

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Major changes at food bank as demand rises



Vital service: The Finchley Foodbank team and the volunteers who help each week rely on donations of food, household items and cash to help hundreds of people in need.

By David Gritten

Almost 10 years after it first opened, Finchley Foodbank has carried out a major reorganisation of the way it distributes food and household goods to people in need from its base at St Mary's church hall in East Finchley.

Until recently, long lines of people waiting to be given items to help them make ends meet could be seen queuing outside the church where they were easily visible to pedestrians and drivers on the High Road.

But under the new system clients are offered a time slot, allowing them to walk straight

inside. "Nobody should have to queue for food from a foodbank," says Finchley Foodbank co-ordinator Anna Maughan.

Changes welcomed

Clients can also now choose their own items. Previously they had been given pre-packed bags of food, without knowing what they might be receiving. Now the food is laid out on long tables, so clients can see for themselves what they might need for the

week or weeks ahead.

A new selection of fresh items includes bread, eggs, salad, carrots, oranges, apples, garlic, onions and potatoes, and there are essential items for children such as nappies.

Inside the church hall, there is a 'family room' catering for larger households, as well as an area for single people and couples. As Anna comments: "It's been a lot of planning."

Clients have been offered a survey to gauge their comments about the new system. To date, 130 surveys have been completed. "They've been so excited," Anna reports. "There have been no negative comments at all. They seem thrilled to be able to make their own decisions."

Finchley Foodbank, staffed by volunteers who give up their time on Tuesdays and Saturdays, marks its 10th anniversary in February next year and this

reorganisation is one of the biggest changes in its history.

The food bank supports hundreds of people in need each week and has seen demand for its help increase dramatically this year as the cost of living rises. The volunteer team relies on fundraising and donations of food and household items to keep its service running. Donations can be brought to the church hall on Fridays between 12pm and 3pm. Find out more at www.finchleyfoodbank.org.uk

Tree lighting

Lighting the East Finchley Christmas tree takes place outside Budgens on the High Road on Saturday 3 December at 5pm.

Everyone is invited to come along for carol singing with music from Fixation Academy, Brookland School Choir and our community football team. A new tree and refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies are being generously provided by Budgens.

Christmas invitation

After an absence of two years owing to the pandemic, Bishop Douglass School in East Finchley is planning to hold its annual Christmas party for senior East Finchley residents again this year.

The party will be held on Tuesday 6 December from 5pm to 7pm (arrive by 4.45pm for a prompt start at 5pm). East Finchley residents who are over 65 are welcome and you should book your place without delay.

As usual, you will be welcomed with a glass of sherry by Year 10 students and enjoy a Christmas meal, followed by

carol singing and entertainment by pupils and staff. Games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus will round off the evening.

Transport can be provided for those residents who are less mobile. To book your place, phone 020 8883 0433, leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

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

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Home security

As the nights get longer it's usual for residential burglaries to increase, so it's important to have good home security with strong doors and window locks. An alarm is also a good investment. Homes with an active alarm are rarely burgled.

We'd like to make you aware of a rising trend this year of burglars targeting sheds and lock-ups in front gardens and garages so they can steal cycles.

Cycle protection

Burglars are finding that cycle theft is both lucrative and easy pickings with the help of a crowbar or bolt cutters. The majority of cycles are not marked or registered, so there is no way of identifying the owner if a cycle is found or seen on sale, or even if it has been stolen.

ImmobiBike is a tagging system that uniquely and permanently marks your cycle, registers it, allows tracking, and, with a sticker on the cycle, advertises to a potential thief that the cycle is marked. It's a good deterrent, all for around £15.

Cycle and shed alarms start at around £20. A combined GPS tracker and alarm cost about £45. The most important thing to remember is to double lock your bike and register the frame number.

For further crime prevention advice, please go to www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

56 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension; depth 6m, maximum height 3m, eaves height 3m.

5 Brighton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Flat 1, Chantry Court, Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Replacement rear outbuilding.

28 Deansway, N2

Roof extension, including one side dormer window, one rear dormer window and one front rooflight. Hertford Court, 196 - 202 High Road, N2

Removal of windows and installation of new roof lights to water tank enclosures.

340 High Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

63 Leslie Road, N2

Rear outbuilding.



Waste land: Building work on the former Esso garage site on the High Road, above, could coincide with the construction of two new blocks of flats nearby on the Grange estate. Photos Mike Coles

Traffic concerns over building work on three sites at once

By Janet Maitland

A small pocket of East Finchley is soon to become the epicentre of three simultaneous housing developments, raising concerns about traffic congestion and pedestrian safety.

One of the three construction sites is the former Esso garage site on the High Road on the corner of Church Lane, opposite Martin School. As we've reported in previous editions, plans exist to build 20 flats in two blocks on this site, which has been a wasteland for several years. Work is expected to start at the beginning of December and continue for two years. Barnet Council has already approved the construction management plan for this development, which states that construction traffic will use two entrances to the site, one on the High Road, the other on Church Lane.

Two blocks, one entrance

The other two nearby developments are on the Grange estate, where Barnet Homes will build one block of eight flats on Central

Avenue and another on land next to the High Road (*The Archer*, October 2022). This work is scheduled to start in the spring of 2023 and last over a year.

Construction traffic for both of the Grange blocks will use the one vehicle entrance into the estate which is accessed from King Street, a turning off Church Lane, and Elmfield Road, which runs off Long Lane.

Council responses

A Barnet Council spokesperson claimed that as all the schemes were "relatively small, it is unlikely that there would be any adverse cumulative impact arising." Nevertheless, East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra told us: "I will press for the planning department to ensure as best they can that the construction management plans

for all these developments do not create gridlock."

The construction management plan for the former Esso site also says that a 'construction liaison group' will be established with neighbours. And the Barnet Council spokesperson added that "Schools will be taken into consideration by the Highways department when they consider possible impacts of the development."

Although the applications for the Grange blocks have also been approved by the council, a recommendation was made that Barnet Homes should continue to "engage with local councillors and the public about the traffic issues". Barnet Homes have said the impact of the developments, including their construction, will be "negligible".

Library books brought to your door

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we all know, home deliveries increased by leaps and bounds as a result of the pandemic. Think of food, clothes... but would you think of the library service?

Most local authorities have made home deliveries for many years, but only for those people physically unable to travel to library buildings or to access the mobile service. Covid restrictions made it clear that some people can't manage this for other reasons. So now the option is open to everyone genuinely

unable for any reason to get to a library themselves. The one proviso is that you don't use any of the other branches.

The Home Library Service visits about 250 registered individual users and around 25 care homes throughout the borough. One of the individual users, who lives in East Finchley, is so appreciative of her home visits that she suggested *The Archer* give it a mention. She particularly enjoys being able to reserve her own books, which can be borrowed from anywhere in the borough.

Regular and helpful

Irfan, one of the four library staff who run the service, confirmed that all the Barnet stock is available to Home Library

users. A maximum of 12 items can be borrowed, and visits are every four weeks. Care homes are visited every eight weeks.

