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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Armed robbers held up this Securicor van outside Barclays Bank in the High Road. Photo by John Dearing

Armed Robbery in High Road

By John Dearing
On Friday 29 August at around 3 pm, a Securicor van making a delivery to Barclays Bank in the High Road was robbed.

Two men, armed with a gun, arrived on a motorcycle, held up the crew of the van and sped away. Shortly afterwards, armed police arrived to control the situation, but the robbers had escaped.

Not long afterwards, police detectives canvassed local shop workers and passers-by.



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Consultation: Cock-up or Conspiracy?

By Tony Roberts

The long awaited and much vaunted library consultation questionnaire finally dropped onto East Finchley residents' doormats last month with a deafening plop— just one per household as anticipated. The slim line questionnaire raised more hidden questions than the formal ones it posed. As expected, not all possible solutions were covered; an extension to the existing library, though feasible, was noticeable by its absence. Nor was any second choice option provided. Given the cost of the survey to council tax payers, one might have thought a thorough job would have been on the cards.

A waste of a mailing?

No supporting information was included in the mailing, so a quick trip to the library to collect a pamphlet is required by anyone wishing to provide a meaningful response to the proposals.

The library plans themselves raise yet a further question. The new first floor library plan looks suspiciously like the controversial proposals for the Waitrose development, extending well beyond Park House; but if that project doesn't go ahead, where does that leave the new library? In the air?

Open minded?

In response to questions, the Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Victor Lyon told *THE ARCHER*, "Barnet Council has commissioned a reputable independent company who have a great deal of experience in major consultation projects,

and they will continue to assist us through the process for East Finchley Library.

"The future of the library is not pre-determined in any way. We look forward to hearing what local people would like us to provide for them, and remain open-minded about the future of the library. No decision has been made, or will be made until the consultation process has been completed."

Dealing with the questions more directly, local ward councillors Alison Moore, Colin Rogers and Phil Yeoman said "This council consultation falls far short of what we demanded of the Tory Council back in June. We have persistently argued for a full and open consultation on the prospective Waitrose development and library so that all East Finchley residents can have their say on a scheme which will have a major impact on their daily lives. The council aren't interested in those views. The Tories remain determined to impose a scheme on the residents of East Finchley: Move the Library and Open a Superstore."

Cllr Yeoman said "Your Ward Councillors will continue to fight the Waitrose Development and demand that the Library stays where it is and is fully upgraded to meet modern needs."

Ask the right questions

Poorly conducted and badly presented consultation exercises like this one inevitably call into question any mandate that might be claimed from them, and lead to suspicions, if not actual accusations, of manipulation.

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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 to us at the above address.

14 October is the copy deadline for the November issue.

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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

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- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244 / 8489 8774

Hairdressing Salons Targeted by Criminals

Since the beginning of August this year 17 hairdressing and barbers salons across the borough have been broken into and had either property stolen or damage caused. Five of these alone happened over the weekend of 13 September.

As a result, Barnet Police are issuing warnings to salons to prevent this type of offence.

1. Never leave cash on the premises overnight, (signs indicating that there is no cash are available free from the Crime Reduction Officers on 020 8733 5092).

2. If the till is visible from the street, leave the cash till empty and open and visible, when locking up.

3. If there is an alarm fitted to the premises, make sure it is serviced regularly and use it.

4. Make sure both front and rear doors are locked securely at night, preferably with two locks on each door one of which conforms to British Standard 3621 or similar – a sturdy mortise lock.

5. When closing the salon at night ensure that scissors, hairdryers, clippers and charity boxes are all stored out of sight and preferably locked away.

6. The above advice applies to pay phones and sound systems, keep them out of sight from anyone outside the shop if possible.

For further crime prevention advice, Barnet Crime Reduction Officers may be contacted on 020 8733 5092 and will be happy to visit and give free advice.



Pictured with the Mayor at City Hall: Chris Barker of Buswatch Haringey, Alan Butcher – LB Camden, Steve Cottingham of London Transport Users' Committee, Lynne Featherstone of the London Assembly, LB Haringey, Cllr Gerry Harrison – LB Camden, Eugene Myerson of Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, David Shelborne – Highgate Society, Jane Simmonds – local traffic working group & Muswell Hill resident Keith Tarn.

Trial Bus Route Approved

Local campaigners were delighted after convincing Mayor Ken Livingstone to give a Muswell Hill-to-Swiss Cottage bus route a trial.

A delegation, including London Assembly member Lynne Featherstone and campaign leader Keith Tarn, were told the good news at a meeting with the Mayor at City Hall in mid-September.

Following a consultation period there will be buses on trial along the route in the mornings and afternoons from early next year.

Park Gates to be Locked at Night

Anyone who tried to walk through Cherry Tree Wood before 8 am was in for a surprise if they did so after 15 September, for they would have been unable to get in.

At some unknown time Barnet Council notices had been put up at the park's entrances

announcing the night time closure, starting at 7.30 pm in mid-September and decreasing gradually. Strangely, no locals seem to have been informed that these changes were imminent, not even The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Is this yet another example of Barnet's 'putting the community first'?

From 28 September to 11 October the gates will be locked at 6.30 pm.

From 12 October to 25 October they will be locked at 6 pm.

From 26 October to 31 December they will be locked at 4.30 pm.

Local Planning Applications

Vale Farm House, Font Hills –

Erection of 2 two-storey blocks (plus rooms in loft space) to provide a total of 16 houses following demolition of Vale Farm House. Provision of 22 car parking spaces with access from The Meads and Font Hills.

2/3 Bedford Mews –

Demolition of existing timber framed rear extension and erection of new single-storey rear extension. Alterations to front elevation including installation of steel shutter.



Suburb Rejects Institute's Plans

By Alison Stein

There was heated debate at the meeting of the Council of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association on 2 September at which members were to discuss their response to Barnet Council on proposals to develop the Neurological Hospital site in East Finchley. Members were outnumbered by residents, mainly from the East Finchley side of the Suburb. On the table was the RA's draft response to Barnet Council, – and on the table in the entrance hall stood a large scale model of the proposed development (which includes a building for the Institute and two large blocks of flats) commissioned by the objectors from Huntingdon Associates of East Finchley.

The RA's report supported "the principle of an Institute on this site" but urged Barnet to reject the current proposals because "the spirit of the HGS Conservation Area would be harmed by the over-development of this backland" and because the proposals did not conform to Government guidelines.

Mr Malcolm Davis, Chairman of the Institute, urged Council members to reject the report and accept their historic duty to support the Institute, which would soon have to vacate its site on Central Square. He warned that there would be a great loss of Suburb amenities if the Institute could not settle on the East Finchley site, and announced that the developers were producing a third version

of their plans.

Many Council members (and some residents) spoke for and against the report. Supporters of the Institute stressed its importance, and objectors to the plans explained the damaging consequences in terms of traffic, parking and impact on neighbouring residents of all three proposed buildings, pointing out that the Institute had considered other sites outside the Suburb, and could do so again.

Finally, the Council voted 9–2 to accept the report, and to urge Barnet to reject the current proposals. After the meeting, Mrs Naylor, Principal of the Institute, confirmed that even if the Institute left Hampstead Garden Suburb, they would do their utmost to retain some classes at Central Square.



Scale model shows a NOGO area. Photo by Erini Rodis.

Neurological Hospital Plans

By Erini Rodis

A special 3D 'guest' greeted the Hampstead Garden Suburb residents' meeting in Willfield Way last month. Kindly supplied by Huntingdon Associates (master planning and civic design, based in Huntingdon Rd)

This scale model illustrates what the block of buildings behind East Finchley Station would look like should the proposed plans for the Neurological Hospital site go ahead.

