



Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Celebrity Visit?

The latest celebrity with East Finchley connections is Britney Spears. Her grandmother lived at 7 Hertford Road until her marriage in 1945. Britney is coming to Wembley in October so may visit her roots.

Strawberry Vale Advice

The Advice Centre is now open on Wednesday mornings (10-12) at the Peabody Trust Community Centre. Advice and assistance can be provided on general problems with benefits, housing, debt, finance and consumer issues. The Advice Service continues to open at the Neighbourhood Centre in Church Lane Monday to Friday between 10 and 3.30 with the free legal advice service on Tuesdays between 7 and 8 pm.

Well Done Ann

Not content to rest on her laurels after playing a part in the successful campaign to halt an unsuitable development in Park Road, Ann Brennan turned her attention to the price of refreshments at the swimming pool. Within a week the prices had dropped. We need more people like Ann in the community.

Not Good

Speaking to a Tarling Road resident recently he told me that since the North Circular Road widening the ivy round his door is constantly black. He wonders that if pollution is doing this to the ivy, what about the people living in the area, particularly the young and the old.

Planning

McCarthy and Stone have applied for planning permission to demolish the filling station and workshops at 178 High Road. They are applying for permission to redevelop the site as a three and four storey building with 43 sheltered flats.

A Blooming Success

The Windsor Castle carried off first prize in the Best Blooming Pub competition. Their display included tomatoes! Madden's came second, making it a one-two for East Finchley. Third prize went to the Claddah Ring in Hendon.

Please send items suitable for this column to Noel Lynch at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road, N2, Tel 020 8883 0234 or e-mail noellynch@lineone.net

Farmers' market: - keeping posted

By Daphne Chamberlain

Regular readers will know that we told you last year of plans to open a Farmers' Market in Barnet.

These markets, where fresh produce is bought directly from farmers within a certain radius of the M25, have mushroomed all over London, and the proposal to start one in Barnet was one of the most popular suggestions from the North London Campaign for Safe Food.

However, it has been difficult to find a site. In addition, many members of the Campaign (now allied with Friends of the Earth) were interested in supporting a market which could guarantee all its produce organic and GM-free. It was even more difficult finding enough farmers to make this possible.

At one stage, an organic farmers' co-op delivered boxes to Barnet general market, but apparently other stall-holders were opposed to this.

Delivered to your door

So if you can't go to a market, would you like the market to come to you? There is a Barnet and Herts organic food home delivery service, run by Environmentally Sound Ltd, a company trading from Falkland Road, Barnet.

They say they have "hundreds of products, from fish, meat, poultry, fruit and vegetables to environmentally-friendly

home cleaning materials and lifestyle books. All produce is certified organically grown to Soil Association standard unless stated." Delivery costs £5 for any quantity.

So - over to you. This is a different kettle of fish (and other things) from the one many market supporters wanted, and probably a more expensive one. Still, it would be interesting to receive a verdict from any of you, and useful to compare it with local sources.

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The Brookland Art Show 2000

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Local Agenda 21

By Martin Earl, additional reporting by Erini Rodis
Is East Finchley the place you *want* to live? Or is it the place where you *have* to live? Making it the place you *want* to live is the primary purpose of the East Finchley Local Agenda 21 Partnership (LA21). So says Cllr Alan Turner, Chair of the Environment Policy Development committee when he spoke at the East Finchley LA21 AGM in the East Finchley Library on 19th July.

But what is the East Finchley LA21? According to its Chair, Cllr Alison Moore it is a co-ordinating body for local groups working to improve the area. It has been running for two summers and currently has three sub-groups: traffic and transport, green and open spaces, and a town centre group.

So if you have concerns about these sorts of issues LA21 may be for you. Traffic and Transport appears to be the most active group. Its Chair, Peter Hale, invited anyone with a problem in his or her area to work with Agenda 21. However, "patience is needed" he warned. It takes time to develop a scheme and there are often opposing views.

The Greening group spokesperson, Sarah Humphrey said that they want more schools, churches and community groups to become involved in millennium tree planting. And in the autumn, in conjunction with the Community Trust and in consultation with local residents, they hope to launch a draft plan for the Roughlands and the linking of 17 separate pieces of open land south of the NCR.

The Town Centre group wants council officers to come and see problems on the ground. Echoing Cllr Turner, it's chair, Peter Stoneham, wants East Finchley to be a place where you want to shop, not where you have to shop.

I should also mention other issues that were raised from the floor. What about some toilets and how do we deal with graffiti? Nor have I included the ideas given at the LA21 stall at the East Finchley Festival for litter bins, benches, co-ordinated bus time tables, extended bus routes, a right turn filter at the High Road into Fortis Green and so on. It seems that there certainly is room for a lot more local involvement.

We must not forget that whatever Local Agenda 21 achieves depends on the determination of local people. For example, it took months of campaigning, letter writing, one death and several articles in The Archer before the new zebra crossing was installed in Fortis Green.

However, one of the chief campaigners, Rachel Abedi, seems reluctant to take the credit some think she deserves, pointing out that "it doesn't matter who is responsible - the important thing is that it's there".

So how do you get involved? I was told that you telephone the main council number 8359 2000 and ask to speak to Mr Michael Lai (Agenda 21) and he will pass on your details to the East Finchley LA21. You should then be sent the local newsletter later in the year. I expect that more urgent matters can be dealt with by writing to Cllr Alison Moore at the Town Hall, Hendon.



Making Hay

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood (Tel: 8883 3846) clearing grass to make way for wild flowers on Sunday 20th August.

Photo: Martin Earl.

Millennium Music

Suburb residents and oboists Neil Black and Janice Knight and virtuoso clarinetist, Thea King, will perform a concert including music by Handel, Mozart and Beethoven as part of the Music for the Millennium series at the Free Church, North Square, NW11.

The concert, in aid of the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund, starts at 8pm on Saturday 30 September. Tickets are £9 (£7 concs.) available from the Gallery, Hampstead Lane, or on the door.

Station development

The Borough of Barnet is revising its unitary plan. In the current draft plan it expects possible re-development of Golders Green bus and underground station for an "integrated transport interchange with development potential for mixed shopping leisure and housing uses".

Cycle plan

The plan also includes a proposal for improved sign-posting for cycle lanes through Hampstead Garden Suburb and East Finchley, taking in the following roads: Edmunds Walk, Brim Hill, Ossulton Way, Kingsley Way, part of Hill Top, Hill Rise and part of Northway.

The Deposit UDP can be viewed at Hendon Town Hall and libraries throughout the borough.

Midhurst Butchers

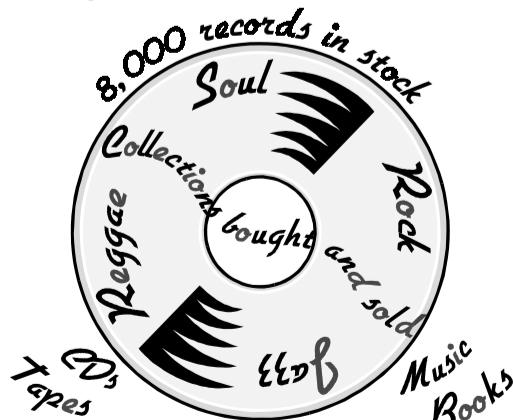
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