People don't always have the same staff visiting, but they will usually get to know them all. As Irfan pointed out, the social aspect is important, often bringing spin-off benefits. He told us that one borrower was very upset because he couldn't put his rubbish out to be collected. The visiting home service librarian told him about special arrangements for collection, and helped him fill in the form to obtain this.

For details of how to register for home library visits, you can call 020 8359 3901 or contact mobile.library@barnet.gov.uk.

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Free money for everyone: could it work in N2?

By David Melsome

“Eat free pizza, talk free money”. No, it’s not a scam, but an open discussion being run by the Grange Big Local team in East Finchley about the opportunity to run a trial of Basic Income.

Basic Income is the idea that everyone gets a non-means tested payment every month, providing an income floor below which they cannot sink. They wouldn’t need to apply for it and wouldn’t lose it if their circumstances changed. Supporters of the concept say wealthier people would pay it back in taxes while the universal and unconditional nature of the payments would make them easy to distribute and to administer.

Reasons to be cheerful

Julia Hines, from Grange Big Local (GBL), said: “The idea is that a basic income gives people a foundation. For example it could act as a guarantee to a landlord you can afford rent. Or it can provide some financial certainty if you are a freelancer or work in the gig economy, even in the lean months.

“A basic income can also help if you become ill or cannot work for other reasons. It might allow you to just pay your bills, or give you the chance

to do training instead of taking a second job, or spend some time caring for family. It gives people dignity, away from the stigma of means testing, and it allows them to be brave and entrepreneurial if they want to start their own business.”

Councillor Alison Moore, Mayor of Barnet, who is a member of GBL, said: “With the cost-of-living crisis and the financial challenges so many are facing, it’s important we explore all the options to support those in need.”

Community Centre event

GBL has partnered with the Basic Income Conversation organisation to run the discussion event with the aim of hearing people’s views. It takes place on Tuesday 22 November from 6pm to 8pm at Tarling Road Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2. There will be pizza and some activities to keep children busy. Email info@grangebiglocal.org for more details and let the team know if you need help with access.



Children in knead: Monkey Puzzle nursery youngsters get hands-on at Yasar Halim bakery

On your marks, get set, bake!

Youngsters from the Monkey Puzzle East Finchley nursery got hands-on with flour and dough when they visited the Yasar Halim bakery and patisserie on a day out. They walked up the High Road from their nursery opposite the tube station to the shop on the corner of Kitchener Road, where they were given a special lesson in kneading dough.

Nursery staff said it was a fun trip that helped the young ones with skills like measuring, following instructions and exploring textures. “The children loved the chance to knead the bread dough, watch it bake in the oven, as well as see some of the other delicious baked goods that they got to take home,” said Monkey Puzzle staff member Mira Rogala.

Book awards invite entries

There is still time to submit entries for The Jewish Children’s Book Awards, established to discover inspiring stories based on Jewish history and traditions. Submissions close on Friday 18 November.

One author and one illustrator will each receive a separate £1,000 prize and their work will be considered for publication by specialist children’s book publisher Green Bean Books, run by East Finchley resident Michael Leventhal.

This is the second year for the awards. Last year’s winners were Carol Isaacs in the writing category for *Samira’s Stars*, and Sharon Spitz in the illustration category for *S.Y. Agnon*. Find more details on how to enter this year at www.greenbeanbooks.com

Rare sighting of muntjac deer

Thanks to reader Sally Norris for sending us this photo of a rare sighting of a little muntjac deer wandering in and out of the front gardens in Market Place, N2. She spotted the solitary animal around 6.30pm on Tuesday 4 October, when many people would have been making their way home from work.



Muntjac are usually very secretive and keep away from populated areas. It’s a mystery where it could have come from, although Islington and St Pancras Cemetery, about half a mile away, has been known to have occasional sightings of muntjac. This one might have walked along the embankment of the Northern line, which is used as a nature corridor. *Have you spotted a muntjac anywhere else in the area? Email us at news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line at 0800 612 0748.*



Spotted: The young muntjac in Market Place, above, and a fully grown adult, right

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BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton of N2United

Finchley Foodbank relies on volunteers. Roles range from receiving deliveries and sorting food donations to restocking shelves and staffing Tuesday and Saturday sessions. The team are sensitive to the needs of the clients, work from a position of trust and are great team players. If this could be you, email finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com

Driving Aid to Ukraine is a non-profit organisation based in N2 and started by local resident Michael Byrne, who personally delivers lorries of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. His team requires volunteers to help scale up in building and sustaining a social media campaign, fund raising and grant writing. Find out more at drivingaidtoulkraine.org or get in touch with Michael at 07791 912389.

Gardens are a huge part of the sustainability movement and you don't have to have one to join the 300 strong members of the very active **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society**. They want you to bring fresh ideas to their committee too and they'd love some people to bring their skills in website development, social media and sending out occasional newsletters. Members are welcome from all neighbouring areas, not just HGS! For details, contact Caroline Broome for an initial chat at HGS.Hortsoc@outlook.com

The Archer, your very own newspaper, needs YOU, ideally in the first part of each month, to help deliver the paper to readers. We are particularly looking for people to cover Prospect Ring, Brownswell Road, Tarling Road and Borrowdale Close, all in N2. Most rounds take 30-40 minutes. Papers are brought to your door and you can deliver at a time to suit you. Please contact: news@the-archer.co.uk. Thank you.



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to N2United@ILoveN2.co.uk Max 60 words please.

Beavers bounce back

The 224 North London Scouts group has re-started its beaver colony, which was forced to close by Covid. Beavers are the second youngest section of the scouts and range from six to eight-years-old, although they can start slightly younger.

On Tuesday 11 October, 14 excited Beavers and their parents had their first meeting. They played games such as North, South, East, West, Stick-in-the-Mud and Grandmother's Footsteps and then went onto make grass seed heads which they got to take home along with a booklet and a T-shirt. Future fun activities will include campfire songs, campfire cookies, and new games along with

learning some skills for life, such as first aid and person safety

So if you are interested in joining Beavers or are currently on a long waiting list to join elsewhere, then consider going along on a Tuesday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm to the Scout Hut in Sheldon Avenue, N6. For more information email gsl@224northlondonscouts.org.uk or WhatsApp to 07707 763344.



Out and about: A lad from the Beaver group at 224 North London Scouts tries his woodland skills.



Taking cover: Olga's children's primary school class shelter in a basement on what was a 'normal' day for them

"I am now the only person to take care of my children"

Olga Stephanyshina is a prominent Ukrainian MP who has recently arrived in our area along with her two children and their dog to live with a host family. She works between here and Kyiv carrying out her parliamentary duties. She gave our writer Lynn Winton a shocking first-hand account of the impact the war has had on her family's life.

Olga Stephanyshina will never forget the moment on 13 February this year when the threat to her life was considered so high that she was issued with a gun and trained how to use it. She had never touched a weapon before.



Carrying arms: At the start of the war, Olga was issued with a gun, like all Ukrainian MPs, as their risk of assassination was deemed high.

