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THE ARCHER



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July 2004 No. 134
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Better by design

By Diana Cormack

Eighteen-year-old Georgia Revell of Twyford Avenue, N2, has more than the end of her A level exams to celebrate, for she has won the regional contest run by Audi for their Young Designer of the Year.

Georgia was one of 20 finalists whose work was studied and who were interviewed by a panel of judges at the Audi Garage in Whetstone. They judged Georgia's to be the most innovative and challenging. It was part of her A-level Product Design project (formerly known as Design and Technology) that took her a year to produce.

Her idea is for a children's 'play wall', which consists of a frame with a mapped out background on which wooden vehicles move along slots in a variety of directions. It would be ideal for places like doctors' waiting rooms, not only to occupy children but also to prevent their toys being scattered over the floor. Georgia tried it out successfully on her young next-door neigh-

bours and is hoping to do well in the national finals in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 16 September.

All the best

She has already won £200 and an all expenses paid trip to the Audi factory in Germany this summer. Should she win the competition, Georgia will receive £10,000 towards her university fees (she would like to study architecture at Nottingham) plus £8,000 for the product to be commercially manufactured, with no doubt a lot more in earnings should the idea catch on.

Naturally, Georgia's family and her friends at Fortismere School are delighted with her success and *THE ARCHER* joins them in wishing her all the best for the finals.



Georgia Revell at her playwall display stand, after collecting the winning prize and trophy. Photo by Tony Revell.

Keen to be green

By Martin Earl

Saving the planet is not the unique privilege of Superman or Superwoman: we can all do our bit – every day. Whether that is reusing plastic bags when we go shopping, or writing on both sides of paper – as I am doing now – and feeling modestly good about it, it all adds up.

This was the message that I took from Stuart Gadsden's clear and concise talk at our Local Agenda 21 public meeting in the aptly named Green Man Community Centre in May.

With impressive figures to show that Barnet's proportion of recycled waste is increasing – up 25% in the areas with compulsory kerbside collection – Stuart, from Barnet's Waste

and Sustainability Team, clicked through his slides: Reduce what you use; Reuse what you can; If all else fails – Recycle.

Green guide

And to help us 'do our bit' the local LA21 has produced a waste and recycling guide specifically for East Finchley which, they say, will be delivered to most households with this year's Community Festival programme.

The Chair, Roger Chapman, reprised all the other LA21 activities from the past year. These included tree planting galore by the greening group – some of it earlier that day on the Strawberry Vale Estate by the children of Our Lady of Lourdes School. The transport group's bus monitoring project had special mention and the evening, which doubled as the LA21 annual general meeting, heard about the launch of new recycling facilities on Strawberry Vale.

Omar Khadra from Cartridge World in East End Road told us how his shop contributes to recycling – details of which could be found together with those of other green-minded businesses in the aforementioned guide.

And so it seems that the council's decision in March to discontinue its support for, and partnership with, Local Agenda 21 groups has not dented the enthusiasm in East Finchley. If you would like to link into the group's activities – and help save the planet – phone 020 8883 4916 or email martin@greenman.fsn.et.co.uk. In the meantime, I'll dispose of the initial drafts of this article in my kerbside box and get into practice for when East Finchley is included in the compulsory recycling scheme – date to be announced!

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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

CHAIR
Kevin Finn

COPY EDITOR
Tony Roberts

EDITORIAL TEAM
Features:
David Hobbs
News:
Daphne Chamberlain
Young Archer:
Diana Cormack

SUB EDITORS
Frances Loveday
Ann Bronkhorst
Pam Kent

PICTURE EDITOR
Erini Rodis

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Alison Roberts
Tony Roberts

ADVERTISING
John Dearing

FINANCE
Sue Holliday

ADMINISTRATION
Toni Morgan

DISTRIBUTION
Alison Roberts
Pam Kent

LEGAL ADVISER
Francis Coulson

PRINTED BY
Eastway Offset Ltd

WEB MANAGEMENT
ARC Media

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

*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.*

Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please send it in to the above address. Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text, email or voicemail.

**14 July is the copy deadline
for the August issue.**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Help & Advice

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Disability Info Service 02084466935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 02086833300
Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSLINE 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 08457697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700
National Blood Ctr. 084577117711

OAP's Advice

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Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
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

Crime

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CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
E.F. Community Police Officer:
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)
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- ❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774



Chaos on The High Road as a mechanical road sweeper is retrieved. Photo by Toni Morgan

Child in fatal scooter collision

Police are appealing for witnesses after an 8-year-old boy on a motorised scooter died following a collision with a car in the High Road, North Finchley on Tuesday, 15 June.

