

**MULBERRY**  
ESTATE & LETTING AGENTS

A multiple agency instruction with our company for a sole agency fee.

- ◆ Three strategically located offices.
- ◆ Extensive experience of the locality.
- ◆ Free evaluation without obligation.

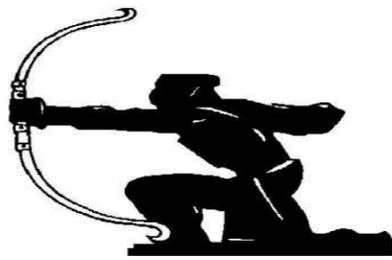
East Finchley  
020 8444 4000

Muswell Hill      Alexandra Park  
020 8444 9000      020 8889 4322

[www.mulberryestateagents.com](http://www.mulberryestateagents.com)

Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



**GLH**

CAR SERVICE  
020 8883 5000

May 2003 No. 120  
ISSN 1361-3952

20p

*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



The back of a bus scales new heights, but can't get down. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Stuck Around the Truck

By Erini Rodis and Anna Kambouris

The High Road almost came to a standstill last Friday midday as a bus driver got a bit too ambitious at the zebra crossing outside Kentucky Fried Chicken.

It appears that the north-bound bus tried to manoeuvre around a rubbish truck a little too soon and got stuck; while the wheel managed to cross over, the exhaust pipe didn't.

The bus was thus stranded across half the road, suspended on its bodywork on the central reservation, and unable to move back or forth.

Adding spice to the proceedings were the Diplomatic Protection Group, complete with guns about their mid-ribs. Officer PC Allen, who was helping to redirect a subsequent line of traffic stretching back to the North Circular, admitted it wasn't one of their most exciting missions, but "we were going back to HQ in Central London, and we came across this. It's a pain...but as policemen we're obliged to deal with the situation."

More buses than we usually see in a week were lined up waiting to head south as a result, but nobody was hurt, and the jam was eventually cleared.

## Pay and Dismay

By John Dearing

Many East Finchley residents who live within the CPZ will soon be receiving a renewal notice for their parking permit (if they have not already) and they will find that the cost has gone up by an inflation-busting 50% to £30. It is hard to believe that the cost of operating the CPZ has also gone up by so much.

**Permit to Pay More Money**

Of course, it clearly has nothing whatsoever to do with the 25% pay rises senior council officers have awarded themselves for this year!

## Developers Out to Grass

Following the decision to dispose of three of its buildings for £12.5million, Barnet Council has decided not to sell Long Lane Pastures to Fairview New Homes for housing development.



Long Lane Pastures await attention. Photo by John Dearing

Long Lane Pastures is home to many species of wild flowers and rare birds.

Brian Coleman, Barnet Council's cabinet member for the environment said, "We always maintained that we were against the housing deal. The reason we won't be selling it is that the capital proceeds from all the other sales is greater than we expected. We're looking at working with the community to find a long-term future for Long Lane Pastures, whether that means a community trust or a long lease. It won't be turned into a formal park. We're grateful to the Green Party for their support in this."

Long Lane Pastures Action Group say they want to work with the council to transform the site, which has been neglected for a long time. They plan to clear the paths through the Pastures, remove some of the bramble and clear the litter.

**Everything Electrical**

ALL DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL WORK UNDERTAKEN BY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIANS

Extra Sockets and Lights      Interior / Exterior lighting design  
Security Lighting              Maintenance Contracts  
Fault Finding and Repairs      Installation Certificates  
Telephone and Television Points

38, High Road, East Finchley N2 9PJ

Tel: 020-8444 7994 Fax: 020-8444 6075 Mobile: 07973 509 322

Internet: <http://www.everythingelectrical.com>

Cut-price Fragrances

**Coral Pharmacy**

Photo D&P only £2.99 for up to 40 exp (35m) same day service

Stockists of a wide range of vitamins, homeopathic remedies, and herbal products.

Open Till 6:30pm (Mon - Fri) 6pm Sat - Parking Available

129 East End Road N2 0SZ Tel 8883 0442

**PRICKETT & ELLIS TOMKINS**

36 High Road East Finchley N2 9PJ

**020 8883 0033**

Properties urgently required - now is the time to sell!

Estate Agents and Valuers. Established 1767

## Hotblack Dixon & Co. Estate Agents

Our success rate in N2 is very high indeed, obviously in Hampstead Garden Suburb but also in East Finchley.

We have often obtained better prices from our base in the Suburb, so

**Please call us for a free valuation or try us if you are on a multiple agency basis**

17 Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb London NW11 6JY

**020 8458 8411**

• Visit your community newspaper on-line at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk) •



## THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699  
LONDON N2 8JA

### Voicemail & Fax:

Editorial/enquiries: -  
**08717 33 44 65**

Advertising/finance: -  
**08717 33 45 28**

### e-mail:

the-archer@lineone.net

### website:

www.the-archer.co.uk

### PUBLISHED BY

East Finchley Newspapers

### EDITOR

Kevin Finn

### EDITORIAL TEAM

David Hobbs

Diana Cormack

Daphne Chamberlain

Mal Jacobs

Sonia Singham

### SUB-EDITORS &

### PROOF READERS

Frances Loveday

Pam Kent

Tony Roberts

### PICTURE EDITORS

Erini Rodis

Daniel Ferri

### DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Alison Roberts

Tony Roberts

Paul Northam

### ADVERTISING

John Dearing

Toni Morgan

### FINANCE

Sue Holliday

### ADMINISTRATION

Toni Morgan

### DISTRIBUTION

Alison Roberts

Pam Kent

### HONORARY LEGAL ADVISER

Francis Coulson

Thank you to Madden's Ale House for providing us with a meeting place.

### Your contributions

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

14 May is the copy deadline for the June issue.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838  
London Electricity 0800 096 9000  
OFTEL 020 7634 8700  
Thames Water 0845 920 0888  
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333  
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708  
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

### Councils

**Barnet**  
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Health Authority 020 8201 4700  
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
**Haringey Council** 020 8489 0000

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
Cophall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658  
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664  
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8883 2233  
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018  
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

\*Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.

### Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445  
Childline 0800 1111  
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954  
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122  
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935  
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265  
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600  
Relate 020 8445 0888  
Samaritans 020 8889 6888  
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

### Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123  
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001  
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
CancerLink 0800 132905  
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665  
Drinkline 0800 9178282  
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
Health Information Service 0800 665544  
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404\*  
MIND 020 8343 5700  
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

### OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511  
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853  
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162  
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585  
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212  
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212  
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

### Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000  
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792  
Edgware General 020 8952 2381  
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
St Luke's 020 8219 1800  
Whittington 020 7272 3070  
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

### Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950  
City Airport 020 7646 0000  
Greenline 02086687261  
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234  
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010  
National Express 08705 808080  
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

### Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999\*  
RSPCA 0870 5555999



Spot the car that's cheating the lights! Photo montage by John Dearing.

## Running the Red Lights

By John Dearing

THE ARCHER has conducted a survey of driver behaviour at the junction of East End Road and the High Road, which is controlled by traffic lights. Each cycle of the lights consists of traffic passing north-south, or east-west. A note was made of each occasion that a vehicle crossed the white line while its controlling light was red, together with its direction, and a total of light cycles. The survey was conducted over three periods, in the morning and evening rush hours, and during the middle of the day, respectively.

While one might expect the occasional transgression, the actual proportion of light cycles when a vehicle jumped a red light was almost 50%! Little variation was found at different times of the day, and the level of traffic did not seem to have much effect, either. Vehicles entering from East End Road, and the High Road south were twice as likely to pass at red than vehicles entering from Fortis Green, and there were almost none from the High Road north. This may arise from some factor in the design of the junction.

### Contempt

Overall it demonstrates a clear contempt for the authority of these traffic lights. Sooner or later, there is going to be a

nasty accident at this junction, unless the authorities take steps to reduce this anti-social practice. There are cameras mounted on the lights, but they appear to be of the CCTV variety, probably just monitoring traffic flows.

One obvious conclusion is that if cameras designed to catch and provide evidence to prosecute these people were installed at this junction, they would have a field day!

Note: This survey did not take into account vehicles crossing an amber light, those in the middle of the junction waiting to turn right, nor any borderline cases. Casual observation suggests that this happens at almost every cycle, in direct contraven-

tion of the Highway Code.

