



East Finchley's Picturedrome in days gone by - photo loaned by Audrey Cartwright.

Behind Schedule

East Finchley film buffs will have to be patient for a little longer: The Phoenix cinema is still in the midst of building works, but a grand reopening gala, possibly attended by patrons Mike Leigh, Michael Palin and Victoria Wood, is now scheduled for April.

Look out, Litterbugs!

A two-pronged attack has been launched by Barnet Council on the twin menace of litterbugs and irresponsible dog owners who don't clean up after their pets.

The council's cabinet is backing a series of wide ranging practical measures designed to get tough on these "envirocrimes" which blight the borough's streets and open spaces.

These include the introduction of a six month pilot scheme which will see Neighbourhood Management Officers patrolling four targeted town centres and issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone seen dropping litter.

In addition, 200 extra litter bins will be introduced in known problem areas, bus stops and designated StreetWise zones, the frequency of emptying bins will be reviewed and seven extra daily, street cleansing rounds will be implemented. StreetWise zones are also set to benefit from 30 new specially designed recycling bins. The Council is also planning to develop

anti-littering partnerships with local schools.

Dogging their footsteps

Moves were also supported to reinforce the Council's tough stance on irresponsible pet owners.

The Council has already begun a crackdown on areas where dog waste is a particular problem by issuing fixed penalty fines to people who do not clear up after their animals. Three cases are already in progress and other hot spots will now be targeted by Neighbourhood Management Officers.

To help prevent the problem occurring in the first place and to increase the availability of free poop scoop bags to early morning dog walkers, cafes in four of the borough's worst affected parks will act as distribution points for a trial period of three months starting this month. Neighbourhood Management Officers and Park

Keepers will also be handing out the bags in the same problem areas.

A rolling programme to install self-closing playground gates is also underway to stop dogs from entering and fouling children's play areas and putting youngsters at risk from toxicara infection.

RSPCA - Cheap as Chips!

Does your pet have a chip on its shoulder? Pet owners know that having some form of identification on their animal is one way of trying to ensure their safe return should they wander off. Besides the usual collar and disc, a more modern method of ID is proving to be most successful.

Vets are able to implant a permanent microchip, the size of a grain of rice, without the need for an anaesthetic, into your pet. Each microchip has its own identification number, which can be scanned and the information revealed enables the owner to be traced and contacted quickly.

No appointment necessary

The RSPCA Clinic in Park Road, East Finchley, N2 (next to the *Duke of Cambridge*) is promoting micro chipping throughout the month of March 2002 by charging £10 per 'chip'. This price also includes lifetime registration on the Pet Log Database.

Appointments are not neces-

sary, just turn up at the Clinic with your cat or dog on a Monday or Thursday evening during March between 6.00 and 7.30pm.

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Apology

In the article on Creative Lettering in the January issue, Priscilla Astrop's phone number was quoted incorrectly. Her number is 020 8883 9081.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

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East Finchley Town Square

Only a small number of people attended the last meeting of East Finchley Town Square was small, however they were able to discuss at some length the proposals put forward by the first working group for the redevelopment of "pigeon corner" outside Budgens. These could be either building on the existing design, creating a feature corner design or an open corner design.

It was decided that the ideas should be put out to the public for consultation using the most effective means of publicity.

The next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday 12 March at The Neighbourhood Centre in Church Lane at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Bring your own bench

Vandals in Cherry Tree Wood this winter have robbed visitors of the chance to sit and rest in the park. Several benches were systematically destroyed and have now been removed by Barnet Council, who say that there is no money left to replace them this year.

As well as inconveniencing park users, it has also caused the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to postpone the installation of their Millennium Bench. Having worked hard to raise the money for it, the Friends feel that a brand new bench with a shiny plaque would be a prime target for mindless vandals.

The Borough is finalising details with an experienced operator to refurbish, convert and run a café to be constructed on the site of the old pavilion. The twenty-five year lease is for the building alone and will not involve work on the surrounding area. It is hoped that the renovation will be completed by the end of the year.

Perhaps the new café's owners could revive the custom of hiring out deck chairs to customers in the park?

Alan's Records



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