



# The Festival needs You!

By Helen O'Toole

**Yes it's time to start work on organising the East Finchley Festival. You may ask why we start so early when the festival isn't until Sunday 24 June 2001.**

Well the festival takes more than a few months to organise. We have to apply for the indemnity to use the park, contact charities and stall holders, book acts and entertainment, and book the equipment from the London Borough of Barnet. These jobs and many others take time and effort from hard working volunteers. We also need to do some fundraising which as well as making money lets people know we are still around.

### No sale

Now I bet a lot of people have bought something from our Jumble Sales only to put it back in the following year! A number of items are seen time and time again when we are setting up. We've decided not to have any Jumble Sales this year but we need fresh ideas of what to do instead.

Any keen and enthusiastic volunteers please contact Helen O'Toole on 020 8444 8461 or email [otooleh22@icqmail.com](mailto:otooleh22@icqmail.com)



## A New Face on an Old Friend

By Diana Cormack

**The extension and refurbishment of Kokos at 72-74, High Road has given that part of East Finchley a smart new look to be proud of. We can be proud too of the reputation of the owner of the shop, George Stavrou, who is known countrywide for the quality of both his footwear and repair business.**

George took over the shop in 1976 at the age of 18 with the help of his father, who still repairs shoes in Stroud Green. At the same time he "took over" Colin Whiting, who has been repairing shoes there for 55 years and has never taken a day off! There has been a repair shop on the site for 70 years, but after a couple of years in business George became one of the first repairers to go into retailing. He chose to sell Italian shoes, and found his shop packed with customers on a Saturday.

### Bootstraps

Over the years, George's skills have earned him an enviable reputation. His vans pick up from over one hundred different outlets in London and the south east and people from all over Great Britain send work to him by post. He gets top quality work from bespoke shoemakers. This is without advertising - all by

word of mouth!

He now employs a team of skilled workers who have to match his own high standards and George is very proud of them. For specialist repairs he has top craftsman Andy Toumazi and hand stitching expert John Douthwaite, who makes orthopaedic footwear. The team will always look for a way to repair shoes, bags, cases, etc. whatever their condition. George is also very proud of his shop assistants, who must have an interest in and care about the people they are serving.

### By George!

This aspect of care was emphasised by George's wife Maria, who works with him in the business. The couple live in Muswell Hill with their two sons, but they love the village atmosphere of East Finchley.

And, in case you were wondering, Kokos is Greek for George.



## Finchley Credit Union launches Young Savers Account

**The Finchley Credit Union launched its Young Savers Account at the Neighbourhood Centre, 48 Church Lane, N2 on Saturday 16 December.**

The event was well attended with over 18 young savers joining on the day. Those joining received a free goody bag while parents could enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a gingerbread man.

"We had so many requests from parents who wanted to open accounts for their children, in order to try and encourage the saving habit" said Finchley Credit Union Chairman, Kim George. "Christmas seemed an appropriate time as opening an account for a child makes for an unusual, not to mention ethical Christmas Present."

Finchley and Golders Green MP, Rudi Vis who visited the event said "I am delighted to see Finchley Credit Union going from strength to strength, establishing itself as a permanent financial institution for the people of Finchley. The work of credit unions in tackling financial exclusion fits in well with the governments aims."

## Bringing Money into East Finchley

**Proposal for a Community Development Trust**  
**Attracting money to help regenerate East Finchley and tackle the economic, social and environmental issues that affect our community is the aim of a group of local organisations that have met over recent months. We want to get a much wider discussion of the idea and to see what level of support there is for the proposal to develop a Community Development Trust for East Finchley.**

On Saturday 10 February 2001 from 1-3pm we will be holding a meeting in the Finchley Youth Theatre on East Finchley High Road to discuss this proposal. Everybody is welcome.

The proposal to form a Development Trust initially came out of proposals to work with Barnet Council to take over the running and maintenance of open space next to the Old Barn Community Centre in Tarling

Road and other open spaces nearby. The open space proposal remains the immediate priority but the Development Trust idea, which will allow us to bid for money not available to the Council, could be expanded to draw in funds to tackle economic, social and environmental issues in our local area of interest to other local groups.

### Midhurst Butchers

**Certified organic meat at reasonable prices**  
Free-range poultry  
Home-made sausages (including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,  
Fortis Green, London N10  
Tel. 020 8883 5303

### Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths  
Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.

[email: admin@creegodfreywood.demon.co.uk](mailto:admin@creegodfreywood.demon.co.uk)  
28 High Road, London N2 9PJ  
Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 / 0989  
<http://www.londonsolicitorsuk.com>

### Alan's Records



212 High Road, East Finchley,  
Tel: 020 8883 0234

Open 9.30am-6.30pm Monday to Saturday plus Sunday pm

## HAPPY 2001

from

**Hotblack Dixon & Co**  
Estate Agents

17 Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6JY 020 8458 8411

### YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH FINCHLEY LOCKS

**10% discount with this advert**  
NO CALL OUT CHARGE  
EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE  
FREE SURVEY  
DOOR OPENING SERVICE  
ALL LOCKS SUPPLIED & FITTED  
FAST RELIABLE SERVICE  
+ COMPETITIVE PRICES

**020 8883 0799**

OVER 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE. FIND US IN THE YELLOW PAGES