At around 5pm the boy, named as Jamil Gormley of Finchley, was travelling in the carriageway of the High Road near the junction with Addington Drive when he was in collision with a bronze/orange coloured Fiat Bravo car.

The Helicopter Emergency Medical Service landed took the boy to the Royal London Hospital. He was later

transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 12.40am.

The driver of the car was reported to be shocked but unhurt.

Anybody who witnessed the collision or who has any information is asked to contact the Crash Investigation Unit at Alperton Traffic Garage on 8246 9820.

Clean-up hotline

You can call the clean-up hotline to request emergency street cleaning, and to find out dates for scheduled block cleansing.

Barnet say that reported cases of street litter, overflowing bins, fly-tipping, abandoned cars, graffiti, broken pavements, potholes, and falls of leaves or snow will now be dealt with immediately.

Block cleansing is scheduled to take place twice as often as previously, with East Finchley due for its next deep clean on 16, 17, 18, 19 and

20 August. The three-month schedule, with details of individual streets, is published online at www.barnet.gov.uk. You can also call the hotline for details.

The clean-up hotline number is 020 8359 6035, 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Out of these hours, messages can be left for attention on the next working day.

Protection against violence

Households suffering threats, intimidation or harassment, or actual domestic violence can seek practical assistance from the Barnet Sanctuary Project.

The Project will supply safety equipment such as extra locks, solid core doors, frame strengtheners, mortise bolts, door viewers, window locks, security grilles, smoke alarms and panic alarms, and can arrange direct communication with the police. Provision is according to the needs of each individual household.

The aim is to maintain threatened people in their own homes, so avoiding physical and emotional disruption. Councillor Brian Salinger says that this will also save Barnet over £300,000 pa, as last year 120 families were made homeless following domestic violence. However, nobody will be forced to remain at home against his or her will.

The Sanctuary Project, financed jointly by Barnet and central government, is a joint venture by the police, the Domestic Violence Support Service and the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership. For further information, contact 020 8733 4573.

Are you interested in writing or reporting?

If so, The Archer team would like to meet you!

We are always on the look out for new volunteers and would particularly welcome news or sport reporters - no previous experience necessary.

Please e-mail the-archer@lineone.net or call us on 08717 33 44 65 to find out more.

Local Planning Applications

Viceroy Close, East End Rd, N2:
3/4 storey block, to provide a total of 9 self-contained flats, with associated off-street parking.

41 Brackenbury Road, N2:
Ground floor rear extension and new first floor extension (rebuild).

310 High Road, N2:
Change of use from residential ancillary to St Pancras Cemetery to general residential use.

54 Chandos Road, N2:
Single storey rear conservatory.

6 Taunton Drive, N2:
Single storey rear conservatory.

48 Helen Close, N2:
Thinning of box elder tree by 25%, removing deadwood.

1 Spencer Drive, N2:
Loft conversion, involving dormer window extensions to rear and both sides.

25 Summerlee Gardens, N2
Retention of rear dormer on terraced property.

2/3 Bedford Mews, N2:
Change of use from office to chartered physiotherapy/complementary therapy practice.

31 Deansway, N2:
Ground floor side extension. Conversion of garage to room, including replacement garage doors. Replacement of rear window with French doors. Replacement front door. Rooflight to side facing 29 Deansway.

8 Holyoake Walk, N2:
Alteration to roof, including rear dormer window, to facilitate loft conversion.

Oxford House, Talbot Ave, N2:
Conversion of garage into habitable room, involving external alterations. Creation of new hard-standing for a car.

10 Milton Close, N2:
Conversion of garage into habitable room.

12 Brendon Grove, N2:
Conversion of garage to habitable room, including insertion of front window. Single storey front extension. Side bay window.

Carlton House, The Bishops Avenue, N2:
Retention of three-storey (& basement) detached house, as being constructed, including enlarged basement carpark and creation of sub-basement level.



CSAZ group meets

By John Dearing

The East Finchley Community Safety Action Zone (CSAZ) management group met on 16 June at The Old Barn Centre. Representatives were present from various organisations including the Police, Barnet Council, Barnet Charities, Barnet Homes and the Neighbourhood Management team.

The meeting was chaired by Inspector Nigel Walton, who opened the meeting with an update on current crime and anti social behaviour issues in the CSAZ. Problems highlighted included stolen motorbikes and scooters being ridden around at speed at all hours, and an incident involving squatters. Local residents' concerns following the shooting incident two months ago were also raised.

The management group will identify problems, such as those already mentioned,

and raise them as a focus for the group, leading to a coordinated action plan being formulated and objectives set to measure success.

Participation by members of the public is seen as key to the success of the CSAZ and a public meeting is being organised for later in the year to give people an opportunity to voice their concerns in person.

