



Stockholm prize for pioneering penal reformer

By Janet Maitland

East Finchley resident Frances Crook was awarded the Stockholm Prize in Criminology by the Queen of Sweden at a 'glorious' ceremony in Sweden in early June.

We reported last November that Frances won the award for steering thousands of young people away from a life of crime while Chief Executive of the Howard League, the oldest penal reform organisation in the world.

"It was a big four days in Stockholm," said Frances. "I had to give a lecture to a symposium of 500 academics from round the world, do a debate with the Minister of Justice, lead a seminar at the University and give a thank you speech to the Queen.

tackle the huge number of children, 300,000 a year, who were being arrested "just for being annoying" and the 3,500 children who were in prison in England and Wales. By the time she retired after 35 years there were just 500 child prisoners and 70,000 arrests a year.

"Prison just makes children worse," said Frances.

Frances shared her award and her passion for justice with US-based Professor Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director and founder of the human rights organisation the Equal Justice



Honour: Frances Crook, centre, with Bryan Stevenson and the Queen of Sweden

The ceremony was glorious, we had opera singers, a string quartet who played a version of ABBA and a dinner with fireworks."

Prison time

When she took up her post with the Howard League in 1986, Frances was determined to

Initiative (EJI).

Under his leadership, the EJI won major legal challenges eliminating excessive sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting the abuse of the incarcerated and mentally ill, and helping children who had been prosecuted as if they were adults.

Play streets

Barnet Council is inviting residents to celebrate World Car Free Day by hosting a one-off play street during the weekend of 20-21 September. A play street is a resident-led event which temporarily closes a road to traffic, to create safe spaces where children can play freely.

Following their launch in 2023, residents can already apply for a play street with multiple dates, up to a period of 12 months. In East Finchley, this has already been done successfully in Leopold Road. Anyone interested in organising a one-off play street

should speak to neighbours to get support, choose a suitable road (no bus routes or main roads) and submit an application at www.barnet.gov.uk/playstreets. The deadline for applications is **Friday 15 August**.

Did you know?

The Archer is printed each month on paper made from 100% recycled fibre, mostly retrieved from old newspapers collected by local authorities

around the country. It is made here in the UK in King's Lynn in Norfolk, some 50km from our printers Sharman and Co in Peterborough.



Swim champ: George Maughan completed a mile in the pool

George swims the distance

By Lynn Winton

The Maughan family are no strangers to the pages of The Archer, with Anna lately stepping down after running Finchley Foodbank in the High Road, N2, for many years, and still on the operations team, and Marcus currently General Manager at Food Bank Aid, the North Finchley based charity that supplies 33 food banks with 80,000 items per week.

Now it's the turn of their son George, who at just 11 years old committed to a hard training schedule in order to swim one mile to raise funds for the East Finchley help point.

George said he felt nervous before successfully completing

the challenge last month. "Midway I was starting to feel tired but determined and so on my last length I swam as fast as I could. My teachers and parents gave me a cheer at the end and I felt really proud that I could help. My next challenge will be

two miles."

George's fundraising page is still open and he hopes to raise as much as possible for the food bank. If you would like to donate, go to justgiving.com and search 'George Maughan'.

Help for those big steps in life

A mentoring organisation is offering help to young people aged 18-25 who are leaving school or entering the workplace but feel uncertain about the next steps in life.



Helpful advice: Mentors are available for young people

One Million Mentors aims to support young adults who have questions around career direction, further education, and personal development.

Established eight years ago,

in 2024 the national organisation gave its services free to more than 1,100 people and launched 70 new programmes. Mentors are recruited from people who have faced similar

decisions and want to give back by offering practical support and guidance. Typically, they meet their mentees for one hour a month over the course of a year, cost-free. To find out more, visit <https://1mm.org.uk>