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August 1995 No. 30



Bottle Bank Heist

Some East Finchley residents are astonished by the relocation of the bottle and paper bank facilities which were, until recently, located outside Budgens on the High Road.

Apparently, the removal and re-location has been made in order to release parking space on the High Road in the wake of recent road layout improvements and also to facilitate 'Disabled Only' parking bays.

Many residents consider the

new location at East Finchley tube station fails to pass the test of practicality and, as many people in the area do not use the tube on a regular basis, see the re-location to this new site as a disincentive. Others though, particularly disabled residents, feel that access to the banks has been made easier. A disabled resident comments that after parking the car outside Budgens, it was difficult to manoeuvre around the safety railings to

Sean Brickeley, warden of

the Housing Association flats

said "We inform residents of

new developments weekly.

Safety-wise we follow all the

instructions of the Health and

programme when the work is

finished, planting more trees and

We will begin a re-planting

Safety Executive.

saplings.

make a deposit in the banks and use the shops.

Yellow peril

Do you believe putting the banks down by the tube is a sensible strategy or should the council add to the facility in the High Road rather than replace it? Can you suggest a better location?

We are particularly interested in receiving the comments of our disabled readers:

Have the improvements made access to shops and services in the High Road easier? Are the disabled bays working or was parking easier when yellow line restrictions were in force?

We will pass your comments to Barnet Council.

Please let us have your views on this by contacting *The Archer* by post, telephone or e-mail.



- see inside:

Puma in N2? ...page 6
Bunny, terror of
delivery men ...page 4
Pigeon Corner, we want
your views ...page 2

Salad Days

Picture and story: David Tupman
That's Life

Visiting East Finchley from Perth, Australia, Jack Metcalfe had thought he had seen everything on his many travels around the world - but a cucumber shaped like a pipe? This strangely-shaped salad vegetable came from the Continental Store in the High Road.

Tell *The Archer* if you come across anything odd in the vegetable or fruit line, or, better still, send a photograph.

Lethal legacy

by Len Willcocks

In Briar Close, East Finchley, anxious residents have been worried about the effects of asbestos which is believed to have been dumped there illegally over 20 years ago.

Now trees, rose bushes and shrubs have had to be destroyed so that contaminated soil can be removed.

The asbestos problem only came to light recently and residents contacted Barnet Council

The Barnet Environmental Health Officer was called and investigations were started.

A mother whose 5-year old son, Liam, played regularly on the contaminated bank noticed the asbestos, strange-looking white stuff.

A month ago contractors started to work on the bank to remove broken asbestos cement but during this clean-up operation the more dangerous blue asbestos was found.

Playing unsafe

Residents were horrified to learn that the bank where their children had played, and where they often took soil for their own plant pots and patios, was so contaminated.

One resident, who was shown samples of the asbestos, said "I had been picking it out of the soil for years with my hands. I thought it was just polystyrene packaging."

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Thanks also to Bob Welch of Welch's Ale House

Your contributions

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote that you think our eaders might find interesting but are nervous of putting pen to aper, phone 0181-883 1307 and we'll get someone to help you.

Palace sting

Several hundred tickets for a non-existent fashion show and disco event which was supposedly to have been held at the Camden Palace at the beginning of August, were sold to unsuspecting people in the N2 area who paid £6.50 for the nonevent.

Camden Palace itself had nothing to do with the fraud. If anyone bought a ticket and would like to give the details to warn other people, then please contact *The Archer*.

<u>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</u>

Utilities (for N2)

0181-905 1144
0181-346 919
01707-27711

Councils

Barnet	
Admin Town Hall	0181-202 8282
Elderly	0181-444 4411
Children/family	0181-449 5511
Housing	0181-446 8511
People in hospital	0181-440 5111
Noise	0181-202 8282
Pest Control	0181-446 5111
Haringey	0181-975 9700

Churches	
All Saints (C of E)	0181-883 9313
Baptist	0181-883 5743
Comm'ty Gospel	0181-446546
Holy Trinity	0181-883 8720
Methodist	0181-346 170
St. Mary's R.C.	0181-883 4234

Help & Advice

Aids Helpline	0800-567123
Alcoholics Anon.	0171-352 3001
Benefits Agency	0800 666555
Carers Nat. Assoc.	0181-343 3665
Childline	0800 1111
Cit. Adv. Bureau	0181-349 0954
Contact (N2 help)	0181-444 1162
East Finchley Advice	Service
	0181-444 6265
Gingerbread	0181-445 4227

0800-289 404 Help the Aged 0181-446 6470 Mind 0800-800500 NSPCC Rape Crisis Centre 0171-837 1600 Relate 0181-445 0888 0181-889 6888 Samaritans 0181-343 4435 Victim Support

Ponce	
Emergency	999
Finchley	0181-342 1212
Golders Green	0181-209 1212
Muswell Hill	0181-340 8055

Hospitals

_	
Barnet General	0181-200 1555
Coppetts Wood	0181-883 9792
Finchley Mem.	0181-349 3121
Oak Lane	0181-346 9343
Royal Free	0171-7940500
St Luke's	0181-8838311
Whittington	0171-2723070
and the second s	

Transport

LT Enquiries	0171-222 1234
Greenline	0181-668 7261
Grey-Green	0181-800 8010
National Xpress	0171-730 0202
Heathrow	0181-759 4321
Euston/St Pancras	0171-387 7070
Kings X	0171-278 2477
Charing X/Victoria/Waterloo/	
Livermool St	0171-9285100

Other

Libraries.

E. Finchley Library	0181-883 2664
Mus. Hill Odeon	01426 911885
Phoenix Cinema	0181-883 2233

Crime Diary

July 18th Robbery Squires Lane Burglars who entered premises by removing glass from a window made off with jewellery and £100 in cash.

Winnington Road, July 19th Hampstead Garden Suburb. Burglars removed a marble surround fireplace valued at £4,000, and a microwave.

July 20th Park Hall Road. Burglars broke into a house during the day by breaking a door lock and made off with a television, fax machine and video.

July 21st A 19-year-old male victim who was walking along Leslie Road N2 was attacked by two youths who made off with his wallet. One youth was black 5'8", wearing a blue T-shirt, the other was white, heavily tattooed and wearing a red T-shirt.

Road Rage

A nasty case of "road rage" occurred in East Finchley recently. A car mounted the pavement in Fortis Green to pass a line of traffic stopped at traffic lights on the High Road, rather than wait for the traffic to

He nearly knocked over two men, who protested strongly.

The driver, even though in the wrong, engaged in a swearing and slanging match with raised fists before he roared on at speed into the High Road.

Veterans boost

Veterans of two world wars have been given a cash boost by Barnet Council.

The amount of war pension which is now ignored when calculating housing benefit and council tax relief has been doubled to £20 by the decision made by the Council's Budget Financing and Performance Review Committee.

"This council acknowledges the debt we owe to our war veterans," said a spokesman.

Help for Alzheimer's sufferers

borough's biggest libraries:

Chipping Barnet and Hendon

by Len Willcocks

More help and information is to be made available to helpers and carers of sufferers of Alzheimer's and other dementia illnesses.

A new library service is to be provided called 'Alzheimer's Information,' the aim of which is to provide books, leaflets and audio-visual material specially designed for carers and to make them available in two of the

Dump To Close

The rubbish dump amenity site at Summers Lane is being shut down owing to the level of vandalism and break-ins occurring there.

The Council wishes to stress this is only a temporary measure and a new, purpose-built civic amenity site is due to be situated on the Summers Lane location next year.

Alternative dumps will be operating at Tilling Road, Green, Winchmore Hill.

Support in mind The information collection was launched by the Mayor of Barnet, cllr. Susette Palmer on 5th July. "This is another example of how different services within the borough can come together for the benefit of the community," said cllr. Katherine McGuirk, Chair of the Recreation, Leisure and Arts Commit-

Cllr. McGuirk added, "Contact with other sufferers and carers creates the confidence which comes from knowing that you are not alone. By pooling experiences, problems can become easier to cope with. This is the kind of practical support our new centres will provide."

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, a decline in the person's ability to think, reason and remember. It affects not only the sufferers but also the lives of their families and

This new service is being funded by Barnet Social Services and Libraries as well as by the Alzheimer's Disease Society, Carers National Association and Barnet's Voluntary Services Council.

Pigeon Corner...

The Archer wants your views

The four wooden seats at appeared mysteriously some weeks ago, are not coming back. Nor are they to be replaced.

