car and an incident response officer treated the cyclist at the scene

and then took them to hospital by road as a priority. Police attended and wrapped the parked car in police warning tape. The road was cleared an hour or two later.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

40 Leopold Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with one roof light following demolition of the existing conservatory

66 Chandos Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with four roof lights, pitched roof and extension of the existing patio with new handrails following demolition of the existing conservatory

74 Brendon Grove, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Addition of flue to rear. Internal alterations

Bus shelter in front of 66-68 High Road, N2

Installation of an internally illuminated double-sided, freestanding advertising panel located within the bus stop

72 Durham Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension with five roof lights. Erection of a rear outbuilding.

20 Manor Cottages Approach, N2

Two-storey rear extension. Two-storey side infill extension

Haringey

9 Aylmer Road, N2

Installation of garden room with waste and water



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Station bookcase falls victim to fire safety rules

By John Lawrence

Commuters and residents reacted with dismay after the popular book exchange at East Finchley tube station was suddenly closed last month and the shelves removed altogether a few days later.



Well stocked: The station book exchange was a popular way to share good reads

Thousands of books have been shared via the exchange since it was installed eight years ago by The Archer team member Lynn Winton. It was upgraded just last year thanks to the design and carpentry skills of local men Richard Neville and Dan O'Dwyer.

However, London Fire Brigade decided that the bookcase, and others like it at tube stations all over London, were a potential fire hazard, forcing Transport for London (TfL) to shut them down.

Readers immediately got in touch with The Archer to point out that the books were no more dangerous than the piles of Metro newspapers left untouched just feet away in the station forecourt. Marcin Notecki told us: "I have not seen a sillier display of short-sightedness."

Lynn said: "I have been inundated with comments including 'this is a perfect example of red tape gone mad' and 'please don't let this wonderful community initiative be lost'. I'm still hopeful that common sense will prevail and I hope to see it back in its rightful position where we can share the joy of reading, reusing and recycling our books." The East Finchley bookcase itself has been kept in storage

at the station but may not be used again. Paul Baxter, TfL's customer service manager for the High Barnet area, told The Archer that new shelves that meet regulations may be introduced at least at surface stations like East Finchley.

"TfL are going to trial cabinets made by Tambour at a couple of surface stations with a view to being able to bring back the book exchanges at the surface stations. We are waiting for them to be approved by the London Fire Brigade," he said.

The bookcase ban sparked a wave of coverage in the media, prompting interventions by Finchley and Golders Green MP Sarah Sackman and London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan, both calling for the decision to be reversed.

A London Fire Brigade spokesperson said: "Ensuring the safety of those using the London transport network is our priority. We are working with Transport for London with regards to their responsibility to remove all book libraries from subsurface stations. This is due to combustible material posing a fire safety risk if it is stored on these premises. Non-subsurface stations have been asked to remove book libraries from display until they have the correct fire safety plans in place." *Your letters Pg11.*



Raise a glass: Birds of a Feather stars Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph with comic actor Christopher Biggins at the North London Hospice fundraising event. Photo North London Hospice

Stars quizzed to help the hospice

Soap stars, celebrity chefs and national treasures enjoyed a night on the town together and raised more than £20,000 for North London Hospice. Birds of a Feather stars Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph were there with comedy actor Christopher Biggins, all taking part in a quiz night at chef Aldo Zilli's restaurant in Mayfair.

The inaugural entertainment-themed Big Fun Quiz was organised by EastEnders star and East Finchley resident Michelle Collins in memory of her friend Melvyn J Taub, a musician and tour manager, who was cared for by the hospice.

Others enjoying the occasion included fellow East Enders Colin Salmon, Harriet Thorpe and Francesca Henry, along with film star Nick Moran and singers Mari Wilson, Clare Grogan and Nick Heyward.

Michelle Collins said: "I was so pleased to be able to organise this event. The evening was really special, and I am so thankful to everyone who came along to support."

North London Hospice cares for over 3,500 people with a life-limiting illness every year and it costs more than £16million a year to run the charity.

Anna Cooper, Director of Fundraising and Communications said: "We are so grateful to Michelle for hosting our Big Fun Quiz. We are thrilled to have raised such an incredible amount of money for our charity. Around a third of our funding comes from the NHS which means that we need to raise the rest ourselves which is why events like this are so important."



Good friends: Chef Aldo Zilli and event organiser Michelle Collins

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The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 26 April at 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 more information, call 020 8368 8180.



The day I got caught in a motorcycle crash scam



Blind spot: Corners like the one on Leslie Road are a favourite spot for accident scammers

Reader Valerie Teague wants to send out a warning to fellow drivers about a scam where motorcycle riders deliberately ram cars to claim on their insurance policies. Valerie fell victim on her way home in East Finchley.

I have been driving home down Leslie Road for the best part of 36 years, always under the 20mph limit and I slow further at the right angle bend. That day last July there was absolutely no oncoming at the corner, but as I began to turn a motorcycle appeared out of nowhere (he later said "I couldn't see you as I was behind a car"). Although I was sure there was enough room for

him to pass safely to my right, in the few seconds available, I moved further to the left but he drove determinedly straight into my offside radiator grill and bumper, smashing both. The bike was still upright afterwards, the driver still seated and his front tyre still fully inflated. I leapt out to survey the damage, but when my back was momentarily turned he put his bike on the ground rather than on its stand. Having

rushed around taking multiple photographs, the rider picked up and remounted his bike and rode away, not entirely in keeping with his subsequent claim of personal injury and a damaged bike.

Constant worry

When I mentioned these points my insurer referred the case to their Fraud Department and later appointed solicitors to represent their and my interests. Nevertheless I had three months of constant worry about the lack of witnesses, which could have led to a 'his word against mine' situation, until the crash investigation interview finally took place in mid-October.

My view of the ample space was endorsed when I showed photos taken by the one post-crash witness who had come out of her house to offer assistance to both parties. I hadn't had my phone with me. While it is not yet over, I have been told not to worry at all and the incident is clearly being regarded as one of the many scams. My insurance company is sending a 'letter of repudiation' to the claimant.