In the meantime a survey is being conducted under the aegis of the group, which seeks to identify people's concerns

about issues adversely affecting their quality of life and the local environment. The survey asks people to say how they feel they are affected by the different types of crime and anti-social behaviour problems, and to offer some details on specific issues they may wish to raise.

A copy of the questionnaire may be obtained from various places including the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre in Church Lane.

The management group will meet again in a month's time.



Spot the difference:

Norfolk Close before (above) and after (below) the demolition of the garages to make way for development.



Photos by John Dearing

Brian Coleman holds GLA seat

Brian Coleman, Conservative candidate for the Greater London Authority for Barnet and Camden held on to his seat with a much-increased majority.

In 2000 Mr Coleman won the seat by a majority of around 500 over his nearest rival, but this time he increased it to more than 11,000 over Labour's Lucy Anderson. Jonathan Simpson of the Liberal Democrats took third place and the Green Party's Miranda Dunn was fourth. The full results:

Brian Coleman (Con)	47,640
Lucy Anderson (Lab)	36,121
Jonathan Simpson (Lib Dem)	23,603
Miranda Dunn (Green)	11,921
Magnus Nielsen (UKIP)	8,685
Liz Wheatley (Respect)	5,150
Humberto Heliotrope (CPA)	1,914

Ring of confidence

Pupils at Christ's College Finchley have been involved with a particular crime prevention project for over a year. They have been working with Barnet Action 4 Youth on ideas for keeping safe and avoiding the theft of mobile phones.

This has resulted in the design of a card carrying useful tips for young people that, along with posters, will be distributed throughout the borough. If you wish to set up an action group at school, want more information or would like to have a card, try contacting ba4y@crimeconcern.org.uk

Bus Watch news

By Daphne Chamberlain
Bus Watch East Finchley conducted their first organised survey of the 263 and 143 last month. The survey, which lasted for a week, covered from the morning rush hour through to 10pm, with volunteers on duty for one hour at a time.

Some of the times monitored by the group have not been covered by Transport for London checks and the results are being analysed at the time of writing. Hazel Burnett, the group's organiser, is pleased with the response to this project, and grateful for the support given by West Haringey Bus Watch.

As this is an ongoing project, new members are always welcome. Contact Hazel on 020 8444 6824.

Pressure for bus route

Meanwhile, the West Haringey group is continuing its pressure on TfL to convert the 603 route, at present a school time bus, into a frequent seven-day service. The route, which runs from Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage via East Finchley, is potentially a valuable orbital link. Its future will be reviewed soon.

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Steve Whitworth, Carl Lomas and John Scott with Marjorie Walsh, who received the Staff Award Shield.
Photo by Ian Cormack

Simply the best

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley based mini-cab company, Greater London Hire, held a dinner at Highgate Golf Club for the presentation of its annual staff awards. This is an important event in the GLH calendar, for it enables the firm to say thank you to staff and fleet and to welcome friends from both inside and outside the industry.

Drivers, motorbike couriers and office staff were presented with the awards by former employees Carl Lomas, now involved in training unemployed people to become motorbike couriers and Steve Whitworth, who played football for England, Leicester City and

Barnet as player/coach.

In his after dinner speech, managing director John Scott paid tribute to the staff and was pleased to announce the acquisition of the super bike Honda 500 for a new fleet. Tracy Worth, organiser of the National Courier Awards, included John

in her praise of the firm in her speech, which was entitled "Being the Best."

GLH has been presenting these staff awards for twenty-one years and it is notable that the firm has never closed since 1970, which is quite an achievement in itself.

Bin it for Barnet: the race is on!

By Ann Bronkhorst

The third annual Bin it for Barnet competition was launched on 18 June. No, it's not just another anti-litter campaign. Innovative projects to improve, clean up and maintain run-down places are invited; in six months' time five groups will win prize money to plough back into their projects.

The competition launch was hosted by McDonald's at their HQ in the High Road and attended by people from voluntary, community and faith groups, and schools. Bin it for Barnet is steered and funded by four organisations: LA21 Partnerships, Barnet Voluntary Service Council, Barnet Council and McDonald's Restaurants.

The new Mayor of Barnet, Cllr. Wendy Prentice, praised the high standard of entries for the previous competitions. An exhibition about earlier winners – which may tour schools and libraries later – showed what a few dynamic people can achieve. For example, Moss Hall Infant School has created a pond and wildlife garden from a barren patch of ground. The renovation of West Hendon Baptist Church, once almost derelict, has influenced other clean-up schemes in its neighbourhood.

Knock-on effect

Jean Ivatt, Chair of Bin it for Barnet, emphasised the value of this 'mushroom' effect: one improvement project influencing the area around it. Murals, she said, could reduce the incidence of graffiti nearby and school attendance had



The Waste Monster, drawn by Yaseer Choudhury. Reproduced by permission of Bin it for Barnet

improved markedly for a truant who'd become involved in a Bin it for Barnet project.