Olga quickly sent her two young children, escorted by their grandmother, to friends in Georgia for safety. The following week the Russians unleashed their bombing campaign. Olga's husband Bogdan volunteered for highly dangerous rescue work. As he was evacuating elderly women and children out of a collapsed building another bomb exploded and he was killed.

Olga heard the news while visiting her children and had to break the news to them that their father was dead.

Far from home but still involved

London was a very conscious choice by Olga as somewhere to come to keep her children safe and give them stability. She had visited before many times and, most importantly, as a country we are emphatic that we are Ukraine's loyal and supportive friend on the world stage.

Before the war, Olga's previous role was as deputy health minister, where she revolutionised the Ukrainian health system after years of corruption and inadequate care. Since settling in our area, she has been so impressed by East Finchley charity Driving Aid to Ukraine that she is now on board as an advisor.

Practical help for Ukraine

This organisation, started by Lynmouth Road resident Michael Byrne, delivers vital medical supplies and other desperately needed goods with great speed to the most devastated areas of Ukraine.

"There are so many displaced people in Ukraine who have nowhere to go, the unforgiving winter is going to mean death from cold and hunger to many," said Olga. "There's no heating and no light in devastated areas like Mariupol and Kherson. How are people going to feed their children or keep them warm?"

"In a little corner of England, you might wonder what you can do. The answer is, PLENTY!"



Resettled: Olga in East Finchley. Photo Mike Coles.

Here on your doorstep is a charity dedicated to get aid fast to Ukraine! If you have a blanket, a spare warm coat, a donation for supplies, you can keep someone warm or fed this winter."

The charity has a full list of goods to donate for their winter appeal at drivingaidtoulkraine.org. Contact Michael directly on 07791 912389 if you want to offer any help or have any good ideas.

Save the date

On Saturday 10 December from 11am-1pm at Fortismere School, Muswell Hill, there will be a fun two hours of all kinds of fitness dancing, including Zumba, organised by Gemma Barlow. Tickets are £20 with some amazing raffle prizes on offer too, and 100% of proceeds go to Driving Aid for Ukraine. Email lynn@thewintons.co.uk to go on the invite list.

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A new home on the web for N2

East Finchley has a new virtual community hub. ILoveN2.co.uk has been created as a one-stop shop for East Finchley community organisations, and is now home to N2United, East Finchley Town Team, N2 Food Project, East Finchley Community Trust and East Finchley Neighbourhood Support, plus there are links to *The Archer* and East Finchley Festival.

The site aims to create a central reference point for all the area's major community initiatives and organisations by bringing them under one digital roof.

You'll also find local history archives, a collection of East Finchley-themed art and even an ILoveN2 shop.

Community Calendar

Organisers of local events are invited to contribute to the new Community Calendar, which will carry details of key events in East Finchley. Originally created by N2United to help organisers prevent clashes between events, it is now being

rolled out so anyone in the community can subscribe.

To view the calendar or to submit your event, visit www.ILoveN2.co.uk/whats-on. Please note that your event must be of interest to the whole community and that the calendar editor reserves the right to decline or amend copy.

Brand value

ILoveN2.co.uk builds on the brand originally created in 2007 by local designer Mike Hughes, who has helped to produce the new website. ILoveN2 merchandise continues to be produced for the benefit of our annual East Finchley Festival.



Community hub: The revamped ILoveN2.co.uk website

N2United turns six

By Chris Stavrou, N2United

The most recent meeting for N2United, hosted by the East Finchley Constitutional Club, was a special one as it marked six years since its launch. Nick Allan gave an enthusiastic presentation to mark the occasion, outlining the metamorphosis the group has gone through over the years, having started out as a network solely for local businesses and evolving as a platform for all things community and business based in N2.

Dan Bird and Paddy Duncan of London Hackspace, a workplace for people who don't have space for tools, which has grown to a community of over 400 members, spoke about their search for a new site hopefully in the N2 area. The group is looking for somewhere of around 3,000sqft for their various workshops, including metal, electronics, wood and model making. The exciting venture is completely run and supported by London Hackspace members.

Phoenix rises

Alison Gold, Chair of Trustees at the Phoenix Cinema, discussed the strides the venue has made since its struggles prior to and during the Covid outbreak.

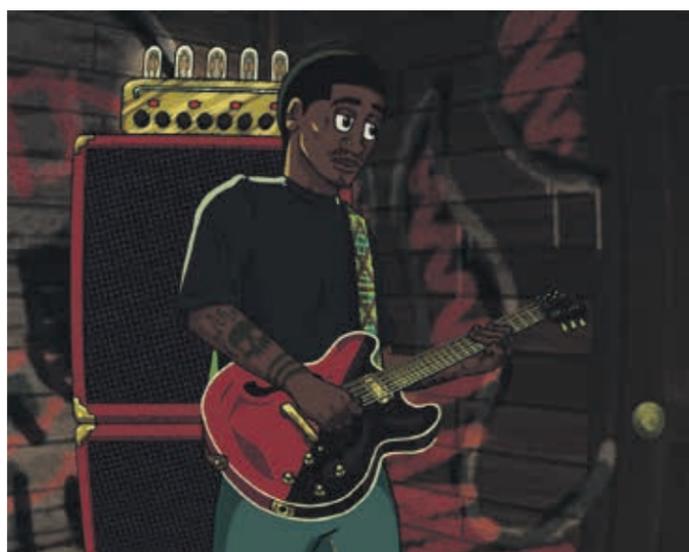
Peter Hale of East Finchley Open Artists updated us on the recent exhibition the group held, as well as the Arts & Music

event it will be part of in 2023 in conjunction with East Finchley Town Team.

Festive events

Alison Roberts and Mike Hughes informed us of the Winter Market to be held outside Bottles 'n' Jars near East Finchley station on Sunday 27 November, and Gail Coles got everyone in the festive spirit by talking about the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on Saturday 3 December.

To keep up to date with the local goings on, check the community calendar at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/whats-on and if you would like to get involved further or just get to know other locals who care about N2, join us at the next N2United meeting which will be held on Thursday 10 November. Details at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/N2United



Magical realism: Two of the characters from the Woodshed world and, below, creative artist Ollymandias with the first Woodshed novel

Take your first step into the world of Woodshed

For anyone fancying a trip into an alternate reality, a local artist is inviting you into the world of Woodshed, a new transmedia story project spanning books, a website and animations.

Ollymandias has been developing this world for five years as part of a creative collection of friends and fellow artists. They describe it as an alternative version of New York City, circa 2003, combining magical realism with a touch of sci-fi.

Visual artist Olly, a former pupil at Fortismere School, says the characters who inhabit the Woodshed world are all inspired by people they met while living in New York.

"The characters came before the story," says Olly. "We started writing scripts for episodes of an animated TV show and then realised we could use the same characters in books and animated shorts."



As a transmedia project, it means that the Woodshed stories can exist alongside each other in all the different formats, allowing people to enter and explore www.woodshed.world at any point and at any time. Their biggest challenge, says

Olly, is getting people to take their first steps inside.