In response to East Finchley residents' queries about their disappearance from the junction of the High Road and East End Road, The Archer investigated the matter.

A member of its crime team contacted the police station to see whether the seats had been reported missing and to discover whether any had been recovered.

Dirty protest

Barnet Council finally cast light on the matter. The Council removed the seats following complaints that they were all covered in pigeon droppings.

The Council spokesman said Pigeon Corner, which dis- the seats are not going to be put back in the future because they "will only get fouled again."

Flashback

Residents will remember that the rose beds at Pigeon Corner were replaced by the Council with gravel and pipe sections two years ago because of the pigeons. Now the seats have gone - because of the pigeons.

What do you feel about it? Was the Council right to remove the seats? Should they have consulted the public? Does the present garden look appalling? Is it the only feasible answer? Should the pigeons be destroyed? Should people feed them?

Please let us have your let-

Carbon monoxide death

"Making toast is a normal act - you certainly don't expect to die from it," said the coroner at a recent inquest on the death of an East Finchley woman.

Her death was caused by a damaged gas cooker which produced a carbon monoxide buildup. It illustrates the importance of having gas appliances regularly serviced, writes Len Willcocks.

The coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure on 93-year-old Queenie Bowell of Creighton Avenue.

Police Sergeant, Richard Atkins, told the inquest, "There was a strong smell of gas. The grill was alight and the toast was burnt charcoal-black. Mrs Bowell was in the bedroom."

He was told that friends who used to look after Mrs Bowell would turn the gas off at the meter when they left her, but they sometimes forgot to do so.

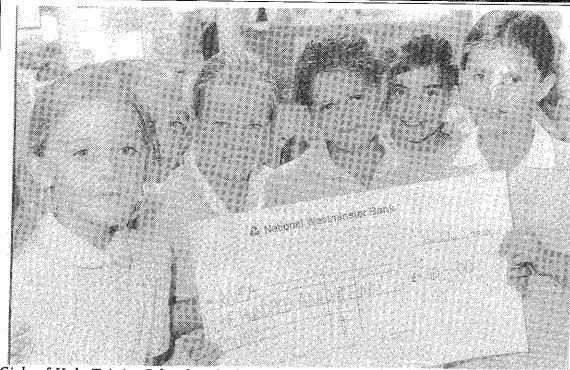
The last time Mrs Bowell was seen alive was by a neighbour who put her to bed the night before.

A British Gas Manager who examined the cooker said, "The grill had incomplete burning caused by a fret that had become distorted, possibly by the

The flames touched one another which gives off soot, causing carbon monoxide to build up. It would have taken two hours for the carbon monoxide to build-up to a fatal level.

A level of 65 per cent of carbon monoxide was found in Mrs Bowell's blood. The fatal level is 50 per cent.





Girls of Holy Trinity School with the cheque they presented to the RSPCA clinic.

Windfall for the RSPCA

On behalf of the local branch of the RSPCA, Eugenia Piccaretio recently accepted a handsome cheque from some of the children of Holy Trinity School.

Twelve pupils raised £110.00 on their own initiative. Under the guidance of their teacher, Yvonne Howe, they made and sold soft toys and cakes and held a raffle at their school fête.

After the presentation there

our part," said Mr. Love, "we

have litter patrols which clear

the whole area surrounding our

restaurants every 30 minutes.

We are also willing to sponsor

ers from the underground sta-

tion nearby and local people

who live and work in East

Finchley, rather than people

driving past in cars."

"We aim to attract commut-

extra litter bins in the area.

was a long question and answer session about the children's own pets. Several of the pupils use the clinic in Park Road, where the money will be used to buy new equipment and they were all encouraged to take an inter est in the work of the clinic.

Burgers barred

by Len Willcocks

Plans by McDonald's to open a 190-seater restaurant as an extension to their Hamburger University Headquarters in East Finchley High Road, were overturned by a recent meeting of Barnet Council's Planning Committee, but the company is to appeal.

The protest campaigners, having won the first round, were delighted with the outcome but recognise they could have a long fight yet.

McDonald's Communications Director, Mike Love, told The Archer the next day, "We will consider lodging an appeal; we are very disappointed and surprised by the outcome."

East Finchley councillor, Helen Gordon was against the plan "The location of the restaurant would cause increased traffic problems and create noise and disturbance for residents in the area," she said.

The protesters also say that litter will be a problem and nearby sheltered housing residents were worried about what kind of customers would use the restaurant.

Mc-rake

The McDonald's response to those objections is that the litter is a social problem. "For

Postie attacked

Postie, Jackie Gray's worst fears were realised the other day when an assailant jumped out on her in a pathway near Creighton Avenue.

Her immediate reaction was to relinquish her trolley and yell.

When I unfroze, I chased him," she said. He got away but the police were soon on the scene and found her trolley and its contents intact.

Local residents are even more watchful for her and all postmen are on the lookout for the assailant.

Neighbourhood Watch

At a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Peter Davis, Crime Prevention Officer from Golders Green, stated that although East Finchley is a relatively low crime area compared to other parts of north London, we should still be aware and vigilant.

East Finchley averages two burglaries a day as compared to 30 per day in the Hornsey area, but two burglaries a day is still too many.

It is important during this hot weather to make sure windows and doors are not left open.

Dial 999 if you suspect anything at all. Remove car radios and cassettes when leaving your car as theft from cars is on the increase.

All these simple precautions can help to reduce thefts

Sleeper success

Underground staff from East Finchley station successfully completed their sponsored walk on July 29 raising thousands of pounds for charities.

Ten members of LRT's local staff carried a sleeper weighing 120 pounds from High Barnet station to Morden, its counterpart at the other end of the Northern Line, a distance of 27 miles. Along the route they visited all 31 tube stations, collecting money as they went.

A similar team from Golders Green station carried another sleeper along their leg of the Northern Line and on to Morden. Officially termed 'a race' the Golders Green staff completed their task in a faster time than the East Finchley team. The two teams raised some £3,000 between them but, remarkably £2,500 of that was raised by the East Finchley team. One member, Paul Hogan, raised £1,300 himself. (Well done Paul!) The East Finchley team completed their task in just eight hours 34 minutes, an hour and twenty minutes faster than last year's attempt.

The venture was not without incident though; Vasco D'Gama of East Finchley team walked a full two and a half miles in his underpants due to 'discomfort' caused by his shorts, while his colleague, Doug Goldney, had to leave the group at Kennington in order to catch a train to East Finchley to start work for a full shift!

Buck Passing

Red Faces All Round!

The Archer apologises to all readers for the appalling photographic reproduction in last month's is-

The tonal gradations were lost totally so that all our "half tones" ended either pitch black or snow white. This meant that many of the people mentioned in the captions had disappeared from the picture!

The editor has tried to determine the cause: the photographers blame the production department; the production department blames the printer, the printer blames the photographers; the photographers blame the ... etc., etc.

Kevin Garrity, described as a hero by fellow sleeper racers was, after much persuasion, forced to give up due to heat exhaustion on one of the hottest days this year.

The team was helped through with water, plasters and other support by their coach Paul Abrams, East Finchley's Station Manager.

The money raised will be shared between four charities. The North London Hospice (who supplied the collection boxes), Cancer Research, The Children's Heart Foundation and the Coeliac Society. Readers who wish to make a contribution should ring Margaret Dwyer on 0171-918 7622 who will be more than happy to as-

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Popular Headmistress Retires

At the end of July, Miss Pat Douglass came to the end of 34 years service as teacher and headteacher at Martins Junior School, where she looked after some 250 pupils under 11, including many with different ethnic backgrounds and some with special needs.

Naturally, she has mixed feelings. "I have always enjoyed wonderful support from the governors, staff, parents and, of course, the children themselves," she says. "I shall miss them all, but I must admit it will be lovely to stand back and take stock of myself before deciding what to do next."

Head for the hills

"What to do" will probably include indulging her love of walking and mountain-biking, both in the British Isles and other European countries and possibly some new study courses to increase her wide range of interests.

Several functions were being planned to give her a good send-off, some planned and carried out by the children themselves.

Miss Douglass hopes to remain in this neighbourhood where she has always lived and to keep in touch more frequently with her many friends in this new chapter of her life.



Miss Pat Douglass, Headmistress (retiring) of Martin School

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'The Archer'
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THP BITS

Cycle repair outfit

Barnet cyclists have started a cycle workshop where people can come and learn how to repair their bikes and carry out repairs. It is at The Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, Eagans Close N2 every Saturday. Please phone John Silvertown on 0181-444 5956 for details.