Children have always been targeted, from the first poster competition, which attracted over 1,400 entries. Boys at one local secondary school, Christ's College, have formed a Green Planet Club and may compete this year. It's not just schools: for instance, a Scout Camp site has been transformed in a previous project.

Competition entry packs, well designed and full of practical information, are available from Sheila Panayiodou at sheila@barnetvsc.org.uk or 0208 446 6624 but hurry, as entries must be in by 31 July. As one enthusiast said at the launch, "Don your welly boots and get out there!"

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In Contact

In Church Lane, East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, sometimes just called Contact, is there to help all kinds of people to help others.

Never too old to be useful

Trans Age Action Project trains and assists older people for voluntary work as mentors and homework coaches in primary schools and family centres. The project is run by Age Concern. Anyone interested should ring Tracy Evans on 020 8346 0542.

Make contact – make a difference

You could make a difference to a lonely, elderly person's life in East Finchley by helping just once a month or once a year!

Contact the Elderly is a national charity that runs small, local teams of volunteers who take the same group of older people to an informal Sunday afternoon tea at a different host's house once a month.

There are isolated, elderly people living completely alone in East Finchley now – possibly even in your own street. Please help by driving just once a month or hosting (hosts need a downstairs loo) once a year so we can start an East Finchley group in conjunction with the East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact.

Please phone Sian Jones on

8444 1162 and mention Contact the Elderly.

For more information visit www.contact-the-elderly.org or freephone 0800 716 543

Over 70 and/or disabled and an arts lover?

Shape Ticket Scheme offers volunteer driver-escorts to arts venues, reduced ticket prices, and a specialised booking service to find seats that suit the needs of the disabled, as well as access to specialist equipment and sign interpreters.

Shape, which is an established organisation offering practical support to elderly and/or disabled arts lovers, also publishes a newsletter, and information on events and shows. *THE ARCHER* will be reporting more about its activities in the future.

Annual individual membership costs £15, but East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact could arrange a group membership, depending on demand. Contact will also help with filling in membership forms. To contact Shape direct, ring 020 7619 6166.

Contact is at 42, Church Lane, N2. Tel 020 8444 1162.

Calling all mums

Are you pregnant or have you just had a baby? If so Cathy Neale would like to hear about how it went.

She's the new representative on a local committee that covers all maternity care, from pregnancy through to weaning your six-month-old, and it's her job to make sure mums' views are heard.

"I'm really keen to hear from any mum or mum-to-be about their experiences, whatever birth they had, whether it's their first or fifth child," said Cathy. "And it's not just about the birth, but for example, how they were treated when they were pregnant or did they get the support and information they wanted when they were at home with their new baby?"

"At the moment I'm looking for mums who have had caesarean sections, or who've had a successful vaginal delivery after having had a previous caesarean section because at the next meeting we're looking at how caesarean sections are managed."

Every two months

"We meet every two months with health managers from all the local hospitals – the Whittington, the Royal Free, North Middlesex Hospital, Edgware Birth Centre, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals – so it really is a good way of making sure that the people in charge of maternity care know what the women and families that use their services think. And that's why I need as many mums as possible to come forward and tell me their stories and experiences."

The next meeting of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Maternity Services Liaison Committee is on Thursday 15 July, when they will be discussing caesarean sections.

Comments can be emailed to Cathy at cathy_neale@hotmail.com or you can phone her on 020 8444 5058.

Cathy is the lay representative put forward by the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) – a charity that gives information and advice to new mums and dads. The NCT Helpline is 0870 444 8707; local contact is Sophie Spence 020 8444 1890.



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Spike on a bench Photo by Erini Rodis

Spike Milligan honoured

By Erini Rodis

On Saturday 22 May a blue commemorative plaque was unveiled in honour of the late Spike Milligan. The event was organised by the Finchley Society and attended by a number of notables, Goon fans and members of the Milligan family. Bill Tyler, now president of the Finchley Society, was a fellow founder with Spike. "It was always a delight when committee meetings were held in the Milligan's large Edwardian house," remembered Mr. Tyler, "with its long garden sweeping down to the Dollis Brook. It was a truly wonderful house, filled with laughter and the delight of children and noise and activity."

Milligan's daughter Jane also spoke proudly of her father: "His talent covered many different areas - his writing, his music, his art, his compassion for animals, conservation, his love of the environment. He was a soldier; his themes ranged from environmental issues to the war, from his love of architecture to depression. There was something in Spike for everybody. I think I'm extremely lucky to have called him Dad."