A five-storey building for the Institute, plus two six-storey blocks of flats are planned.

Local residents have been voicing objections to what they describe as an over-develop-

ment. Particular concerns include the lack of parking spaces and the subsequent increase in traffic density and thus extra traffic delays and more local pollution, which the Institute's new plans are expected to cause. What is illustrated most clearly by the scale model, however, is the change in local residents' private rear views.

Going, Going... Gone

By Frank Tymkow

These photographs show the demise of one of the oldest public houses in East Finchley.

The Duke of Cambridge, formerly in Market Place, is now nothing more than a hole in the ground, the remnants of its cellar.

Like the other pubs before it (The Manor Cottage, The George...), it is to be replaced with residential flats.

The Red Lion is already



Above: The end is nigh for the Duke of Cambridge. Below right: Razed to the ground.

Photos by Frank Tymkow

boarded up, and one is left wondering which of the more traditional public houses will next succumb to modern market forces.

Launderette

Raid

By Erini Rodis

Thieves destroyed the front of a washing machine in the High Road launderette recently, rendering it useless.

Owner Hector, who found the damage, confirms that the thieves got away with just £2.40 for their trouble. The consequences have meant shorter opening hours, more supervision and one less machine for members of the public to use. All for less money than it takes to buy a couple of bus tickets.



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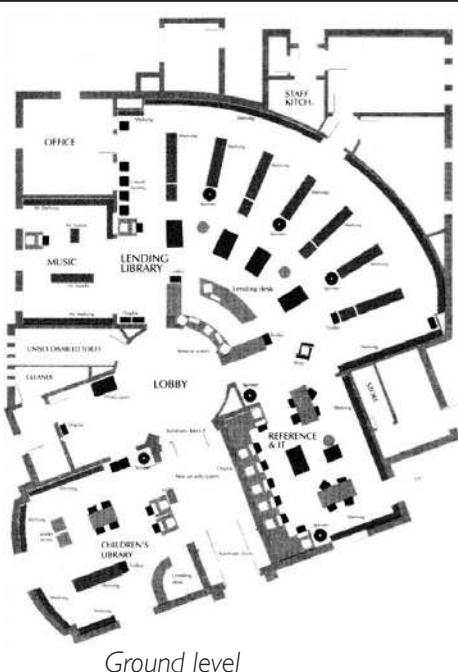
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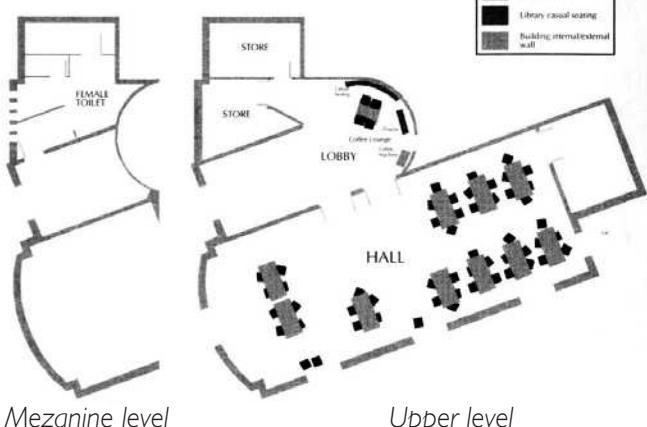
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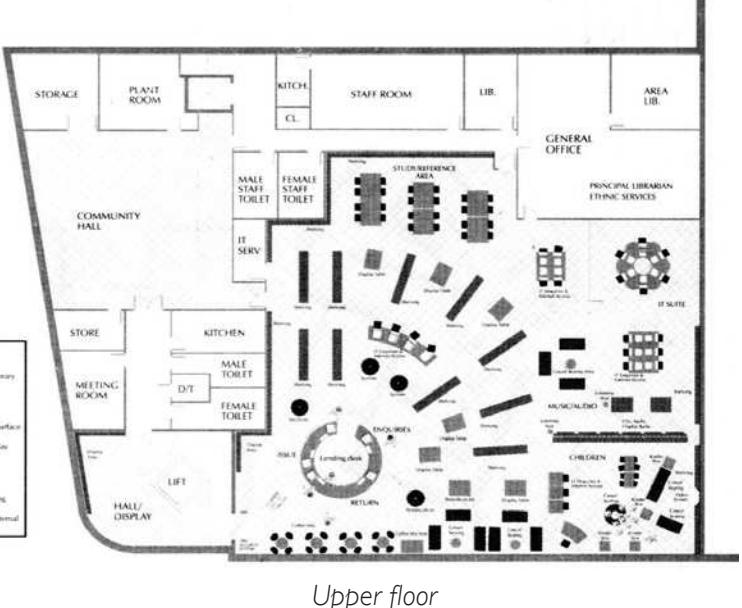
1) Improvements to the existing library



Current Library Facilities:
Adult lending & reference areas
Children's library
IT access
Coffee lounge
Audio visual room
Public toilets
Community hall

Improved Facilities to include:
Lift access
Unisex disabled toilet facilities
IT facilities and number of computers increased
More accessible shelving & layout

Limitations:
No increase in space
Limited study space
Limited parking space
Limited IT & computer access
Decrease in stock due to shelving requirements



Improved Facilities for new library to include:
Adult lending and reference areas
Children's & teenage section
IT access including computer taster sessions and basic training

Refreshment area
Music listening posts
Public toilets
Community hall & additional meeting room
Lift access

The Facts:
60% larger
30% Increase in adult fiction book stock
Improved children's area
Improved parking space
Easily accessible by tube & bus

Barnet Council's consultation also includes a proposal to leave the existing library as it is. However, this option does not satisfy the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and is therefore not a legally acceptable alternative.

A Question of Tactics

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month we reported that only one vote per household would be allowed on the library questionnaire. However, some people have acquired additional copies by contacting the researchers direct.

One resident said, "I rang Quality Fieldwork, explaining that five unrelated individuals

live in this house – of different ages, different ethnic groups, and with different interests. How could one person fill in the form for everyone? They immediately sent four more forms to the house."

When I heard this account, I rang Quality Fieldwork myself, explaining that I also needed more than one form. "No problem," I was told, and

another form arrived. However, a spokesperson from Barnet Council told me, "That was not the arrangement. Extra forms should be stamped "duplicate", so that only one vote is recorded per household."

I have four questions: How can Barnet say that their consultation is the opportunity for everyone to give their opinion? Why didn't they send a form to everyone on the electoral roll? How many other people have acquired additional forms? How does this affect the survey?

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Alternative Library Plans Launched

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Let's be straight about Barnet's consultation. A new library would be part of the Waitrose development plan. The present library is our heritage, and the easiest thing to do is to extend it."

That was the message when local architects and designers James Elliott and Chris Hampson launched their alternative library refurbishment plans at Maddens on 2 September.

Chris Hampson felt that the library's new Grade 2 listing meant that the building was here to stay. "An application to de-list would effectively be an application to demolish it. Why would English Heritage agree to that? It would be hard to find another use for it without destroying significant features."

He said that Barnet has an obligation to provide a 21st century library, but the Council's refurbishment suggestions would amount to little more than adding a lift and some facilities for the disabled. The obvious way was to enlarge by building upward at the back. Barnet was selling off enough land around East Finchley to finance this.