Woodshed at Black Gull

So far, they've held a gallery event in New York and issued three sell-out sets of trading cards. Next they are inviting everyone to the launch of their first Woodshed novel *T-Minus* at the Black Gull Bookshop in the High Road, N2, on Wednesday 7 December from 7pm to 9pm, featuring readings and live music.

"We're going to have a musical performance from singer-songwriter Jesse Jake, who's flying in from New York for the event," says Olly, who himself has worked as a visual artist with hip-hop duo Run the Jewels and rapper MF DOOM.

Garden trophy

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society has been awarded a trophy after its members won the highest number of points in a London Gardens Society competition open to gardeners throughout the capital. The prize was handed over to East Finchley resident and society chair Caroline Broome by *Gardeners World* presenter Adam Frost at a ceremony in the Guildhall last month. Help required

At the same time, the society is looking for new committee members who can spare an hour a month to keep everything running smoothly, and for people to help run their social media and quarterly newsletters. You don't have to be a gardener, you just have to like gardens. Contact HGSHS.membership@virginmedia.com

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ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

Progress made over chronic flooding in Cherry Tree Wood

By Debbie Linton

The Archer reported earlier this year on concerns over the large areas of standing water that accumulated on the grass and around the tennis courts in Cherry Tree Wood through the winter and spring, seriously affecting access to large parts of the park.

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood report this month that a new drainage group surveyed the wood and that Thames Water engineers came on site to clean out and unblock the drains for which they are responsible. A further meeting is scheduled with Barnet Council to discuss the flooding and to ascertain what they can do to prevent the problem returning.

Tidy-ups

Elsewhere in the wood, monthly litter picks have continued and the gardening group have been busy brightening many areas. Barnet Council has also recently redecorated the interior of the toilet block, and agreed to the Friends painting the exterior, which was finished in August.

Earlier in the summer a new water bottle filler was installed near the Cherry Tree Wood Café, with funds from a previous grant. There had been progress with the plans to extend the wood near the High Road entrance (*The Archer*, February 2022).

Also over the summer, the Friends successfully opposed plans for a six-storey development on the old substation site on the Great North Road near the junction with The Bishops Avenue that would have overlooked the wood. They are now liaising with the developers, with the hope that something more sympathetic can be designed.

Coming up

Upcoming community events planned in the wood include a litter pick on Sunday 13 November at 2pm (meet near the café). On Sunday 11 December there will be a workshop to make willow decorations for the festive season (between 11am-12.30pm, near the café).

Everyone is welcome to the Friends' AGM on Monday 16 January 2023 at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed). Come along and join in, or simply listen to what has been going on in the wood. The Friends can also be contacted at friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com



Fragile existence: The holly blue butterfly, left, and hoverfly, right, are among our local pollinating insects. Photos Donald Lyven.

Protecting nature starts at home

You may have noticed the lack of insects this summer, fewer butterflies and bees, and now a dearth of cobwebs decorating our shrubs, says local nature expert **Linda Dolata**. The heat and drought won't have helped but she believes a tipping point has been reached and here issues an urgent plea to change the ways we all look after our wild spaces and gardens.

I applaud the various schemes in East Finchley to help provide a 'corridor' for our pollinating insects, and improve our neighbourhood at the same time, but although they provide for the adult insects, particularly attractive ones like butterflies and bees, the situation is far more sinister.

Take our insects. They have a complex life cycle involving metamorphosis (change of form), for example from egg to larva to pupa to adult. For a population to remain stable each adult has to be replaced, and this is not happening. The earlier stages of the life cycle are not surviving.

Food plants

For our butterflies, their eggs need to be laid on the correct food plant for the larva (caterpillar). These are usually native plants, which some erroneously term weeds, as the insects evolved alongside them. Most know that nettles help Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma butterflies, but even these need to be a healthy clump in sunshine, any old nettles won't do. Other larval foodstuffs include bird's foot trefoils, clover, vetches, wild grasses and sorrel so clearing patches of poor soil where these plants might thrive spells the death knell for the insects. They will never reach adulthood to become pollinators.

Soil sense

It gets worse. Pupae will either spend a dormant time whilst they metamorphose on the food plant or in the soil. But we add weed-killers, fertilisers and all sorts of chemicals to the soil. Even digging destroys the structure, killing the pupae. We have already lost several species of butterfly since the 1960s and the rest are all endangered. It's a similar story for all our native creatures. There are fewer insects, so the rest of the food web can't survive.

A plea to gardeners

When you garden, leave a patch totally uncultivated or cultivate native wild flowers; not nettles, as you are unlikely to get the larvae, go for the

other prettier 'weeds'. Don't add chemicals to your soil. Also remove dog poo which over-fertilises the soil.

Remember that our native plants are also good for pollinators. One of the best is the humble dandelion. Ditto hawkbits, knap-

weeds, clover and ivy late in the season. Let them flower, you can always remove the seeds so they don't spread too much.

If we can change our cultivation habits, maybe in 2023 we will see a recovery of some of our invertebrates.

Pollinator Project making a difference

By Kate Brown, East Finchley Pollinator Project
The East Finchley Pollinator Project is celebrating its first year with an exhibition in the foyer of East Finchley Library as part of the Town Team's Sustainable High Road initiative. This is the first change of the foyer exhibition since the pandemic and the beautiful poster design is the work of pollinator project member and local artist Nadia Savvopoulou.

The posters describe the project aims, what pollinators are, what they do for us and why they are under threat. The exhibition includes pictures of some gardens developed this year such as the wildflower bank outside Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery. It also suggests ways that all of us can help ensure our pollinating insects thrive.

Both the adult and children's library have very useful books about pollinators if you want to know more about the subject.

The Pollinator Project will soon be planting more wall-flowers in the tiny ribbon garden in front of the library wall. They are delighted that the exhibition has coincided with the start of the new planting of the Leopold Road Community Garden, which will include even more plants for pollinators in N2.



On the move: The rose chafer beetle. Photo Donald Lyven

See the exhibition

You can visit the exhibition without joining the library if you go during staffed hours: Monday 9am to 12.30pm, Wednesday 2pm to 8pm, Thursday 2pm to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 12.30pm. Library membership is free if you want to visit during self-service hours or borrow books. Application forms are available in boxes outside the library or from the desk when the library is staffed.

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ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

Recycle your food tubs... and bring along your bras

By Diana Cormack and John Lawrence

The N2 Food Project, which hands out free nutritious meals to people in need from the Phoenix Cinema every Tuesday morning, is run by volunteers but relies on donations to cover the cost of its ingredients and the plastic tubs it uses. Now it has joined forces with the local Bin There Donate That project to recycle more of these containers and to set up points where people can donate their own spares.



The tubs they need are the ones often used by restaurants and cafés that do home delivery. For the purposes of the Food Project they must measure as follows: 17.5cm x 12cm x 5.5cm. You can return any you've got from the Food Project or any other source as long as they are the correct size and have been cleaned. Take them to the Phoenix Cinema or Amy's in the High Road any time. Each week, the Food Project team helps scores of people in need of a balanced meal. Anyone else who just enjoys good food is encouraged to take a meal too, ideally in return for a donation which will help to pay for the next week's ingredients and tubs.