The site of the plaque is on the side of a house which now stands on Milligan's former home at 127 Holden Road. This is hallowed ground for the family, as



Plaque unveiled Photo by Erini Rodis

Jane continued, "It was here that Spike was going through his most creative and passionate pioneering work - the Goon show, his memoirs, and the start of the Q series. Somewhere in the soil underneath these flats are the bones of our

family pets; hamsters, rabbits, fish, bits of action men, pieces of Lego, air rifle pellets and probably unread letters to the pixies and fairies. It was a great home and a wonderful place to grow up."

Sculpture

A sculpture by artist John Somerville is also being planned, and a committee including Joanna Lumley and Michael Parkinson is being set up to raise funds for it. The life-size statue will be seated on a bench, outside Avenue House, turning as if to talk to imaginary companions. It should be a good place for a lot of people to stop and say hello.

Sippy's run continues...

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sippy Azizollah is a Five Bells regular, but never before has she turned up there at 6.15 in the morning. When she finally went home at 9pm, she was several hundred pounds closer to her aim of raising £10,000 for Lupus UK.

Throughout the day the challenge was for runners/walkers to clock up 100 miles between them, over a course starting and finishing at The Five Bells. Mark Wilson started it off at 6.30, and then stayed all day to facilitate events, until, right at the end, a group of 10 brought the total mileage to 101. Rob Banks (of the Five Bells football team) was fastest with a time of five minutes, 26 seconds.

Time was not what it was about, though. Sippy herself notched up a mile along the corridor of her Fairacres home in 80 difficult minutes.

Youngsters who ran, aged from six to 16, asked to do it all over again, and Bobby Moore, who organised the event, does hope to repeat it.

Sippy wants to thank

Bobby and his family for all their efforts. "Bobby's girls" ran bring-and-buy stalls and a darts game, which helped to raise £200, while other on-site money-spinners included Michael Solomons, a talented artist who himself suffers from cerebral palsy. Michael sold sketches he did during the day. A neighbour donated sweets for a "how many in the jar?" competition. (229, if anyone is still wondering.)

Sippy summed up, "I want to thank everyone, but must mention Sandra Hyman, who helped all day, and of course Pat O'Shaughnessy, the Five Bells landlord, who gave us a free run of the pub and the garden. I'm just blown away by people's generosity. It was a golden weekend for me."



Sippy and supporters outside The Five Bells pub.

Photo by Toni Morgan

Long Lane Pasture

Barnet Council has just granted the Long Lane Pasture Action Group access to the ancient meadow just off Long Lane N3 that goes under the name of Long Lane Pasture. Recently threatened with housing development, the area is now on course to become a green space to benefit wildlife and the local community.

The Action Group is working towards securing the site on a long term basis and help is urgently needed to support the initial work of drawing up plans and surveys.

Anyone wishing to become a Friend of Long Lane Pasture should write to the Action Group at 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley London N3 2DA.

There is no subscription but Lane Pasture Action Group donations payable to Long are welcomed.

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The Mardi Gras Parade

Left to right including facing page:

Assembling at Green Man Centre; Setting off; Rhubarb the clown; Passing our library; Down the High Road.

Photos by David Glick
Arriving in Cherry Tree Wood.

Photo by Toni Morgan



Live music from Apple-Lips Brothers Photo by John Dearing

Sunshine and rain

The 30th annual East Finchley Community Festival started in bright sunshine with the Mardi Gras parade bringing a touch of New Orleans to North London.

There was the usual wide selection of food stalls offering everything from tea and cakes to jerk chicken, curries and burgers, as well as the very popular beer tent.

Away from the food stalls a range of local charities and organisations were there including The Woodcraft Folk, Oxfam and the Phoenix. For children there was a bouncy castle, face painting and the Arts Depot Children's tent.

With music and entertainment on two stages, fine weather and a large crowd picnicking on the grass it was another great day in Cherry Tree Woods and another great festival – until the heavens opened, just after four o'clock, to round off the day.



Picnic Time Photo by Alison Roberts



All that glitters Photo by David Glick



Catering for exotic tastes Photo by Erini Rodis



Black Sheep, anyone? Photo by David Glick



Candy floss Photo by Toni Morgan



Stalls galore Photo by David Glick



Bold school network Photo by David Glick



Three Wise Women Photo by David Glick



Host station Photo by David Glick



Improvised cover cover Photo by Toni Morgan



Sheltering in the wood Photo by Erini Rodis



Joking in the rain Photo by Erini Rodis

Competition winner:

The winner of the treasure hunt was Lucy Owens. Congratulations Lucy - a crisp £10 note is winging its way to you.



A well earned rest Photo by Toni Morgan

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Football Fever!