Those concerned about our streets may like to visit [www.livingstreets.org.uk](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk)

## More Freedom!

By Mal Jacobs

From 1 April 2003 any resident of the UK living in the Greater London area over the age of 60 is now eligible for a Freedom Pass. Also from 1 April a Disability Person/Freedom Pass is free at all times on buses, trams and the underground.

### When in Rome

Just in case you are travelling a little further, British Senior Citizens now have free entry to Italy's museums and monuments including the Colosseum in Rome (was

### EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.  
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

### General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.  
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

### Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Contact East Finchley's  
Community Police Officer,  
PC Paul Carter, at  
The Community Office,  
Golders Green Station,  
Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail:  
[paul.carter@met.police.uk](mailto:paul.carter@met.police.uk)

### Community Services

- ❖ Credit Union, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

## North Circular Road No.1 for Noise

The UK Noise Association has published a study of Britain's noisiest roads, and the North Circular came out top for the second year running.

Noise levels vary from 70dB to more than 100dB at junctions when the lights turn to green. This compares with a speeding train, significantly quieter at 81dB, a crying baby at 90 dB, and a Formula 1 racing car, whose driver has to wear ear protection, at 110dB.

The North Circular Road, which carries 85,000 vehicles per day, is likely to remain notorious for noise all the while Transport for London continues to delay improvements to the road.

£5) and the Leaning Tower of Pisa (was £9). This has been achieved by a European court sitting in Luxembourg. The judges said the previous Italian ruling amounted to discrimination.



# Barnet Boroughwatch Re-launch

By John Dearing

Following the resignation of Joyce Thakur, Barnet Boroughwatch has been re-launched under the watchful eye of Paul Hammond. After 30 years in the police, Paul retired from the Met. last October, having spent 18 years of his service as an observer in the helicopter unit during which time he miraculously survived an air crash. (His injuries medically grounded him in 2000.)



Paul Hammond looks forward to success.  
Photo supplied by Barnet Boroughwatch.

During his time in the Air Support Unit he helped develop the emerging technologies of heli-teli- and thermal imaging. Paul also took part in many notable incidents including the Libyan Embassy siege. He said "If you ever were able to bring yourself to watch *Police Camera Action*, you've probably heard my voice already."

**An independent Partner**  
Barnet Boroughwatch

(BBW) is the association of Neighbourhood Watches (NWs) in the Borough of Barnet. It is a charitable committee funded by grants, particularly from the Bridge House Trust, part of the Corporation of London. As such it is independent of both Barnet Council and the Police, but Paul emphasised that its role is to work in partnership with both of these bodies. He is the administrator of BBW. He forms and manages

new NWs, provides support to NWs, manages communication between the police, the Council and NW co-ordinators, which extends to visiting NWs and attending some of their meetings. There are presently 620 NWs in Barnet and applications to start up new watches are arriving all the time.

Previously, Paul helped to develop the Ringmaster system in Barnet and now uses it to send out emails and telephone messages to NW coordinators and other groups involved.

### Good neighbours

He says, "Shortly coordinators will receive from me a survey on perceptions of crime, on behalf of the police and council, and I have been assured that the results will indeed affect the way in which The Borough is policed in the future." Recently, Operation Ruby, aimed at reducing burglary and street crime, led to 119 arrests, of which 20 were for burglary or robbery.

Paul sees the most important role of NWs as promoting neighbourliness, as well as spreading information and advice about crime prevention, and monitoring and reporting suspicious behaviour in the neighbourhood.

He concludes "Although I have only been in the job since the end of January, it's been obvious to me that there is such support and help out there for Boroughwatch and I am already grateful."



Graffiti vandals paint over their work on the pavilion.  
Photo by John Dearing.

# Clean up Your Act!

If you were in Cherry Tree Wood on Thursday 17 April, you may well have seen something for which many people have long been waiting. At the time of writing, Barnet's Youth Offending Team plan to have two graffiti vandals spending most of the day cleaning their mess off the pavilion and benches in the park.

Under a new initiative approved by the council's Cabinet, young people caught for graffiti offences will be sentenced to painting over their 'handiwork'. Future projects include the use of solvent-free graffiti removal kits. In a joined-up operation, any new graffiti will be reported so that the artist's tag or signature, which is always included, can be used to identify him (it is usually a male). Coordinator Bob Russell has plenty of these tags on record.

Though this reporting

will generally be made by the police and other officials, local people can do their bit to help. If you notice a new piece of graffiti, waste no time in reporting it to Geoff Hook at the Youth Offending Team on 020 8446 9996.

# The First Police Community Support Officers hit Barnet

By Femke Van Iperen

Barnet has introduced its first PCSOs, who have started patrolling the streets this March. Acting as a visible presence and the eyes and ears of the police, it is hoped that the newly trained officers will make our streets a safer place to be.

Five new officers, who have been trained for four weeks, will carry out a new community role in Barnet in town centres and housing estates as an integral part of the police community team. They will control low-level crime such as anti-social behaviour, littering, alcohol consumption in prohibited areas and vandalism.

Chief Superintendent Sue Akers, Borough Commander, said, "I welcome our new Police Community Support Officers, whom I hope are the first of many. They are all really enthusiastic and I look forward to them assisting police officer colleagues to provide a visible reassurance to the local community."

The officers, who follow the first security officers that took to the streets last September in Westminster, will be based

at Golders Green and Whetstone Police Station. The police are aiming to introduce them across London and Barnet Borough is expected to receive two additional PCSOs in the coming weeks.

### Hens Teeth Antiques

Antiques Bought and Sold  
Restoration, Upholstery and  
French Polishing of Period  
and Modern Furniture  
Call Martin Murray  
0208883 - 0755  
Mobile 07970 625 - 359

### Alan's Records



212 High Road, East Finchley,  
Tel: 020 8883 0234  
Open 9.30am-6.30pm Monday to Saturday plus Sunday pm

**P.A.music**  
Lighting-Sound-FX-Video  
**Party! Promotion! Presentation!**  
Whatever you are doing!  
We have the Lighting, Sound & FX Technology to make it a Success!  
**Hire & Sale**  
Open 10am-6pm  
Closed Tuesdays  
172 High Road,  
East Finchley, N2  
FaxNo. +44(0)20 8883 5117  
**020 8883 4350**

### Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths  
Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.  
email: [admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk](mailto:admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk)  
28 High Road, London N2 9PJ  
Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 / 0989  
[www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk](http://www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk)

### Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat  
at reasonable prices  
Free-range poultry  
Home-made sausages  
(including Boerwors)  
2 Midhurst Parade,  
Fortis Green, London N10  
Tel. 020 8883 5303

### VICTORY AUTO SERVICES

Formerly of High Road East Finchley  
T/A Motor Services of Muswell Hill

### Air-Conditioning - Recharge & Servicing

Mechanical repairs, tyres, bodywork, clutches, exhausts  
MOTs by appointment

109 Fortis Green East Finchley London N2 9HR  
Tel: 020 8883 9707 / 0023 Fax: 020 8482 9179



## Continuing Threat to Local Pharmacies

By Diana Cormack

High Road chemists have been fighting the Office of Fair Trading's proposals to abolish the controls which regulate the number and positioning of pharmacies. These controls, established in 1987, set out to provide a rational distribution of pharmacies to which everyone would have easy access. They require anyone who wishes to provide NHS pharmaceutical services to apply to the NHS locally for a contract. Contracts are granted on the basis of necessity or desirability.

Over the years many small pharmacies have become a valuable neighbourhood resource, playing an important support role within the local community. However, the large supermarket chains now want a greater piece of the action and are calling for the removal of the entry controls so that they can increase the number of dispensing pharmacies which they operate in-store. The OFT concluded that this would result in more pharmacies, improved services and more price competition in over-the-counter medicines. It also anticipates cost savings for the NHS and for pharmacy businesses.

### Ask your local pharmacist

But recent research suggests that deregulation could have a devastating effect. Local dispensing chemists would gradually close down, forcing people to travel further for their medication. Hardest hit would be those with the greatest need, such as the elderly, infirm, housebound, families on low incomes, nursing mothers with young children and those who live in disadvantaged communities.