Look after our library
When someone in the audience remarked that it would still cost "a hell of a lot", James Elli-

ott replied that Barnet would be giving up £1.6 million by gifting Park House to developers. What we would get from that would be library space over a supermarket. "This is our library," he said, "and we should look after it."

The meeting agreed that the present library is in exactly the right position. There was incredulity at Barnet's assertion that opposite the station is the centre of East Finchley, and concern over the area for the consultation questionnaire.

James Elliott said it was vital that people in East Finchley replied to the questionnaire (which, at the time of the meeting, nobody had seen). "All we want is parity for our plans," he said. "We asked Barnet whether they could be exhibited alongside the Council exhibition, but the shutters just came down."

Chris Hampson asked for volunteers to man the exhibitions and provide information. The alternative library plans are displayed in Chorak in the High Road.

Listing Lowdown

By Daphne Chamberlain

How do you get a building listed? We asked Tony Hunt of Park Hall Road, and Polly Napper of Elmhurst Court, whose separate efforts secured Grade 2 listing for the library.

Tony, a 'buildings person' who used to work for English Heritage, applied last January. He wrote to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. They ask English Heritage to inspect the building, and must be convinced of its architectural or historical interest.

Get the picture

"Send photos – exterior and interior, if possible," Tony says. "That interests them." He also sent an area map, marked with a cross, and a comprehensive description of the building. This included when it was built, and who designed it. That information came from the board in the library.

Tony used three or four lines from Pevsner's Buildings of England in support, mentioned its central location, proximity to schools, etc., and added that despite being the best historical building of its period in Finchley, it was under threat. He

sent copies of all this to the 20th Century Society, who promised their support. (There are Victorian and Georgian Societies for buildings of those periods.)

In April, Polly applied. A designer whose father taught architecture, she considers the building the most attractive in Finchley. As the mother of a child at Martin School, she knows that many children would lose their links with the library if it was moved, and believes that it should remain centrally sited for all the community.

Act before it's threatened

Polly found a 1938 booklet in Barnet Archives, commemorating its opening and showing that the building was virtually unaltered. She sent this along with photos, maps, a description and the Pevsner quote, opening hours and contact telephone numbers.

In August they both received the letter that they wanted.

Tony has already secured listings for other buildings and Polly is now planning her next project. A word of warning from Tony – it's better not to wait until buildings are under threat. Be aware that local authorities can apply for five-year exemptions from listing – but thankfully not after it has been granted.

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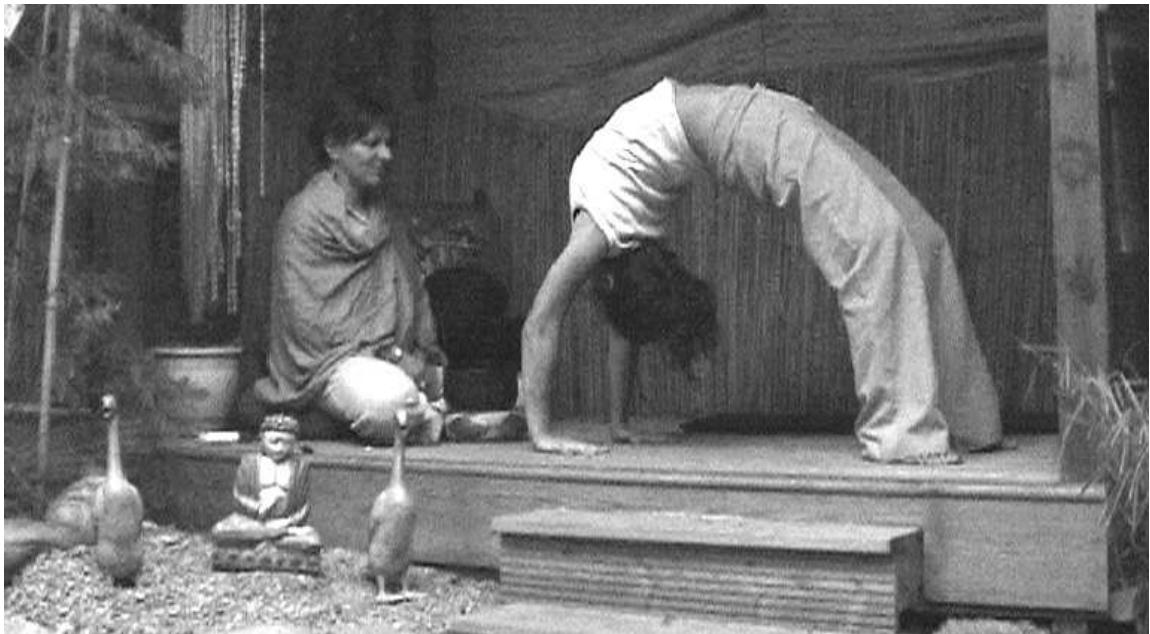
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Sally meditates while Summer curves into crab posture, on an Indonesian pagoda. Photo by Erini Rodis

Bend Over Backwards for Local Health

By Erini Rodis

If it hurts when you bend down to touch your toes then you need to learn to stretch! Mother and daughter team Sally and Summer Rose have been running local yoga classes for years.

Training together in the Indian town of Udaipur a few years ago, they started with the Sivananda method as a base, plus many forms of Hatha yoga; they then devised their own system, called *Transformational yoga*. This is a more meditative approach to get very relaxed before stretching into postures. Along with the potential spirituality of yoga, it also offers a sign of hope to all those who accept aches and pains as part of their normal existence; and as a practising homeopath for over twenty years, Sally concedes that yoga is actually more effective than homeopathy.

The wide age range of the clientele is reflected in a flexible approach to teaching; and mother and daughter complement each other well. With her experience of meditation retreats Sally brings a slower breathing element to the class, while those who want a more dynamic approach will follow Summer's workout.

Classes are held at Holy Trinity Church, on a mezzanine floor surrounded by Victorian stained glass.

"It brings a certain calmness into your life, a silence," says Summer. "It's a lifestyle thing... it gets you fighting fit, boosts

the immune system and keeps the body strong and supple, which is also good for the back."

"It's very healing," says Sally, when describing the process of using postures and breathing exercises, "I've had elderly people come to the classes, some very arthritic and hardly able to move. Now they're doing salutes to the sun!"

They are open to people dropping in, but to avoid overcrowding, please do call first to reserve a space. Tel 020 8444 7217, or 07941 321 772 phone or text. Classes are on Sunday at 6pm and Tuesday at 8pm.

Fluoride Worries Grow

Mayor Ken Livingstone recently stressed the urgent need for an independent study of the full health impacts of adding fluoride to water in areas such as London. Following probing by Greens on the London Assembly, Livingstone said he would support GLA funding for such a study. He also backed a recent decision of the London Assembly Health Committee to commission a poll of public opinion on water fluoridation in ten London boroughs.

The Mayor explained his position on water fluoridation in response to a question tabled by Green London Assembly member, Noel Lynch, at a London Assembly meeting in September.

Mr. Lynch welcomed the Mayor's call for an independent study into the full health impacts of adding fluoride to London's water, saying, "I believe it is vital that a genuinely independent study be completed before any decision is taken which would allow fluoride to be added to London's water".

Some have raised concerns about possible side effects, including brittle bones, accumulation in the pineal glands and thyroid deficiency. Fifteen out of eighteen Western European countries have totally rejected water fluoridation.

The Water Bill currently before Parliament contains a clause that will allow health authorities to require water fluoridation. London is likely to be a target area for fluoridation. MPs will be given a free vote on the proposal at the Bill's Third Reading, probably in November.

