



BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

Did you know **The Archer newspaper** can help with fitness and stamina? Join our team of dedicated deliverers and get more steps into your schedule. We need people to help distribute the paper, ideally in the first week of each month but always at a time to suit you. We are particularly looking for deliverers to cover Trinity Road, Mansfield Heights, Manor Court, Doran Manor, and Linksvie. Rounds usually take around 30 minutes once a month. Please contact: news@the-archer.co.uk

Driving Aid to Ukraine is a new non-profit organisation based in N2 started by local resident Michael Byrne, who delivers lorries of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones via border transfer points.

You can read more on crowdfunder.co.uk by searching for Driving Aid to Ukraine. His mission requires volunteers to help scale up in building and sustaining a social media campaign, fundraising and grant writing. This is an opportunity to use your skills to bring vital aid to utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grass roots level. Please get in touch with Michael at 07791 912389.

Could you spare an hour or so a week to make a real difference 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. Just a couple of hours a week of your time could make a big difference to an older person in East Finchley! Please contact volunteer manager Lisa on 020 8432 1422 or email lisa.robins@ageukbarnet.org.uk Any enthusiastic home cooks or retired food tech teachers out there who might fancy running some of **Age UK Barnet's cookery sessions** for over 55s in East Finchley? It's a chance to share your skills and make new friends. The charity says it's open to ideas and all types of cuisine. For more information, contact Lisa (see above).

Bin There Donate That is a successful local initiative, driven by Emma Frampton's passion to create a more sustainable neighbourhood. All types of help are needed for research, liaising with local shops to take in items for recycling/reusing, web and social media updates and project managing. Whether you have one spare hour a week or much more, email bintheredonatethat@gmail.com for more details.



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to volunteer@n2united.co.uk. Max 60 words please.

New members flock to U3A

Hampstead Garden Suburb's U3A group celebrated its fifth anniversary with an open day when 36 new members signed up, taking the total of current members over 500 for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

The HGS U3A is a learning and social network for people in retirement or semi-retirement, with more than 50 wide-ranging activities such as arts & crafts, current affairs, days out, languages, literature, music, photography and walks. During the last year, celebrated journalists like Dame Jenni Murray and Dame Esther Rantzen have both given monthly Topical Talks as a part of a varied programme of speakers, which have also included Leslie Cavendish, known as the Hairdresser to the Beatles, and John Plews, artistic director of the Upstairs at the Gatehouse theatre in Highgate. Richard Abramson, Chairman of HGS U3A, said: "We are delighted that so many prospective new members decided to attend despite the heatwave and that so many of them have already decided to join us for the next year. We anticipate and hope that many more people will join before the new year begins on 12 September." Find out more about HGS U3A at <https://hgsu3a.uk/>.

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Essential supplies: Ukrainian families collect the items taken from East Finchley to their country's border by Michael Byrne and his team.

More vital supplies reach Ukraine

By Lynn Winton

Last month we reported on East Finchley resident Michael Byrne who is driving a seven ton truck filled with vital supplies across Europe every month as part of his Driving Aid to Ukraine project.

In order to continue his mission to help civilians living in areas that have been reduced to rubble, Michael has just completed his sixth solo trip. He confirms that the desperately needed items such as sleeping bags, medicine, food, clothing and toiletries were distributed within hours of his handover to his trusted Ukrainian partners,



Man on a mission: Michael Byrne

this time in the Donbas region. More details and photos of the latest operation can be seen on his crowdfunder.co.uk page, by searching for 'Driving Aid to Ukraine' or by using the QR code below.

Michael, of Lynmouth Road, N2, was able to cover some of his costs this time thanks to a fundraiser in Cherry Tree Wood organised by the Muswell Hill Karate Academy which held a sponsored class for children aged six to 15 and raised £225. "I was delighted," said Michael. "It paid for 25% of the fuel for the latest trip."

As well as hoping for more local fundraising and volunteers, Michael is starting the process of applying for charitable status. "Ukraine has fallen off the front pages of our newspapers, but that does

not reflect the vast amount of people who need aid just to stay alive," he said. "I will not stop delivering goods to Ukraine until they tell me they don't need my help anymore. This is my journey in life."

If you would like to help Michael in any way, please contact him at michael@drivingaidtoukraine.co.uk or 07791 912389 or donate via his crowdfunder.co.uk page



Apostrophe catastrophe

By Diana Cormack

One of the most misunderstood and misused items in our punctuation must be the apostrophe. Whilst I never joined the Apostrophe Protection Society, I have always supported its mission 'to champion the use of the apostrophe'. Nor have I ever contributed to the photographs of various errors shown on the society's website. But I do have a habit (about which many would comment 'get a life') of correcting mistakes where possible on signs and notices.

Recently, above a display of patriotic paraphernalia in a local shop window, I saw a sign headed 'Queens' Jubilee'. The polite young man behind the counter told me that it had been supplied by head office and that there was nothing he could do about the misplaced apostrophe.

Later, when I spoke to head office, an equally polite older man confessed that he'd never understood apostrophes and just

put them in hoping to find the right place.

I explained where the apostrophe should be, there being only one queen involved and, only a couple of days later a new sign reading 'Queen's Jubilee' had been installed.

So well done that shop, but which was it? One of the three on the High Road with its own apostrophe to deal with: Amy's Housewares.

Saturday car boot sale

The Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale will return on Saturday 24 September from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Rd, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p with refreshments available. Further info from: 020 8368 8180.

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