Bra recycling

And not far away from the Phoenix, Aida Khaledi, the director of Aliya J Boutique, has joined the sustainability scene by installing a Bra Bank in her shop to prevent used, new or surplus bras going into landfill.

The pink container is supplied by Against Breast Cancer which funds pioneering research into secondary spread, the main cause of breast cancer-related deaths. Unwanted bras are passed to a textile recovery project and many find a new lease of life in some African countries where bras are expensive to produce.

Against Breast Cancer receives £700 for every tonne of bras collected. Delivery and collection of the bra bank is free, but supporters are asked to fill at least four bra bank liners for each collection. At the time of writing Aliya J's first one was three-quarters full, so come on ladies of East Finchley, let's see if we can reach the required total by Christmas!

Re-use: The type of food tub that can be reused



What and where to donate

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Blister packs to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road, and Links Pharmacy, East End Road
- Bras to Aliya J Boutique, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Electrical items including cables, broken appliances, bulbs and batteries to Everything Electrical and EF Electrical, High Road
- Food tubs (clear plastic takeaway containers, 17.5cm x 12cm x 5.5cm), washed, for reuse in the N2 Food Project to the Phoenix Cinema or Amy's, 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
- Toothbrushes and toothbrush heads to Cavendish House Dental Practice, East End Road



Climate concerns: Students from Christ's College Finchley at the Phoenix after the 2040 Q&A session.

Young voices are heard on climate

By Chloe Marden

Students from Christ College Finchley provided a voice for young people at the recent East Finchley Town Team's screening of the environmental film 2040 at the Phoenix Cinema. The school's Climate Council members asked plenty of questions in the panel discussion hosted by Barnet Council's environment committee chair Alan Schneiderman, environmental documentary maker Abigail Manson and Friends of the Earth campaigner Dave McCormick. Afterwards, Councillor Schneiderman invited the students to contribute to the council's upcoming Citizens' Assembly on climate change.

Plenty to go around

One grower had plenty to share when ploholders at East Finchley Allotments gathered for a party last month to celebrate the harvest. He arrived with a giant squash, thought to be an Italian tromboncino, and certainly turned a few heads.

The harvest party also featured apple pressing, a demonstration of solar-powered water systems, music from a group of fiddlers, and a very large paella and barbecue food. Organisers of the event at the self-managed site off Plane Tree Walk, N2, said it was "a beautiful day".



Giant veg: One man and his tromboncino

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.



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From The Archer archives...

10 years ago:
November 2012

Another local pub was lost this month to residential development. The Dick Turpin in Long Lane was finally demolished after standing empty for two years, following the same fate of The George in Market Place, The Duke of Cambridge in Park Road and The Red Lion in Red Lion Hill.

15 years ago:
November 2007

We reported on the launch of a campaign to turn East Finchley into a plastic bag free zone under the banner "plastic's not fantastic, it's time to sack the bag". Since then plastic pollution has become an even more urgent issue and the baton passed to No2PlasticsN2 and then, very recently, to the newly formed East Finchley Town Team.

23 years ago:
November 1999

The shortage of secondary school places for local youngsters, especially girls, was highlighted by news that 17 children were being educated privately in a church hall because their parents said they had not been offered places at suitable schools. Several protested that Whitefield School in Cricklewood should not be considered a local school for East Finchley children. There were concerns that the situation would be exacerbated by the influx of 3,000 people expected to move into new housing being built on the old Friern Hospital site in Friern Barnet.

Be our eyes and ears

The Archer is your newspaper, and we rely on you to tell us what's going on in and around East Finchley.

If you have a story please get in touch. You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to news@the-archer.co.uk. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @TheArcherN2. You can also find out more about contributing and advertising at www.the-archer.co.uk. Thank you.



Cake and eat it: Councillor Arjun Mittra

Questions & answers

For the first in a new occasional series of Q&A conversations with well-known faces in N2, Ruth Anders meets Arjun Mittra, a councillor for East Finchley Ward for ten years, for coffee and cake.

Arjun, how long have you lived in East Finchley?

32 years. My mum grew up in the tea gardens of Assam and moved to England in 1984. I was born at the Whittington Hospital in Highgate, and spent my early years in Friern Barnet, going to Coppetts Wood Primary School, where I'm now a governor.

What do you like best about the area?

No question, the community spirit. There's so much social capital here, and lots of willing volunteers. I'm often stopped by people wanting to talk about initiatives such as Market Place playground and Cherry Tree Wood.

What do you like least?

There's too much traffic throughout the ward, and I really want to see more people using their feet to get about.

What's your favourite part of N2?

I only have to visit Strawberry Vale to raise my spirits. Although there's a degree of

need within the community, they really support each other.

What is your proudest achievement within the N2 community?

Right now, it's saving some of our green spaces. Lockdown demonstrated the importance of preserving these and stopping developments on green areas in Tarling Road and Brownswell Road has been a real win. And I'm a big fan of the Pollinator Project.

Where's your preferred spot for breakfast?

All the cafés are good and affordable, but Cup of Joy is nearest to home for me.

Where would you take a visitor?

The Phoenix.

What's your favourite book or film?

Jurassic Park for both. I've been obsessed with dinosaurs since I was small. T-Rex "Rexy" from the films is my all-time fictional hero!

Favourite food?

Lamb biryani or my mum's salmon curry. And I do like a cake.

What do you do to relax?

I work an 80-hour week, and it's hard to relax when people keep wanting to talk to me. I love to travel. Italy and Singapore (where I have family) are favourites. I spent a weekend in Paris in August to clear my head. And I love history, so Paris ticked all the boxes. Oh, and I love classical music.

An apple recipe for these autumn days

Here's the second of our recipes sent in by readers ahead of a major community event celebrating local food and drink being planned by East Finchley Town Team for next March. The Archer is publishing a recipe each month using locally available ingredients; the recipe can be anything you like... family favourites, seasonal dishes or ethnic specialities.

Please send your recipes to be considered for publication, including a photo of the finished dish and details of where to find ingredients locally, by email to news@the-archer.co.uk or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. Maximum 450 words.



Apple cake with cinnamon

By Jane Marsh

This recipe was given to me years ago by a good friend and is always popular. At the time (and for 34 years) we had a large Bramley apple tree in our garden and I was always looking out for interesting recipes for using up the usually copious crop. I always use cooking apples for this recipe, though I don't have an apple tree now, but I know there's been a bumper apple harvest this year.

The great thing about this cake is that it freezes really well. We have eaten it up to a year after it was made and it's still delicious! Also, it has the added bonus of being very easy to make if you have a food processor or mixer. It's good to serve at Christmas as an antidote to the usual festive fare, as a cake or dessert.