By Helen Drake

The rest of the nation may have been in the grip of Euro 2004, but for local youngsters the real action took place at the annual East Finchley Festival 5-a-side football tournament, held for the first time in conjunction with the Martin Schools Summer Fun Day 5-a-side tournament, on Saturday 19 June.

Chelsea wins!

Members of the teams, with their enthusiastic supporters, started arriving on the pitch at 10.30am to warm up, with the first kick off at 11.00am. In the 4-7 year olds age group, all the teams were from Martin Infant School and all were named after a well-known English club. After some impressive football Chelsea (Euan, Hannah, Miles, Jamie, Olonna and Ben from Year 2) emerged the jubilant winners.

Tricksters triumph

Two teams from Holy Trinity School along with five teams from Martin Junior School competed in the 7-11-year-olds age group. Each team played three games with the best four teams going through to the semi-finals. The final between

the Holy Trinity *Tricksters* and Martin Junior School's *Real Madrid* was a tense but exciting match with the *Tricksters* (Tom, Edward, Oliver, Hudson, Freddie and Billy) winning by one goal to nil.

High standard

Both of the winning teams were welcomed up on to the main stage of the Summer Fun Day to celebrate their moment of glory and to receive their trophies from local councillor Alison Moore. David Noden, who organised the tournament and helped to referee alongside three other Martin Schools' dads, James Johnson, David Burgh and Andy Abrahams, said, "All the players seemed to really enjoy themselves and the standard of football was very good".



The annual East Finchley Festival 5-a-side football tournament gets under way. Photo by Mike Harris.

YOUNG ARCHER

Educational Visits

We used to call them school trips but children today seem to learn a lot more on them than I did! Perhaps this is because they are encouraged to be so actively involved in what is going on at the places they visit, and because links are made with what they are studying in school.

Here are two reports on very different visits by children of different ages. The first is about when Year 5 in Martin Junior School went to the Hari Krishna Temple in Watford to learn about Hinduism as part of nine- and ten-year-olds' religious education work.

The Temple

By Saffa Karim

When we got to the temple we ate our snacks first. After that a lady from the temple talked to us about the day. She said we would be having a ride on the bulls. She first told us about the plant called Tulsi, a special plant and the English name for it is "Holy Basil."

Then we went on the bullock cart rides. The bulls were trained very well. When we got to the end of the road they took us to a place where they keep all the cows and bulls. They explained to us about why they don't eat meat. I saw three cows, one named Radhika, she was a girl. The boys' names were Bhima and Gopal. They had a ring round their nose. I called Radhika and Bhima and they followed me.

When we got to the temple we had to take our shoes off. Indriyesh, our guide, talked to us about lots of things. We were shown how to do meditation. A lady came and dressed us in saris. I had a green and pink sari. We even got to wear a bindi. Mr Jackson won a packet of bindis for doing the best meditation. We went to see the shrine and Indriyesh told us it was Sita's birthday. She was dressed in a flower dress. Indriyesh told us stories about Rama and Sita.

Then we went downstairs to eat. They had rice with paneer (that is cheese), tomato sauce and peas. I didn't like it. There was an Asian bread called puri, it was delicious. There were home made chocolate chip cookies. Now they were delicious!

Then we went to the shop. I got two candles for my sister, Indian face paint and a packet of bindis. Then we went outside and had some face paint.

Now it was time for us to go home so we took our saris off and put our coats and bags on. Then we went downstairs to get our shoes. We said bye to Indriyesh. I enjoyed my trip very much and I would like to go back again one day.

The second is about when Year 2 in Holy Trinity School went to the Science Museum where they took part in some fascinating experiments, which the seven year olds really enjoyed.

The great big trip.

By Emma Sharp

On Friday Year 2 and I went to the Science Museum. We went

on the tube.

We went to the Pattern Pod. We went in this box where you can dance and this kind of TV shows you a pattern of how you're dancing. We went to a Bubble Show. There was a man who made fire bubbles and every child in Year 2 got to go in a bubble. It felt funny inside. WOW!

Then it was lunchtime. I had three sandwiches and orange juice and some sweets.

In the end we went to the Launch Pad and there were many beads and a bucket. We put the beads in the bucket, you pull and push the rope and the bucket will move up and down. Johnny gave Miss Hamilton an electric shock. We went home in a train.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

World Lupus Day

The final amount raised by the nursery from their sponsored fancy dress event (see last month's *ARCHER*) was an astonishing £514

Preparation for secondary school

Year 6 visited Avenue House for a Junior Citizen Project. Members of the police, fire and ambulance forces were there to lead them in groups through a variety of scenarios. These included peer pressure, mobile phone theft, dealing with strangers, fire and travel safety issues.