Partners in Crime

Prevention

By Ann Bronkhorst

Vandals, burglars, car thieves; we all know the misery they cause. But when a pro-active local Neighbourhood Watch group got together in September there were plenty of ideas about protecting property, homes and people.

Twyford Avenue and the nearby roads of Church Vale, Beech Drive and Ringwood Avenue have a lively group co-ordinated by Terry and Charlotte Rushton. Socialising helps to keep the momentum going – last year they organised a street party – but the main purpose is to combat crime. At this event, held in All Saints' Church, about 40 neighbours heard a talk from a Haringey Crime Prevention Officer and were shown innovative equipment for home and personal protection. Free samples were given out, such as letterbox covers and door

Delivery Stories

By Linda Mitchell

I have recently joined the team of people who deliver THE ARCHER. Delivering the paper is a story in itself! I am amazed at the things I have seen. Security, or should I say the lack of it, is my main reason for writing this.

the street door only just ajar. Just unbelievable!

Come on, neighbours! Crime can – and does – happen to anyone, given these wonderful opportunities.

I have had THE ARCHER thrown back at me by a lady who chased me down the path. "Don't want it! Don't leave it here!" she shouted. Another lady ran after me, saying, "Please can I have another copy to send to my sister?"

All sorts of good, expensive gardening tools are left out on front lawns. During the recent hot weather I delivered to several houses where the front door was open, and I could clearly see the owners out in the back garden. A burglar would think it was his birthday!

I saw a very young child left asleep in a buggy in the porch, which was open, with

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Church Lane as it used to be

The High Road in 1902

By Daphne Chamberlain

The 1902 High Road was a busy shopping street, though without some of its current landmarks. Martin School and the library had not yet appeared, and there was no cinema until 1912, the site of the Phoenix being an open space. Fairlawn and Creighton Avenues, Chandos, Kitchener, Leslie and Leopold Roads, and Chambers, Lewis and Lancaster Gardens were still to be built.

Chapel Street did exist but has now disappeared—demolished by a World War 2 landmine, but leaving its name with Chapel Court.

Several well-known names have played musical chairs. For example, Joslin, the stonemason now on the corner of Chandos Road, doubled as a house agent, appearing almost next door to the station and beside the Finchley Free Press.

The High Road had two schools, both next to churches. Miss Jane Hooper's ladies school was next to the Congregationalists (who occupied the site now taken by Budgens), and the East Finchley Grammar School stood beside the Methodists.

After Hertford Road on the eastern side there was only a Baptist Church, Freeman's the house furnishers, the cemetery and its lodge, a residence called

Oak House, a carman, a farrier and the Green Man pub (run by a woman). Then came Strawberry Vale (rural version) and a public footpath to new Southgate. No North Circular, of course.

Traders extended further along the western side than today. A monumental mason was on the corner of Church Lane, next to a Netherwood House, and another was just past Willow Walk—already a roadway, though the Grange did not exist. A house called Craven Lodge foreshadowed Craven House. A florist and a laundry were the other side of Oak Lane, with a dairy past Sylvester Road.

The balance of shops was different. I counted seven monumental masons, six drapers, three bootmakers, and only three eating-places – Alfred Clayton's Dining Rooms, just

before Huntingdon Road, the Black Bess Coffee Tavern on the corner of Hertford Road, and Mrs Jane Green's Tea and Luncheon Rooms, on the corner of Beresford Road. Some things certainly change!

On the Move?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Over 50 angry 263 and 143 bus users made their frustrations plain at last month's Agenda 21 meeting, attended by Metroline and Transport for London representatives, Deputy Mayor Jenny Jones, MP Rudi Vis and Councillor Colin Rogers.

"We haven't come here to hear excuses", said one. Most were unconvinced by explanations for lack of frequency and bunching. Both official bodies seemed to be pinning their hopes on a computerised aid being pioneered on some routes, which guides drivers to adjust speed according to traffic ahead and intervals between other buses.

What was admitted was inconsistency in driving standards, disability awareness and customer care, and unsatisfactory bus design, which are apparently being addressed.

A suggestion that long "articulated" buses, providing more seats downstairs, could be introduced on the 263 route was said to be not feasible, because of turning difficulties at either end of the route. Similarly,

1911 Through the Eyes of a Child

By Daphne Chamberlain

Dorothy Jerome—formerly Dorothy Ditcham—moved to Lincoln Road in 1911, when she was six, and although she has lived elsewhere, the same house is her home today.

Her brother's friend became so excited at seeing horses on the screen he knelt up on his seat to imitate the action.

Dancing was more Dorothy's style. She learned ballroom dancing, Irish jigs, fan dancing and tarantellas with a tambourine from Mrs Welch in Durham Road. Apt pupils (Dorothy and her sister among them) sometimes entertained in the Atheneum at Muswell Hill – now Sainsbury's.



The three Ditcham children: 7-year-old Dorothy (left); 5-year-old Marjorie and 3-year-old Russell c. 1912

High Road shopping

Jones Brothers at Holloway was where the family bought special purchases but everyday shopping was done in East Finchley.

Underwear and hats came from Harry Barker's, at the end of Lincoln Road, and greengrocery from Bigglestone's – now Tony's. Every Saturday a woman came to the house for her mother's orders. Thorne's, a grocer on the corner of Leicester Road, also delivered – as did Pulham's, the butcher who preceded Tom's. Hahn's (the baker on Chorak's site) called round with a tray of cakes on Saturdays, while the shop sold 13 fairy cakes for one shilling (five new pence). United Dairies brought milk in jugs – and later, a churn.

Fishy business

On the site of our present fishmonger's, Mr Dodd had his shop without a window. At night, a shutter came down in front of the fishes' marble slab. Almost next door, Salmon's gave a penny for returned jars, which Dorothy was allowed to keep. On the other side of Dodd's was a newsagent, where she sometimes borrowed books from a subscription library at the back of the shop.

Dog biscuits and parrot food came from one of the corn chandlers. Their parrot, who had lived abroad, spoke Portuguese and French, and told the dog – in English – to go to its basket.

We hope to bring you more of Dorothy Jerome's recollections in future issues



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meantwhile, anyone is welcome to attend the local Transport Group meeting at the Neighbourhood Centre on 19 November at 8pm.

Queries and comments about London buses should be sent to Customer Services, 172, Buckingham Palace Road, SW1W 9TN or customerservices@tflbuses.co.uk.



What do you do with your Used Printer Cartridges?

By John Dearing

The Internet revolution has lead to a proliferation of PCs into homes throughout the land, and with them come printers, which use ink cartridges.

What do you do when your printer cartridge runs out? Do you buy a new one made by the printer's original manufacturer? If you do, you will often find that they encourage you to send the old one back to them for recycling, which you do, being environmentally conscientious. Sadly, your good intentions are, more often than not, to no avail. Most of them are packed into containers bound for dumping in the Third World. One frequent destination is a small town in China called Guiyu, where the locals scratch a living by extracting the last dregs of ink from used cartridges and collecting it for resale, and then they burn the plastic casings in vast, evil smelling, smoky pyres. Not surprisingly, the town is like

a battlefield from some chemical warfare nightmare, and the health of the inhabitants is desperately bad.

A local solution

It would seem that the cost of ecologically sound disposal is high, and it is not in the commercial interests of the major printer manufacturers to promote reuse of cartridges, as they make considerable profits from the sale of new cartridges. Indeed, they go out of their way to make it difficult to refill ink cartridges, with constant new designs and new types of ink.

Recycling in general requires a lot of effort and expense; for low value items such as glass, paper, or tin the usual solution is to gather large amounts together centrally and reprocess them.