Ingredients

5.5oz / 155g butter/soft margarine
5.5oz / 155g caster sugar
2 large eggs
5.5oz / 155g self-raising flour
One level teaspoon baking powder
2 large cooking apples
1oz / 30g chopped almonds or flaked almonds crushed with rolling pin
2 tbsp. demerara sugar mixed with ground cinnamon to taste

Method

Heat oven to gas mark 4, 180 deg. C, 165 deg. C fan. Grease and line a shallow 8 inch cake tin.

Cream together the butter/margarine and sugar. Add the eggs one at a time and beat well after each addition. Fold in sifted flour and baking powder. Alternatively, put all these ingredients in a food processor and mix well.

Peel, core and slice the apples. Place half your mixture into cake tin and spread it with a wide knife (don't worry if it seems a bit stiff). Arrange half the sliced apples in overlapping layers on top of the mixture, sprinkle with half chopped almonds, sugar and cinnamon.

Spread remaining mixture on top of apples, then arrange a single layer of apple slices on top. Sprinkle with remaining nuts, sugar and cinnamon, then cook for 60-90 minutes until a test skewer comes out clean. Let it cool in the tin, then turn out and serve, or freeze for future use.

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www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk



Watch out for Benjamin in big-budget drama

By Lynn Winton

Actor Benjamin Victor has lived on the High Road, N2, for the last three years, and has been working between acting jobs at Margot Bakery in East End Road, so his face will already be familiar to many readers.

He will soon get a lot of double takes in our neighbourhood when he is seen in his latest, largest role in the big-budget drama series *The English* starting on BBC2 on Thursday 10 November. It's a period revenge drama set in the US and has a glittering cast of British acting heavyweights that includes Emily Blunt, Rafe Spall, Stephen Rea and Toby Jones.

Plot stays under wraps...

I spoke to Benjamin on one of his rare days off between his weekend shifts at Margot and touring schools around England playing the title role, and

multiple others, in a production of *Macbeth*.

Benjamin spoke about the filming experience but had to remain intriguingly oblique about his character: "I can't say anything about my part, because I'm one of the characters you'll meet along the journey. If I said anymore I would reveal some of the plot."

...but the cast's lovely

Filming took place during stringent Covid restrictions in various parts of Spain which mimicked the topography of places meant to be in the US. The writer and director is Hugo Blick, best known for a

string of BBC dramas over the years, including *The Honourable Woman* and *Black Earth Rising*.

"Everyone was absolutely lovely, talented people who I've looked up to for a long time. They knew it was my first time on the set of a big budget production and were kindness itself," said Benjamin.

Meanwhile, back in the real world of N2, I had one last pressing question for him. What was the very best out of all the sensational cakes, at Margot? He answered without hesitation: "Chocolate Babka."



On screen: Benjamin Victor. Photo Mike Coles



Book lover: Michael Nguyen with the window display he created.

The writing's on the wall at new nail bar

By John Lawrence

An eye-catching window display of dozens of books seemingly flying out of a typewriter has appeared at new High Road nail bar An nails. When it opened in September the owners wanted to steer away from the standard beauty salon décor, so designer and staff member Michael Nguyen was given free rein to turn the walls into a statement work of art.

Inspired by his love of the Harry Potter books, Michael arranged more than 100 paperbacks above and around a handsome LC Smith & Corona typewriter dating back to the early 1900s that he found at Barnet Furniture Centre.

"Customers ask why all the books," said Michael, "and we say it's because they're about having time to yourself and about relaxing. When you relax you come up with good ideas, and that's what we want people to do when they come in."

The story of Susanna

As you pass the carving of Susanna Wesley outside East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, you may wonder how the sculptor knew what the 'Mother of Methodism' actually looked like. You can find out at a special history event to mark 200 years of Methodism being held at the church on Saturday 12 November at 2.30pm.

Dr Peter Forsaith, research fellow at The Oxford Centre for Methodist Church History, Hugh Petrie, heritage development officer for Barnet, and Lewis Freeman, a direct descendent of the brothers who brought Methodism to East Finchley, will be speaking at the event. Book your free seats by emailing info@eastfinchley-methodist.org.uk.

Schumann and Sibelius

Finchley Symphony Orchestra opens its 2022-23 season with a concert of music in contrasting styles, Schumann's *Manfred Overture* and *Rhenish Symphony*, plus the final symphony by Finnish composer Sibelius. The concert is at 7.30pm on Saturday 19 November at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12. Tickets cost £18, £15 for concessions and £7 for under 18s, and you save £2 a ticket if you book online in advance at www.finchleysymphony.org

Rock up for the show

The annual Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show hosted by the Amateur Geological Society takes place at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, on Saturday 26 November from 10am to 4pm. The large hall will be filled with fossils, jewellery, gems, rocks and mineral stalls. Refreshments and a children's Lucky Dip will be available. Entrance is £2 with under twelves free.

The Finchley branch of the society meets on the second Tuesday of every month at Finchley Baptist Church, East End Road, N3. Guest speakers give illustrated talks on subjects

as diverse as Essex geology and a million years of the human story. New members of all ages are always welcome. Find out more at www.amgeosoc.wordpress.com.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"THE VOICE OF SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY"

Auntie is still here

In the weird world of modern Britain three things make our country different: our monarchy, our parliament and the BBC. As the new king finds his feet and the government descends into chaos, it's left to the BBC to celebrate that it's made it to 100.

Back when the corporation started in 1922 the British establishment had a problem with it. This new radio thing looked like it was going to be popular and that meant it had to be controlled. There was going to be none of the 'anything goes' American way where any Tom, Dick or Harriet could broadcast what they wanted when they wanted.

Instead, we got a monopoly British Broadcasting Company under the control of the GPO. They had just the man to run it, a dour Calvinist Scot called John Reith. What he gave us was broadcasting that would not offend your elderly great aunt. We got Auntie Beeb.

With no TV until 1936, radio ruled and with no competition you got what was good for you. Everyone vetted by MI5 and nothing too controversial, which meant news on the Home Service, comedy and entertainment on the Light Programme and highbrow stuff on the Third Programme. They didn't even need censorship during the General Strike or the war because the BBC censored itself.

There was no competition until commercial television was allowed grudgingly onto the airwaves in 1955. We didn't get BBC2 until 1964 and had to wait until the 1980s for Channel 4. Times have changed. All of us can now choose from hundreds of channels, streaming, downloads and endless repeats.

But Auntie is still here. As the political saying goes, if both the Left and the Right think you're against them, it probably means you are neutral. It's easy to throw bricks at a stationary target, but over the years the Beeb has given us *Civilisation*, Shakespeare, The Proms, *Strictly*, *Bake Off* and Monty Python, even if we've had to suffer Eurovision along the way. And if none of that takes your fancy, they're showing Formula 1 on Sky.



Light fantastic: The frontage of the Phoenix Cinema is bathed in its new LED colours. Photo Mike Coles

Phoenix puts on light show

The frontage of the Phoenix Cinema in the High Road is on dazzling form after its old and broken neon lights were completely replaced with bright new LEDs that can change colour. The front of the building has also been repainted.