N.B. Also on Saturday
19th August 1995 at 4pm there
will be a train assisted bike
ride of about 30 miles (average speed 5mph) from The
Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, returning about 10:15pm.
Bring lights and £10 to cover
cost of train fare and pub food.
Phone John Silvertown on
0181-444 5956 for details.

From bard to verse

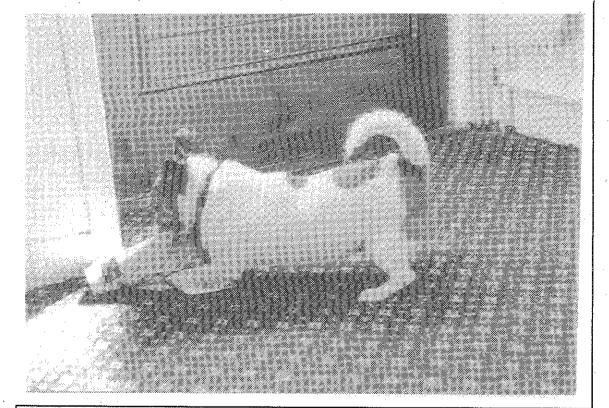
Budding bards have until 18 October to enter their poems to this year's Barnet Open Poetry Competition. There are four categories: General Poems, Comedy, 7-12s & 12-16s, and Poems by the Over-60s. Full details from Barnet Borough Arts Council c/o All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20 9EZ (Tel: 0181-446 7879).

Six pack

Peggy's pet shop outdid supermarkets recently with her "multi-pack" hamsters. Customers buying one hamster were surprised a few days later to find they had a "buy one, get six free" bargain in their cages.

Bird call

Local police were a little sceptical recently when a reader from Creighton Avenue rang to report finding a cockatiel in her garden. She explained that the bird may have been some one's treasured pet but the duty officer remained suspicious, especially once our reader told him her name: Mrs Avery.



PET PORTRAIT

Bunny habit

by Paul Savill

Bunny, a smooth-haired Jack Russell terrier, is a raving Archer fan. As soon as East Finchley's favourite newspaper appears in her letterbox in Fortis Green Avenue each month, she pulls it through and eats it on the hall carpet with growls of relish...

Her owner, Nora O'Sullivan, tries hard to stop her since she likes a good read, but usually it is too late and she has to do her best to piece the paper together again. Dog-eared

All mail and delivered newspapers can suffer the same fate,

but Bunny definitely prefers *The Archer* to the *Independent* and the *Muswell Hill Record*, says Nora.

To deter her, Nora has installed an inner gate in the hall-way to cut off the front door, but every so often this gets left open.

When it does, Bunny sits there waiting for the delivery people. The slightest sound of the gate catch and she hits the door like a "ton of bricks" - although she is less than a foot high.

Hare of the dog

In all other respects Bunny lives up to her docile sounding

name. She was so called because when the O'Sullivan's bought her as a puppy eight years ago she resembled a rabbit.

She is adored by Nora and her seven children, now aged between 20 and 32 years. Nora is originally from Cork and settled in East Finchley 33 years ago.

She said she was forced to buy Bunny by the constant nagging of her children whose names read like something out of a poetry book: Brenda Grainne, Sean, Mairead, Noirin, Niamh and James.

RETURN OF THE GARDENING COLUMN

The Archer is pleased to announce the return of the gardening column next month. After an eight-month absence, Paul Savill's know-everything neighbour in Lauradale Road is taking up his pen to give us the benefit of his gardening knowledge.

He stopped his column following complaints about his article on "jungfrauenschrecken" garden gnomes. Some readers felt that his reference to gnomes indently exposing themselves was an affront to respectable residents of East Finchley. While he does not accept this view, he does apologise for any shock the article may have caused and any offence unwittingly committed.

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PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Little wonder

by Bob Davenport

Among the stolid ranks of Establishment worthies buried in East Finchley Cemetery in East End Road is a quite different figure, one of the greatest music hall comedians - Little Tich.

Tich was born Harry Relph in 1867, in Cudham, Kent, the sixteenth child of a 77 year-old father. He had five fingers and a thumb on each hand, and never grew above 4'6" tall. (When Tich's own son was born, a doctor told the worried clown, "It's all right, my little man, you've got a baby brother.")

False heir

He took his stage name from a supposed resemblance to Arthur Orton, "The Tichborne claimant", the false heir to a baronetcy, and he himself later gave rise to the adjective 'titchy".

Tich was involved in show business from the age of 13 and made his first solo London music hall appearance in 1884.

Boot feat

By then he had already begun to develop the boot routine for which he became famous. In two large, flat, heavy clogs, over half as long as he was, he would dance, lean almost horizontal to retrieve his lost hat, and finally rise on tiptoe to become over seven feettall, before taking his bow with another quick horizontal lurch which knocked his bald forehead against the stage.

Other parts of his act included comic monologues ("I am a bolger sold - I mean a soldier bold...") and a variety of characterisations such as a pompous prosecuting counsel, a bronchitic burial-society agent, and a fiery señorita, "Little Miss Serpentine". He also appuared daramblance to Cinderella, as an Ugly Sister refused entrance to the ball, he had a sudden inspiration: "I know-let's walk in backwards and they'll think we're coming out."

A pair of shorts

After great success in the United States and in panto with Marie Lloyd and Dan Leno, in 1896 he made his debut in Paris, where he became a good friend of the equally short Toulouse-Lautree and was rapturously admired by, among others, the celebrated actor/manager Lucien Guitry and his actor/ dramatist son, Sacha. The young Charlie Chaplin, in Paris with Fred Karno's Troupe, saw Tich at the Folies Bergère and based his walk on him - though later Chaplin became so famous that the debt was often taken to be the other way round.

Montaigne man

Offstage, Tich was a skilled painter in oils and water colours, played the cello and composed music for his act, was an accomplished linguist and read widely.

After a show, he said, it was "a quiet supper, a whisky, a page or two of Montaigne - and

His genius was widely acknowledged. The young Neville Cardus, assigned to a review a forthcoming Little Tich appearance for the Manchester Guardian, which took such things seriously, was told to prepare for it by a long, meditative walk in the country.

In 1910 Tich was made an officer of the Académie Française for services to French music hall, and in fact it is the words of a French tribute on his death (in Hendon) in 1928 that appear on his tombstone: "le plus petit et le plus grand comique du monde"



The way it was

What appears to be a verdant and sleepy English country village is in fact the centre of East Finchley on a summer's day in 1905.

A more careful look will tell you that this is East End Road near the High Road.

Apart from all the foliage, the other most striking thing about the picture is the absence of cars. Oh, peaceful times!

On the left the house of Dr

of his gardening knowledge.

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schrecken" garden gnomes.

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Finchley.

Harvey Giwelb can be seen, very much the same as today, but covered in creeper.

Carbuncles

In the centre the church with spire can just about be made out behind the trees, all gone now, replaced in the sixties by allbrick, flat-roofed buildings of little architectural merit...

One of them, at least, has now gone, or rather transformed into a building with a pitched,

respectable residents of East

this view, he does apologise for

any shock the article may have

caused and any offence unwit-

tingly committed.

While he does not accept

tiled roof. It will be a new Moslem community centre.

The Archer thanks Barnet Local Studies and Archives for this picture If any reader has any interesting old pictures of East Finchley, please send them

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NEWS IN BRIEF

plant more than 4,000 trees this year and is encouraging people to sponsor trees. For more information, contact Trees for Life team on 0181-202 8282, ext. 2076.

under 5s at 3pm each Wednesday at East Finchley Library on the High Road. For those between 5 and 8, storytime is at 11am on Saturdays.

The Archer You can advertise for as little as Tel: 0181-883 1307

Barnet Council hopes to Storytime takes place for the

WELCH'S ALE HOUSE

Traditional Ales - Fine Company Lots of Fun!

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Phone: 0181-883 0234 (between Electricare & HSS) 400sq.ft. filled with bargains oil paintings, water colours, prints from £1-£50. China jugs, basins, chamber pots, ornaments, vases, silver-plated items, odd silver coins, postcards from 20p. Musical instruments, brass

ornaments. Approx. 10,000 boxes, covering all subjects from 50p. Busts of Napoleon and Dante,

Hallstands, nests of tables, occasional furniture, collectable tins and jewellery. Crutches £6, skiis £15, garden figures, Persian carpets, walking canes. Watch straps 50p. Gilt mirrors, Hubble Bubbel pipe, 1,000's of records, tapes & cd's to suit all tastes. Folding pocket scales&weights£6. Chandeliers, model cars, baskets FRESH GOODS ARRIVING

HOURLY OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK UNTIL 6:30PM

Barnet Cyclists are looking for new members. Regular Sunday rides normally start at Tally Ho at 10am and evening rides at 7pm most rides have slow and faster paced versions. There are also monthly discussion

NEWS IN BRI

meetings on subjects ranging from folding bikes to touring holidays. For more information, contact John & Jo McKenzie on 0181-449 4813.