Right angle bends and T-junctions appear to be favoured crash sites. The City of London Police are now working with Trading Standards officers to identify rogue businesses repairing damaged mopeds and scooters.

Links are being established between garages suspected of being used by fraudsters and services and individuals believed to be profiting from the crimes. Last June, a combined operation seized bikes believed to have been used in crashes and hundreds of number plates used to disguise bikes.

But as my experience proves it can happen anywhere and to anyone. So, lone drivers beware!



In training: Brittany Jones pounds the streets ahead of the London Marathon

Brittany 'hopes to finish' the marathon for the foodbank

By Lynn Winton

Describing herself as "Californian by birth but a North Londoner by choice" Brittany Jones is gearing up to take part in the 2025 London Marathon on Sunday 27 April.

As a dedicated volunteer at Finchley Foodbank and also the chair of their management committee her ambitious target is to raise £50,000 to help support the 800 weekly clients reliant on the charity to feed themselves and their families.

This is her first marathon and Brittany, who admits to being in "late middle age" laughingly told me she'll be thrilled just to get to the finish line, without also predicting how long it might take. "I'm really motivated to run this race," she said, "because it's a great opportunity to talk about the Foodbank."

"I hope to raise awareness of the work we do and highlight what an amazing organisation this is. We have some of the most wonderful, generous and enthusiastic volunteers imaginable: kids, busy working people, mums and dads, as well as retired people.

We are all there, united by the wish to do something for our community, but we all get even more back.

"Everyone chips in and works really hard, but I know I have a great time. So in this race I am really motivated to grow the resources to keep doing this important work. The need, unfortunately, also continues to grow. I hope the community can continue their kind generosity in supporting my run, and the work of the Finchley Foodbank."

You can play a large part in helping Brittany to reach her target by donating using the QR code here, or go to 2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com and search for Brittany Jones.



From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

**10 years ago:
April 2015**

The fight to save East Finchley Library continued and was highlighted in the national press. With a general election on the way, supporters of the campaign were urged to sign the petition against cutting Barnet's Library Service, to write to their MPs and to raise the topic at local hustings.

**15 years ago:
April 2010**

The Archer team received a civic award from Barnet Council, in recognition of the major contribution they make to community life in the borough. Diana Cormack collected the award on behalf of the whole team from the Mayor, Councillor Brian Coleman. The citation stated that the award was given "in recognition of all the dedicated volunteers who produce and deliver The Archer newspaper".

**23 years ago:
April 2002**

We reported on the installation of a new zebra crossing making it safer to cross Fortis Green at the bottom of Durham Road, N2. Despite a long campaign by people living nearby, it had taken the tragic death of a local resident to persuade Barnet Council to install the crossing. Mrs Maria Bussandri, of Summerlee Avenue, had been taking a present to her new baby granddaughter when she was hit by a motorbike.

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Homes plan for car park and green space

By Lynn Winton

Hot on the heels of the controversial design plans to develop the Park House site opposite East Finchley station (The Archer, March 2025) comes a second project by Places for Barnet, the newly formed partnership between Barnet Council and private developers The Kuropatwa Group.



Development: New homes could replace the pocket park and the car park where Manor Park Road residents leave their vehicles after part of their street was pedestrianised.

Images: Places for Barnet

This second, smaller development is a proposal to build 10 homes, a mix of maisonettes and flats with communal gardens, on the existing pocket park and car park in Manor Park Road.

Places for Barnet's stated mission is to build creative housing projects for the private sector on land owned by Barnet, with Barnet's share of the profits ploughed into improving social housing areas, primarily Colindale.

The Manor Park Road scheme was unveiled at a public drop-in event on Wednesday 26 February at Holy Trinity

Church on neighbouring Church Lane. I spoke to Oliver Kuropatwa, who was attending on behalf of Places for Barnet. He told me: "Both these East Finchley schemes, along with another one in Mill Hill, are about developing available land in an innovative way to generate more funds for social rent housing, also an overnight homeless shelter and other community facilities in Barnet."

Most residents who know the formerly protected space were reconciled to seeing it developed, given the government's well publicised intention

to encourage desperately needed house building, but were concerned about parking, traffic flow and access, saying it was already a tight squeeze to drive and park around there, particularly in the evening. One of these residents was James Masters, chair of Grange Big Local. He said: "Twelve parking spaces are going to be lost, and there's going to be ten households moving in with cars and no solution to an already overcrowded road."

Historically residents had asked Barnet to install a one-way system which had been

rejected.

Meanwhile Roger Chapman, chair of Barnet Green Spaces Network, said: "There is a small pocket park on this site which lies in an area that Barnet Council themselves identify as being deficient in open space. The manifesto for the incoming administration pledged 'We will protect... our parks and our green and open spaces. We will not build on them.'

"Their new local plan which they adopted on 4 March 2025 contains policies to protect open space. This scheme builds on public open space and should

be rejected especially as there is no replacement provision."

The planning application will be submitted this spring or summer, after considering the feedback received. You can find more details at manorpark-road.co.uk

Residents in Manor Park Road and neighbouring streets are raising their concerns formally with the development company, with Barnet Council and with local MP Sarah Sackman. They have drawn up a document available on request by emailing: mpreastfinchley@gmail.com

Art in the suburb

The HGSART group is hosting an Art Fair on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD from 11am to 5pm each day. Visitors will have the chance to discover work by more than 20 local artists, including paintings, sculpture,

jewellery, photography, textiles, ceramics, prints and glass. Admission is free and WI Finchley will be serving a range of refreshments with proceeds going to local charities. There will also be free art activities to entertain children. Find out more at www.hgsart.co.uk

Mural makeover for empty walls

An illustrator based in East Finchley has turned her love of sketching in cafés into a mini-business creating murals on café walls. Diana Morales Nielsen works as a graphic designer and was trying new ideas over a coffee at the La Genoise café in North Finchley when the owner noticed what she was doing.

