The Archer

www.the-archer.co.uk Email: news@the-archer.co.uk

@TheArcherN2

Voicemail: (messages only) 0800 612 0748 for editorial and general enquiries

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Copy Editor
John Lawrence

Sub Editors
Lucy Moorman
Fiona Macdonald

Picture Editor
Mike Coles

Production Editor
Nadia Savvopoulou

Distribution
Toni Morgan,
Jane & David Marsh

Finance
David Marsh

Editorial Team
Ruth Anders, Diana Cormack, David Hobbs, Janet Maitland, Lynn Winton

Social Media: Justine Csaky

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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.

Copy deadlines - **December:** 13 November **January:** 11 December **February:** 15 January

Be Part of It
Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Finchley Foodbank is looking for a new kind of volunteer to help people with all things digital, such as searching the internet, sending emails and booking appointments. You will signpost people to help with the cost of living, employment, housing etc. You will need to be available for foodbank sessions on Tuesdays and/or Saturdays between 11.30am and 2pm twice a month. To find out more about becoming a digital champion volunteer, email: **hello@finchleyfoodbank.org.uk**

N2-based **Number Champions** is an award-winning charity that helps young state primary school children who are behind in maths. It trains volunteers to use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions in the pupil's school. The charity is active across London and is especially looking for N2 volunteers. If you have enthusiasm to help children, confidence in basic numeracy and 1.5 hours/week available in term time, visit **www.numberchampions.org.uk** or contact **volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk.**

Youth communications charity **Exposure,** based in Muswell Hill, is looking for two new trustees, people who share a genuine commitment to young people and can bring expertise in fundraising, digital media, finance, charity governance or equality and inclusion. The role will entail four or five trustee meetings a year, with hybrid options available. To find out more, contact: **info@exposure.org.uk**

224 North London Air Scouts (N6) are looking for adult volunteers to help run fun weekly sessions for young people. No experience needed, full training provided. Flexible roles to suit your availability. Even a couple of hours a week makes a real difference. Interested? Get in touch at **del@224.org.uk**

Do you enjoy swimming? **WeSwim** is a London-based charity that creates safe, welcoming spaces where disabled adults can swim with the support of volunteers in the water. They are looking for volunteers who are keen to make a difference by working with the disability community in Crouch End, giving just a few hours a month. No swim teaching/coaching qualifications required, although being comfortable in the water is a must. Contact **harriet@weswim.club** for more information.

Join the team at the new **Finchley Free Legal Advice Centre**. This new community-led initiative is providing free legal advice to residents who are most in need. If you have a legal background, and can spare two hours a month, your experience could make a profound impact on someone's life. They are particularly looking for lawyers with experience in immigration, housing, benefits, crime and family. The new Advice Centre will rotate to different venues in the constituency every other weekend. Find out more by emailing **sarah.sackman.mp@parliament.uk**

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

Friends of the wood

Everyone is invited to the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood AGM at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 January at All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2.

Drop in to hear what has been happening in the wood, and what the charity has planned for the year ahead in 2027.

Tell us the news

Have you got a news story or an interesting photo for us? Our readers are our eyes and ears, and we are always pleased to hear what is going on in East Finchley. Tips, ideas and stories, are very welcome. Please email **news@the-archer.co.uk** or leave a message on our free phone: **0800 612 0748**.



No roof: Young volunteers bed down in the open air for the Big Sleep Out

A glimpse into homelessness

By Gail Norcliffe

Residents have been braving a night outside as part of a fundraiser for Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB). On top of raising vital money, the Big Sleep Out aimed to increase awareness of homelessness and its impact on individuals.

'Under the Same Sky' inspired more than 40 people to give up their beds for a night between June and September. Participants were mostly young people, the majority under 18, including students from North Finchley's Woodhouse College and a scout group.

At the core of the Sleep Out was a demonstration of empathy, but importantly it recognised such an initiative could never recreate the hardships and despair experienced by those who do not have a home. Marcin Nocek HAB's Night Shelter Coordinator told me how the final event at the end of September differed from the experience of being homeless. It was held next to the Alyth Synagogue in Golders Green within the shelter of the Sukkah.

A restaurant donated food so all had hot food and fundraisers benefited from sleeping bags and mats. Unlike regular rough sleepers they were relatively warm, secure and not subject to physical and mental attacks. Participants Stephanie and Courtney raised an impressive amount of money and described the Sleep Out as: "A genuinely unique and rewarding experience. It gave us a small glimpse into the cold, discomfort and vulnerability that comes with not having a safe place to call home. It certainly made us appreciate the simple things we often take for granted."

The Big Sleep Out has raised more than £8,000, but demand for HAB's support has been higher than ever this year. While the charity always does what it can to help people rebuild their lives, it is finding traditional funding simply isn't stretching far enough. If you can help, donations may be made through HAB's website **www.habcentre.org**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

10 Sylvester Road, N2

New front porch with pitched roof. Ref: 26/3701/HSE. Single-storey rear extension with a proposed depth of 4.3 metres, maximum height of 3.15 metres and eaves height of 3 metres following demolition of existing store. Ref: 26/3700/PNH

252 East End Road, N2

Conversion of two existing self-contained flats into one single family dwellinghouse. Ref: 26/3671/FUL

30 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Roof extension including rear dormer window, juliet balcony and two front-facing rooflights including materials change from red clay to red zinc tiles. Ref: 26/3655/HSE

62B High Road, N2

Change of use of the property from a single family dwelling (Class C3) to a three-bed House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Class C4) for up to 5 people. Ref: 26/3635/FUL

First Floor Flat, 11 Leicester Road, N2

Roof extension with rear dormer with juliet balcony and outrigger dormer, and three front-facing rooflights. Ref: 26/3599/FUL

67 Manor Park Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extension following the demolition of existing side and rear extensions/garage and shed. Roof extension with rear dormer window. Ref: 26/3572/HSE

78 High Road, N2

Submission of details of condition 9 (Demolition and Construction Management and Logistics Plan) pursuant to planning permission 26/0244/S73 dated 26/01/2026. Ref: 26/3578/CON

90 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension with a proposed depth of 6 metres, maximum height of 3 metres and eaves height of 3 metres. Ref: 26/3507/PNH. Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window, two front-facing rooflights and new side gable window. Ref. No: 26/3440/192

81 Bedford Road, N2

Single-storey rear and side extension with three rooflights (amended description). Ref: 26/3460/HSE

10 Oakview Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension with a proposed depth of 3.80 metres, maximum height of 3.00 metres and eaves height of 2.85 metres. Following demolition of the existing rear conservatory. Ref: 26/3423/PNH

Haringey

26 Fortis Green Avenue, N2

Erection of a single-storey rear extension. Ref: HGY/2026/2840

3 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Minor Material Amendment application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for variation to condition 2 attached to planning permission HGY/2025/2440 to amend design of the single-storey rear extension. Ref: HGY/2026/2497