



## The Duke of Cambridge

By Hugh Petrie, Barnet Archivist

**The Duke of Cambridge is the last of many pubs in East Finchley's Market Place. In the Market's heyday it had inns called The Hog Drover and The Sow and Pigs, but when the Duke of Cambridge was built the market was no longer important.**

Shortly before 1866 Peter Coulson moved from Wood Green to East Finchley, purchased a lease on the old market pig pound and started to build Cambridge Cottages. Typical of many builders, he obtained a beer licence in 1869. Born in Cambridgeshire, he called the house The Duke of Cambridge.

By 1871 Coulson was a beer seller and his 14 year-old daughter worked behind the bar. In 1875 he borrowed money from the Lion Brewery to get a full licence, and for a time (under brewery directions) it may have been called The Blue Lion. In 1879 Coulson sold it to Arthur Ocran Crooke, who had a brewery in Hendon, and by 1881 15 adults and children occupied the house - Newman (the landlord and Crooke's tenant), his wife, Elizabeth, and four labouring families. However, by 1891 the house had lost its full licence, and its occupants were reduced to tenant Henry George, a bookmaker, two labourers and an actor, Lennox Sykes.

From 1900 until at least 1911, Alfred Farebrother, his wife, Mary, and their seven children lived there. He probably put in the, now unusual, high windows and doors and, possibly, some of the kickboards around the walls.

### Closing Time

Between 1918 and 1967 the landlord was Reuben McGhies. In his nearly 50 years as licensee, Reuben would have seen the last few pigs being sold outside The George in the 1920s, as well as the demolition of much of the old Market Place (including Cambridge Cottages) before and after the war and knew the devastating bomb damage of 15 November 1940 which killed 12 people and destroyed many neighbouring buildings.

But he would also have known many workers from

The Merry Miller Bakery (1937 - 1982), calling in for a drink at lunchtime and after work. And in April 1960 he saw the opening of the first tower block.

Now The Duke of Cambridge stands alone among the tower blocks - the last Market Place pub to open, and soon to be the last to close.

## Our Local Art Cinema

By Femke van Iperen

**You might pass the Phoenix on your way home from work. You might even catch the odd Sunday afternoon double bill. We all know of our local cinema as one of London's oldest cinemas, yet have you ever wondered about its past?**

In early 1900 film had only just been born, introducing 'topicals and actualities' or 'news and documentaries'. In 1910, after rumours in the local press about a new 'premier electric theatre', one of the earliest cinemas opened on East Finchley High Road. The East Finchley Picturedrome proudly offered 'the world's finest picture plays' to its new audiences.

In 1929, now named The Coliseum, it became one of the first cinematic establishments in London to fill its auditorium with the magical world of sound, or the talkies, astounding its audience with sounds and pictures in The Singing Fool.

Since then the cinema has had numerous owners, names and appearances.

But it's never betrayed its true spirit, and as one of London's last independent cinemas it is still run by a

charitable trust on behalf of the people of North London. Despite numerous building works it has never changed its fundamental look either and it is still an historic, listed Grade II building with Edwardian and art-deco features.

One of its most significant changes, however, was during 1937-1938. Threatened by the competition of new 1000-seater 'picture palace' - chains all over the country, a slick façade with neon-strip lighting replaced an ornamental front and today's distinctive art-deco wall panels decorated the auditorium. The cinema re-opened in 1938 as the Rex, famous for its new look and called 'Finchley's New Modern Cinema' by its new proprietors.

However, in the early 1970s new owner The Granada Leisure group, threatened the cinema with the Granada look, but failed owing to local opposition.

Fortunately, the cinema was soon back on its feet and 1975 saw new holders Contemporary Films, with its focus on art house programming, pioneering independent, foreign and specialist films in the UK. It re-opened as The Phoenix.

But in 1985, the Phoenix, threatened by financial loss and office planning permissions, needed rescuing again - by the Phoenix Cinema Trust.

Today, the cinema's most recent transformations have 'made it fit for its second century', but left its character intact. With more than 1,500 members today, the Phoenix is still going strong.

## Clubbing's for the Not-so-Young

By Diana Cormack

**If you are retired or about to retire, you might be interested in the Probus Club. It began in Welwyn Garden City in 1965 and there are now over a thousand in the UK plus having spread internationally, being particularly popular in Canada and Australia. Each club is independent, with its own core set of values and programme of events organised for and by retired professional and business men and women.**

Our local Northern Heights Probus Club was founded in 1986 by the Rotary Clubs of Highgate, Hampstead and Golders Green. It is open to, though not confined to, people living in and around those areas as well as Muswell Hill, the Finchleys and St John's Wood.

It is primarily a lunch club, with members getting together for lively discussion and to associate with people of varied interests and opinions. After lunch a half-hour talk is given, either by a member or a guest speaker, followed by questions.

### Out and about

There are also outings to places of interest, sometimes as joint ventures with another Probus Club. Recent events include going behind the scenes at the Globe Theatre, visiting the Freud Museum, Keats' House, the Wallace Collection and looking round parts of Buckingham Palace.

Annual membership is £8.00 and a two-course lunch with coffee costs £9.50. This year's president, *ARCHER* reader Eric Dalton, told us that the club meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the upstairs function room of *The Old Crown*, Highgate Hill, N19, by the junction with

Hornsey Lane. There is a free car park, and buses 143, 210, 271 and W5 stop right outside. Archway tube station (linking to C11) is just down the hill. If you're interested in joining the Probus Club, give Eric a ring on 020 8340 0822.

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