This led to him offering her the chance to design a mural for his empty café wall and the experience was so much fun for Diana that she has since immersed herself in mural art courses and taken on new projects.

Diana said: Although I had never done a mural before, I embraced the challenge—and I loved every second of it. The experience sparked a new passion.

Whether it's a café, nursery, restaurant, or beauty salon, I create murals that add personality, warmth, and creativity to a space."

Diana's love of illustration and patterns started with her own range of wrapping paper and gifts, which she sold at Spitalfields Market before moving online when the pandemic hit. Find out more at nielsenpat-terns@gmail.com



Food display: Muralist Diana Morales Nielsen with her work at the La Genoise café in North Finchley

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Podcast tells story of teacher banned from the classroom

By David Melsome

A new podcast series tells the story of events at an East Finchley secondary school in the 1980s when a 14-year-old boy says he was groomed into a sexual relationship with his 27-year-old female teacher.

The Tortoise Media series is called Lucky Boy because that's what many people say when they hear about the situation, when in fact the fall-out went on to seriously derail the young pupil's life.

The teacher in question, Sally-Anne Bowen, was banned indefinitely from the profession in December 2023 following a hearing in front of the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

It found that she had engaged in sexual activity with a pupil, met him outside of school and allowed him to visit her home while working at Christ's College Finchley in East End Road, between September 1986 and July 1988. Bowen, who went on to teach elsewhere for three decades, denied the allegations in full, but the ban was imposed by TRA chief executive Marc Cavey, following a recommendation from a three-person panel. The former teacher is

appealing against the ruling.

Difficult to see

Journalist Chloe Hadjimatheou, who leads the podcast series, said: "At its heart this story is about why many in society find it so difficult to see it as sexual abuse when the perpetrator is an attractive woman."

"Since the podcast went out we have been contacted by more former pupils who have information to help our investigation."

The podcast team approached Bowen and the school for comment as part of their investigations. They report that neither responded.

Lucky Boy is a four-part series from Tortoise Investigates available through all regular podcast platforms and here: <https://lnk.to/Lucky-Boy>. Chloe can be contacted by email at: podcasts@tortoisemedia.com



Boot-iful: Kim Athanasίου from Tony's Continental will be bringing a car load of plants for sale

Plant sale makes return to Tony's

This year's plant sale at Tony's Continental will be held outside the shop on the High Road, N2, on Sunday 4 May, exact times to be announced. All plants are homegrown and will include grasses, ferns, verbenas, geraniums, figs and many more. Funds raised will go towards the Haematology Cancer Care unit at University College London Hospital.

Vibrant history of crossover culture in London's East End

By David Melsome

An East Finchley resident has launched a podcast uncovering the vibrant yet little-known Jewish popular culture of London's East End. Seven episodes of The Cockney Yiddish Podcast are available to listen to now.

Historian and performer Dr Vivi Lachs came up with the idea in conjunction with Professor

Nadia Valman, her colleague at Queen Mary University of London. They wanted to tell the story of the crossover culture that developed when tens of thousands of Jewish migrants arrived in London escaping poverty and pogroms.

Each episode explores a different aspect of East End Yiddish life, from music halls and street markets to political protests and family anecdotes. Special guests include Michael Rosen, Miriam Margolyes, David Schneider, and musicians from Klezmer Klub and Katsha'nes.

"Yiddish songs and writing give us unique insights into Jewish immigrant life in the East End," said Dr Lachs. "The Yiddish language in London changed to incorporate the London experience so you get



Podcast hosts: Vivi Lachs, left, and Nadia Valman

local Cockney words like 'cuppa tea' that became a part of East End Yiddish both in writing and spoken on the streets."

The podcast is accompanied by a dedicated website, cockneyyiddish.org, where listeners can access Yiddish texts, translations, and additional resources to start their own language-learning.

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'Assault' in Long Lane

A man was taken to hospital with a serious head injury after an incident in Long Lane, N2, on Tuesday 4 March. Emergency services were called to the scene, including the Air Ambulance which landed in the green space off Oak Lane.

A spokesperson for London Ambulance Service said: "We were called at 10.46am to reports of an assault on Long

Lane.

We treated a man at the scene for a head injury and took him to a major trauma centre by road." The victim's condition is currently unknown.

The incident caused the closure of the nearby Long Lane Supermarket and a section of Long Lane for three days while police and forensics teams investigated the scene.



Business group gives valuable network links

By Margaret Crockett

The flourishing East Finchley and Muswell Hill Business Networking Group has widened its reach by merging with a similar group covering Muswell Hill and Crouch End. Now convening on the first Wednesday of every month at the Village Green pub on Fortis Green Road, N10, a recent meeting welcomed more than 25 people and Facebook numbers are upwards of 750.

When I attended the latest meeting on Wednesday 5 March, it could have been mistaken for friends gathering at the pub or colleagues unwinding with a drink at the end of the day. Those present included a dog behaviour specialist, a branding advisor, a personal travel agent and a creative writing teacher.

Members like the more social approach with meetings in the evenings, a relaxed atmosphere and lack of pressure to bring in business. They see the value of a support network: many run local small businesses and welcome the chance to share concerns and receive advice on common issues such as getting leads for work, managing workflows and coping with working from home.

Group leader Leigh Brown said: "Business networking can be very commercial, levying joining fees and annual subscriptions plus an expectation to find business for other members."

And he added that the content of more formal meetings aimed at providing content for members' money is often already known by or irrelevant to small businesses.

At the East Finchley and Muswell Hill group, it was clear from talking to members that they work together and support each other. One said that not unexpectedly the Group hasn't generated new business yet, since "it takes time to develop relationships and build trust".

Leigh and other group members are currently developing a magazine programme, called 'Business Seen', to provide exposure for businesses without a high street presence. Each programme will focus on three or four small businesses so those showcased can share and tap into the others' networks.

Message Leigh on **07940 464921** to find out more and join the Whatsapp group.



And cut! Gus, right, and long-time friend and colleague Louis have called time on their High Road business.