“The new lighting is more energy-efficient, so helps with our electricity bills, and I also think it fits well with East Finchley Town Team’s aim to

spruce up the High Road and make it more welcoming,” said chair of trustees Alison Gold. “The place is looking better than it has for years. I genuinely

think it is one of the best looking cinemas around now.”

The Phoenix was able to replace the lighting thanks to funding provided by Barnet Council with the support of East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra.



Full power: North London Chorus in performance at St James’ Church in Muswell Hill.

Choral favourites come to restored church

Following North London Chorus’s programme of works by Cherubini and Mendelssohn in July, the well-regarded local choir takes to the stage again in December at St James Church, Muswell Hill, to perform two completely different baroque choral favourites.

Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s 1690 *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* is probably the most popular of his mass settings. He takes the words of the liturgy and sets them to some of the best-known tunes of the day, most notably Christmas carols.

In contrast, the choir will also perform Handel’s towering masterpiece *Dixit Dominus*. Composed when Handel was only 22, this virtuosic setting of Psalm 110 for five-part chorus and soloists comprises nine movements which rival each other for brilliance and beauty.

The Meridian Sinfonia will accompany the choir on period instruments including lute, organ, harpsichord and strings, and the programme will be completed with Corelli’s *Concerto grosso in G minor ‘Fatto per la*

Notte di Natale’ arranged for two recorders.

Fill the church

Musical Director Murray Hipkin said: “Following extensive repairs to the roof, and restricted space at our last two concerts, St James Church is now operating at full capacity. It would be wonderful to fill the church for this exciting concert. Please do help us spread the word.”

The concert takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday 3 December at St James Church, N10 3DB. Tickets priced £25/£21 reserved, £13 unreserved and concessions £2 off are available from tickets.northlondonchorus.org. Unreserved tickets are available at Les Aldrich music shop, Fortis Green Road, N10, and St James Church bookshop.

What’s On at the Phoenix in November

By Zalan Pall, general manager



A tender drama, an environmental documentary, live comedy, live opera and ballet, festival films, queer and surreal classics can all be enjoyed at the Phoenix in November.

In *Living*, playing from Friday 4 November, veteran civil servant Bill Nighy receives a medical diagnosis that inspires him to move to the south coast and cram some fun into his remaining days. He meets a sunny young female colleague who seems to have the pep that had previously escaped him.

La Traviata is the next spectacular production in the MET season on Saturday 5 November.

We are also excited to announce a live comedy night at the Phoenix! We are delighted to confirm that Sara Pascoe, Steen Raskopoulos, Amy Gledhill and Joshua Bethania will all be on stage on Sunday 6 November.

Then on Tuesday 8 November we have a special screening and live Q&A for *Father Earth*, the true story of one man’s attempt to help save the planet by converting a derelict church on a windswept

island in Orkney into an eco-friendly recording studio, having driven a G Wiz electric car there all the way from London.

Sunday 13 November sees Luis Bunuel’s *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* as the next entry of our classic season. And for lovers of ballet, we have *The Royal Ballet - A Diamond Celebration* on Wednesday 16 November and *Matthew Bourne’s Nutcracker* on Sunday 20 November.

The highly anticipated Jewish Film Festival arrives with four films between Monday 14 and Sunday 20 November.

We also have these exciting events: *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* on Thursday 17 November, hosted by Barnet’s Drag Troupe, and *Black History Walks: Ancient Egypt spectacular - 100th anniversary Tutankhamen* on Sunday 20 November.

Find our full programme at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or drop into our foyer any time.



Sunflowers and smiles: The Garden Suburb Theatre cast of *Calendar Girls* get ready for their show this month.

Calendar Girls come together to make a date for your diary

Directed by East Finchley resident Miriam Clark and performed by Garden Suburb Theatre at the Upstairs At The Gatehouse theatre in Highgate from 24-27 November, *Calendar Girls* (the play not the musical) by Tim Firth is both a comedy and a moving portrait of true friendship amongst individuals who understand that helping those in need can be life fulfilling.

It is based on the true story of eleven Women’s Institute members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, with plenty of laughs and tears

along the way. Tickets are priced at £14 and £16 and are available via www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com or by calling the Box Office on 020 8340 3488.

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Letters



Don't encourage me: Yoshi the cat invites himself on to the laps of N2United meeting attendees

Underpass on the up Dear Editor

I use the Northern line underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road nearly every day and I've been very impressed with the way local people have cleaned it up recently (*The Archer*, October 2022). The litter has gone and the paintwork is cleaner. Let's hope that more work can be done to make it even better and safer for everyone to use.

**Claire Evershott,
Long Lane, N2.**

Yoshi has a home Dear Editor,

We were very surprised to see a picture of our cat Yoshi in your last edition (*The Archer*, October 2022, p9). While it's lovely to see people in the community enjoying him, he's not a 'neighbourhood cat' as such, he belongs to our family on Sedgemere Avenue.

Unfortunately, many people in the area feed him and let him stay over in their homes, which means he often forgets where he actually lives. So if you see Yoshi out and about, please give him as many strokes as you like, but shoo him out of your homes and don't feed him.

**Timothy Love
Sedgemere Avenue, N2.**

Send your correspondence to:
news@the-archer.co.uk
or post to The Archer, PO Box
3699, London N2 2DE

Shocking headline Dear Editor

I am one of your volunteers who delivers *The Archer*. I was quite shocked by the headline on the last issue 'Cycle lanes: keep them or kick them out?' The choice of the words 'kick them out' was unbalanced and unjustified.

'Remove them' would have used the same space and been less offensive. Your headline panders to car-driving shoppers who believe they should have priority on the roads, not other users, like cyclists.

I used to think *The Archer* had a balanced view that reflected the interests of all its readers but now doubt its values and fairness. I drive a car but I also cycle, walk and use public transport.

**Laurence Williamson,
Chair, Strawberry Vale
Residents Association.**

WI frost fair

The Finchley WI is returning with its popular Frost Fair at Stephens House in East End Road, Finchley Central, and this year it is extending its opening times, running from 10.30am to 5pm on Sunday 27 November.

There will be more than 30 stalls selling handmade and locally sourced products, including honey and jams, cakes, knits, plants and artwork. There will also be face painting and hair braiding for children. Entry is free.

Songs for pleasure

The next free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, is a programme of songs for everyone to enjoy in the company of Bel Canto. It takes place on Sunday 13 November at 7.30pm with a collection in aid of the church's 200th Birthday Appeal. The venue is fully accessible.

