



Ross Burden with Ma'jong's Executive Director Sue Phillips.

Celebrity Chef visits Ma'jong

By Femke van Iperen

Since the Ma'jong restaurant recently opened its doors in the Great North Leisure Park it has already had a taste of fame.

Last month TV Celebrity Chef Ross Burden sampled some delights of the Thai, Indonesian and Singaporean influenced food at the new establishment.

He expressed admiration for the cuisine and said, "For a restaurant to be successful it has to have the right balance. At Ma'jong they have it right both with the décor and the cuisine."

What's On...

By Sue Holliday

Leave a message or fax your listings to 08700 292 407.

The Mountfield Club is holding a dance on Saturday 13 April at St Mary's Hall Finchley call 020 8906 3222.

Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- ❖ **Aerobics** (Ladies only) at the Green Man. Tel 020 8883 4916.
- ❖ **Body Control Pilates** classes. Call Deanna Wisbey 020 8883 7029
- ❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), Call 020 8440 9080.
- ❖ **Tennis Club** off Southern Road. Call 020 8440 6953
- ❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217

Dance, Drama, Art & Music

- ❖ **Adult Line Dancing**. Call Footloose 020 8440 8530/ 8216 5633.
- ❖ **Barnet Schools Music Centre** call 020 8445 6831 for details.
- ❖ **Broadway & West end Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.
- ❖ **Chipping Barnet Folk Dance Club**, Vivien Malindine, 020 8883 8190
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call Vicky 020 8883 1554
- ❖ **Country & Barn Dancing**, at Oakleigh Park, 020 8349 0754
- ❖ **Columbian party dancing** classes, Call Nelsy 020 8444 2012
- ❖ **Incognito Theatre workshops**, Call 020 8883 0911 for details.
- ❖ **Music and Movement** for small children Call Jennifer on 8444 7732.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
- ❖ **SWON** Contact Stephen Kelsey, 020 8883 3365

Clubs & Social

- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at the Old White Lion Contact Lillian on 020 8444 1793.
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people, Rene & Reuby Hyams, 020 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee 8958 7878
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian Merryweather 020 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Association** call Gerry Saunders 020 8883 7274
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, 020 8883 4390

Incognito Theatre presents Arthur Wing Pinero's *the Trelawny of the Wells*, 14 to 20 April at Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet. Tickets from £6. Call 020 8361 8310 or visit www.incognitoteatre.com

East Finchley Arts Festival

June 28th - July 7th 2002

For details visit: <http://eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk>

GARDENING

Time to plant

By Zena Robson

Garden centres are now full of little pots of annual seedlings They do have their uses: no hassle of getting seeds to germinate; and none of the dreaded 'damping off' fungal attack. Prick them out into separate pots and give them TLC.

Plug plants are more expensive. They still need to be potted on and kept warm but are a good way of starting baskets and troughs. If you have a glasshouse, use plugs to plant up your hanging baskets, stuffing in loads of plantlets, and then hang them up until the time is right to put them out, in mid to late May. Current seed catalogues feature interesting orangey-yellow petunias as the latest thing but I always go for the dark purple and maroon ones because of their scent.

Daffodil care

As your daffodils go over, deadhead them regularly and leave the leaves alone! They need at least six weeks after flowering to build up enough energy for next year; tying them into some type of sailor's knot is an absolute no-no; they need every surface exposed to the light to photosynthesise (remember your O level biology!). Sprinkle a handful of balanced fertilizer around them too, and if clumps have become congested, lift, split and redistribute.

Time to prune

If you haven't already cut back slightly tender shrubs like lavender, *Caryopteris*, *Fuchsia* and *Ceratostigma*, do it now. The lavender will NOT like you hacking into the old wood - low pruning needs to be established from the word 'go', as with rosemary, but the others can be cut hard and opened out. Early flowerers like *Forsythia* should also be thinned and cut back now - don't leave it any later or you'll be cutting off next year's flowers....which reminds me, I was around at a garden I had planted up to put in the hundreds of bulbs we had ordered when my eye was assaulted by the butchered twigs of the *Clematis montanas* that were going to clothe the birches around the place - YES, the 'gardener' had 'pruned' them and removed all of this year's flowers! If you have someone in to look after your garden do check that they know what they are doing - unfortunately, too many only know how to mow in straight lines.

LETTERS

To the Stationmaster...