The 13 David Lloyd tennis and health clubs, including the one just over the East Finchley border, have been sold to Whitbread for £201m.

The Whitbread group also own Pizza Hut, TGI Fridays and Thresher off-licences.

A country fair is held between 1 pm and 6 pm on the first Sunday of each month at Finchley College Farm in Fitzalan Road, N3. Visitors have been welcome at College Farm for the past 100 years and the day's events include donkey rides and a craft market, as well as an opportunity to meet the animals.

WILDLIFE

Puma sightings in N2

by Saul Pavill

Local residents' sightings of a puma in Cherry Tree Wood and at the nearby reservoir are causing an influx of tourists to the area this month.

The 12 different sightings during the past six months have not, however, been confirmed by Government experts.

Cat calls

Television crews, photographers and reporters were seen knocking on doors of those who had claimed to have seen the puma (felis concolor), leopard (panthera parclus) or panther (panthera nigra).

The Ministry of Agriculture's report just published after a three-month investigation found "No veritable evidence for the presence of a big cat" and concluded that there was no significant threat to pets in the area.

Pussyfoot

The team also analysed videos and photographs said to show the beast and looked at plaster casts of unusual footprints.

Their report concluded that:

*The animal submitted in the videos had the same dimensions as an adult black cat.

*Of the three plaster casts of footprints taken in the reservoir, two were from a domestic cat and one from a dog.

* They conclude that it was all a hoax - probably by the same hoaxer who is at work in Bodmin.

Load of old Tom

A local resident, Bill Hull, who lives in Lauradale Road, which backs onto the reservoir, agrees with the men from the ministry. Mr. Hull, president of the Aquarius Archery Club, which practises on the reservoir, said: "Local residents are confused. The puma is no more than an alley-cat which lives in this road and is known as the Wildebeest, alias Tom Robson.

"He is certainly big and ferocious and causes passing dogs to leap into their owner's arms...but he is only an ordinary moggy. Yes, it is official! Barnet Council is promoting the borough as *THE* tourist attraction of North London. What will this mean for East Finchley? David Hobbs speculates...

EASTFINCHLEY - The perfect place for the perfect break.

Glorious East Finchley has everything the seriously discerning holiday-maker could desire. It has sun, occasionally; sea well, not really - and it has all the excitement of Paris. Plaster of Paris.

Getting there

East Finchley is easily reached by car via the fabulously modern North Circular Road enabling tourists to easily, quickly and comfortably reach the 'Jewel of North London'. Whether you are coming from the north, via the M1, the west, via the M4 or the east, via the M25, the modern road network ensures that your journey will be as pleasurable as your stay.

By train it is even easier. The Northern Line, the pride of London's fabulous underground system, will speed you from central London in comfort. It is so easy just 'hop on a tube', as we say in



TOURIST ATT

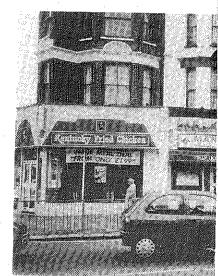
EAST FIT

Tourists arriving in the "Jewel of North London"

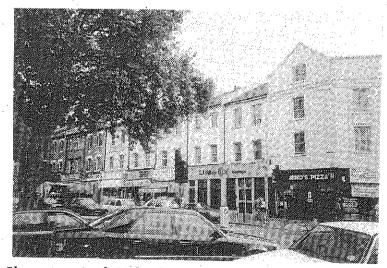
East Finchley, and you will be there in next to no time.

Shop 'til you drop

East Finchley has a splendid array of shops, especially along the High Road, enabling those of you who wish to savour the true shopping experience to feel truly at home. Pop into Budgens, a fabulous hypermarket with a wide selection of high quality products to suit all tastes. Visit the traditional butchers, bakers, greengrocers and general stores that serve to make East Finchley High Road a shopping centre to rival Oxford Street. Oxford Street, Watford, that is.



International cuisine par ex



Shops to rival Oxford Street (Watford)

East Finchley is becoming famous as a cemetery for bollards. A macabre sort of fame, but fame none the less.

Resting Place for Bollards

by Lee Welch

Both locals and tourists come to look at the final resting places of our better-known local concrete and iron bollards, and to pay their last respects.

A load of bollards!

Such names as Bertie, his son Arnold, and more recently Jeffrey the lamp-post who, in his capacity as a central island light-pole in the High Road, lost his young life at the hands of a mystery motorist, are among the better-known bits of bollards.

Lest we forget

Do not forget though, that within the N2 cementery there are countless other bollards who, in the line of duty, were ruthlessly slain, callously reversed over, or flattened beyond repair. They quite simply sacrificed themselves so as to make our roads safer.



RACTIONSIN

Pigeon Corner rivals Trafalgar Square

by Paul Savill

Eating out

East Finchley has a tradition of high quality cuisine; something that is reflected in the large number of bustling restaurants in the area. No matter what your tastes, East Finchley can satisfy them. Try a traditional East Finchley dish like curry, or be daring and visit one of the wonderful Chinese restaurants for which the area is justly famous. Want a snack? How about a pizza? or maybe a bagel? Perhaps even a traditional breakfast in one of the area's numerous authentic cafes.

Sample the traditional atmosphere to be found in the many



cellence

Sights and sounds

From scenic Cherry Tree Wood to the spectacular vistas of Strawberry Vale, there is so much to do in East Finchley.

Few cinemas can quite match the old world charm of the Phoenix, possibly one of the most historic cinemas in the whole of north London.

For those with a hankering for music, the famous Haringey Symphony Orchestra play regular concerts in Durham Road and theatre-goers will be amazed at the fabulous productions put on by the the spians of the Finchley Youth

On those rare wet afternoons,

pubs. Close to the station is The Bald-faced Stag, a typically East Finchley pub and, like all the area's pubs, well worth a visit. A few minutes walk away is Welch's, a place notable for both the large selection of fine ales and as the home of renowned caterers, John Dacam and Kevin Finn. For a good pub lunch there can be nowhere better. But no matter where you eat in East Finchley you will remember the experience long after you have recovered from the sensory overload that is East Finchley.

Where to stay

East Finchley, as fits its village atmosphere, does not have many hotels. However, it is only a short drive or bus ride away from the thriving metropolis of Muswell Hill and the hotels of the red light district. A double room with bawd can be found at a most reasonable price.

East Finchley's "Pigeon Corner" has been described as a "close second" to Trafalgar Square by foreign tourists this month. Whilst it lacks a 184ft-high monument, giant bronze lions and fountains,

the corner's spreading plane tree, concrete pipe sections and gravel flower beds, almost compensate.

Its pigeons, however, "more than rival" their cousins in London's most famous square.

This was the view expressed

by Mr and Mrs Aki Takeuchistiatischi from Tokyo, who spent a day at East Finchley's famous High Road and East End Road junction recently.

They informed *The Archer* that they spent only 10 minutes in Trafalgar Square because there was not nearly as much to see.

Local colour

While not quite so plentiful, East Finchley's pigeons were, in their view, superior in colour and size. Their grey was a greyer shade of grey. Furthermore, they cooed more loudly.

When they swooped, they did so in a dramatic fashion which Mr T. had captured on his £5,000 camcorder with 900mm zoom

In all, he recorded five hours of pigeon movements at Pigeon Corner and he hopes to sell the results to Japan's equivalent of David Attenborough, who is planning a TV series of wildlife in the



Swoop - photo: Mr Aki Takeuchistiatischi, Tokyo.

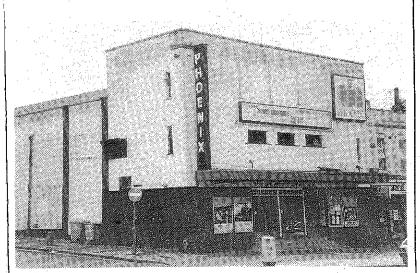


Scenic Cherry Tree Woods

visit the library and immerse yourself in the exciting local history of the area before exploring the many historic places of interest in what can only be described as 'The Jewel of north London'

EAST FINCHLEY - The holiday of a lifetime is only a tube ride

Visit the Jewel of north London...once you have seen the sights of East Finchley, nowhere else will ever seem the same.