**All Saints' Church, Durham Road,
East Finchley
Church of England**

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
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Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



On the walls: Art lovers enjoy the Connections exhibition by East Finchley Open Artists. Photo Mike Coles

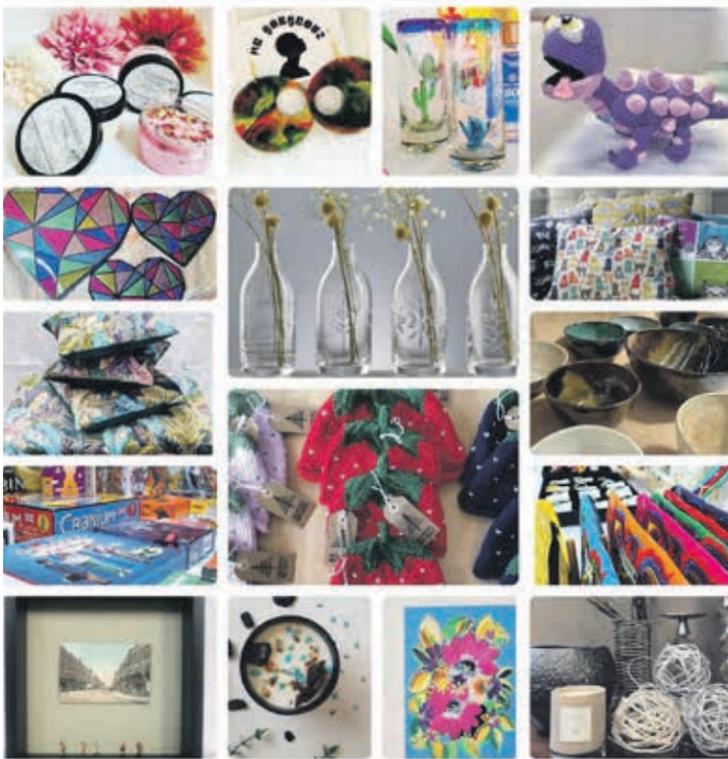
Open artists out and about again

By Mike Coles

Artists from the East Finchley Open group staged their first major themed exhibition since lockdown, called 'Connections', at the Original Gallery at Hornsey Library, N8, last month. They also held a show called 'Peace' at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley. Both follow a summer when the artists' group restarted its annual Open House event exhibiting works in studios and homes around East Finchley and Muswell Hill. Plans are advanced for a Christmas art fair too. Find the latest information on their website at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Gifts and giveaways at Winter Market

On Sunday 27 November the forecourt outside Hexagon Classics on Great North Road, N2, two minutes' walk from East Finchley Station, will be transformed into a winter market packed with stalls for Christmas shopping.



North London's finest: Just some of the local makers taking part in the East Finchley Winter Market

Forty local artisan makers and crafters will be selling seasonal gifts, including ceramics, handmade candles, hand-blown glass, textiles, knitwear, jewellery, prints, toys and board games. There'll be entertainment and activities, plus tasty hot food and drinks to keep everybody warm.

Festival connection

The event is being run by HR Events in association with East Finchley Festival, so you can expect to see some familiar stalls from the summer festival.

Wine tasting and samples

The Bottles'n'Jars shop will be offering seasonal treats, delicious bites, wine to taste and all things mulled, plus samples from some of their producers, who will be showcasing their products. In addition there will be giveaways and a raffle, with a chance to win a vineyard tour.

East Finchley Winter Market will run from 11am to 6pm on Sunday 27 November and entry is free. For more information see www.ILoveN2.co.uk/winter-market

Artists' winter fair

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Art group is holding a Winter Gift Fair on Saturday 26 November from 11am to 5pm at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. There will be range of unique and handmade gifts by local artists, and entry to the fair is free.

Christmas car boot

The last Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot sale of the year takes place on Saturday 26 November from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For more information, contact 020 8368 8180. The next boot sale will be on Saturday 28 January.

Christmas goodies

Carolsinging, home-bakes, advent wreath making, a hamper stall, toys and a tombola will all be on offer at the St Mary's Catholic Church Christmas Fair on Sunday 27 November from 11am to 3pm. Entry is free and there will also be a Santa's Grotto, with gifts for children, for a £2.50 entrance. Find the church at 279 High Road, N2 8HG.

Your news

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Amateur captures atmosphere of autumn after dark

By John Lawrence

Now November is here, the days are shorter and the nights longer. Some of us draw our curtains until spring returns but for photographer Matt Pielas this time of year offers the perfect chance to capture the atmosphere of East Finchley after dark.

Matt regularly walks out with his Lumix LX15 and his Samsung Galaxy S9+ mobile phone to photograph the local paths, roads and parks that can look so different after daylight has disappeared.

“Taking good photos at night is about two things: stabilisation and aperture,” says Matt. “My camera gives me a good choice of aperture but the stabilisation is better on my mobile phone so I mix the two devices. But really the best camera is always the one you have with you. Moments don’t last forever and you have to catch them however you can.”

Matt was living in a bright and hot Chicago when he first visited London 20 years ago. He knew nothing about the city except what he’d seen on television, and people warned him: “Don’t go there, it’s cloudy, rainy and dirty!” But he says the atmosphere of London charmed

him immediately and he spent hours taking photos.

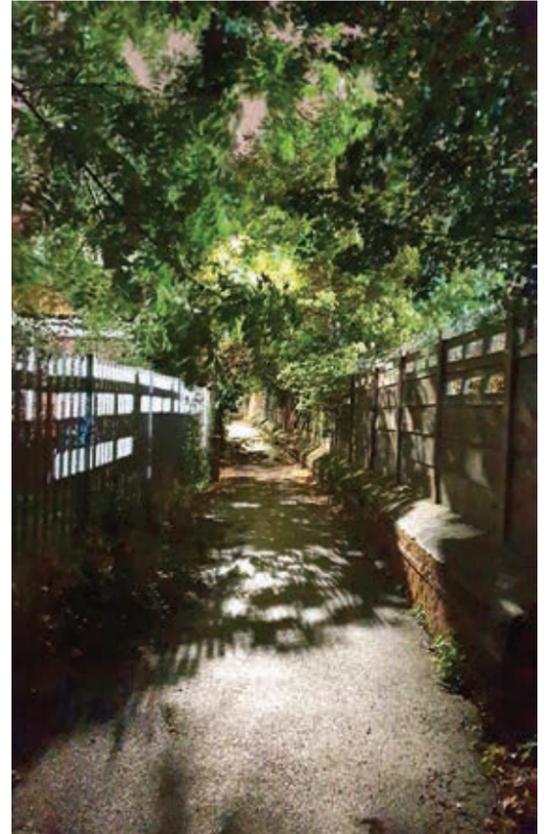
Five years ago, he decided to come back for good and has lived in East Finchley for the last four years. He still roams the capital from Stanmore to Croydon taking thousands of photos but describes N2 as the “last and best place where he wants to live”.

“Living here means taking a part in this community and continuing my photo hobby,” he says. “Probably I have a different point of view than people who were born here, but maybe that’s why I’ve got something to show them, to let them realise that they live in very nice place, which can be easy to forget if you’ve always lived here.”

“Anyone can be an amateur photographer like me. Just watch from your window and learn to see your neighbourhood in a different way. There’s so much out there.”



Shots in the dark: These images taken by photography enthusiast Matt Pielas show, from top to bottom, the community green space and the homes of Strawberry Vale behind, the churchyard of Holy Trinity in Church Lane, a foggy East End Road and the Pumphandle Path, off Taring Road



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