An announcement by Trade Secretary Patricia Hewitt seemed to imply that the pharmacists had won their case, but now they are not so sure. Whilst in Scotland and Wales the decision not to support the OFT proposals has already been taken, pharmacists in England cannot yet afford to be complacent as she is calling for "a balanced package of measures."

The National Pharmaceutical Association is airing these and other relevant issues. If you wish to know more or want to record your displeasure, pop into your local chemist; then you can ask your pharmacist. Didn't there used to be an advertising campaign telling us to do just that?

## Marathon Martin

Martin Sutherland of King Street will be taking part in this year's Edinburgh Marathon on 15 June.

He aims to raise £1000 for the Thistle Foundation, which provides services for the disabled. For more information or to sponsor Martin, visit his web page at [www.justgiving.com/annualmarathon](http://www.justgiving.com/annualmarathon).



Centre manager Terry Stone and volunteer advisor Kenny Anifowose (a 3<sup>rd</sup> year law student) are ready to help. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

## Advice for East Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

About 4,000 people a year turn to the East Finchley Advice Service for help. Over the last five years there have been only two complaints.

"We encourage an honest feedback," says manager Terry Stone. "It's very important that people get what they want from us."

Most enquiries are about benefits, housing and debt, but a fairly high proportion of women want help with marital problems. Fifteen specialist advisors give their services free on matters such as divorce, immigration and common law. These professionals each come in on average of once a month.

Day-to-day staff, also all volunteers, are inspected by Barnet and given induction training, some of it with agencies like the London Advice Service Alliance and Shelter. This is followed by top-up courses to keep up to date.

Clients are often referred to

specialist agencies, but links are two-way. The Ann Owens Centre send people to the Advice Centre for things like help in filling in forms. A comprehensive range of forms and leaflets is on display in the Centre, with staff ready to give assistance.

Terry Stone is the only paid worker. A Chartered Engineer, he worked in Human Resources Personnel at the BBC for 20 years, before retiring at 55 and starting as a volunteer at the Centre. Since becoming manager, he has introduced a computer system. Keeping to the principle of utilising expertise, the database was devised by a systems analyst volunteer.

Terry's bosses are the Management Committee, around eight people, again

all volunteers with specialist knowledge. The Committee meets every six weeks, and assesses policies and procedures at every AGM.

Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Over-Eaters Anonymous meet at the Centre, which also houses Councillors' Surgeries.

Users, says Terry, reflect the population as a whole. Anyone is free to drop in. The Centre, on the corner of Church Lane and King Street (tel. 020 8444 6265), is open Monday to Friday, 10am-12.30pm and 1.30-4.00pm, with late opening on Tuesday, 7-8 pm.

Terry Stone is also available at the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale, 10am-12.30pm on Wednesdays.

### OV Opticians

Opticians • Contact Lenses • Spectacles  
56 High Road, East Finchley,  
London, N2 9PN  
Tel: 020 8883 6693



For comprehensive eye examinations, contact lenses and assorted designer and budget frames.

- Complete spectacles from £30.50 for single vision lenses and frames.
- Designer frames special offer:

- Sight test + any designer frame + single vision lenses (With scratch resistant coating) from £80.00.
- Free 2nd pair (from a selected range). Or Free 1 month supply of contact lenses.
- Upgrades to bifocals, varifocals, thin and light lenses and anti-reflection coating available.

- Varifocals

Change focus between distance, intermediate and near with our new generation Varifocals without the annoying lines for just £49.99 when you buy any designer frame + Free Eyetest + free 2nd Pair from A selected range.

Armani, Lacoste, lamy, F.C.U.K., C.K., Moschino, Guess, Givenchy, Flexon etc.

- Extra 10% discount for OAPs and students.
- free kids and NHS glasses.
- Several ½ price frames on offer.
- Daily disposable contact lenses from £20.00 per month (Sight and consultation fees may apply).

**OV**  
PROG £49.99  
INC FREE  
EYE TEST

OV Opticians  
Discount Voucher

Tel: 020 8883 6693

- £ 5.00 off private sight test
- £ 5.00 off single vision lenses
- £10.00 off bifocals
- £20.00 off bifocals
- £20.00 off thin and light lenses

Offer not redeemable for cash.  
Bring this voucher to claim your discount.

★ THE CHIVERS BROS ★

in

## THE AI MOTOR SHOP

with



Roger

Batteries • Oils  
Car Covers • Trims  
Jacks • Mats • Plugs  
Roof Bars • Tools  
Stop Locks • D.I.Y.  
and much, much more...



Lawrie

An Ed McHenry Production

See us at 113 High Road, East Finchley, N2 8AG

8-883 8628



# The Magdalene Sisters in East Finchley

By Alison Roberts

Last month saw the Phoenix Cinema's screening of Peter Mullan's award winning *The Magdalene Sisters*—a shocking portrayal of life in one of Ireland's Magdalene Asylums.

The Magdalene Asylums were set up in the 19th century as a refuge for so-called fallen women. Operated by orders of nuns, the asylums financed their operations by functioning as commercial laundries providing service to schools, prisons and other institutions.

The women had to labour in silence 52 weeks a year, symbolically washing away their sins. They were forced to bind their breasts, had their heads shaved and were regularly humiliated and beaten.

### On our doorstep

The last Magdalene convent, in Waterford, closed in 1996. Of course not all the asylums were in Ireland; there were plenty in Britain too. But who would have guessed that one of England's last remaining Magdalene laundries was right here in East Finchley?

Founded around 1873, East Finchley's Magdalene Asylum was situated on East End Road, opposite the St Marylebone Cemetery. It occupied the area bordered by the railway, Hamilton Road and what is now the North Circular Road. It was run by a Catholic order—the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Over the years, thousands of women and girls were imprisoned in these establishments, some for decades, to scrub away the sin of being pregnant or unwanted. The victims of abuse were deemed to be guilty too and, by extension, those in danger of corruption by their fathers, brothers, or just men in general.

Census returns from the period show that many of those locked away in East Finchley's Magdalene asylum were little more than young girls, some as young as 13-years-old. These girls became an early example of the "disappeared", nearly always with the connivance of their own families.

Technically, everyone who entered one of the laundries did so voluntarily, following the example of Mary Magdalene, the prostitute who became the "13th apostle" of Christ, after whom the convents were named. But there was nothing voluntary about the grinding work, the forced fasting or the weekly mortification sessions, when the women were stripped and laughed at for their vanity.

### Washed up

The demise of the Magdalene laundries appears to have been driven more by economics than concern for the women's welfare. By the 1960s, the wide availability of automatic washing machines reduced the requirement for the laundries to the extent that they were no longer viable.

Most of the original East Finchley convent burned down in the 1970s, though the Good Shepherd Sisters still occupy a small convent there today. The rest of the site is now home to Bishop Douglass RC School and Thomas More estate. Only the road names (Clare, Helen, Juliana and Cecilia Close) provide a clue to the unsettling history of this corner of East Finchley.

# Pension or Charity?

By Mal Jacobs

You must remember the expression 'Charity Begins at Home'. Well, for a vast number of seniors it does!

Have you ever wondered why we seem to have more charity shops than anywhere else in Europe? One very good reason could be, of course, that as we have two million people who are living below the poverty line in the UK then these are probably the only items they can afford to use!

A fairly good judgement of a country and its people must surely be how they treat their most vulnerable citizens. In the case of the UK it usually means seniors. You may ask, "How can a country reputed to be the world's fourth richest not allow the very people who helped make it so, a share in its prosperity?"

### An end to poverty?

Firstly, a very good reason for that may be that the UK is committed to spending only 5% of GDP on pensions and benefits, now and in the future, for Senior Citizens, whereas France, Germany and Italy, for

example, will spend between 10 and 20%. Secondly, there are serious shortcomings in the 'we know best for you' mentality that still prevails in the UK in this, the 21st century. Thirdly is the persistent apathy that surrounds a person once past the dreaded usability date deadline in our society.

One of the first things to learn about a computer is that everything is important! Well the same applies to seniors – and everything is important to them too! This Spring, Help The Aged launch the *Stop the Pensioner Poverty Now* campaign, showing that a quarter of our seniors live below the poverty line and one sixth live in persistent poverty. And that's in the world's



Punk Chick: A baby pigeon gets ready to face the world. Photo by Erini Rodis

# Pot Roost

By Erini Rodis

How many people have ever seen a baby pigeon?