For high value items, a better solution is local reuse. Cartridge refill kits have been available for some time now, but they suffer from the need to use 'universal inks' which are prone to block the print head, and it is often a difficult and messy job. A better alternative is to go to one of the shops that specialise in doing this, like Cartridge World. They use inks to OEM standards, specific to the cartridge, with processes that ensure proper refilling. They are able to refill laser cartridges, as well as inkjets. This not only contributes to protecting the environment, but is also significantly cheaper than buying a new cartridge.

This article was written with the help of Kapil Yagnik of Cartridge World, East End Road.



William & Yi Xuan Man, in the grounds of Barnet Registry Office.

Mandarin Wedding

By Daphne Chamberlain

It's double celebration time in the Mandarin. Coinciding with the 25th anniversary of his father opening the award-winning restaurant, William Man held his wedding reception there.

You could say the wedding was the icing on the cake—which was traditional (British), standing alongside lotus paste dumplings and other traditional (Chinese) delicacies.

The bride, Yi Xuan—pronounced "Yee Shwan"—started off in a white dress, changing to one in the Chinese lucky colour of gold during the reception. "White used to be our colour of mourning," William told us, "but that no longer applies. Still, the most popular colour for a wedding dress is actually red. It symbolises prosperity."

Sweet tea and red pockets

William and Yi Xuan hope to have a traditional wedding in China next year, but meanwhile guests at the reception witnessed the custom of exchanging sweet tea and red pockets. This is a welcome to family newcomers and a showing of respect to elders.

Bride and groom, kneeling in turn before family members older than themselves, offered them tea sweetened by dates. In return, they were given little red

envelopes. These "pockets" can contain anything from a sweet to a sum of money to a gift like Yi Xuan's gold necklace. A family junior, William's eight year-old nephew, David, had a whale of a time as chief wine waiter, unknowingly bearing out what a young member of staff had just told me. This was a student, who "really enjoyed working here. It's a nice family restaurant."

Some of the Mandarin's regular customers, now good friends, were guests at the wedding. William, who is completing a daytime environmental science course, said, "I am very fortunate in the people working with me, and in the love and support of my parents

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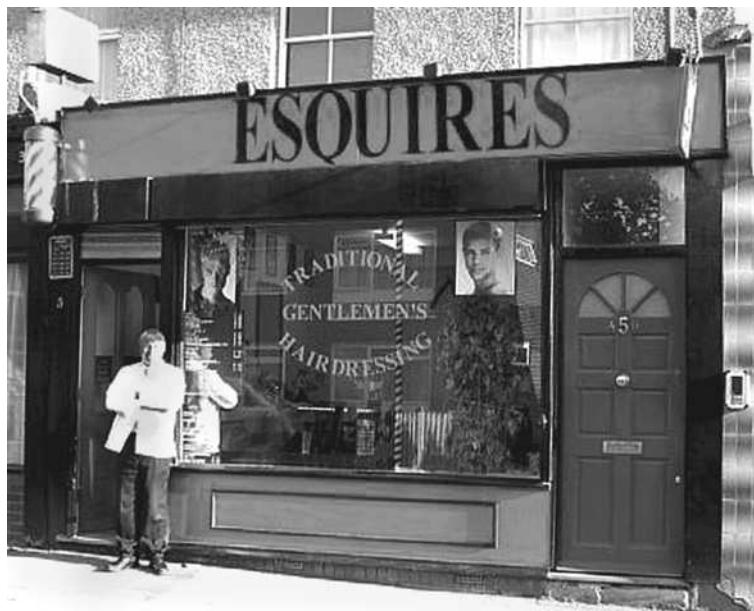
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David Howarth outside his new barber shop. Photo by John Dearing

A Fine Tradition of Gentlemen's Hairdressing

By John Dearing

David Howarth has recently opened Esquires Traditional Gentlemen's Hairdressing shop at the High Road end of Church Lane, at number 5. Before the Second World War, Jephtha N Ivory ran a Barbershop in this parade, so he is reviving a tradition.

David, who has been barbering for 31 years in all, lived in Hampstead for some years, so he is pleased to continue his association with the area. He comes from Manchester originally, and ran a shop there for 19 years called Sweeney Todd's. He recalls reading about the barber surgeons of the 17th and 18th century, who would perform all manner of procedures from haircutting to dressing wounds, teeth pulling and even amputations! Subsequently in the 19th century the barbers and the surgeons split into two separate unions.

The traditional sign for a barber shop, the red-striped pole, recalls the re-use of bandages which would be washed and hung out to dry

over a pole; when the wind blew the bandages would wrap themselves around the pole giving the striped effect. In the USA, there is an additional blue stripe, which represents the vein!

Sweeney Todd was born in 1755 and eventually executed in 1802 for a string of barbaric murders—David can relate his story in much detail. However, he decided that running a barbershop called Sweeney Todd's next door to a funeral parlour was not in the best of taste. He settled for calling it Esquires, and prefers to think of himself as the reincarnation of Jephtha N Ivory who, he feels, like him would have welcomed customers all of ages into his barber shop.

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Finchley County Reunion

By Ann Bronkhorst

On 6 September 350 people gathered in the old Finchley County School building opposite the Hollywood Bowl. Old Fincunians had come from as far as Australia and Canada. Absentees sent messages, summed up by one from Australia: "The bonds are strong throughout the world."

This reunion was special because the building, a Finchley landmark for 100 years, is soon to be demolished. Despite Oliver Natelson's detailed report to English Heritage, all attempts to get it listed and saved have failed. This distinctive building, which has always served education in our area whether as Finchley County, Finchley Manorhill or as a teachers' centre, will be replaced by flats. Soon, the handmade wrought-iron balustrades will be crushed into rubble. So will the beautiful painted war memorial panels in the school hall, though the names may, perhaps, be re-inscribed in stone.

Cementing memories

Most Old Fincunians I spoke to expressed great affection for the school. Peter Andrews, who joined in 1949, emphasised the friendly, encouraging ethos and the broadening of pupils' interests through music and drama. Peter, originally from Leslie Road, paid tribute to East Finchley's 'village' atmosphere, and the strong influence of the Finchley County School on his life. Janice Howkins felt it had been a happy school. Becoming a teachers' centre seemed a natural development, with no loss of the warm atmosphere. Naomi Sen, nee Burgess, of Bedford Road, there "to cement my memories", recalled the early sixties when a banner on the rooftop clock proclaiming 'RIP Middlesex'

marked the school's transfer to the GLC. She remembered strangers trying to buy the boys' blazers off their backs because The Kinks wore similar 'mod' jackets. School uniforms on display at the reunion reminded her of beret and cap inspections, girls' hem-lengths being measured as they knelt on the floor and

CND badges hidden behind school ties.

"School dismiss!"

Godfrey Mann, the reunion's organiser and Old Fincunians' Chairman, knew when the emotions would show. And at 3.00 pm, as the rain pelted down outside, the Finchley School Song was sung for the last time in this building.



Peter Andrews (above) and Audrey Pryde, nee Bradford (top right) with their school photos. Photos by Erini Rodis



Hello Campus!

By Samuel Grove

Eighteen to 24-year-olds have been under represented by THE ARCHER, so over the next few editions it will be investigating what life is like for this group, starting with courses and careers. Whether heading off to university or entering the job market, October can be a difficult time.

