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THE ARCHER

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In-house Talent at The Phoenix

By Femke van Iperen

The Phoenix Cinema decided to warm up the cold season by celebrating its four-months' refurbishment project, supported by Phoenix patrons Michael Palin, Victoria Wood and Mike Leigh, in a unique showcase of in-house talent. For a weekend the cinema had open house, and Phoenix staff entertained visitors with examples of their work.

Internal scenic painters, video artists, and interior design graduates were grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate their talents.

Screen International Award

Phoenix Manager Marcus Lloyd, known for his creative work outside the cinema, writes for stage, radio and TV, and in November he received an award by Emma Thompson for a Screen International's Scriptwriting Competition. General Manager Ruth Mulandi said, "We had short films, artwork and a TV drama, which was written by one of our staff. For our favourite screenings we took a vote, and we showed *Blade Runner* and *Three Colours Blue*."

Unique atmosphere

Vicky Tilson, one of the cinema's projectionists and a bass player, performed live with her Indie Rock band *Sodium65*. She said, "This weekend has been very well organised, it is an innovative idea, I don't know any other cinema that would celebrate a refurbishment in this way." Alice and Olly, two local video makers who documented the event for the cinema, remarked, "It's been really busy, in a way it's like a community centre here. Everyone seems to know each other, like one big happy family."

Anthony Janson, the front of house manager, was optimistic that this weekend demonstrated the Phoenix as an alternative for today's film lovers; "The atmosphere here does not have the feeling of multiplexes. The people that work here know about and care for films."

Spring Awakening

On Monday November 12 the cinema was handed over to the builders, after two years' of planning and fund-raising. The £220,000 project is being funded by a variety of individuals and organisations, such as an £85,000 lottery grant, the British Film Institute and Barnet Council. The renovation will leave the auditorium's character essentially untouched. Designed in 1910, The Phoenix is famous for its original interior and is the UK's longest continuously running cinema.

Plans include new education rooms and a café-bar, but a primary concern is to make the foyer and entrance accessible for the disabled. The cinema plans to reopen in the beginning of March.

Sports Report

By Robert Moore

Although this issue highlights one of our local Sunday Football League teams, there are many other sports played and enjoyed by East Finchley residents and in coming months *THE ARCHER* will report on these, including progress of N2 Cricket Club, action at Muswell Hill Bowls Club and the Tennis Club in Southern Road, and results from Wingate & Finchley FC, Finchley Rugby Club and Finchley Cricket Club. If there are other aspects of local sport you would like covered, please contact us.

Five Bells Football Club -

The season so far

Five Bells FC are based at the public house on East End Road and play their home fixtures on the well maintained pitch at Highgate Woods, considered the Barnet Sunday Football League's best playing surface. Five Bells compete in Division One.

Young player-manager, Robbie Banks, introduced some talented players this summer, and had high hopes for the season. However the team has taken a while to settle, reflected in a set of inconsistent results.

The league campaign began with a hard-fought 3-1 victory, away to Highbury Youth, but two defeats followed before the team could record their next win at home to Victoria Park Reserves 1-0. After an extremely unlucky 5-4 defeat at the hands of league leaders Southgate Panthers (despite

leading 3-2 at half-time) and a devastating 6-0 thrashing in the return match signalled a difficult period with confidence low, the team bounced back with a three match unbeaten run. Signs look positive for the remainder of the season.

In the League Cup, Five Bells were narrowly beaten 3-2 by Old Elizabethans from Premier Division, automatically guaranteeing participation in the League Consolation Cup.

Training is at Stanley Road pitch every Wednesday 7.15 - 9 pm, new players welcome.

Road Runners

Many of us keen, enthusiastic and undoubtedly slightly bonkers joggers have wished to share our obsession. During a typical early evening run around the streets of East Finchley it is not unusual to spot several runners pounding the pavement for their own particular agenda, whether for general

fitness or for a goal such as The London Marathon. If, like me, you find it easier to jog with company, please contact me at *THE ARCHER*, and maybe we can organise some informal local runs; we could end up with an East Finchley Runners Club, given interest.

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