The Phoenix, a centre of international cinematographic excellence

All photographs: David Tupman

days

With more than half of British households now keeping animals, more people than ever before are taking their pet along on the family holiday. Holidays which cater for both humans and animals are now big business, and over 1200 hotels and guest houses throughout Britain welcome pets.

However, forward planning is needed if all are to enjoy the break and the RSPCA has issued advice for holidaymakers.

Pet care leaflets entitled Leave your pets in safe hands! and Hot tips for summer are available from the RSPCA Enquiries Department, Causeway, Horsham, Sussex, RH12 1HG. Tel: 01403-264181.

The Archer thanks Mary Atkinson of Summerlee Gardens for sending this piece in.

Sophie Orr (aged 24) of Park Hall Road recently visited Uganda and sent us a letter about her observations. Perhaps we are lucky to live in East Finchley!

Letter from Uganda

I arrived in Kampala at the end of March. I'd been looking forward to my first visit to Africa for a long time, and at last here I was. My friend met me at the airport in her car and as I looked out of the window I was overwhelmed by the sight of poverty and desolation as we passed barely-clothes people sitting outside their homes.

There is an awful lot of poverty, but things seem to be improving, with much investment and companies opening up all over the place. The house I'm staying in is very peaceful, with a garden full of roses, wicker chairs on the balcony and a guard, gardener and house-girl to look after it all. The lifestyle is luxurious but unrealistic since outside the iron gates you see mud huts and depriva-

School trip

I was extremely lucky to spend three days on the Sese Islands of Lake Victoria. Some friends working for the Ministry of Education have been visiting schools all over the country conducting a survey, and I was invited to join this trip. It took us seven hours to get there, travelling in a Land Rover and crossing the lake on a 'raft'. This had four huge engines and moved at a snail's pace, but I saw an unspoilt Uganda, the island being almost completely covered in dense forest. There was no running water or electricity, so in the evenings at our camp next to the lake, we played cards under a paraffin lamp.

It was very interesting seeing the schools. I spoke to some of the pupils and teachers, whose education levels had a worringly fine line between them.

Bus roots

Getting the local bus - a 'matatu' - to the city centre is quite an experience. You are delivered to the taxi-park where all the matatus congregate facing completely different directions. it always seems as though they have no possible hope of getting in or out! Going back home, you have to walk all round the matatus asking each driver if he is going to your particular district. This can take quite a while!

Walking the streets can also be traumatic. A white woman attracts attention from all. Those selling their wares by the side of the road, be they matches, boiled toothpaste, cream crackers or cigarettes, cry out, "Hello Musungu", how are you?" ('Musungu' roughly translates as 'white person') I believe this is meant in a friendly manner, although being on show makes me feel quite awkward when I'm not too familiar with the streets. It's hard to look where one is going for fear of accidentally stepping into a knee-high pothole or of being knocked over by a wheelbarrow (laden with bricks or bananas) or other vehicle coming from any direction at a great speed. There's never a dull moment in this city!

young archer

KIDS TO TEST LAW'S STRONG ARM

Police dogs, horses, all sorts of police vehicles and the police themselves(!) will be on display at Muswell Hill Police Station's Children's Open Day on Sunday September 17.

As part of a major community relations effort, the local police are opening their doors at 115 Fortis Green from noon to

All local children and their parents are welcome to come along and see what has already been code-named by the police themselves as "The Bill on the Hill"!

Play bill

As well as seeing the inside of their local police station, children can put their questions. Furthermore, there will be competitions for all ages and the police will be displaying the best portraits of policemen drawn by local children.

In a letter to nearby residents the policed say, "We will endeavour to keep any disruption to a minimum but please accept our apologies in advance for any inconvenience this may cause you..."

Further information: 0181-340 8055 ext: 2401

The Archer says: Thank you local police. A great initiative! We hope local kids don't test your strength too much!

The Fact is

Fact 1. Dentists in England and Wales extract 4 tonnes of bad teeth from children each

Fact 2. The water pressure inside an onion cell is enough to

make a steam engine explode. Fact 3. A snail can sleep for

three years without waking up. Fact 4. Cats cannot taste anything sweet.

Fact 5. Rainbows are seen as complete circles from aeroplanes.

Fact 6. In the year 1348 in England it started to rain in June and did not stop until Decem-

Fact 7. In the Sahara Desert, sand dunes can reach heights of 340m. about twice as high as British Telecom Tower in Lon-

Fact 8. A wren can sing about 130 different notes in just seven seconds

SEND IN YOUR FACT'S.



"Just another peaceful day for Bertie."

Y.H.A. Getaway by L.A. Welch

Are you fed up spending all your time living, playing and learning in or around East Finchley? Well help is at hand.

About 100 years ago at the turn of the century, a German schoolteacher realised the problem that many city-bound children suffer and decided to do something about it.

His work inspired the British movement known as YHA or Youth Hostels Association. A century on, YHA has over 240 hostels all over England and Wales, and you can find one almost anywhere.

The Association President, the famous environmentalist, David Bellamy, says, "We are pioneering environmentfriendly tourism for young people."

For a fee of between £3.60 and £16.00 per night (depending on where you stay) you can, if you're between the age of 14-17, have a holiday of a lifetime. There are many amenities at the hostels, including full meals, use of linen and self-catering kitchens. The emphasis is always on sharing and meeting other people of the same age. Younger children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian unless they are going with an organised larger group such as scouts or cubs.

There are many activities available including mountain biking, canoeing, abseiling and

rock-climbing. Whatever your abilities, whether you are disabled or able-bodied, the YHA will help you have a great time.

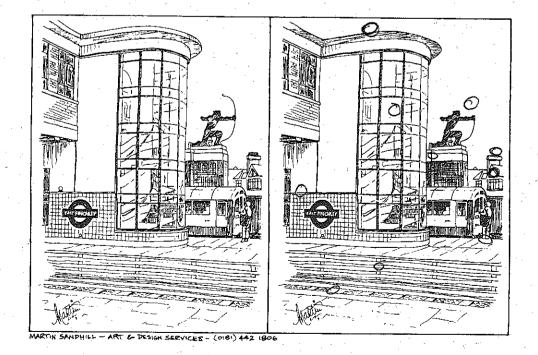
For a small fee you can become a YHA member and receive a magazine with information on what you can do. If you get bitten by the hostelling bug, you can take your whole family on future holidays. All-in-all youth hostelling is a great way to holiday.

For further information contact YHA's Customer Services Department at Youth Hostels Association, Trevelyan House, 8 St. Stephen's Hill, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 2DY or telephone 01727-845047. Don't forget to ask your parents' permission.

Have a great holiday.

COMPETITION

Spot the Difference



See if you can spot the differences in this month's competition. There are ten altogether.

Just ring the ten differences on the right-hand picture and send to The Competitions Editor at The Archer. The lucky winner will receive a sought-after Archer T-shirt, so make sure to send us your name, address and telephone number.

JOHN L. DEARING

Quick Puzzle

Here are the answers to last month's

Across 1. Apollo, 3. Lords, 4. Old, 5. Kings Road, 6. Toftenham, 7. River, 8. Soho, 9. Archway, 10. Eastend.

Down 2. Old Kent Road. Well done.

N2 8BA

GAMES REVIEW

Virtual Reality

by Archie Archer

This month, by way of a change, Archie has taken a look at the virtual reality concept. It is an amazing world of fun, excitement and learning and is one that should not go untried.

Most of us tend to think of and children will be able to see would find in amusement arcades or computer shows but, more and more now, it is being used in the business world as a way of showing and selling company products to the general public. Many travel companies now use virtual reality to give people a real taste of a place before they decide to travel

Entire factories can be built in 3-D virtual reality so that companies will know exactly what working conditions will be like for their staff before construction actually starts.

Already in some schools, the idea is used to help children with severe learning difficulties. Virtual reality may one day replace classroom books

virtual reality as something we rather than just read the subjects they are studying.

Virtual reality can be used in one of two forms: Immersive which is used mainly for entertainment, where the user wears a head-mounted display and controls things with a joystick or glove, and (B) Desktop mainly used in schools and environments, looking more like a conventional computer.