Many East Finchleians are beginning new lives at university. The image of university experience is of young adults, liberated from home and newly independent, grasping the opportunity to find themselves and become adults. There is a significant deficit, however, between the image and reality. For the majority this is less an opportunity to find themselves and more an opening to reinvent themselves. No-one at university knows how in the fourth year of secondary school you picked a fight with one of the school nerds, believing he was an easy target, and he promptly beat the hell out of you in front of the class. Or how the first time you tried a cigarette you pulled a whitey and threw up in front of loads of girls. Meeting all these new people it is irresistible to drop into your first conversation your one and only successful fight story. One person I spoke to confided that in her first few weeks at university she marketed herself as a reformed character who had

been down to the depths of hard drug depravity and for whom university was her opportunity to turn her life around; a boldfaced lie on ALL counts.

It is surprising how difficult it is to get a job after graduation, particularly in what you have been trained in. Reconciling your ideal career with the reality of limited options is the initial horror of the university graduate. One graduate in Engineering has been unemployed since February despite thorough efforts to find a job. He is often told he has a lot of time to find his direction but, debt-ridden, he can be forgiven for feeling the urgency. All these pressures, coupled with the deplorable position of living back at home, affect morale. His coping strategy involves eating, and watching television all night. If things go really bad, he warns, you might even end up in a motel on the Borehamwood Retail Estate convincing the area manager of DFS that you *really* do know how to sell a sofa.

YOUNG ARCHER

The Return of Ned the Tube Train?

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

As I have lived in East Finchley all my life and love the tube, I was delighted to find a children's book which mentions not just my local station but also its landmark statue.

Ned's Big Day features an anthropomorphic tube train as its main character. The story is about a day in the life of Ned as he motors backwards and forwards along the Northern Line, taking children to school, families to the zoo, tourists to interesting places in London and so forth. All the Northern Line trains have names beginning with N: Nell, Norman, Nathalie, Nora, etc. I wonder if anyone else has a copy?

East Finchley station is mentioned in the book and Ned talks to Archie, the statue that has given THE ARCHER its name. I am hoping to re-illustrate the book, with original text and

my cartoon pictures. The main difference that I am making to the drawings is that, in the old version, Ned is one of the 1959 silver tube trains, and in my version he is one of the 1996 red and blue trains that now serve the Northern Line.

The next step in completing the new edition of Ned's Big Day will be finding the author Pam Coiley and reviewing my new illustrations and I hope this little book will be printed and published. The artwork has now been completed. **Pam Coiley, where are you?** If you are reading this, please contact me through THE ARCHER. I hope to hear from you soon.



Illustration by Jake Eiseman-Renyard



Constitutional Alliance

By Frank Tymkow

The bells rang more than last orders for East Finchley Constitutional Club Steward Alf Raine last month. He and his new wife Sue are shown here leaving Holy Trinity Church as man and wife on their way to a magnificent reception at the club they have served in recent times.

The wedding bells also ring the changes for the new couple, who have now left for a sunny future in Spain where they hope to set up a business of their own.

Wildlife Diary

By Linda Mitchell

Recently *THE ARCHER* told the story of the parakeets in my garden. I am now very pleased to share with you other wildlife goings-on there.

Strangely, parakeets didn't visit so much during the hot weather, though in June another baby came to feed with Mum. Also, the sparrowhawk, which usually appears in January, hasn't been this year. I'm not sorry, because it is very distressing to watch him peck a blackbird or wood pigeon to death on my lawn.

In spring, the birds took dog hair combings, which I had put in the hanging baskets. Lovely and cosy for their nests!

Only one of the robin's two babies seems to have survived. The woodpecker brought a baby, and in April I taped the song of the mistlethrush to send to my new granddaughter. There have been jays, dunnocks, a tree Creeper, and a bird that imitates a mobile phone.

Frogs are everywhere, though I have no pond. One lives in my greenhouse, and loves to hide in the compost bag.

There have been so many butterflies, grasshoppers and crickets – and the biggest moth I have ever seen. Its wingspan was about three inches, with tree-bark type markings. Lily beetles have feasted on the fritillaries, but sadly I have seen only five or six ladybirds. Where have they gone? I use no chemicals in the garden.

There was a spider explo-

sion this summer, and craneflies – dancing with great long legs like ballerinas – arrived in August instead of September.

The fox visits regularly, sometimes poking his nose right up to the patio doors. A woodmouse hops across the

patio most evenings, tours the garden, then retraces his route back home. The big fat hedgehog has been with us for many years, helping to keep down the slug and snail population.

It has been a lovely, busy year so far.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Remake/Remodel

These are dangerous times, it's no longer safe to take in a movie without doing a quick double-take first. *The Italian Job?* Classic Brit flick with Michael Caine? No way; it's new, it's shiny, it's American and it's set in Las Vegas. The plot? Well they lost that in mid-Atlantic. So what, it's got minis, but new, bloated Germanic minis, not the real thing and 'You're only meant to blow the bloody doors off' just ain't right with an American accent – just try it and you'll see what I mean.

The American Job is not the first. Who can forget the abomination that was the remake of *Get Carter*. No Michael Caine as the London hard man coming home to avenge his brother's death, instead you got Rambo Stallone – need I say more?

Sadly, two attempts at destroying great films with vile remakes is not enough for Hollywood imagination deficit sufferers because that Ealing classic, *The Ladykillers* is being remade! What next? Will *Passport to Pimlico* become *Visa to Vegas*? Will *The Titchfield Thunderbolt* become *Speed 4 – keep stoking* or is *Elizabeth and Essex* due for a remake with Jennifer Lopez in the Bette Davis role? We should be told.

Desecrating the old is one thing, but these maniacs will destroy anything not made in America. Any day now, some bloated Hollywood mogul will announce the remake of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*. It will be set in downtown LA, star Tom Cruise, feature John Travolta in the Vinnie Jones role and be directed by some small-minded low life from the studio roster.

And so it goes on and on. With Harry Potter books all the rage I bet someone in tinsel town is already working on the American version. It will be set in a California high school, feature lots of teenage angst and romance and come at you like Buffy on a broomstick.

Now is the time to fight back, time to make a stand and make Brit versions of American classics. Get your kicks on the A406 and let's have *Insomnia in Islington*, *The Small Country*, or maybe even *Strangers on a (Delayed) Train*.

RSPCA News

This month we announce, with pride, that the long-considered and planned refurbishment of the clinic treatment room has been completed. Vera Thursby, who lived in Cherry Tree Road, left a generous legacy to the Branch specifically for the benefit of the Clinic. Now this money has been put to good use. Thanks are due to local members of the committee for giving their time to supervise and give access to the workmen who carried out replacement of old fittings and rotten wood.

An innovation in the Clinic is a selection of RSPCA 'goodies' on sale for owners and their pets. Our supporters who do not visit the Clinic will have an opportunity to buy these at our Christmas Fair – details in next month's *ARCHER*.

The committee have decided to continue our subsidised dog neutering until the end of the year. To take advantage, bring your dog or

bitch to be examined by our vet to make sure that they are suitable for treatment. Then, given the OK, you take your voucher to the Garden Vet in East End Road and arrange the operation. Clinic hours are Monday and Thursday evenings, 6-7.30pm.

Finally, we are appealing for an animal-loving Chartered Accountant to volunteer to carry out a yearly audit of

our accounts at a nominal fee. The books are straightforward and meticulously presented; full professional fees are a massive drain on our income, which is all raised by volunteers. Please telephone our Treasurer on 020 8444 2329 for details.

