



A word with Rudi

by David Hobbs

Continued from last month

There are two sides to the question of housing in East Finchley, one of affordability and one of encroaching developments. On both, Rudi Vis has strong opinions. With over 6,400 families on Barnet's housing list and high prices preventing teachers, fire officers and police officers from buying their own homes he feels that there is a desperate need for affordable housing.



Dr Rudi Vis MP

"There is a need to spend money on housing, we need to make those estates with bad reputations places where people want to live". One suggestion of his was for cheap land to be made available to housing associations. He also believes that better use could be made of the available land and that there are "too many speculators with empty houses gaining from house price inflation".

The property developers are another matter and one that concerns him greatly. "East Finchley is probably the most populated ward in Barnet. Apart from Cherry Tree Woods there is a lack of green space, yet the Planning Department seems to allow developers to stuff in more and more houses".

He is particularly concerned by what has been happening on the High Road at both the Texaco site and the old Currie Motors building. "What the developers do is put in a ridiculous application. At the same time they put in a second application to the government Planning Ombudsman because they know full well that the first one will fail. They listen closely at the planning meeting and unless the Council has cast iron reasons to turn them down the planning ombudsman will over-rule them."

Was this, I wondered, the result of spending 12 years as a councillor? "Well, when I was a councillor I was drawn to defend council decisions, since leaving I have increasingly become aware that my attitude to planning officers and developers' easy ability to get proposals agreed has changed. I am more critical now."

Head Honoured

Barnet Council has honoured a teacher well known to local past and present pupils of Brookland Infant School, Hilltop, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

In the borough's second Civic Award ceremony Sheila Abbot was presented with a special framed certificate for her outstanding services to education. Now head of the school, she has taught in the authority for over thirty-five years and is the long serving secretary of the Head-teachers Conference. Congratulations to this dedicated teacher!

Film 50

A CD Rom covering life in the borough over the past 50 years is being put together by students of Barnet College, who are asking for material from residents, companies and schools.

Anyone with photos or documents which can be included should phone Lisa Jerome on 020 8359 2893.

The CD will be distributed free of charge to schools, libraries and community groups.

Magic Movie Moments

By Femke van Iperen

Although *The Phoenix* might have shut its doors for refurbishment until March, it has not left its audience in the dark. At a Friend's Special Event in the Finchley Youth Theatre, classic film scenes were shown on a video screen.

During the evening, arranged by trust member Michael Essex, a great turnout of people watched Magic Movie Moments of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Notorious* and *Singin' In The Rain*, refreshed by coffee and cake.

For those interested in the development of the refurbishment, which is still on schedule, photographs of the work's progress were on display. So far, the wall behind the box office has been opened and the old foyer floor has been levelled with the front entrance.

Chief Projectionist Peter Bayley, who was congratulated by the chairman for his MBE award, said "It was nice to see some of the old films, I have actually shown some of them in my early life."

It's Party Time!

Or is it? Well that could be up to you. We at *THE ARCHER* all love a good party especially a community one. So we are asking for your help in suggesting where we could have a street party for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

We have lots of ideas, such as music, barbecues, games with prizes, maybe even fancy dress and, of course, jelly and ice cream. Or maybe you have already thought of this idea for your street and would like to open it up to the community. After all it could be nice to meet new people from East Finchley.

Right up your street

All we need is to get more help with the organisation and the venue and that is where you come in, with your offers of help and suggestions as to

where it should be held. Please send your suggestions to *THE ARCHER*, PO Box 3699 East Finchley, London N2 8JA or email the-archer@lineone.net. Here are just a few we have thought of: Chapel Court, Leslie Road, Chandos Road, Cherry Tree Road and Park Road; the one attracting the most votes wins.

Street Party tool-kit

Barnet Council has produced a "tool-kit" to give advice to local residents who would like to hold Jubilee celebrations, including street parties.

Call Lisa Jerome on 020 8359 2893 for your free Golden Jubilee tool-kit, or call the Finchley & Golders Green team on 020 8359 4800 for information and advice on noise pollution, catering, toilet facilities, drinking water supplies and health and safety.

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We shall miss him

It is with great sadness that *THE ARCHER* says goodbye to one of its members, Louis Greene, who passed away on 2 December 2001 after a short illness.

His wife would like to thank all those friends who visited him in hospital and sent flowers to the funeral.



Louis delivered *THE ARCHER* for several years and was a well known character around East Finchley. For many years he helped others by doing their shopping and gardening and will be much missed.

East Finchley Development Trust

After years of behind the scenes work, the East Finchley Development Trust is ready to be launched, with full company and charitable status.

Many of you attended the inaugural meeting in February 2001. The emphasis since then has been to establish the trust so that it can bid for the money which is available for community projects. The trust is inviting everyone to the Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road on Saturday 2 March at 1pm to discuss the ideas put forward by East Finchley residents. For more information about the East Finchley Development Trust, contact Martin O'Donnell on 8883 4916 during the day.

Alan's Records



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