Photo John Lawrence

Goodbye, Gus! Barber leaves his chair... after 46 years

By John Lawrence

Loyal customers at Gus Gents Hair Stylist in the High Road, N2, were saddened to say goodbye last month to the man and his team who have run the salon since 1979. Gus, real name Costas Avraam, announced he was putting his scissors away for the last time after 46 years welcoming customers into his barber's chair.

"Nobody can work forever," said the 78-year-old, who came to England from Cyprus in 1962 and started cutting hair in Holloway before buying that business off his boss.

He spent two years as a hairdresser at Disneyland in Los Angeles, where he has fond memories of holidaying in Las Vegas and seeing Elvis Presley live on stage twice, before returning to London in 1979 and setting up shop in East Finchley. In 2002, he moved a few doors down to his most

recent premises close to the junction with Kitchener Road.

Six days a week

"I love my customers and I feel sorry to be leaving but what can you do?" Gus told *The Archer*. "This has been my life. I like talking with people, the days go by so quickly. But I've been working six days a week all my life and I don't see so well these days so my wife said maybe it's time to take it a bit easier. "I will miss the chat and the jokes.

It's always been a good business here. My customers are my friends and the young boys who came with their dads years ago are now dads themselves and bring their sons in for haircuts."

Gus has worked with fellow barber Louis since 1972 who will be calling it a day too. But Gus will keep his connections with East Finchley because he is renting the property to an uncle and nephew hairdressing team, who are planning refurbishments before opening under their own name.



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Movie music maestro scores double

By Katharine Murphy

A musician who was recognised as a talented performer when he was just an 11-year-old pupil at Tetherdown Primary School in Muswell Hill has emerged from the entertainment awards season with a BAFTA and an Oscar.

Daniel Blumberg won both Best Original Score honours for his work on *The Brutalist*, the three-and-a-half-hour epic starring Adrien Brody that tells the story of a Holocaust survivor who arrives in the New York of the 1940s to pursue the American dream.

His score has been widely praised for its emotional depth and innovation and cements his reputation as a groundbreaking composer and musician in the film industry.

Gifted

Blumberg, who attended Tetherdown Primary School until 2002, first gained prominence as the lead singer of indie band Cajun Dance Party and later

alternative rock band Yuck. Since 2013, he has pursued a solo career, exploring avant-garde and experimental music, with much of his work developed through collaborations at Café Oto in Dalston.

Tetherdown headteacher Annie Ashraf expressed immense pride in Blumberg's achievements. She said: "Daniel was a student in my Year 6 class, where he consistently displayed exceptional creativity and talent. Even then, he stood out as a gifted performer, taking the lead in our end-of-year production with remarkable confidence, and reworking well-known songs with a natural flair for composition. A talented pianist,



Double winner: Daniel Blumberg he also played in many school assemblies.

"Watching his Oscar acceptance speech was striking—it revealed both vulnerability and a quiet steeliness, a combination I remember well from his school days. His family was deeply committed to the school, and their support played a key role in his journey. His Oscar win is a testament to his creativity and passion, qualities evident from a young age."



Right turn wasn't the wrong turn

By Rachel Abedi

A routine right turn at the Bald Faced Stag crossroads in East Finchley led to months of bureaucratic frustration for Majjo Ashraf, founder of popular local takeaway Majjo's Foods.

Days after making a legal turn from East End Road down the High Road towards Highgate, she received a penalty notice from Barnet Council accusing her of an illegal right turn from Fortis Green UP the High Road towards North Finchley.

Despite their own photographic evidence clearly showing her turning correctly out of East End Road and many emails pointing out this error, Barnet Council escalated the matter with threatening notices and court proceedings.

This led to extensive paperwork, the enlistment of a Commissioner of Oaths and hours of calls. Still, there appeared to be no way to address the fact that the Council was in error.

When the case finally reached court, Barnet declared there was no case to answer, offering neither apology nor compensation for the stress and costs incurred.

False accusations

A friend of Majjo's said: "This incident raises concerns about the reliability of local traffic enforcement and the council's

handling of disputes. Other drivers might face similar false accusations from what appears to be a faulty camera system or flawed enforcement process.

"Drivers receiving penalty notices for right turns at this junction should carefully examine the photographic evidence and challenge incorrect fines, despite the intimidating process."

No record

A Barnet Council spokesperson told The Archer: "We note that we have no record of correspondence having been received from the registered keeper or driver of the vehicle during the statutory appeal period.

"However, we acknowledge that the penalty charge notice was issued incorrectly and that there were opportunities to correct this error before we cancelled the penalty and wrote to the keeper of the vehicle to apologise for that initial error in January 2025.

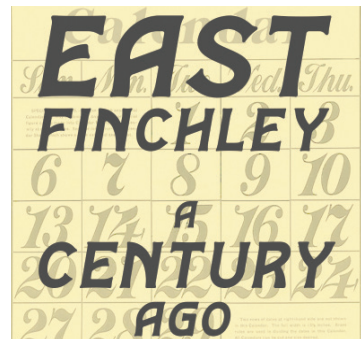
"Both CCTV review staff and those processing correspondence will be advised of the lessons learned from this case."

Tennis in the park, a dramatic rescue and a pioneer Pastor...

By Frank Edwards

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

Today, Cherry Tree Wood proudly flies a Green Flag, recognising it as a well-managed community asset. Its attractions include sporting amenities but it was not ever thus. At the beginning of 1925 debate raged in the local council about the merits of using an unemployment relief scheme to provide new leisure facilities. Possible venues included Totteridge Fields and Cherry Tree Wood. Many raised concerns about the cost, given the country's grave financial position and the proposed works in Totteridge were abandoned. Others lobbied on behalf of East Finchley, claiming it was the Cinderella of the district, whose needs, despite its growing population, were always ignored. These arguments won the day and the Council approved expenditure of £960 to build three tennis hard courts. One factor which may have swayed the decision was that the proposed site for the tennis courts was a part of the open space that was unused because (guess what) it was water-logged. So, it turns out it is not just in recent years that Cherry Tree Wood has been a pond as well as a park.