Nature has a wonderful way of using resources where we least expect it, and none are more surprised than the fourth floor residents of Norfolk Close.

It's not unknown for urban birds to use a block of flats as a substitute for a cliff face, and the parents of these babies have made their nest in a terracotta pot on one of the balconies.

The Joyce family first discovered the eggs a month ago, just before they hatched. Mum Lizzie remembered seeing some foliage in a plant pot in the corner of the balcony, but

says it took her a while to twig. The chicks have since been growing fast, currently filling a pot 8 inches across.

"It's been a pleasure to have them," says Ms Joyce, "They were yellow and fluffy when they first hatched, a bit like ducklings. The only drawback is the mess. We do tend to eat out here in the summer, so for as long as the parents bring all

their mates to feed them, this balcony is going to need constant cleaning!"

You met them first in *THE ARCHER*...

### C-4-C CASH FOR CHEQUES

WE CASH  
Wages Cheques, DHSS Cheques,  
Inland Revenue Cheques,  
Personal Cheques CASHED  
PAWNBROKING SERVICE  
Sale and Buyback on Jewellery  
CASH LOANS  
020 7267 9102  
325 Kentish Town Rd, London NW5  
Written details available on request



State Registered  
Chiropodist/Podiatrist  
Miss H.C. MIKELLIDES BSc (Hons)  
SRCh MChS DpodM

Offers Free Foot Checks  
For Foot Health Month  
(May 2003)

COOTES PHARMACY  
134 High Road East Finchley  
London N2 9ED  
020 8883 0073

# Choices for Children Directory

Barnet's Children's Information Service is replacing its *Under Fives Booklet* with a new, free booklet called *Choices for Children*.

This provides information on schools, childcare, holiday clubs and breakfast schemes, tax credits and benefits, health services (including dentists, pharmacies and emergency care), family centres, youth services, libraries, leisure and recreational facilities, and other advice and support groups.

Published on 21 April, it will be available from libraries,

Council Action Points, health clinics and health visitors, and from Barnet's Children's Information Service via free phone 0800 389 8312.



### Holistic Aromatherapy Massage

Marisa and Giovanni - Fully Qualified Professional Therapists (IFPA)

Stress, Joint Pain, Backache, Emotional Imbalance etc.

East Finchley Tel: (020) 8883 3320

## COSMOLIGHT™ LIGHT THERAPY

ACHES, PAINS, INJURIES,  
SINUS PROBLEMS

Can all be effectively treated with  
HOLISTIC LIGHT THERAPY.

To experience this unique treatment  
call TRISHA on 020 8883 2452

Anti-Ageing and dermalogical  
facial treatments also available.



Mike, Tricia & Jimmy welcome you to  
flowers by

## Josephine's

58/60 High Road, East Finchley  
London N2  
Tel: 020 8883 3598 & 020 8444 9569

EST 35 Years



Builders of the Northern Line. Photo supplied by Audrey Cartwright.

## Days of the Tram

By Robert Kent from an article printed in *The Archer* July 1998

**My earliest recollections of trams are of poles supporting the overhead cable being moved from the centre of the road to the pavements. Since this was done at night, and my East Finchley bedroom overlooked the street, my schoolwork must have suffered!**

Twin tracks ran down the main road from Barnet Church, through East Finchley to Archway, with branches from Tally Ho to Golders Green and Wood Green. They were operated by Metropolitan Electric Tramways, but from Archway onward the

system belonged to the London County Council.

Whereas the MET transmitted electricity to overhead cables by a trolley, the LCC had an underground system. The connection problem was overcome by a man at Archway with an implement like a wide-pronged fork. He guided the underground contact into place, while the conductor removed the overhead trolley with a long bamboo pole, also carried for emergencies.

There were plenty of those when a pea-souper fog

descended. At Tally Ho, conductors frantically trying to find the right connecting wires at the junction for Wood Green caused a fine display of sparks and flashes.

Drivers had no protection from the elements. No windscreen saved them from the wintry blast – only heavy overcoats, thick gloves and layers of scarves. They bent over two control handles – the brake and the motor controller regulating speed.

The conductor had his ticket board, punch and cash-bag. He

extracted a pre-printed ticket, inserted it in his pouch, and punched a hole against your alighting point. It was an old penny from Church Lane to Tally Ho corner.

Trams were not reversible, but at the end of his journey the driver locked his controls and driving compartment door at one end, and transferred to the other.

Passenger seats inside ran lengthways, so the occupants faced one another. Being made of polished wood, the seats were slippery, so that, – when descending a hill, – the passengers slid together to the front of the vehicle. We were very friendly people in those days!



A tram at the North Finchley terminus. Photo supplied by Audrey Cartwright.

## The Whitsun Fun Fair

By Hugh Petrie

I found evidence for the fair three years ago in the *Barnet Press* of 1879. An established, annual, but previously unreported, event lasting from Thursday to Sunday, near The George in the fields where Stanley and Beresford Roads now stand. Attractions included an exhibition of curios and “wonders such as have never before been seen, and will not appear in this place again” (which proved popular with East Finchley’s youth), a shooting gallery, and acrobats. However The George had some genteel neighbours who were not enamoured by the sounds of the vulgar ‘broken drum and an unmelodious trumpet’ announcing each performance. Their complaints appeared in the same article and I assumed the fair had had to cease. But, as before, it had simply not been reported.

Two months ago I found a report in the *Finchley Free Press* of 1897. In fields behind the Five Bells, it came “unannounced and anticipated”. The reporter, Karl Penn, describes the Washington Post March being played on the “brazen trumpets of the organ”, as “young men who had brought their sweethearts grew reckless in their expenditure on swings and merry-go-rounds”, and rifles snapped at “cork balls that danced on their respective sprays of water, like nymphs of the fountain”.

I looked in the papers in May and June the following years.

The genteel neighbours of the Five Bells enjoyed the sound of the organ as much as their Market Place predecessors had enjoyed the trumpet and broken drum. The following years the fair was unreported, and I suspect really didn’t happen. “Considering the meagre opportunities for rational enjoyment, and the dullness of many lives, the last that condemns them shall be Karl Penn”, wrote our reporter, a sentiment with which I concur. At least the march can be heard at [http://members.tripod.com/rescue\\_1/Patriotic/default.htm](http://members.tripod.com/rescue_1/Patriotic/default.htm).

### KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

#### Free the Ferrari 550

These are mean and vicious times for petrol heads everywhere and unless we want to be forced to drive detoxed, low fat, low alcohol, low salt, dolphin friendly electric shopping trolleys we are going to have to fight for our rights. Just look at how the best driving roads in the area have been ruined by speed bumps and speed cameras. Roads where you could reach 70 mph in third gear and blast round at serious speeds have suffered from the nimby, namby, not in my backwater, it might frighten the children/cats/dogs/pensioners brigade and been destroyed. For serious speed freaks this has gone too far and we must fight back or we will be forced to endure the strange world of motoring lite.

Let’s get serious, let’s talk examples. Back in the 70s there was a seriously good bit of road between Muswell Hill and East Barnet. In fact it was so serious that I did the four miles in four minutes in a three-litre Capri only for one of my mates to turn up in an E-type and do it in under three minutes. So what if he hit 120mph on the way, it was for real, it was racing in the streets. And now? Speed bumps every 50 yards, four mini roundabouts, two speed cameras and a road designed for granies in aged Nissans doing fifteen miles an hour. What next? Speed cameras in The Bishops Avenue to stop us trying to hit the magic ton on the run past chateau tasteless? The spoilsports have already stuck them up to stop us doing 90 through the suburb!

It is time for motorists to stand up and be counted, time to destroy speed cameras wherever we see them, time to use a stolen JCB to dig up the speed humps and time to start racing in the streets again. Yes, let’s free the Ferrari 550 and get back to doing 150 on the North Circ. It might not make sense to the eco lobby, but it’s a lot more fun than poncing along at thirty behind some dolphin-friendly lite car that’s pre-programmed to take all the fun out of driving. Like the man said, the only thing better than driving a Ferrari at 70 is driving it at 170 and I believe we should all have the chance to find this out.