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- ❖ 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 6 & 20 October 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. Call 020 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ 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

Disney Preview and Family Day at the Phoenix

The Phoenix Cinema is holding an exclusive preview of *Holes*, the new Disney film, on Sunday 12 October. This adventure film set in the Texas desert is based on the novel by Louis Sachar, which in 1998 won the Newbery award, made annually to writers of children's literature by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

It stars Sigourney Weaver, John Voight, Patricia Arquette, John Blake Neilson and the Emmy-Award-winner Shia Lebeouf. There will be a discounted family ticket price and

the preview will be part of an entire family day out with a range of film-related activities, as well as refreshments and goodie bags for younger viewers.

This activity day is also intended to be a taster for children who are thinking of going to the Freddie's film club on Saturday morning. Films coming up at the Freddie's club this month are *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (11 October) and *Rugrats Go Wild* (25 October).

Announcement

I, Mr. DHARNENDRAKUMAR RASIKLAL SANGHAVI, son of RASIKLAL NARPATLAL SANGHAVI whose permanent address in India is A-12, Tirthbhami Aptt, Law Garden, Ahmedabad-380 006, presently residing at 6 Ossulton Place, East End Road, London N2 0SB hereby give notice of my intention to change my name to DHAVALRASIKLAL SANGHAVI

Autumn

By Michael Solomons

The Summer's drawing to its end,
The sun has lost its glow;
The reds and browns begin to blend
And chill winds start to blow.
Clouds begin to darken the sky,
We start to wrap up warm;
And as the days all hurry by
We shelter from the storm.
The fire burns brightly in the grate
As we hear many a tale;
We sing our songs and stay up late
And drink our dark brown ale.
Oh! Guy Fawkes night is here once more,
Fireworks light up the dark;
And squirrels gather nuts to store.
You see them in the park.
Yes! Autumn's with us once again,
But we're still full of cheer.
The sun will shine – there'll be no rain
When Summer comes next year.
But as I look upon this scene
That is so very new,
The browns have covered all the green,
It's such a lovely view.
The world is full of many things
That are so bright and gay;
I thank God for joy that Autumn brings,
And colours of this day.

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.
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.all saints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

NOT the East Finchley Library Consultation

By John Dearing

Question 1: Have you heard about the proposals for the development of an improved block of flats on the old library building?

Question 2: How did you first hear about these proposals? Who told you? Where do they live?

Question 3: What type of writing are you able to read? Did you know we have a service called a library, where you can borrow books from us? No? Good!

Question 4: How often do you use the existing East Finchley library? Are you aware that we know the answer to this already? Do you realise that the next question presumes the answer to this question? Is the bias in this questionnaire too blatant?

Question 5: Why do you never use or rarely use the East Finchley Library? Why have we asked such a closed and loaded question? Should we not have also asked regular users what they like about the existing facilities?

Question 6: Modern Libraries can provide a wide range of services, most of them nothing at all to do with books, which are boring, and take up lots of space that the Council could be selling off to developers! In general how important are boring books to you?

Question 7: Barnet Council could have a great deal to gain from a supermarket library development on the Park House site. Please tick the option we prefer.

Question 8: If a new library service is developed in East Finchley, would you use it more often than the existing service, or more often than the existing service?
Question 9: Please tell us what products you would like to see in a new supermarket boring books you would like to see in the new library?

Question 10: Are there any other comments you would like to make about the fait accompli we are going to foist upon the residents of East Finchley?.

Record Time Music Appreciation Society

By Diana Cormack

Haringey Recorded Music Society can definitely describe itself as a long player, having been set up in 1946. Since then it has had a variety of meeting places along with a number of illustrious guest speakers from all over the world, giving members the chance to listen to and discuss their music.

Chairman David Mouldon who, until his recent retirement, was based at East Finchley music library describes the present day gatherings as informal. They are held in host members' homes, at least half of which are in N2, and last for about two hours. A speaker chooses and introduces the music for the evening's discussion. The society, which has links with other local groups, has an annual subscription of £5, or £2 per meeting if you prefer.

So if you fancy listening to records in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where you can increase or spread your musical knowledge, why not give it a try? Contact David Mouldon on 8361 1696 daily (but not between 11am and 2pm)

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

Clamping Down

Dear Sirs

I feel obliged to write to you regarding practices on the part of a wheel clamping and vehicle removal company operating in East Finchley. My Honda Accord went missing from Diploma Avenue on Wednesday 27 August – I had parked it in a private residential car park, around 8.30am, and discovered the car was missing around 1 am on Thursday. However I had imagined that the car was parked in its usual place for which I have a resident's parking permit. I immediately reported the car stolen to Scotland Yard and Colindale Police, who recommended that I contacted a Call Centre where records for towed-cars are coordinated. The Call Centre confirmed that they had no record of my vehicle being towed away.

Based on this information I formalised my report of a stolen vehicle to the Police. Having waited several days for reports from the Police regarding my stolen vehicle's location, I proceeded to search for and purchase a new car.

Thirteen days after my car's disappearance I received a letter notifying me that the vehicle had been impounded by a private limited company. The letter also stated: "The impoundment and storage charges are due to exceed the value of the vehicle. If the vehicle is not collected in the next seven days we will arrange for its disposal to cover our losses".

Until I received the letter from Vehicle Clamping Securities Limited I had completely forgotten that my car was parked in a tow-away zone – for this reason I reported the vehicle stolen.

Regardless of any legal requirements for clamping companies to report an impounded vehicle to the owner, it should surely be a matter of practice that this is done in a timely manner. Holding the car and levying excessive impoundment charges must surely be seen as an exploitative practice.

Is it fair that a resident can lose their car as a result of a simple mistake? It seems that exploitative corporate enterprises can act as judge, jury and executioner on these matters. There is surely something wrong in this.

Name & address supplied

Undemocratic

Dear Sir,

I have recently received, and responded to, Barnet Council's consultation document concerning the future of the East Finchley Library.

I am not a great user of the Library. I am however disturbed as a believer in local democracy by the way in which this "consultation" is being carried out. I live with my family. We add up to two adults, one 17-year-old and one 15-year-old. We received one consultation form, presumably to be shared out among us as we saw fit. We are a fairly typical family.

What happens where, as for example in the house next door to us, four or five unrelated friends share the premises, and no doubt have different needs and views on this subject? One voice still appears to speak for all.

Is this the planning process, in which 'consultation' must be under-

taken, no matter that the responses to it are ignored? One is more or less used to that, but the credibility of the system would be enhanced if one felt that all potential consultees were in fact consulted. Why not one questionnaire to each person on the local Electoral Register?

Yours sincerely,
F O H Coulson
Durham Road.

The Real Questions

Dear Sir,

We received a survey recently regarding the proposed library, but not once does the questionnaire actually ask you (or even mention) whether you are for or against a Waitrose. By looking at the questionnaire, one does wonder about the integrity of the Conservative council who are backing this for their own self-interests and not the public's. Clearly, if they were interested in what the public wants they would ask the one question, which they are afraid to ask. Even money that they would never produce the results of this if it was asked.

We think it is outrageous that the only way that the Council can get the Waitrose building in is by selling the idea of a new improved library, almost one could interpret being a corporate back hander.

Why don't they send out a survey and ask the 'real questions' which the 'local people' want to answer? I dare the Council to send out a questionnaire to the public of East Finchley asking the question: Do you want a Waitrose in East Finchley?

This does beg the perplexing answer to the question: If the public don't want a Waitrose in East Finchley, why are they proposing to put one there? The answer of course is rhetorical.

Name & address supplied

Protest at Procedure

An open letter to Leo Boland, Chief Executive, Barnet Council

Dear Mr Boland

Re: Library Consultation, East Finchley

I am writing to protest at the conduct of this consultation. The questionnaire and exhibition are both leading and grossly misleading by not fully informing the residents of all the options and the implications of each option.