Doggy's in the well

There was much excitement one Sunday evening in February 1925 at a house in Park Gate, by The Walks, N2. An Airedale terrier fell 50 feet into a disused well, making, it was said, a resounding splash. When rescue attempts failed someone called the fire brigade. Two firemen arrived and swiftly knotted a harness, with which one lowered the other down the well. The wet pet was found, floating and alive, and brought safely to the surface. This uplifting tale received national coverage. A self-proclaimed 'Lover of Animals' in Edinburgh wrote expressing heartfelt approval of the men's brave actions.

Come to the Coliseum



Winners: Mayor of Barnet Tony Vourou presents the community award to Green Man Management

Green Man team make it a 'better place to live'

By Diana Cormack

A group of volunteers on the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley have been honoured for the work they do to make it a better place to live.

The Green Man Management Committee won the Community Group of the Year award in a ceremony hosted by Barnet Homes and Opendoor Homes following nominations from residents, staff and partners across Barnet.

Green Man committee members Vanessa Elsley, Jan Kerr, Thomas Matthews, Emma Morris, Helen Shannon and Mark Shannon were acknowledged for the positive impact

they have made on their community.

Despite difficult times with continuing challenges, this group of volunteers provides a variety of activities and events for all ages in a place where everyone feels welcome. Jan Kerr told The Archer: "Everything we do is for the benefit of the Strawberry Vale Estate."

Elliott Sweetman, Interim CEO of The Barnet Group, said:

"These nominations are a testament to the incredible people who embody the spirit of unity and determination that defines our community."

In a report on the closure of the Barnet Lone Parent Centre at Strawberry Vale last month we stated that Julia Hines is a trustee of the Green Man Centre. We have since been told this is not the case and we are happy to set the record straight.

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Green oasis: The Fortis Green Tennis Club

Homes plan for tennis club site turned down

By Diana Cormack

A controversial proposal to build five houses and a block of three flats on part of Fortis Green Tennis Club site, taking away one of the four courts and reducing the open space, has been turned down by Haringey Council.

The decision last month by the Planning Services team came nine months after the end of a public consultation about the proposed redevelopment.

The tennis club land is owned by Muswell Hill United Reform Church and is in Haringey, whilst vehicular access would only be possible through Barnet Council territory.

So concerned residents living around the area plus tennis club members had made their feelings known both to Haringey and Barnet councils. Last summer, East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra met

with residents living off Southern Road, Summerlee Gardens, Shakespeare Gardens and Cherry Tree Road, which was in line to lose its cul-de-sac status to create a new vehicle access into the development.

Problems such as traffic dangers, parking, the club's potential loss of members, space and its green and tree-lined setting were also raised with Catherine West, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green.

The club is welcoming new members at the moment. Membership info can be found on www.fortisgreentennis.com

Booking opens for summer Proms in the Suburb

By David Melsome

Booking opens this month for the Proms at St Jude's Music and Literary Festival, which is promising another star-studded programme of events over nine days in late June.

The festival kicks off with LitFest on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June when eight best-selling authors will discuss their latest books at The Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Among them will be comedian and actor Sir Michael Palin, BBC Radio 3 presenter Petroc Trelawny and Tracy Chevalier, the world-renowned author of *Girl With A Pearl Earring*.

The music programme at neighbouring St Jude on the Hill features world-class musicians like percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie, The Transatlantic Ensemble performing



Proms guest: Michael Palin

Fleetwood Mac's iconic Rumours album and Grammy Award-winning band The

School chef sizzles as TV kitchen contest heats up



Kitchen contest: CCF school chef Amber Francis with Great British Menu judges Andi Oliver and Michael Caines

Amber Francis, head chef at Christ's College Finchley, is turning out to be one of the stars of the BBC's Great British Menu, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Amber, the first school head chef to appear on the show, topped her local heat after serving up an array of dishes inspired by influential figures from the South West region. She will now go on to compete against winners of other regional heats for a chance to cook one course of the final four-course banquet. Amber said: "Feeding hundreds of teenagers every day has given me a new appreciation and different perspective on food, creativity and nutrition, all of which I'll be putting to good use in this competition."

Amber joined Christ's College Finchley in East End Road in late 2023 and, together with the charity and the school's support, retrained the kitchen team, introducing new menu and food education initiatives

Headteacher of Christ's College Finchley, Dr Ruth Hill

said: "The work of Amber and her team has been transformative. Every day up to 1000 pupils are treated to food made

from scratch and within school budgets."

The show is available to watch now on the iPlayer.

RICKY SAVAGE... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

Sucker punch

Sometimes things happen that drag you screaming and kicking back to when you were young and reckless. Sometimes just when you've haven't recovered from one shock, another turns up to leave you flat out on the floor. And that's what has happened to me.

Back when I was young and obsessed with music, I got bored with the cheesecloth and denim posing and wanted something harder that really would annoy the grown-ups. Okay, there was David Bowie doing his spaceman act, but that was too clean for me. And then I tuned into The Old Grey Whistle Test to watch Whispering Bob Harris enthusing over California and flares and found what I was looking for... and it wasn't from California.

The New York Dolls were not nice or normal tripped out hippies, they were raw. As they blasted through 'Jet Boy', looking weird and dangerous with Johnny Thunders flicking out licks like knives and David Johansen, all high heels and poses singing about things too weird for suburbia, I thought this could be for me. When Bob Harris described them as 'mock rock' I knew for certain. There were only two patchy, but electric LPs, before they crashed and burned, but they were the start of something special.

In the sleazy world of New York rock they weren't the only ones, The Ramones were starting out and what would become Blondie was beginning. This was a world so far from London and California that I started looking for something equally strange and annoying in London. It took a couple of years to find it, but in 1976 punk arrived and I was there at the start.

Everyone talks about the Sex Pistols. They were in your face, aggressive and marketed to the limit by Malcolm McLaren, but they were just one of a quartet of miscreant trailblazers. There was also The Clash, wrapped in a political flag and The Stranglers, a bunch of time-served pub rockers who made a career out of being nastier than they really were.