### Holy Trinity Church

Church Lane N2

Sundays: The Parish Communion 10 a.m.

Children including toddlers & babies are very welcome at all services in this multi-ethnic church.

Contact: The Revd. Laurence Hill Telephone: 020 8883 8720



#### PALM TREE COTTAGE (FALMOUTH AREA)

Modern well equipped self-contained flat for rent  
Close to Eden and many other gardens  
Also near the Cornish coastal path  
Small dogs are welcome  
For more details [www.cornwalltouristboard.co.uk](http://www.cornwalltouristboard.co.uk)  
To book call 01326 250708



# Mangalali Hoyee!!

By Mark Winton

**This is Mark Winton reporting all the way from rural Tanzania on the first two months of his big East African adventure.**

You may remember from the January edition of *THE ARCHER* the story of my juggleathon (in drag!) on World AIDS Day in Cherry Tree Woods. I was raising money for the charity Student Partnerships Worldwide (SPW). I am now working on the SPW Tanzanian Community Resource Programme (CRP).

I spent the first five weeks of my time here training in Iringa – a town in the south. I learnt how to build fuel-efficient stoves, non-formal teaching techniques and a lot of information concerning HIV/AIDS and STIs.

## Mangalali Hoyee!!

I was then posted to a small village called Mangalali with a population of around 2,500. I am working with two English volunteers and two Tanzanian volunteers. We are all sixth form leavers. The work has been going very well so far. We have

had many village meetings and we have already had seminars on HIV/AIDS. We will start teaching in the local primary school next week after the kids return from holiday. This week we are starting our seminars on composting and organic farming techniques. Mangalali Hoyee!! is the greeting that we give at our village meetings.

## Not like East Finchley

Mangalali is quite different to East Finchley. Less pubs and off-licences for a start and I still have not found the tube station. However, in some ways it's the same – for example there are some shocking bus services here! SPW is doing great work in Tanzania. The CRP programme is at the start of a three-year expansion plan and is going from strength to strength. The aid really does go to the people who need it most here. Look out in *THE ARCHER* for my further adventures.

# Carl Edmonds Appeal

**Carl Edmonds, a local resident of East Finchley, wrote to *THE ARCHER* from Zambia to explore the possibilities of funding for a Zambian colleague to further his studies in healthcare in order to obtain a Masters degree at the Nuffield Institute for Health.**

Carl is no stranger to *THE ARCHER*, as a letter from him was published last autumn. He was writing in response to a feature entitled 'Care for Someone'.

## A Masters for Maurice

For the last three years Carl has been working in Zambia and has already raised a few thousand pounds to pay for his colleague Maurice Shakwamba's, course fees. He has opened a bank account *A Masters for*

*Maurice Appeal* with Lloyds TSB bank, sort code 30-99-56, account number 01901758, and would welcome contributions. Tearfund UK and Prison Fellowship International have been key contributors so far.

On his return to East Finchley later this year, Carl has promised to write an article on his work in Zambian prisons where both he and Maurice presently work.

# Fetish Those Feet for Free!

By Erini Rodis

**May 2003 is World Foot Health Awareness Month. Feet – some people love them while others find them repulsive. Whatever reaction they bring out in you, feet are probably the strongest, most abused parts of our bodies, and they need looking after.**

The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists say that a staggering three out of four adults suffer from some sort of foot problem, sometimes without even realising it and most of us overlook how important it is to care for them, usually until it is too late.

## Help at hand.

As an incentive for us to get into a good habit or two, the Society are organising Free Foot Health Checks around the country. East Finchley's representative is podiatrist Helen Mikellides, who is based at Cootes Pharmacy. Phone 020 8883 0073 for details.

## Love your feet

For those of us who occasionally squeeze them into stilettos, we don't have to go as far as running the marathon to fully appreciate our feet. Let's face it; even people who say they find feet repulsive have no qualms about having their feet massaged, because it makes them feel fantastic. To make feet extra fresh try dissolving some English mustard powder into a warm-to-hot foot soak, and all those strange cheesy odours should disappear. Learn to love your feet; after all if your feet feel good then you do too!

For more information visit the SCP website [www.feetforlife.org](http://www.feetforlife.org).



Happy Feet! Photo by Erini Rodis

# Help us with Distribution!

*THE ARCHER* requires volunteer distributors for the following rounds:

- ♦ **Long Lane area:**  
Long Lane (part of), The Mead & Font Hills, Lucas Gardens
- ♦ **Woodside Avenue area:**  
Woodside Avenue (part of), Lanchester Road.
- ♦ **Strawberry Vale:**  
Brook Walk, Nursery Walk, Old Farm Road, Stable Walk
- ♦ **The Grange:**  
East View, Craven, Hilton, Berwick, Middleton, Oak, Vane & Willow Houses
- ♦ **Twyford Avenue area:**  
Beech Drive, Ringwood Avenue, Church Vale
- ♦ **Fortis Green area:**  
Fortis Green (part of)

*Delivery takes place once a month and a typical round takes 30-45 minutes. We also require car owners to drop off to our distributors each month. (Average 6-8 distributors per person).*

*For details of any of the above rounds, please call us on 8883 0433 or e-mail [distribution@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:distribution@the-archer.co.uk)*

# Bus Campaign

By Daphne Chamberlain

**As reported in our March issue, *THE ARCHER* is highlighting the dissatisfaction of many people with our local buses.**

We have received a number of complaints about this vital public service.

Some of you have expressed an interest in forming a pressure group - and through our pages we would like to offer you the opportunity to do just that.

Concerted action has proved effective in neighbouring areas.

Any organised campaign will be powered by the members of the community taking part. *THE ARCHER* will provide publicity. That is what the bus campaign is about.

# Finchley Manor Garden Centre

120 East End Road, East Finchley, London N2 0RZ

Tel: 020 8349 1228 Fax: 020 8343 4994

***Come and visit us to see our amazing Special Offers.***

**\* Top Soil 3 Bags for £9.00 - Farmyard Manure 3 Bags for £10.00 \*  
Giant Multipurpose Compost £3.99 - 120 litres of Chip Bark £4.99**

**We grow over 1/3 million plants a year on site in our extensive greenhouses.**

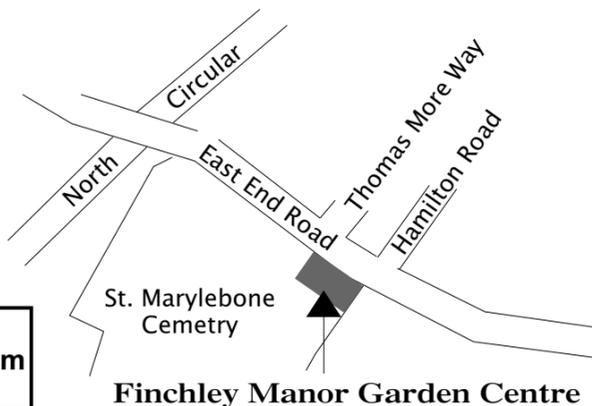
- Trees, Shrubs & House Plants, Alpines & Herbs
- Winter and Summer Bedding
- Fencing, Railway Sleepers
- Oak Barrels & Screening
- Log Rolls & Gazebos
- Rockery Stones & Chippings
- Ceramic Pots
- Statues & Water Features
- Gardening Sundries, Bulbs & Seeds
- Peat & Compost
- Gardening Tools
- Turf & Topsoil Delivered
- Pots & Hanging Baskets planted to order

**25,000  
Primroses  
all at 1/2 price  
35p each  
now available**

**We accept Mastercard, Visa,  
Solo, Debit Cards etc**

**Opening hours  
Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 5pm  
Sunday 10am - 4pm**

**We are Calor Gas stockists**





## YOUNG ARCHER



Martin School Years 4 and 5 on the pitch at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. Photo by Nora Yue.

## Martin Juniors visit Spurs

Thanks to the support of Barnet Education Business Partnership (see next month's *ARCHER* for a report on this) ninety Year 4 and 5 pupils spent a great day at White Hart Lane. The eight to ten-year-olds took part in an exciting maths challenge around the ground, had football coaching on the team's training pitch and toured the stadium, looking at the tunnel, celebrity boxes, changing rooms, team kits and wonderful trophies. Here is what some of them thought about it:

### Tottenham Heaven

By Christian Walker

It was great. They had matches, jokes and all! The most disappointing thing is that you can't go on the pitch, I'm sorry to say. The matches were great. This really funny but strict teacher managed to teach the people who can't play to play. When we're in the boxes it's a great view. I enjoyed the trip. You should go even if you don't support them!