Dear Sir/Madam,

So it's happened again; this time creepily, 'psychologically' one might put it: first the chains appear hanging loose on the inside of the door, then they appear hanging loose on the outside of the door and then - now - the chains are being used to lock the doors. Why?

Why have you now locked all four of your waiting rooms, leaving only 16 seats on the up platform - and that includes the seats pointing away from the track. Presumably the waiting rooms are meant as an amenity for the public and presumably it is your job as stationmaster to keep the amenities in good order for the sake of the public. So why have you locked us out?

I take it that you must have very good reasons for taking this step and I look forward to hearing what they are - and also to hearing when this particular emergency is over and we can expect our waiting rooms again. In the meanwhile, since this is a matter of general local interest, I am sending a copy to *The Archer* and since no doubt London Transport is concerned about what is happening to its stations in these troubled times, I am sending a copy to the Head of Public Relations at the London Transport Headquarters. If I don't hear within a reasonable time I will send the above a second letter - this time with a further communication to Ken Livingstone.

Yours faithfully,
R Holmes,
Twyford Avenue, N2

A Message from Alan Stewart-Duncan, FBOA, FSMC, FBCO, Ophthalmic and Dispensing Optician and Optometrist.

After working for 50 years in the National Health Service, in a number of teaching hospitals and at my practice at 126 High Road, N2, I wish to inform my many clients that I shall be retiring as from 1 March 2002.

I wish to thank them for the support they have given me over the years.

In my retirement I shall still be doing research on contact lenses and new visual aids, and of course I shall now be able to devote more time to my charity in helping the elderly.

Again, my sincere thanks and best wishes to all my clients.

Alan Stewart-Duncan.

Waitrose? Wait a mo!

Dear Archer

Another supermarket for East Finchley? We need it as much as a hole in the head.

I mean of course the proposed building of a Waitrose store, opposite East Finchley station and near Cherry Tree Woods.

Imagine the chaos from so much increased traffic on a busy High Road with several bus routes, the added pollution, the increased danger to commuters crossing to the station or to the bus stops, to say nothing of the effect on the nearby shops leading up to Baronsmere Road.

I don't believe most residents want it, so write to your council or our MP. Get up petitions, give it a thumbs down now, before it is too late,

Len Willcocks
Park Hall Road, N2

Window cleaner wanted

Dear Archer

I am an avid reader of the local papers and yours included.

One question I have for you is: Do any domestic (men with ladders) window cleaners ever advertise in the local papers? I can't seem to find any no matter how hard I look.

I live in Trinity Road and would like to hire a window cleaner on a quarterly basis.

Can you help?

Kind regards,
Richard Johnson
Trinity Road, N2.

North Finchley Odeon

Remains

Dear Archer

I read with interest the article on page four of the February issue of *The Archer* No.105 'Projecting the Future'.

The Odeon North Finchley is still standing. It is now Furnitureland and if you look at the rear of the building you can still see the fly tower.

It was there that I saw my first 'X' film when I was 15 years old and I paced up and down outside before plucking up courage to go in.

Where Sainsbury's now stands was H A Saunders, who were Austin/Morris car dealers.

Having been born and bred in East Finchley I remember a lot of local buildings that have sadly disappeared.

Tony Cousins,
Brownswell Road, N2

Do you remember?

Dear Archer

I have been asked by the secretary of Vale Farm Horticultural Society to ask through your newspaper if there might be some readers who were living in this area in 1942 and might know what was going on at the allotment gardens in the borough 60 years ago. Apparently there is the hope to make a display at the Friern Barnet Show this summer.

The Secretary is available on 020 8444 7860.

Vale Farm may have been a working farm, perhaps for milk cows. I found a Canadian 25-cent coin there last year from the wartime period.

Yours sincerely
R Brian Marsh
Vale Farm Horticultural Society

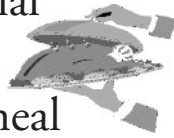
Matinées for Mums

'Matinées for Mums & Dads' is a new scheme for parents and carers who want to go and see mainstream films (PG and under) without the hassle and expense of hiring a babysitter.

On Wednesday mornings, from 10 April for six weeks, the Muswell Hill Odeon's doors will open at 10am, giving carers a chance to meet up with others. The main show will start at 10.30am, with babies and toddlers welcome. Nappy-changing facilities. Price £3.50 per adult, with up to two children free.

For programme details call 020 8883 3547.

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