But most of all, for me, there was The Damned. Why? Because they didn't seem to take themselves too seriously and because, when Brian James wrote 'New Rose' the band produced one of the greatest two and a half minutes of adrenalin rush I'd ever heard.

But times changed, the Dolls never got to a third album and The Damned were not the same after Brian James left in 1977. The Pistols exploded by the end of 1977 and even if the others continued, it was never the same. It was just last month within the space of a couple of short weeks that I was taken back to those days by the death of David Johansen, the last surviving Doll, and then Brian James dying a week or so later. So I did the only thing I could do and dug out my old vinyl and reminded myself why they changed everything for me.

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Swingles.

Stand-up comedy night on Saturday 28 June will welcome Matt Green, Stephen Carlin and Alice Frick with a fully licensed late bar.

Funds raised by Proms at St Jude's are donated to Toynbee Hall to help disadvantaged young people in the East End and to the North London Hospice. Public booking opens on Monday 14 April at promsatstjudes.org.uk



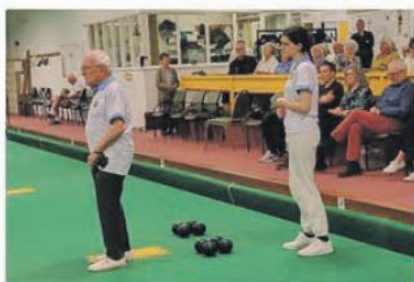
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Kenwood portraits from the Gilded Age

Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath is to host a collection of portraits by renowned artist John Singer Sargent, the first major loan exhibition at the house in 25 years.

Running from May to October, 'Heiress: Sargent's American Portraits' coincides with the centenary of the artist's death in London in 1925.

Kenwood already has on permanent display his 1898 portrait of Margaret 'Daisy' Leiter, soon to become 19th Countess of Suffolk & 12th Countess of Berkshire. Daisy is considered to be one of his finest paintings and the embodiment of the so-called Gilded Age.

Kenwood Trustee Tracy Abraham told TheArcher: "Dismissed as 'Dollar Princesses' these extraordinary women, painted magnificently by Sargent, will finally have their stories told on the centenary of his death.

"We greatly look forward to welcoming local residents and hope it will remind people of the world class art available on our doorstep including masterpieces made available by philanthropist Edward Cecil Guinness, 1st Earl of Iveagh when he bequeathed Kenwood,



Elegance: Sargent's portrait of Daisy Leiter

the grounds and his selected paintings to the nation for the public to enjoy."

Find out more at <https://friendsofkenwood.org.uk/news/>

Classic tale of blackmail

Garden Suburb Theatre is staging An Ideal Husband, Oscar Wilde's classic tale of blackmail and political corruption. The play tells the story of Sir Robert Chiltern, a successful government minister, well-off and with a loving wife, whose perfect life is threatened when an acquaintance appears with evidence of a past he would rather hide. Sir Robert has to decide whether to

yield to blackmail or risk exposing the origins of his wealth and position. The theatre group said the themes of this play are as relevant now as they were when Oscar Wilde wrote the play 130 years ago.

Performances run from Thursday 1 to Sunday 4 May, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village. To book visit: <https://upstairsatthegatehouse.ticketsonline.com/>

Diary of a 15-year-old

By Aurel Bouayoun

Another three strike days while our teachers at Fortismere School take industrial action feels like winning the lottery. Missing this much school is amazing. Even though they set homework, no one does it. How would the teachers even check if all the students did their work? It's not like they can just email everyone to make sure, and half the time, the work feels pointless anyway.

After my unsatisfactory test results, I think my parents would like me to still do the work. Some revision for my next tests wouldn't hurt especially since it's not exactly the easiest topics. I really don't understand how they expect us to remember all of this for the exams, there's so much to revise!

Either way, all this free time has got me bored for the first time in a while. I thought I'd

make use of the time and try learning something new. So, I've started paper trading on my computer. Paper trading is like practising stock trading, but without using real money.

It's kind of fun, trying to figure out how the stock market works, and I'm starting to get the hang of it. It's a lot more complicated than I expected, but it's interesting to see how minor changes in the market can affect everything. It's also nice to know I can practise without the risk of losing real money.

Tomorrow, though, on another strike day, I'm planning to go to Power League to play football with my friends. Usually, we play at school, but this time, we're going to play outside of school. It'll be nice to change things up and play in a different environment. We might get the big pitch this time.



Double trouble: John Sackville and Lucy Pickles in a scene from Too Many Books. Photo Upstairs at the Gatehouse

Review: Too Many Books

Upstairs at the Gatehouse Theatre, Highgate

By Jessica Holt

Judi Bevan's debut play successfully explores in depth the tension between couples who want to adopt and social workers who must decide their suitability.

The couple Julia, played by Lucy Pickles, and Daniel, played by John Sackville, are middle class, well educated, professionally successful but for the social worker Zaydee, played by Alexandra O'Neill, this is somehow not good enough for her approval.

In a scene between Zaydee and her supervisor it is revealed she has made a serious mistake concerning a previous adoption case which obviously haunts her. The question arises whether she is now exercising poor judgement again. Into the mix comes China and its decisions to adopt a one-child policy to reduce its population plus in 1992 a law to enable

foreigners to adopt the abandoned children, mainly girls. Daniel and Julia are happy to do so but Zaydee raises many issues such as cultural displacement of the children, emotional sacrifices they would have to make, pressure on their relationship and much more.

The script is well written and there are many humorous moments which make the play entertaining as well as thought-provoking. The performances are very strong and the scenes with the couple and Zaydee are dramatically full of tension. She is brutal with this vulnerable couple, and we do not like her. She comes across as full of prejudice against

them and their lifestyle, but we recognise throughout she may have a point; they may fail, and another child goes back into care.

The design elements support the play, the music sets the context, the bookshelves which are very full give the play its title and the front room effortlessly transforms into an office.

The play is well worth seeing and during the interval it was clear the audience was engaged in discussing the first half. However, it felt too long. I wondered if it was necessary to have two visits to China despite the fact the couple could well afford to do so.