Virtual reality is truly amazing. With its technology, just imagine what we could achieve in ten years time. We could, in the comfort of our own classroom or home, climb Mount Everest, go deep-sea diving, or even take a walk on the moon. The mind boggles.

Grichie Gricher

275 EAST END ROAD EAST FINCHEEY

75 VICEROY CLOSE



Local Society Spotlight

Victim Support needs volunteers

Victim Support Barnet has served the borough for the past 12 years, sending trained volunteers to provide free confidential support and advice following crimes ranging from burglary and assault to rape and murder.

Their office is situated in East End Road and receives referrals daily from the police and other voluntary and statutory agencies. Victims of crime, either recent or who suffered in the past, are also welcome to refer themselves on 0181-343 4435.

Help needed

People react to crime in many ways. Although most victims do not suffer long-term harm, both adults and children can be seriously affected and often need help in order to recover. People often need someone to talk to, information on police and court procedures, reassurance and emotional support, information and support when attending court, help with compensation and insurance, crime prevention advice, help with housing or benefit problems or contact with other local organisations.

Victim Support Barnet looks for volunteers who are understanding and good listeners and who can get on with people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. Anyone can apply and volunteers are welcomed from all the different cultural backgrounds living in our diverse borough.

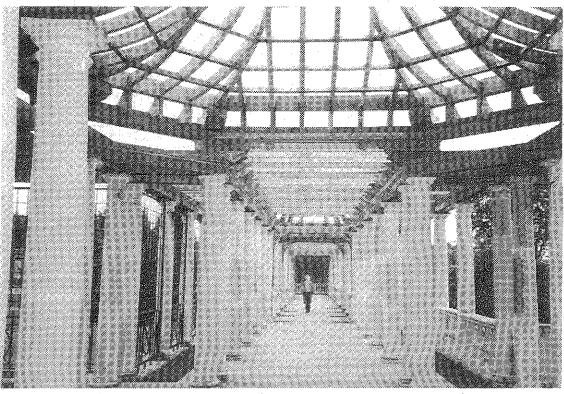
Full training

All volunteer visitors are given training and further training is available for some visitors who wish to extend their work to people who have suffered serious crimes, such as women victims of sexual violence and families of murder victims. Most volunteers work several hours a week, are closely supervised and need to attend a monthly support meeting.

Most people volunteer for Victim Support because they want to help people.

Volunteers are rewarded by seeing the difference Victim Support can make to people whose lives have been shattered by crime.

If you feel you can help Victim Support and would like further details, please ring the Barnet Co-ordinator, Pat Bacchus on 0181-447 1643



Serene entertainment: the restored pergola

The Pergola Connection

Picture and story by David Tupmam

It's historical, it's on East Finchley's doorstep and, what's more, it's free!

It's the newly-restored and resplendent Pergola at Hamp-stead Heath. Situated just off North End Way, it's within spitting distance of Jack Straw's Castle.

Reminiscent of old times, the pergola offers serene covered walks to those who enjoy quiet recreation and peaceful contemplation.

Hill charm

Originally built between 1906 and 1925 as part of the landscaped gardens of The Hill, Lord Leverhulme's north London home, this oasis of calm has had extensive restoration of brickwork and timbers by its new owner, the Corporation of London. During the autumn, replanting of the walkway and

the former kitchen garden will complete the project.

How to get there:

Take the 102 bus from the High Road to Golders Green. From the bus station walk past the old Hippodrome and on up North End Way on the right-hand side. A vigorous 10 minute walk finds the intrepid visitor searching for the hard-to-find sign to The Hill garden where the pergola is

COMPUTER CLUB

I See No Chips!

Wednesday July 26 saw the first meeting of *The Archer* Computer Club at Welch's Ale House, East Finchley.

The half dozen or so who came together ranged from complete computer novices to seasoned cyber punks who regularly cruise the information superhighway.

Once the excellent beer on offer was sampled, the group got down to business.

The subject of the day turned out to be the Internet and *The Archer's* planned "Electronic Newspaper" on the World Wide Wen (WWW).

WWW is a way of producing and distributing information, software and documents to a wide audience in an easy-touse and often entertaining way. All that is needed to get such information is a computer, a modem, access to the Internet itself and appropriate software.

The Archer Computer Club will be designing the on-line version of The Archer which should be available to the public next month. Full details of how to access it, and answers to common Internet questions will be published next month.

Readers interested in being involved (or learning about WWW publishing) should get in contact with the Computer Club, either by writing to *The Archer* or by sending e-mail to archer@finn.netkonect.co.uk.

East Finchley Youth Football Club ATTENTION!! EFY FOOTBALL CLUB NEEDS YOU

EFY requires players for next season at under-11s and under-12s age groups to play competitive football in the north London area. For more information please ring the club secretary, Pete Dean on: 0181-343 3750

Another selection of computer problems and answers from our readers:

Q. Slow word-processing

I have just upgraded my word-processing package from Microsoft Word for Windows version 2 to version 6, but now my system runs unbearably slow. My computer is a Dell 325sx with 4MB RAM. Why does it run so slowly.

A. Newer versions of software often have extra features built in, and as a result are much larger than their previous version. As a consequence a more powerful computer is needed to run these programs satisfactorily. In this case there are two options: upgrade the RAM or change the computer for a more powerful 486 model. The RAM can quite easily be upgraded on this model to 8MB.

Q. Not enough disk space One of my friends has recommended upgrading the hard disk on my computer. If I have this work done, will I lose the programs that I already have? What happens to the disk space that I have at the moment?

A. When adding a hard disk to a computer, it is possible to fit two hard disks at once, so the new hard disk will add to the space that you already have. Therefore, no programs or data should be lost. Fitting two hard disks at once, however, should be left to an expert unless you are competent with computer hardware.

). Windows performance What setting in Windows

will have the biggest effect on performance? My computer runs very slowly and I am sure it is capable of running faster.

A. The configuration of the Windows swapfile is largely responsible for performance in Windows. By default a temporary swapfile is set up, which can be improved greatly by changing to a permanent swapfile. To change this setting start the Control Panel. Choose the enhanced icon, and press the Virtual Memory button. If a permanent swapfile is already installed, press OK, otherwise press the Change button. Change the Type setting to Permanent; additional performance can also be gained in some cases by enabling the 32-bit disk file access features. Then press OK; your computer will restart and Windows will run faster.

Next month we will feature another round of questions from readers. You can send your questions by post to 'The Archer' P.O. Box 3699, N2 8JA or by email to archer@finn.netkonect.co.uk

COMPUTER CLUB

next meeting Wednesday 30August

On the Net

Dear Sir,

I was interested to note that you now have an e-mail address. Unfortunately I cannot make the first meeting on July 26th but I am interested in the idea of community use of the network. I am a librarian (but writing in a personal capacity) and have spent a good deal of time over the last 3 years working with networked information.

The Internet is a major part of my working life now and inevitably becomes part of personal life too. I have seen that there are initiatives in various places to promote "community networking"-e.g., Pavilion have done this in Brighton.

There are two aspects to this:

1. Making it easy to gain access to the network (putting terminals in public libraries.

cafes, etc.) and,

2. Providing local information on the network (probably via the www). This can lead on to also making it easy for individuals (or local businesses) to publish their own info on the network.

Is this an area that you plan to explore with your computer club, or perhaps outside that group?

Frank Norman Fortis Green N2

The editor writes:

This is *The Archer's* first piece of Internet mail. Congratulations, Mr. Norman and welcome aboard!

Lest we forget - VJ DAY

The Archer had difficulty tracking down any Old Soldier in East Finchley who took part in WW2's South East Asian campaign against Japan, which officially finished on VJ Day 50 years ago.

The nearest link we got was that of the editor's own deceased father. Major A.G. Savill served with the Chindits, that specially trained body of men who penetrated the Japanese lines in the Burmese jungle.

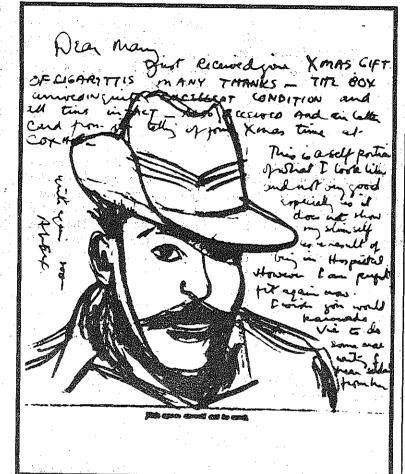
Lost post

They called themselves "the Forgotten Army" because people at home were more concerned with the war in Europe. The Archer wants to show that it has not forgotten by publishing here a postcard from Major Savill sent home in 1944.