### Tottenham Hotspurs

By Jadel Harvey

I liked it when we played footie and went on the tour. We had lots of fun. I even touched Doherty's tee shirt – he is number 12. I even saved goals at White Hart Lane. I sat in Glen Hoddle's seat (wow) and I sat in the away room (how cool). I also walked through the tunnel (wicked) and sat in the canteen room where some of the press go at half-time. I also sat in one of the press seats.

### Tottenham

By Fatima Abubaka

On Wednesday Years 4 and 5 went to Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club. First we did the maths trail. It was easy and the sheet tells you what to do. It was fun. Then we did some warm-ups and we played football. Bryan showed us how to pass a ball and how to stop. We played matches and we won. The score was 2-1. Then it was lunchtime. Then we went to the changing rooms and we saw football shirts. When we were doing the maths trail we were not allowed to go on the football pitch and I really enjoyed it. I wish we could go there again.

## Peace Poems

Children in Year 5 of Holy Trinity School wrote these acrostic poems for an Easter assembly, which took place on the morning after the war in Iraq ended.

Peace is a gift of love  
Each of us should remember  
Always thinking  
Caring, sharing  
Everyone has something on their mind.

By Russell Warman aged 9

People be passionate about each other  
Everyone unite together  
All around the world  
Comfort everyone in need  
Equality brings peace.

By Savannah Francis aged 9

Peace is a gift from God  
Everyone should get on with each other  
All of us should come together  
Care for God and for each other  
Enjoy the world as one.

By Luke Gwynette aged 8

Peace on earth would be perfect  
Everybody is equal  
Actions speak louder than words  
Care for the globe  
Everlasting love, spread through the world.

By Oliver Easterbrook aged 8

## Get on-line with our *FREE* Community Network

*THE ARCHER* is pleased to announce a new community Internet access provider called *EastFinchley.Net* which offers free email accounts, Internet access at local call rates from anywhere in the UK, local information and more.

Available to all East Finchley residents and businesses, this service provides anyone with a computer and a modem (or an ISDN line) with full Internet facilities for no sign-up fee or monthly charge.

### Local content

The site, sponsored by *THE ARCHER*, has community information and listings for local businesses and charities (available at no cost) plus links to other local web sites, such as that of East Finchley Community Festival. There are plans to allow businesses to advertise on the network, and even to have their own 'micro' web site for a low fee. Existing advertisers with *THE ARCHER* will benefit from a discount for such services.

You can browse the site, which officially

opens on 1 June, at [www.eastfinchley.net](http://www.eastfinchley.net).

### Sign up now

Request your email account now; simply provide your name, address and telephone number, and a preferred email username. You can do this through the Online Services section of the site, or, if you already have access to an email account (e.g. at work), send a message to [signmeup@eastfinchley.net](mailto:signmeup@eastfinchley.net). Written applications can be made to *THE ARCHER* (address on page 2). We will forward details of your account to you and how to access it.

Addresses will be of the form [username@eastfinchley.net](mailto:username@eastfinchley.net). As an individual, your username could be, say, *john.smith* whereas a business called ABC Limited might prefer *sales.ABC*.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity School

Everyone who attended a music morning at the school was impressed by the range of musical talents displayed by the children. Performances included guitar and recorder groups, the junior choir, infant classes, piano and woodwind students and music festival contributions.

Four pupils from Year 6 and one from Year 4 are raising money for the McMillan Cancer Relief charity by taking part in a sponsored swimathon.

The annual Easter Egg Bonanza was enjoyed by all.

### Martin Schools

Spurs was not the only visit for Year 5 (see *YOUNG ARCHER*). They also visited Clay Lane Environmental Centre to learn about water. By taking part in experimental activities involving things like evaporation, measurement, absorption and dilution, they learned many scientific and mathematical facts. They went into a water cleansing plant and then played games about water.

Money-raising projects have included Red Nose Day, when the children came to school wearing red noses and clothes. Staff face-painted red noses on those children who had not got one. They raised £130.

This year the PTA helped teachers at the bi-annual book fair. For the first time refreshments were provided for parents, while children browsed among the books. Takings exceeded those of previous fairs. The sale of Scholastic books raised £776 which will enable the school to choose several hundred pounds worth of free books for the library.

A former member of the infant staff is undertaking a trek to Machu Picchu in Peru to raise funds for cancer treatment and equipment at University College Hospital. The PTA sold tea and cakes in order to fund the initial expenses for the trek and raised £208.

Mother's Day was celebrated in the nursery with a tea party where the children presented their mothers with plants that they had grown themselves.

Reception children have been on an educational visit to Highgate Woods and older pupils took part in a geographical study along the High Road and a visit to the Natural History Museum.



Squirrel drey Photo by Erini Rodis



## East Finchley's Wild Life

As the article on parakeets and these pictures show, we have a rich array of wild life on our doorstep. The squirrel drey (top left) was taken in Coldfall Wood. The perceived Kestrel (above) was captured on camera by Tony Roberts on the Heath Extension and the fox was even closer to home in his East Finchley back garden.



## Parakeets have Landed in N2

By Daphne Chamberlain

We've told you about Kenwood parakeets. Now we have sightings in East Finchley and a baby came too!

In fact they have been among us for a couple of years. Linda Mitchell of Fordington Road is our star witness. Linda keeps a diary, and on 22 November 2000 she saw three of them dropping in for lunch at her bird feeder. She says, "My husband, Pete, had spotted them about a month before, but I asked him if he'd been at the wine!"

After that they became frequent visitors. Then, on 5 June 2002, Linda found herself hosting a birds' Parent and Toddler group. Having already seen baby robins and a young woodpecker, she was delighted when the parakeets brought along a small one. "It was about half their size, and obviously a baby, because it had to practise landing on the mesh feeder."

The Mitchells saw their first flock in October last year. "We counted up to about 30. They settled in our apple tree, which was a sight to behold."

Linda is interested in two she

spotted last month which look slightly different. Although of the same family, their beaks are not quite the same shape, and there are no pink markings around their necks.

Like the others, they are bright green - very exotic against winter snow. More so than birds visiting Linda's sister in Spain, who interestingly sees mainly sparrows.

The parakeets have never caused any damage, but Linda has stopped feeding in summer, as smaller birds had to wait in line. She supplies food through the winter, and reports that parakeets are especially partial to peanuts in their shells, which they transfer whole from claw to beak.

Being so close to woods, the Mitchells see a lot of birds. A heron has also landed in their apple tree, and they once found two visiting ducks. Linda has seen a pheasant walking along Fordington Road. She says, "I sometimes feel like the bird lady of East Finchley".

## RSPCA News

### Clean Sweep

Our clinic in Park Road, East Finchley, is looking for an animal lover to volunteer to clean the premises. The work can be done at any time to suit your convenience and will only take under an hour each week. All equipment is provided; if desired, a small honorarium would be paid. Please help us to keep up our work for animal welfare. For details, ring 020 8444 6096 mornings only before 11.30am.

### Neutering

Don't forget, cheap neutering for dogs is still available this month. Come along with your pet to the clinic, Mondays and Thursdays between 6 and 7.30pm.