Rare plants

Once a year the opportunity comes round to buy rare heritage plants at a local fair, with all funds raised going to plantheritage.org.uk. This year's Plant Fair is taking place on Saturday 26 April from 9.30am to 2pm in its regular venue St Michael's School on North Road, Highgate. Specialist nurseries include Culinary Herbs, Dyson's Salvias, Monksilver, Hedgehog Garden and dozens more. Entry is £2.50. More information from organiser Mel Watson at melwatson@me.com

Gardeners

The Grange Big Local team is looking for volunteers to help plant vegetables and grow flowers at the Tarling Road Community Hub in East Finchley. Find out more at any of the Warm Spaces mornings that run at the hub on Thursdays from 9.30am to 12pm (except Thursday 13 March).



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Letters

Literary lunacy

Dear Editor,

I have not seen a sillier display of shortsightedness than closing the book shelf at the tube station. It's been my and, I suppose, others' favourite bit of our journey to find a literary gem there.

How does something become a fire contravention overnight? I suppose piles of Metro or Evening Standard are made of non-flammable paper. Or rather they have adverts in them. Who needs books anyway...?

Marcin Notecki,
Address supplied

Fire-resistant papers?

Dear Editor

I was sorry to see the notice at East Finchley station that the book exchange shelves were being removed. As many charity shops are inundated with books and don't always want more this is a great way to pass on, and acquire, books. TFL cited fire regulations for the reason, so it would be logical to remove all the free newspapers from their stations too. Or are they going to tell us that the Metro is printed on some form of miracle, fire-resistant paper?

Name and address supplied

Send your letters to:
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.

Books are important

Dear Editor

The popular free book exchange bookshelf at East Finchley station has been removed by TfL following a ruling, apparently, from London Fire Brigade. This is absurd. East Finchley is not a sub-surface station, the bookshelf is (was) a mere 15 feet from the exit and car park and posed no risk whatsoever. Books are even more important these days in our screen-obsessed age.

Surgery decay

Dear Editor

I was pleased to see the article and photograph showing the shocking neglect of the East Finchley Medical Practice Building (The Archer, March 2025). The exterior has steadily fallen into decay over the 25 years that I have lived here.

It is absurd to suggest that somehow this is due to an unco-operative landlord... and the suggestion that the users of the practice who have had to put up with these disgusting conditions should somehow fundraise for this practice is obscene.

As a patient of the practice I do not want my name mentioned but I feel very strongly that the practice partners should finally take some accountability for repairing the building.

Name and address supplied

Underpass work to start transformation of path

By David Melsome

Work will start this month on the transformation of the pedestrian underpass beneath the Northern line between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road. The walkway will be closed for two weeks from Monday 14 to Monday 28 April.

As reported in previous editions, reflective panels, lighting and artwork will be installed to improve vision and the feel of the underpass in a project being led by the Grange Big Local regeneration team.

Local artist Paul Stephenson is working with students in local secondary schools Bishop Douglass, Archer Academy and Christ's College to create a mural that will celebrate community, people and place. The mural will be painted in June.

The reflectors will be overlaid with poetry created by local people and pupils at Martin Primary School. Thanks to reader Naomi Burgess who sent us this acrostic poem she submitted to be considered by the underpass team:

E is for East Finchley, the place we all know,

A is for the Archer, who draws back his bow,

S for a Spice Girl, who sang to our beat,

T is for Tony's, local honey so sweet.

F is for Films at our Phoenix so old,

I is for I LOVE N2, our home of pure gold.

N is for Northern Line, where the tunnel begins.

C is for Cherry Tree with our kids on the swings.

H is for happiness, found everywhere.

L is for Library and Lido and books and wet hair.

E is for East Finchley Festival's cheer.

Y is for Yes, we LOVE living here!



Recreate a moment in history

Eighty years ago, more than 10,000 people are said to have come together in the grounds of Avenue House, now known as Stephens House & Gardens, in East End Road, N3, to celebrate victory in Europe towards the end of the Second World War.

The photograph here was taken on that day in 1945 and on Sunday 4 May this year, the House & Gardens are asking visitors to come along and be in the picture and to recreate the joyous moment.

The recreation will be photographed at 6pm as the finale

to a day looking back at the war time heritage of the community of Barnet. The Gardens will be open until 8pm and 1940s music will be provided by vocal harmony trio Fox, Wiggle & Sass. The Finchley Society & Barnet Museum will have their

wartime treasures on display, and there will be screening of a specially commissioned film of local people's memories. Visit www.stephenshouseandgardens.com. And if you recognise anyone in the photo, get in touch with the team via the website.

Storage is the next challenge for Ukraine

By Lynn Winton

It is now three tumultuous years since Michael Byrne was so affected by watching the Russian invasion of Ukraine unfold on the news that he vowed to himself there and then that he wouldn't sit idly by.

Originally using his contacts as a former director of NHS services, within days he had amassed a truckload of vital humanitarian aid, which he drove himself to hand over to aid organisations on the Polish border, who safely delivered to the bombed-out cities and towns that were in dire need of medicine, and other essential items.

That was how Driving Aid to Ukraine came into being, and that mercy dash was the first of what have now been 28 articulated truck journeys transporting 300 tons of goods, all organised by Michael and a few volunteers from his home in Lynmouth Road, N2.

Readers of The Archer, by offering goods and donations,



Work goes on: A Driving Aid to Ukraine transport group on the way to distribute much-needed items

have been a part of the mission from the outset, and it has become part of an international network of aid organisations and charities.

Biggest challenge

I asked Michael for an update. He said: "As the Russian attacks continue, people who remain in Ukraine are enduring the dangers of life under siege.

"My biggest challenge now is an overwhelming demand for a minimum 800 square foot storage space, with access for an articulated lorry, for the ever-growing need of large mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, hospital beds and mobility scooters for the 42,000 horrifically maimed people, including 15,000 amputees.

"From the beginning, the only limiting factor has been storage and funding. There is not and never has been a shortage of

supplies needing transport. We urgently need both to continue delivering support."