Everyone will tick Option B - why not go for what **seems** the best option?

However, people are not being fully informed on the following:

(a) There are no council funds to build the new library in Option B,
(b) Option B can only be built as part of a commercial development to build a very unpopular and outsized supermarket on our high street, and (c) The existing library could be successfully modernised and extended, a group of independent architects from East Finchley have shown that.

Barnet is not offering/exploring the option of modernising and extending the existing library, and not telling people about the link to the outsized supermarket because a resident 'mandate' for a new library would provide the pretext for compulsory purchase orders against existing businesses standing in the way of the developer's plans for the building of this supermarket.

Residents will be very angry

when they find that the survey they have taken part in, in good faith, ends up being cynically used as a lever for an unpopular over-development that will choke East Finchley with traffic and kill off its High Road.

I look forward to your reply

Lilia Bylos
Address supplied

One-sided Representation

Letter sent to Pam Usher, Head of Customer Care, London Borough of Barnet (edited).

Dear Ms. Usher

Following our previous correspondence and in the light of the existing building being listed, I write again to offer for discussion our proposals for the refurbishment of the existing East Finchley Library.

Your exhibition at the Library appeared very one sided, listing 'limitations' for the refurbishment and 'facts' for a new library.

Our proposal has gathered extensive support from groups such as The Finchley Society, from our local primary schools' boards of Governors (it appears the Head teachers are unable to comment) and through press coverage, confirming that these plans are worthy of your attention.

You may be interested to know that we were refused permission at the Library to pin up two A4 sheets showing our scheme on either of the two public notice boards despite one of them being a 'pay and put up anything'. We were told this would need Tricia Little's permission; we still await her response.

Our scheme is sensitive to the Grade II listing of the existing building and we are advised that implementing it should not be an issue with regard to the listing. Could you confirm what, if any, implications this may have on our Council's plans to relocate the library? Lastly, we urge you not to sell off our heritage but to use a section 106 (planning gain) on any development that occurs on the Park House site (NOT the adjoining lands) and use the proceeds to refurbish and maintain the freehold on the existing library.

If your reply (as before) refers to the questionnaire and the 'will of the people', we will want to know more about how this council conducts its 'real estate strategy'. The questionnaire proposes a library at Euston Station without allowing the community full details of the overall development, and what would happen to the existing site. Mr Lyon has told me, himself, that plans for the existing site and building in the event of the library being relocated, have not been discussed. How can you offer the public options without these fundamental aspects being considered?

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely
James Elliott
Address supplied

Credit this!

Dear Sirs,

I was interested to see your article about 'New Efes' restaurant and the alleged fraud going on. I heard from my father some weeks ago that two of his friends checked their credit card statements after eating there and were indeed billed again and again. I ate there several times and the manager seemed so nice!

Name and address supplied

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Institutional Disaster?

By Samuel Grove

Since the Council announced plans to build a Waitrose on the Park House site (and adjoining lands) there has been vociferous opposition to it. The concerns of opposing residents predominantly focus upon the implications on the environment, traffic congestion and our local shops. However the proposals may hold much wider implications for East Finchley community which could be just as threatening.

East Finchley is one of the few places in London that can claim to have maintained a community in an age of globalisation where a locality's ability to mark out its identity and determine its destiny are considerably confined. The Waitrose proposals are very much a product of these global processes. East Finchley's success in largely staving off these forces has relied upon a number of local institutions, two of which are seriously under threat from the proposals.

Our local shops serve East Finchley with more than a quality range of goods. They paid for our annual Christmas lights, donate to fundraising events and bestow their windows for the use of residents. Above all they make shopping in East Finchley a social act by encouraging us to talk to one another.

In the initial proposals the library was set to be re-housed on the first floor of a Waitrose supermarket. This too could be to the detriment of our community. Our library is a cherished institution that has come to embody how residents see their relationship with one another. It builds in notions of citizenship and collective ownership into our very surroundings. Were it to be knocked down the library may no longer be regarded as a bastion of the community, but merely a promotional feature of a corporate supermarket.

Were the proposals to be carried through, the new Waitrose will not just represent a physical change to our environment but an ideological one.

Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | E | N | W | O | T | N | E | D | M | A | C | K | K | E |
| E | A | B | E | S | S | O | R | C | T | N | E | R | B | L |
| R | S | R | E | E | Y | A | W | H | C | R | A | A | U | A |
| A | T | H | T | E | R | N | W | W | O | P | M | P | R | D |
| W | F | I | A | N | D | G | Q | J | L | E | I | E | N | N |
| G | I | G | G | M | E | H | S | L | B | H | L | D | T | I |
| D | N | H | H | R | W | C | E | R | J | O | L | I | O | L |
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| Z | L | R | H | U | E | M | J | A | D | X | L | O | R | O |
| K | E | N | T | I | S | H | T | O | W | N | L | O | R | Y |
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| R | Q | H | E | K | R | A | P | E | Z | I | S | L | E | B |
| N | O | T | S | U | E | H | A | M | P | S | T | E | A | D |

Test your knowledge (and your eyesight!) with THE ARCHER's wordsearch. Can you find the following Northern Line stations?

Archway
Belsize Park
Brent Cross
Burnt Oak
Camden Town
Chalk Farm
Colindale
East Finchley
Edgware
Euston

Golders Green
Hampstead
Hendon Central
High Barnet
Highgate
Kentish Town
Mill Hill East
Tufnell Park
West Finchley
Woodside Park



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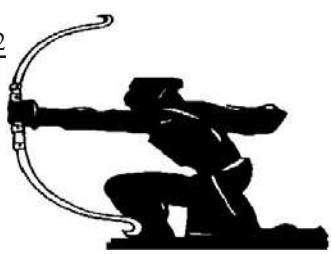
1 Manor Park Rd. N2, behind 88 Church Lane, opposite Trinity Church
Tel: 07956 329 150 Open 12-8pm (not Wednesdays)

OCTOBER 2003

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THE ARCHER

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Offering something a little different for the weekend... Arnie the iguana.
Photo by Erini Rodis.

Gus assured me it was an Iguana – however I'm not convinced there hadn't been a horrible mix up and it is actually an adolescent crocodile. I stood there nervously, wondering whether it could smash through the glass and put me in a death roll right in the middle of the barbers. What was it that David Attenborough has said you should do? I think it was grab the eyeball.

"What does it eat?" I inquired, "Spiders? Rodents? Baby caribou?"

The answer is Arnie is a vegetarian with a particular liking for lettuce. Having been rather fearful of the answer

I was somewhat disappointed by its lack of a killer instinct. Was Gus ever tempted to starve him for a couple of days and then put in a lame dormouse? Apparently not. Gus, unfortunately, is a very responsible owner. Apart from a slight illness a couple of years ago (that cost Gus a fortune at the vet's) Arnie has been in very good health. As I take a closer look he even looks quite cute. "When he's in the mood he likes to be stroked," I was informed.

If there are any other peculiar creatures around East Finchley *THE ARCHER* would like to hear about them.

A Hair-Raising Encounter at the Barber's

By Samuel Grove

My first assignment for *THE ARCHER* was indeed a strange one. Having gone to Gus's hairdresser for nearly twenty years I had no idea that for the last six of them he had been storing a 5 ft lizard called Arnie at the back of the premises.

The circumstances of the lizard's arrival were even more peculiar. Originally from South America, he came into Gus's hands when he precipitated the breakdown of the previous owner's marriage. Harsh? I thought so, until I saw the beast.

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