## The East Finchley DENTAL CENTRE

*Dedicated to making you smile!*

- NHS & Private Patients Welcome
- Friendly, Experienced Dental Team
- Special Care for Nervous Patients, Children, Disabled and The Elderly
- Preventative Care
- Cosmetic Treatment, Teeth Whitening,
- Mercury Free White Fillings
- Crowns, Bridges and Dentures
- 24 Hour Emergency Cover
- Open 9am - 6pm Weekdays Sat. (by arrangement)

Tele: 020 8444 3436

144, High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9ED

## Motts Godwin Insurance

Competitive Insurance - Lady & Mature Drivers -  
Special rates for over 30's - Immediate cover -  
private car & commercial vehicles - Low rates -  
accidents & convictions - Instalments

Telephone 209 High Road, East Finchley  
London, N2 8AN  
**020 8444 1040**



## Regular Events Sport & Fitness

- ❖ **Badminton** on Wednesdays. Call 020 8349 0170
- ❖ **Body Control Pilates** classes. Call Deanna Wisbey 020 8883 7029
- ❖ **Counselling and psychotherapy service** at the Green Man Centre. For details phone 8440 4174
- ❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), has monthly meetings & rides. Call 020 8440 9080.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, open daily from 2pm. See ad this page.
- ❖ **Step/Aerobics classes**, Sundays at Bar XL. Phone 0789 0033 968.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Barnet Schools Music Centre** call 020 8359 3111 for details.
- ❖ **Broadway & West End Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.
- ❖ **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**, Colney Hatch Lane, 020 8883 0911
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Monday 5 & 19 May at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
- ❖ **Private drum tuition**, beginners welcome. Contact Eddie 8444 8376
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church 020 8455 2403
- ❖ **Private singing lessons**, all levels Contact Anouschka 020 8444 82 05
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London**, Contact Stephen Kelsey, 020 8883 3365

## Clubs & Social

- ❖ **All Saints Beer and Wine Circle** Call Richard Baldwin 020 8883 7081
- ❖ **Bingo**, Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Ann Sullivan, 020 8442 1941
- ❖ **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 Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian Merryweather 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613
- ❖ **Hampstead Social Group**, membership late 30's-late 40's Call David Morris, 020 8455 0477
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Synagogue**, Tetherdown, 020 8883 5925
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, 020 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, 020 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professional and business people, Details Eric Dalton 8340 0822

# MGM and the Nostalgia of 'The Old Days'

By Irene Zevallos

Recently a celebration of classic MGM film musicals took place in the Royal Festival Hall; a night full of sweet memories.

### Musical Memories

With an auditorium full of people of all ages, the number of children was agreeably surprising. Old couples singing in low voices tried not to disturb the audience, making an effort but unwilling to stop themselves from joining in.

This well organized production was presented by Euphorium Bakery in association with Tom Croxon Management. John Wilson, who has established a reputation and is recognized internationally as a conductor, was magnificent, as was his orchestra.

In an almost hypnotic way, they transported the audience back in years and showed the youngsters the beauty of the 'grand old days'!

### That's Entertainment

The voices of Maria Ewing, Tim Flavin and Gary Williams were enjoyed throughout. Although this type of musical does not involve constant choral participation, the voices of the Crouch End Festival Chorus (in which one of the ARCHER team, Sonia Singham, is an active singer), confirmed the saying about quality beating quantity, as their contribution to the majesty of the show was invaluable...

Ironically, the MGM studio's library was dismantled in 1969 for reasons of space, leaving only one copy of a conductor's score for each film. Because some of these scores vary in accuracy and completeness, and in some cases do not survive at all, the passion and perseverance in accomplishing this spectacular programme included transcribing sketches directly from films.

### Masterpieces

As Wilson said "The MGM musicals are masterpieces in every way - story, colour, photography, direction, acting and then, of course, the music and the singing..."

The truth is, what we can find *Over the Rainbow* after *Singing in the Rain*, can definitely lead us to enjoy *Dancing in the Dark*.

For me... *That's Entertainment!*

# Watch the Birdie

By Diana Cormack

After years of wondering, I recently found out why "Watch the birdie" became the catchphrase for taking a photograph. In a fascinating collection of almost three hundred weird and wonderful contraptions at Church Farm Museum there is a gadget used by photographers in the late Victorian era. It consists of a model metal bird perched on a water container with a rubber pipe running from it to the photographer. At the appropriate moment the photographer would blow down the pipe making the bird trill and his sitters smile.

The exhibition, which runs until 1 June, is full of fascinating inventions for everyday life dating from 1800 to 1950 and, when not on display in Hendon, they are all housed in East Finchley.

### Bright spark

Maurice Collins of Beech Drive, N2, has been collecting for over thirty years, but it wasn't his idea. It was something his son wanted to do as a youngster and which Maurice continued to do and can now show to his grandchildren. He has progressed from digging on canal banks and beside old railway lines to receiving calls from people all over the world with objects to add to his collection. Some of these, such as the 1890s washing machine complete with a mangle, are too big to exhibit. In fact, his most valuable object is a washing machine in the form of a salesman's sample from 1897.



Maurice Collins with his hat maker's measurer and using a fruit peeler, at Church Farm Museum. Photo by Diana Cormack.

### Clockwork Teasmaid

Maurice's favourite is The Clockwork Teasmaid, patented by a Birmingham gunsmith in 1902. Clockwork features a lot in the exhibition and it is interesting to note the number of objects which have a modern day equivalent. It is also fun to guess what some of them were for or to wonder how well they might have been used. How about a big toe sock protector, a railway door opening stick or a smelling salts attachment for a policeman's belt? Last year Maurice, who

has a disabled daughter and is the chairman of Haringey Mencap, raised £10,000 for the charity Kith and Kin with his quizzes.

### Opening hours

The museum on Greyhound Hill, NW4 is open Monday-Thursday, 10am-12.30pm and 1.30-5pm; Saturday, 10am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm; Sunday, 2pm-5.30pm. Admission is free and you can take the 143 bus; nearest tube Hendon Central. For further details phone 020 8203 0130.

## Muswell Hill Bowling Club



FREE

- First ten weeks
- Tuition
- Loan of equipment.

- 2003 season starts 26 April
- Open daily from 2.00 pm
- Club night each Friday from 6.00pm

The Green, Kings Avenue, Muswell Hill, N10 1PB  
Tel 020 8883 1178

## All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life and a riotous Youth Club for church members. Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children. Experienced singers are always welcome. Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

## East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2  
Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm  
for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome

## Letters to The Editor

## Unfair?

Dear Editor

**Re: Waitrose Development, High Road, East Finchley**  
Your coverage of this development seems to be very biased towards the Waitrose proposal.

Here are some examples: In both the March and April issues, you included one letter against and two in favour of the development. This is in spite of the fact that the Labour Questionnaire Results printed on page 10 of the March issue show that 60% of the local population oppose the scheme. This reflects neither local opinion, nor can it result from a lack of letters received opposing the scheme.

Both my husband and I, and several acquaintances, have expressed our objections to the Waitrose development, and our letters have not been published. I also notice that those supporting the Waitrose development do not live anywhere near the site (pro-Waitrose letters in March and April issues of THE ARCHER live in Leopold Road, Trinity Road, Sedgemere Avenue, Howard Walk). If these local residents are in favour of the scheme, perhaps they could find a brownfield site at the ends of their roads where a Waitrose could be built. It looks like a case of reverse NIMBY: they're for it as long as it's not in their backyard.

I'd like to take the opportunity to restate my objections to the Waitrose proposal, which would destroy local shops and the character of the area, demolishing both period buildings and an open area of grass with several mature birch trees, a yew tree and many flowerbeds, which provides important protection and a buffer zone to the adjacent Cherry Tree Woods.

How many of us now step off the tube and breathe more deeply as we pass this open refreshing space, one which perhaps we barely notice until suddenly it is gone - covered by concrete, building, tarmac, car

parks and a service road for vast delivery lorries? How many of us enjoy the diversity of shops along the area that would be demolished? All would be replaced by the homogenous noise and glare of yet another supermarket, where conviviality is squeezed out in the check-out queues and the endless aisles and trollies.

Just as the march towards paved front gardens for car parks is gradually destroying the diversity of living gardens that once brought life to streets, so the march towards supermarkets represents further destruction of diversity, as well as a centralization of profits. Supermarkets also inevitably bring further traffic and pollution in their wake. THE ARCHER, as a local paper run by volunteers, surely needs to have a remit for a promoting of people power and local diversity, instead of siding with big business, who already have power on their side.

Yours sincerely

K Goaman (address supplied)

**The Editor replies: "I am responding to this letter as a means of addressing for the readership some criticisms levelled at THE ARCHER team for so-called 'biased coverage of this and other 'burning issues' over the years.**

"THE ARCHER has been accused of 'biased reporting' of this sensitive issue by readers on both sides of the argument. This in itself is testimony to the fact that our reporting has been balanced. We do try to keep the number of letters published (one measure raised here) as balanced as we can. A problem I face as editor is that I may receive several letters on a subject, all repeating the same points. It would not serve our readership to repeat endlessly these same points simply by virtue of them being made by different individuals.