It includes a portrait of himself in a Chindit hat. He sent this card to his sister after being invalided into a hospital in India. In the card he urges his sister to get his wife Vie - always a bad letter writer - to write more to him!

He came home. Many of his regiment did not.

If anyone knows of any Old Soldiers in east Finchley who fought in the war against Japan, will they please contact *The Archer*.



LETTERS

Plane cover

Dear Sir,

Being a postman and aircraft enthusiast in the N2 area, I read with interest the article on aircraft over East Finchley.

It is not only Heathrow that provides the aerial activity over Finchley.

On a cold, clear day many vapour trails can be seen criss-crossing the sky. These are aircraft not landing in the UK, mostly going from Europe to USA or back, often flying in the region of 30,000 feet.

Closer to the ground can be seen the Capital Radio plane searching for traffic jams to report live on radio.

The police white helicopter is often seen searching out our criminal element, and the bright yellow Medivac helicopter on its many life-saving flights.

The RAF station at Northolt provides many flights over Finchley. Aircraft have to be fitted under the Heathrow traffic and are sometimes at only, 3,000 feet over N2. These are mostly military and sometimes are low enough to see the camouflage markings; I might add they are not allowed to carry any armament.

Recently the Queen's Fight aircraft have moved in. These are mostly small jet airliners with a red-coloured tail, sometimes being flown by a member of the Royal Family. Sometimes the flypast aircraft from Trooping the Colour or other events come out over N2.

Hope this is of interest.

Yours sincerely, J.M. Lambert West Finchley

A Russian view of N2 Dear Sir.

I came to London from Moscow to study English at St. Giles
College in Highgate and I live in
East Finchley with my host family

I like East Finchley because it is a quiet area with not too many people rushing to and fro. I mean, you can relax here, go to the pub or cafe with friends to have a drink and a chat. Or you can go to Cherry Tree Wood and have a wonderful picnic lying on the grass under the trees.

I also want to tell of my

NATURE NOTES

Nature Notes

by R.E. Mack

July and August are my least favourite months. I quite like hot weather, but in London it is noisy, smelly and oppressive. The air quality is low and the pollen count high. The sunlight threatens us with dreadful cancers.

The fresh green of the leaves and grass has turned to a darker hue. The birds are silent and invisible, most of them having retired to the upper canopy of the trees, to recover from the hard work of rearing offspring, and to accumulate strength to face the rigours of winter in this country, or of emigration elsewhere.

Empty house

This summer is a particularly sad one because, for the second year running, there are no house martins in Summerlee Avenue. Every year these migrants have come from sub-Saharan Africa to nest in the same few houses. This year there are none (I know not why).

The swifts arrived on time, at the beginning of May, and are still here (end of July), but will be on the way to sub-Sahara

My Buddleia Bush (the Butterfly Tree) came into bloom, flourished and faded, without attracting any butterflies apart from a single Cabbage White and Holly Blue. I am told that the Buddleias are early this year and the butterflies late, so we may well see some Nymphalidae - Red Admirals, Peacocks or even Painted Ladies. Earlier in the year I saw Brimstones, Peacocks and Lesser Tortoiseshells, but these had hibernated and were rather tattered. There are a few Commas about and plenty of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers in the long grass.

One of the few birds still singing is the Wren, a very small bird with a very loud voice, who nests behind a tiny crack in the woodwork of my garage. But rather than singing it has been giving its alarm signal for hours, for no apparent reason.

Another bird in song is a young Robin, fully-grown, but without a red breast, and with only a small number of song notes as yet. Then, always a pleasure to see, a small band of Long Tailed Tits passes through - always in a group, always on the move, beautiful and unmistakable little birds, with a high little whistle.

Swarm warning. A cry of alarm from my wife draws my attention to large numbers of winged ants, emerging from cracks in the ground. They are carrying out their annual mating ritual, very similar to the "swarming" of honey bees, to whom they are closely related. The wingless workers take no part in this. The winged males and females shoot into the upper air, where the swifts are gorging themselves on this unexpected bounty.

After half-an-hour they are all gone. A blackbird, a species which seems to exist in a permanent state of hysterical paranoia, hurtles across the garden, squawking its alarm signals. The insects buzz and hum. Peace returns. I doze off...



impression of people who live in London. I think they are very polite, nice, helpful and hospitable as well.

With St. Giles I visited Cambridge, Stratford-upon-Avon, Salisbury and some more. I liked Stratford-upon-Avon best of all. So I am enjoying my first stay in England and having one of the best holidays of my life.

Aleksander (aged 16)

TheArcher

Wants your views and comments on any issues affecting EAST FINCHLEY send them to The Archer PO BOX 3699 N2 8JA

FERGUSON'S LOT ...









SHORT STORY

Even now, a full week after the event, I am not sure what happened or what I saw that night in August.

I was on my way home from the office after a busy day. It had been hot, it was even hotter here in the crowded underground carriage, so when we reached East Finchley station I was glad to get out in the air and escape.

I was thirsty, hot and tired. What better to revive me than a cool drink in the nearby White Lion. After a couple of pints and in the company of congenial friends, I was feeling more relaxed and refreshed.

The talk turned to recent sightings of UFO's in North London, strange lights and discs seen in the sky. Were we alone her on earth or were there other forms of life out there in the vastness of space? Most of us around the table drinking that night were pretty cynical and deep down I didn't really believe these reports were anything other than illusions and imaginings.

One young lad with us, Ronny, told of a circular craft that hovered over him on his way home one night. He told how he had lain low, and of how the craft then moved off at great speed into the blackness of the night sky. "And do you know", Ronny said, "I am sure I saw faces looking out from the portholes." We laughed and jeered. "Take more water with it", we told him. The talk continued. Before I left I had ridiculed the whole thing.

Walking home

It was a lovely summer evening, cooler now, the sun setting in a blaze of red and pink. I would walk home through the park and on via the nature walk towards Muswell Hill, where I lived.

Feeling tired after the walk and drink, I rested on the soft

I thought I heard a humming noise. I stood up and it was getting louder. There was a movement of air but the night was windless. The moon shone over the empty park and the noise was getting louder.

I was full of fear now. Was this really happening or was I asleep and dreaming?

Almost above me I saw a huge flying machine, circular and grey. I shut my eyes, opened them again; it was still there. It was huge and round, a grey metallic colour and all around it were lighted windows or portholes. I was sure I could see forms, shapes and shadows, moving behind those windows.

A brilliant white light shot from the craft. I was being observed. Unable to move, that light held me in its blinding glare.

The visitor

I sensed a presence by my met under its arm.

I looked into the face that was observing me. It was deeply tanned, mahogany in colour with long, flowing, pure white hair. It was the eyes that held me. Deep blue and clear. When I looked into those eyes I felt calm and secure.

The UFO

by Len Willcocks

by an invisible force. Thoughts came into my mind. The being was speaking to me, but the lips did not move.

Take heed

"Take heed my friend, we are watching over you. The evil that is in your race could destroy your planet. We will not let you do this. One day when you are ready you will join us and the Universe will be your home. Meanwhile, for those who are receptive to us and listen, remember, love rules all, from us you came and when you are ready you will join us again.

Suddenly, the messenger raised an arm in a salute. The light was still blinding and I shut my eyes. When I opened them he had gone. There was nothing, just the empty park and the moon casting shadows over the trees, a lovely starlit night

I felt dazed and confused. I looked up at the sky. The disc was now a pin-point moving in the starry sky; a star amongst

Deep in thought I continued homeward. Did it really happen? Was it a dream?. Many times since that night I have walked this way home, always expectant. One day I know I will see him or others of his kind again.

Model Railway Porter

The late very fine actor, Eric Porter, who memorably played Soames Forsyte in BBC TV's The Forsyte *Saga* was a model railway enthusiast.

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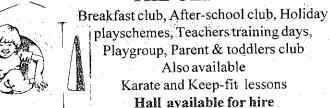
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THE OLD BARN



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side. Then my mind became calm and relaxed, a feeling of peace and serenity came over me. I knew they meant no harm and were not evil. I turned to see a tall figure, perhaps seven feet tall, towering over me. it was clad in a smooth silver suit and carrying what looked like a hel-

I sensed I was looking at a being from a higher and better world. Even had I wanted to, I couldn't walk away. I was held

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

The many encouraging responses from the unemployed to my proposal for the introduction of a concessionary fare for the unemployed to travel on London Transport (SOAPBOX The Archer, June edition), including from MPs Hartley Booth and Labour's Harriet Harman, convinces me that my proposal would definitely assist the long-term unemployed in their search for employment.

