



Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Another MP

In congratulating Rudi Vis on his election, The Archer last month omitted to mention our other local councillor Joan Ryan who was elected in Enfield North.

Gone Potty

Fancy sitting on a Royal Potty? Well Bancroft Furniture has a potty, dated 1942 that came from a Royal household. If that does not suit you, The Bargain Centre has a Victorian potty that was last owned by Britt Ekland.

Traders

Officials from the East Finchley Traders Association met with council officials on May 29th to discuss parking. A full report will be in the next issue.

National P.C. Day

There seem to have been no great celebrations in East Finchley on May 15th. Perhaps people did not know it was National Piles and Constipation Day.

House Prices

A leading estate agent told me recently that house prices in East Finchley are now higher than at the height of the property boom.

McLibel

The decision on the McDonalds libel case is due any day now. It was the longest libel trial in history, and started when McDonalds sued two unemployed Tottenham environmental activists. The case arises from leaflets distributed at East Finchley on October 16th 1989

Credit Union

The following officials were recently selected: Chairman: Noel Lynch, Secretary: Remi Objide, Treasurer: Ashley Gunstock. Volunteers are still needed to get the association 'on the Road', contact Noel Lynch at the address below.

Phoenix

The Phoenix Cinema had its whole weekend takings robbed from the manager's office recently.

If you have any news suitable for the column, please contact Noel Lynch at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road, East Finchley, or phone 0181 883 0234.

Sternberg Award

The Sternberg Centre in East End Road recently won a top award, the Templeton UK Award, given to individuals or organisations that have contributed to new religious initiatives.

The Sternberg Centre was chosen for its interfaith work in promoting dialogue between the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths.

Good company

Previous winners of this award include Mother Teresa, Terry Waite and Dr Billy Graham.

Present at the award ceremony was Sir John Templeton, Sir Sigmund Sternberg and Finchley and Golders Green MP Rudi Vis.

Rabbi Tony Bayfield, in accepting the award, expressed the need for openness and understanding and a commitment to dialogues between the faiths, for without this, he said, the future would be grim.

Fine prince

The award, which had a panel of judges including Prince Edward, carries a prize of £3,000 and was recorded on an illuminated scroll.

Mr Vis said, "I am delighted to have been able to attend the presentation and pay my respects to the centre. This award is not just deserved it is very well deserved".

Flying colours

Another very useful East Finchley shop has closed. The Cut Price Paint Shop, one of East Finchley's oldest retail businesses, has shut as Mr Tony Sidnick retires after 30 years in the High Road.



125 years! Staff at Budgen's super-market in the High Road wore Victorian clothes to dispense free drinks to customers recently. The company was celebrating its 125th birthday.

Water shortage

By Len Willcocks

In spite of the recent rainfalls, the drought continues. Three Valleys Water has warned customers that a hosepipe ban is likely this summer.

Even with heavy rainfall for days, the ground is so dry that the rain is just soaked up by the dry, parched soil.

Wrong kind of rain

The first four months of this year have been the driest start to the year for over 60 years.

With the average household's demand for water rising with the use of washing machines, dishwashers etc, it really looks as if we will all have to take drastic steps to use water more carefully.

The water shortage is forcing many water companies into finding solutions which previously tropical countries have taken.

All at sea

East Anglia Water has made plans to convert seawater into drinking water with desalination plants, and for storing fresh water in huge plastic containers, holding 160,000 gallons, towed out to sea.

Our parks and woods are suffering too. On Hampstead Heath there is a danger of long-term damage if the drought continues and it is facing its worst drought crisis since 1976.

Low water

The majority of the pond levels are so low that most water has stopped flowing and pond life is perishing.

Health Superintendent Paul Canneaux has said "It is unprecedented for the dry weather effect to be felt so early in the year". Emergency measures may be introduced including a ban on swimming, pumping oxygen into ponds and nurturing new trees and shrubs.

With the Government now holding an emergency conference with the water companies, it looks as if without heavy rains we face serious drought conditions.

Death sentence for tree

A splendid, spreading sycamore tree in the county roads faces the chop!

Standing over 60 feet high, the tree in all its summer glory may soon be removed. Someone has applied for permission to remove a preservation order on the tree, outside All Saints church Durham Road.

At the time of going to press the Archer does not know the reason but feels very strongly that all local trees should be saved wherever possible. If you feel the same, please write to the Editor.

National Cinema Day at the Phoenix

The Phoenix Cinema's contribution to the Barnet Arts Festival is a week long series of programmes commencing on Friday, 13th June until Thursday 19th June.

This week includes National Cinema Day on Sunday, 15th June when all seats will be £1. The Phoenix will have no less than six separate performances that day commencing at 10 a.m. with "Charlotte's Web".

There's also "Finchley on Film", "The Short Film Festival", "Marvin's Room", and "Roseanna's Grave".

For dates and times ring 0181 883 2233

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