How you can help

If you are inspired to offer Michael an accessible storage space or can offer any guidance to help him find one, his number is 07791 912389. You would, literally, be the answer to his prayers and directly helping those unfortunate victims of this terrible war. Monetary donations can be made by visiting drivingaidtoukraine.org.



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17th April—Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 8:00pm
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18th April—Good Friday

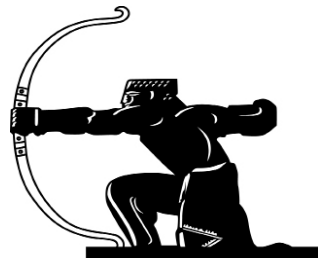
Family Stations of the Cross in Church 11:00am
Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm
Stations of the Cross 7:00pm

19th April—Holy Saturday

Confessions 10:30 am to 11am
Easter Vigil 8:00pm

Sunday 20th April—Easter Day

Sunday Masses 8:30am, 10am and 12noon



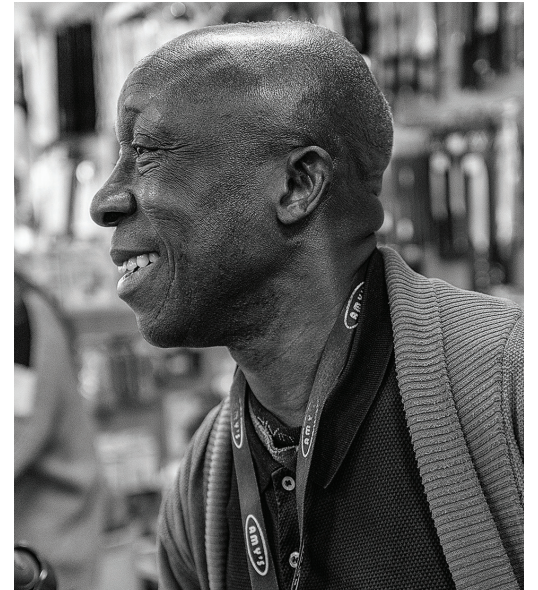
Shopkeepers on show in pub gallery

By Julia Lawrence

A snapshot of social history in East Finchley – that's how photographer Dave Pearson describes a collection of portrait pictures, taken of local shopkeepers, currently on display in The Windsor Castle pub, in The Walks, N2.

The pictures on show are 20 candid, unstaged, black and white images taken by Dave over the course of three weeks late last year and include such well-known local figures such as Alan, from Alan's Records, Gus at Gus Hair Stylists and Mark from East Finchley Electrical Contractors.

Dave, who lives in Hertford Road, says the idea came as he was chatting to his good friend Hussein from HR Dry Cleaners. "He was standing there, steaming away with the sun coming through the window, and I said 'that makes a really good photo' and went off to get my camera.



Moments in time: Dave Pearson's atmospheric portraits of Hussein at HR Dry Cleaner's and Gabby at Amy's

Once I saw the result, I was inspired to do others and it blossomed from there." The pictures, he says, are an important part of East Finchley's history.

The Windsor Castle where they are on show, with landlords

Arina Piskunova and Eamonn England included naturally, has a lot of old photos of local scenes on the walls, and these bring the gallery up to date.

They are the shopkeepers and business owners of 2024/25

to be remembered by future generations. Some were more willing subjects than others, however, with a few pleading for a bit of notice and a chance to tidy themselves up. But an unpolished, unfiltered effect was what Dave wanted. Arina and Eamonn, who took over at The Windsor in 2022, are now

hoping to organise regular meet-ups at the pub for business owners to get to know each other properly, and share their unique place in East Finchley's community history.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday 15 April at 6pm or as soon as possible after people finish work.

Career change was anything but crackers for City lawyer

By Lynn Winton

Sweeping career changes are not unusual but I'll safely place a bet that Susan Gafsen is the only lawyer in a prestigious international City law firm who left it all behind to become a vegan cracker entrepreneur.

"The hours were just silly," explains Susan, "and I knew it was time to embark on something completely different. So in my 50s I successfully studied for an MBA and that gave me the courage to start my own business."

At the same time, Susan's son had become vegan whilst at university. "He wasn't eating well at all and was always tired," she remembers. "That gave me my business idea: to create ready-to-eat, nutrient-rich vegan snacks made entirely from kitchen ingredients that

were certified prebiotic, low sugar, high fibre and high protein."

And this was how her brand Pep and Lekker (pep for energy and lekker means tasty in Dutch) was born. The mixed seed crackers in two flavours taste delicious so it came as no surprise that two of our popular greengrocers are equally enthusiastic. You will find them in Tony's Continental on the High Road and Green and Blossom on Fortis Green selling for £2.75 per pack.

You can also find them on Ocado and Shopify but why not buy them in two of our loveliest local shops and



Career twist: Susan Gafsen with her vegan crackers

and say you read about them in The Archer! Find out more at pepandlekker.com

Cameras on fly-tippers

New AI-enhanced technology has been introduced in Haringey to tackle aerial fly-tipping on its estates. Motion-sensitive cameras have been installed and trialled on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, with plans for more to follow.

Since their installation in November, the cameras have captured 11 incidents of aerial fly-tipping, resulting in Haringey Council issuing three fines of £1,000 each to the perpetrators.

The council says offenders have been caught throwing a variety of items from tower block windows, including gym

equipment, furniture, glass bottles, used nappies, and women's hygiene products, from heights of up to 17 storeys.

In our last two editions, we have reported on the problem of fly-tipping on estates and open land around East Finchley. It is not yet known if the same camera technology could be used by Barnet Council.

Why swear?

Professor Catherine Loveday, a regular on BBC Radio 4's All in the Mind is giving a talk entitled 'Why we swear and how the use of taboo words can deeply affect the way we think, act and relate to each other'. It takes place at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, on Wednesday 23 April from 6.45pm to 8pm. All are welcome and entrance is free. Register by calling Teresa on 07502 989 403 or email teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.



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