Thave recently received a letter from David Chidgey, Liberal Democrat spokesman for unemployment which reads:

"Thank you very much for your recent letter and enclosed copy of 'The Archer', the East Finchley community newspaper.

I was very interested to read the article which you wrote, and your suggestion about a concessionary travel fare for the unemployed was a helpful contribution. However, the basic problems of skill shortages and skill deficiencies remain, and the first priority must be to ensure that people are employable."

As a volunteer with the Community Action Scheme, just a few of the people seeking help in finding employment include: a medical doctor, two barristers, a number of accountants, a highly efficient secretary, brickies, carpenters, plasterers, painters and decorators, talented graphic artists and photographers, salesmen and saleswomen, former civil servants, a linguist, a television studio manager and even a croupier! If casinos are laying off, times really must be bad!

If the cross section of unemployed listed above are unemployable, Mr Chidgey should reveal where the jobs are to be found, or will be created to train those workers he considers suffer from "skill shortages" and "skill deficiencies".

ANTHONY ATTARD

PSI was profoundly shocked to be told by an informed source that were the unemployed on training schemes, those registered in a "multiple" claim and the unemployed who do not register to be taken into account, the true figure for the unemployed would amount to nearly 8 million. The same informed source told me that it cost £95 of tax payers money every time a Member of Parliament writes a letter. Readers must judge for themselves as to whether Mr Chidgey's response is value for money

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

The Archer is re-launching this section as part of the expansion of its services to the East Finchley community.

Now, however, advertising in this section is absolutely free to any private resident of N2. Sorry, businesses, you will have to pay but only at the rate of 50p per line - unless you place a job advertisement which is always free.

So come on residents, use your community newspaper, the only one of its kind in north London.

Send in your advertisements to sell those unwanted items of furniture, to find a pet, or whatever.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Video take

Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road have been commissioned by Barnet Youth Service/Barnet Health Authority to produce a video on HIV/AIDS for use with young people in youth clubs and schools. The video is due to be released in October.

Fringe leave

Best wishes to Indent Theatre Company, currently resident at Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road, who will be taking a new show, *Dakota*, to this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Youth award

The London Arts Board have awarded Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road £1,000 for work in National Youth Work Week (23-29 October). Barnet Youth Service intend to hold an Arts Festival throughout that week, with many activities based at the Youth Theatre.

CLASSICAL REVIEWS

'A King's Delight'

by David Hobbs

AUGUST 1995

Founded in 1988 by David Douglass, The King's Noyse is rapidly becoming one of America's most popular early music groups and has been acclaimed by *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe* for superb playing.

Unusually, they are a Renaissance violin band and due to the fact that the skills were passed on from generation to generation, rather than written down; they have had to heavily research the music.

Due to David Douglass's research and the musical talents of the rest of the group, the result is enthralling and unique music. In addition to Douglass, the group also features the soprano, Ellen Hargis whose voice perfectly suits their style.

Paul O'Dette's virtuosity on the lute, theorbo and cittern are central to the overall sound. He has paid considerable attention to the authentic techniques of 16th century virtuosi and his brilliance shines through on all the group's recordings. Their first two recordings are: *The King's Delight* - 17th Century ballads for voice and violin band (Harmonia Mundi HMU907101) and *Canzonetta* - 16th Century canzoni and instrumental dances.

Walk to School

Week

Parents and school-children in Barnet recently tookpartin Barnet's "Walk to School Week" to encourage parents and children to leave their cars at home and walk or use public transport.

Such an event is hoped to make people more aware of traffic problems caused by our high level of unnecessary traffic.

On a typical day, one in four of our children are taken to school by car adding to our already high level of pollution, a major factor in the rise in the number of young people suffering from asthma and other respiratory problems.

Wheel danger

The danger is not from exhaust fumes alone; the risk of injury or even death increases as youngsters run the daily gauntlet of traffic and cars blocking school gates and jamming surrounding streets.

Leaving the car at home and walking has a positive impact on safety and on the health of our children with the exercise that walking gives.

Traffic congestion is greatly reduced when the schools are on holiday, making it easier for commuting and business traffic.

What's happening in East Finchley

to 3 September The Home Front - an exhibition on daily life in Barnet, 1939-45. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, NW4 (0181 203 0130 for times)

23 August Jolly Roger presents stories and crafts for 3 to 7 year olds. East Finchley Library, High Road; 2.30 to 3.30 pm. Free.
 24 August Amazing acts with balls and rings for 2 to 10 year olds at Cherry Tree Woods, 3 pm.

2 September Dance with Finn Barr and the Glensiders. St Mary's Church Social Club, High Road; 8.30 pm £2.50.

9 September Dance with Larry McKevitt. St Mary's Church Social Club, High Road; 8.30 pm £2.50.

10 September Concert by Carl Murray (baritone) and Gordon Kirkwood (piano). East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road; 8 pm. Free (collection).

20 September Family History. History of St Giles and Bloomsbury. London and N. Middx Family History Soc., Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet; 7.30 to 10 pm.

Regular activities in East Finchley

Badminton (moderate standard). Shree Aden Centre (next to Holy Trinity), Church Lane - Fridays 8 to 11pm (0181-444 7163) **Bingo.** St. Mary's RC Church Social Club, High Road - Sundays 8:00pm.

Bridge. Northside Bridge Club. East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road - Thursdays 7:30-11:00pm (Partnerships only - 0181 445 7788).

Tetherdown Bridge Club, Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10 - Fridays 2:00-5:00pm (0181-883 1327)

Councillors' Surgery. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Saturdays - 10:00-11:30am

Drama Classes. (under 25's). Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road - (0181-883 9957)

Employment Counselling. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Tuesdays 2:00-4:00pm General Advice. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Monday

to Friday - 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm Immigration Advice. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane (by

appointment only) (0181-444 6265)

Karate (6-15yrs.) Old Barn Community Centre, Fallows Close, off Tarling Road - Saturdays 2:00-3:00pm (0181-445 1863)

Legal Advice. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm.

Musical Memories. Memory Lane Singing Club (over-50's),

Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, N3 - Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:30pm (0181-458 5659)

Over-60's Club. Finchley Community Gospel Church, Hertford

Road - Fridays 2:30-4:00pm.

Parent and Toddlers Club Finables Community Gospel Church, Hertford

Parent and Toddlers Club. Finchley Community Gospel Church, Hertford Road - Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:00pm (in term time) 80p Vegetarian Lunches. (Gujarati). Shree Aden Centre (next to Holy Trinity), Church Lane - Wednesdays and Thursdays (0181-444 2054)

Women's Self-defence. Herbert Wilmot Centre, Market Place - Wednesdays 7:15-8:15pm. £2.00 per session (payable termly) (0181-444 8422)

Youth Clubs. Herbert Wilmot Centre, Market Place (0181 444-8422). Old Barn Community Centre, Failows Close (off Tarling Road) (0181-349 4613)

To have your **non-commercial** event listed here (space permitting) send details to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA by the middle of the month for publication in the following month's edition.

Local orchestra helps UN celebrate 50th anniversary

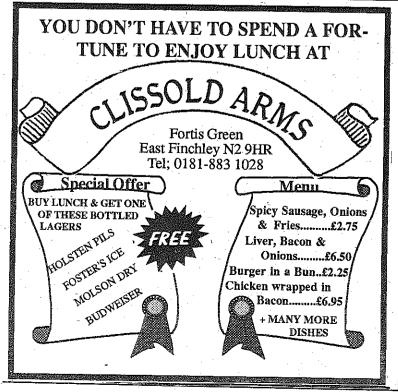
Barnet's own symphony orchestra, the *Tudor Symphony* held a concert recently in conjunction with the Finchley branch of the United Nations Association. This was to celebrate the founding of the United Nations 50 years ago. A guest appearance was made by David Trafford who performed the Mozart piano concerto No.23 with the orchestra.

The orchestra has been part of the Barnet scene for over 20 years and although it is still actively looking for new members, it now has a very strong brass and wind section.

Join in on three!

Membership is open to all adult musicians and presents a wonderful opportunity to participate in the performance of the symphonic repertoire. The orchestra also has a strong social side.

If you would like to know more about the orchestra, telephone 0181-954 7302 for a free prospectus. The new term starts on September 25th at Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, N12. Fees are only £30 a term.



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