New library

Parents have been helping to prepare books and equipment for the newly built building. Parent and school

governor Chris Hampson again agreed to cycle in the London to Brighton Bike Ride on Sunday 20 June, with the sponsorship money he raised going towards the cost of the library.

Arts week

At the end of the month children will be able to take part in batik work, African drumming, Indian "Bollywood Style" dancing, country dancing, banner making along with a Jungle Walk for the youngest. There will also be a workshop for parents and carers.

Cricket

The school team took part in the Barnet Primary Schools Tournament, where they came second in their section.

Martin Schools

Forties fashion

Children in Year 6 were able to gain a better idea about life during the Second World War when they came into class dressed in school clothes from the 1940s.

Gymnastics club

Fourteen children from the club were selected to represent the school at an event staged at Brent Cross on 20 June.

Basketball

The Sports for All Award that the junior school won has helped to provide an after-school multi-sports club. One of the many benefits has been the relationship with the basketball

coaches, who come in once a week and who have helped children from Years 5 and 6 to develop their basketball skills, for which they have all gained medals.

Yellow Day

Children were encouraged to wear something yellow and to make a donation of 50p/£1 to the North London Hospice, who had asked everyone to go yellow on 9 June. They were given a yellow badge in return.

Halal meat

Caterhouse, which supplies the school meals, now has a policy of using only halal meat in their menus.

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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>



Joan Evans (left) and Frances Lynskey, who prepared the food. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

D-Day party

By Daphne Chamberlain

On 6 June St George's crosses were appearing everywhere, but in Prospect Place there were strings of 'Union Jacks'. As the sun continued to shine, "You are my sunshine" greeted passers-by. The residents were enjoying a D-Day party. One of them is one of the very few survivors of Omaha beach.

Mr Evans was 19 when he sailed from Weymouth with the job of clearing the beaches. Omaha was one landed by Americans, but as he said, "We helped each other out".

His neighbours had their own memories - like being stranded in the street on the way to school while a V1 bomber flew overhead, or buying dried egg in little silver containers.

They agreed that even though rationing was in force, they didn't need to go without, and bread was much

nicer then.

Tea at last month's party was originally going to consist only of food available in 1944, but their generous spread did cheat a bit. Spam was definitely on offer though, and certainly featured in the street celebrations a year after D-Day, at the end of the war.

Residents of Hendon and Woodside Park sheltered accommodation were also at the party, which was a double celebration for one lady, being four days before her 93rd birthday.



The refurbishment of the restaurant next to Madden's has exposed the old shop sign - who remembers Homebits and when did it close? Picture by Diana Cormack

East Finchley's religious heritage

Part 4 - Three Catholic centres

By Ann Bronkhorst

"Build up a church in this important and growing neighbourhood," advised Cardinal Vaughan in 1898. He was in the Old Lecture Hall in Chapel Street, now Chapel Court, previously owned by the Congregationalists. Now a very different congregation had gathered for a consecration service: the Roman Catholic community at last had their own parish, St. Mary's.



The statue of Mary on the top of St Marys Church Photo by Erini Rodis

The Chapel Street church

By 1918 the parish priest, Father Powell, was building up not only East Finchley's church but also the first Catholic parish in Muswell Hill. Then in 1940 St Mary's, Chapel Street, was destroyed by a bomb. For years worshippers used Our Lady of Lourdes School and a hut in the presbytery garden. Undaunted, the parish literally 'built up' a new St Mary's, consecrated in 1953 and thriving today.

East End House

A Catholic community had already settled in East Finchley in 1864. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd arrived in East End Road when it was still a meandering country lane. The community owned farmland until the mid-1960s, now the site of Bishop Douglass School. A refuge for distressed Catholic women was provided at East End House until 1948 and St. Margaret's Industrial School for Girls was there for many years. In 1972 the buildings were badly damaged by fire; most were demolished

and land was sold for housing. Now just the original house remains, as a study centre for Carmelite Friars, and a small administration block for the Good Shepherd Provincialate.

Knights

Another large villa on East End Road was also bought by a convent. Sister Mary, whose Golden Jubilee was in 2000, told me about Nazareth House and its history. The Poor Sisters of Nazareth settled in Knights in 1921; the house, with its extensive grounds, seemed to an early visitor "like a little bit of heaven". In this setting 1,240 children were cared for between

1921 and 1974. The first child came via the Good Shepherd Sisters, one of many links between the two communities. From 1974 residential care at Nazareth House has been for the elderly and in 1982 a complex of interlinked buildings opened. An integral element is the chapel with its tall roof, an East Finchley landmark, where Mass is offered daily.

St. Mary's and the two convents continue to be focal points for East Finchley Catholics. But what became of the Congregationalists who sold the Lecture Hall? Their story will be told next month.