"In February I published a précis of comments we had received, outlining a large number of the concerns raised with us about the Waitrose development. In March we printed four letters in favour (not two) and

five against (not one). April showed one letter against and two letters for. Six letters on each side over a two-month period is, I suggest, as balanced as a newspaper could reasonably be expected to be.

"Whilst it is true that the survey shows 60% of those who replied are against the development (note where you read this, and consider on which side of the 'balance equation' this should be placed) it is also true that in issues such as the Waitrose scheme, those opposing tend to be much more vocal than those who are either for or neutral. The survey, though useful, does not claim to be scientific.

"Finally, having restated your own reasons for opposition to the scheme (all of which have been aired over the past few months), you conclude by accusing THE ARCHER team (many of whom are against the proposed development) of 'siding with big business'. THE ARCHER reports what is happening in East Finchley in a balanced and, we hope, entertaining way. Our loyalty, if there is one to be declared, surely lies with the many small businesses that, through their advertising, have funded THE ARCHER read by so many for over a decade."

## I want Waitrose

Dear Editor

Now at last I can come out of the closet and admit those dark feelings which I have secretly harboured since the very first time I heard of the Waitrose proposition. I WANT WAITROSE. My heart leapt as I thought of being able to pop down for fruit and vegetables which do not need dusting when purchased and which do not decompose within seconds; I thought of purple sprouting broccoli, sushi and affordable fresh ciabatta.

My mind even sank as low as being excited at the thought that the type of people who live in our rich surrounding villages - Highgate,

Muswell Hill, Crouch End and, even, Hampstead - coming to East Finchley. (Of course, I do not admit to living in East Finchley, I rather pompously say "Fortis Green" and then enquire if the person knows Muswell Hill and hope the subject ends there.) I have often envied the vibrant atmosphere of the above villages; smartly dressed young families pushing children in buggies around the streets of a weekend, stopping to chat, filling the restaurants at lunchtimes, shopping and smiling. I also should point out that some of these people are 'celebrities'.

So you see, being the depraved and twisted individual that I am, I thought that if they came to shop at Waitrose, which, have no doubt they will as there is no more 'celeb' supermarket, they may spend their time and money in other shops.

But then I am stopped dead in my tracks. THE LIBRARY! Evil, nasty Waitrose is stealing the library from the children, I remind myself. Isn't it? No, actually, the Barnet Council is refusing to comply with legal requirements, which cost money, to update it and so is closing it completely without replacement.

Am I missing something? Why are the placard wearers not campaigning against the council? As a barrister, I question whether the closure is in fact legal, given the legitimate expectation of the users that it continue to be there. Many issues could be explored in an attempt to force the council to spend the money on the library. What has it got to do with Waitrose, save to say that it has offered to provide one? Would they be in favour of it more if it had not done so?

It is OK, you can all admit it; you know you WANT WAITROSE!  
Victoria Doran  
Fortis Green, N2

## Rush hour all day

Dear Sir

Those who are in favour of the East Finchley Waitrose (Michael Brown, David Bradbury, Leon Simmons) are deluded if they think it will somehow transform the High Road. It will inevitably lead to the closure of local convenience stores, grocers, fishmongers and butchers - adding to an already large number of empty properties. Evidence from other similar developments suggests that people do not stop off after their weekly supermarket shop to use other local stores - they load up and go home.

As for the suggestion that it "may even encourage people out of their cars" (Tony Roberts), why are Waitrose planning to build a car park with 150 spaces, enough for 2,000 cars per day? Take a look at the High Road in the rush hour - if the Waitrose scheme goes ahead this is what it will be like from morning to early evening, every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Is that really what you want? I agree that the High Road is "shabby". But the way to redevelop it is for Barnet Council to encourage existing businesses and residents to look after the environment, and improve it and attract new stores which will provide "atmosphere" - like pavement cafes and restaurants.

I have nothing against Waitrose and, yes, their food is "high-quality", but the shop they're planning to build in East Finchley is a huge superstore - more suited to a retail park than a high street.

Yours sincerely  
Danny Shaw  
Ingram Road, N2

Send your correspondence to:

"Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.  
(Due to space restrictions, letters over 200 words will be edited)

Friendly, Local and Affordable Products &amp; Services only at:

EAST FINCHLEY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (Est. 30 Years)



## Light Up for Summer

Low Voltage Garden Lighting for Decking, Patios and Driveways.



Pebble Fountain Kit  
Includes Pump and all  
necessary Accessories  
only £39.99



## For Your PC

- Keyboards
- Mouse
- Ink Jet Cartridges
- Blank CD-Roms
- Floppy Disc Drives

Now Available  
Computer Repairs & Upgrades

020 8444 5630 115 High Road, London N2. www.ef-elec.co.uk

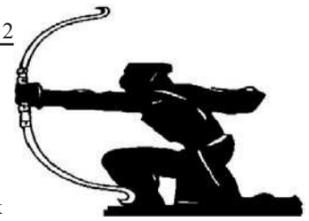


Shoes, Trainers, Sandals, Bags and Luggage

Complete Repair Service by a craftsman  
Same day if required

Key Cutting

1 Manor Park Rd. N2, behind 88 Church Lane, opposite Trinity Church  
Tel: 07956 329 150 Open 12-8pm (not Wednesdays)



Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk



Holy light is distributed and the bells toll at St Andrew's in Kentish Town and (below) Easter-eggs Greek style - with 'flaounes' cakes in the foreground. Photos by Erini Rodis.

## Seeing the Light

By Erini Rodis

Easter is the biggest event of the Greek Orthodox calendar, but this year's took on special significance for Cypriots all over London.



As Father Constantinos explains, Orthodox Easter is dated "to include the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox (March 21), and must also fall after the Jewish festival of Passover, when the crucifixion occurred".

Celebrations begin with an evening procession, on Good Friday, of Jesus' tomb. The next morning kitchens are full of eggs and flour and cheese while "flaounes" (pictured bottom right) are baked and eggs are dyed red. Then on Holy Saturday evening an even fuller congregation waits until the lights go out. Priests walk slowly through the darkness with a holy flame, which is shared and spread throughout the congregation, all singing in Greek while the bells toll: "Christ is risen from the dead, and by his death, tramples on death, and to those in graves bestows life!"

## Return of the Café

By Diana Cormack

Park users will be pleased to know that plans are in progress for the return of a café in Cherry Tree Wood on the site of the one which was burned down last October. Eileen Cannon, who will again be renting the premises from Barnet Council, was hoping to have the business up and running by the end of April. However, delays blamed on the length of time taken for the insurance money to come through mean that, at the time of writing, this has been put back to the end of May. Eileen is more than ready to get back to work, having already missed some glorious weather which would have been good for business.

### Al fresco entertainment

The new mobile café will have a veranda with tables underneath, enabling customers to continue enjoying her hospitality during inclement weather. She intends to continue much as before, organising entertaining events such as her meals with music which became so popular that, as well as customers at the tables, families also used to come and picnic on the

grass between the café and the tennis courts.

"Those people who burned the café down haven't put me off at all," Eileen told *THE ARCHER*. "I am really looking forward to a new start."

Lets hope that Barnet will live up to its slogan of putting the community first and restore this service sooner rather than later.

### MUSWELL HILL BOOKSHOP

Now holds regular author readings and discussions. If you would like further information or to join our mailing list contact us at:



72 FORTIS GREEN ROAD, N10  
020 8444 7588

### SECUREBASE

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Your Security problems Solved!

- Audio & Video Entry Phones
- Access Controls
- CCTV
- Intercom Systems



ESTABLISHED 1988



0800 279 0791

112 High Road, East Finchley, London N2  
www.securebase.co.uk

## STEWART-DUNCAN

OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS \* EST. 1962

126 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY, LONDON, N2 9ED

020 8883 2020

Buy a Pair of Spectacles and Get

Free  
Prescription  
Sunglasses

OR

Designer  
Prescription  
Sunglasses

for £59

Giorgio Armani \* Calvin Klein  
DKNY \* Polo Ralph Lauren



The small print!

Terms and Conditions Apply  
Ask in store for details