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- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie. 020 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** open daily from 2pm. The Green, Kings Avenue N10 Tel: 8883 1178
- ❖ **Step/Aerobics classes**, Sundays at Bar XL. Phone 0789 0033 968.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
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- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Incognito Theatre workshops**, Colney Hatch Lane, 020 8883 0911
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Monday 12 & 26 July at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
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- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 020 8340 2706

Clubs & Social

- ❖ **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 Sophie Spence 020 8444 1890
- ❖ **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 & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613
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- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495
- ❖ **Northern Lights Speakers' Club** alt. Monday eves at The Old White Lion www.northernlightsspeakers.org.uk
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Synagogue**, Tetherdown, 020 8883 5925
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- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, 020 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.

Homeopathy for children

By Daphne Chamberlain

Recently I sat in on a day course for parents and carers of pre-school children, run by Cassandra Lorius, a registered homeopath who has just moved into the area.

The mothers I met there wanted to be 'self-empowered' to deal with the ups and downs of their babies' health. One mother complained that her GP gave little support to 'alternative' medicine, although in fact there is homeopathic training available for doctors. Her friend, though, had had the opposite experience. Both of them wanted to treat their children's ailments in the safest and most natural way.

Cassandra emphasised that homeopathy can play a vital role in boosting the immune system, and also has remedies for viral conditions which antibiotics can't affect. Because each individual is seen as a whole, there are a variety of ways to treat what seems to be the same condition - for example, different remedies for different types of asthma. The aim should be to observe a child's health in a systematic way, and not just to intervene out of anxiety.

Currently the most controversial intervention is immunisation, and Cassandra has discussion days about this, as well as courses to support the health of mothers.

The session I attended included talk about where - and whether - to take your child abroad, as well as ranging over coughs, sore throats, fevers and allergies. The programme also covers teething, colic, diarrhoea, earache, infectious illnesses, injury and shock.

She does, of course, treat adults as well as children. "I spend a lot of time talking

to people, and helping them come to terms with their lives. Homeopathy is marvellous for clearing up a whole range of health problems caused by stress." Stress, she finds, has as devastating an effect on children's lives as on adults'.

Cassandra, a homeopath for over 20 years, has taught for 15 years. She has written articles for *Here's Health*, as well as two books - *Homeopathy in a Nutshell* and *Homeopathy for the Soul*.

Just settled at 37, Baronsmere Road, she can be contacted on 020 8444 0594.



Cassandra Lorius, left; in discussion with a mother attending one of her day courses.
Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

RSPCA news

One of the highlights of the Finchley Carnival is always the RSPCA Companion Dog Show. This year it will be on Saturday 17 July.

It is hoped that East Finchley pet owners will be well represented in pedigree and novelty classes for dogs of all breeds and ages. Even handlers will get a look in, for there is a 'Best of Six Legs' class!

Entry fees are £1.25 per class or £6 for six classes and forms are available at the

Clinic in Park Road N2 (open on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.00 - 7.30 pm) and at the Show from 12 noon. Judging commences at 1.30 pm.

Even if you don't enter, come along to watch the judges, visit the local RSPCA stall and enjoy all the fun of the fair. All profits go to support the RSPCA Clinic.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Flying the flag?

Welcome to the wild world of flag waving. The cross of St George is fluttering on a million cars and a nation's hopes are pinned on the ability of eleven men in England shirts to kick a ball better than anyone else. Wrapped in the flag and bathed in lager, the entire country prepares to watch a heroic victory whilst fearing a typical English defeat. And me? Well I want to shout from the rooftops "it's only a game!"

Sport throws up defining moments, usually when you least expect it. The famous words from the dying seconds of the 1966 world cup final are famous because it was already all over before Geoff Hurst scored that final goal. Even failures make the grade if they actually mean something, whether it's Gazza crying when he realised that he wouldn't play in a World Cup final or Southgate missing in the penalty shoot-out at Wembley in 1996. But to make the grade everything has to hang on that one moment, not just be another match in another tournament.

Away from football it's the same; Jonny Wilkinson's world cup winning kick meant something because, with seconds to go, the Rugby World Cup was about to slip through England's hands and Jonny's kick made sure that England brought the World Cup home. Botham's performance at Headingley against the Australians in 1981 matters because no one except Beefy really believed it was possible. In other, more dangerous sports the "where were you when..." question is never about the minor, it's the major that counts. Senna's death at Imola in 1994, Mansell's exploding tyre in 1986 resonate in a way that yet another Schumacher win will never do.

So why the flag flying and heartbreak when there is nothing to get too worked up about? Have we so little to feel proud of that we have to wrap ourselves in the flag for the local tiddlywinks championship? Why do we have to act as if our whole sense of well-being has been undermined because we lost to France or Spain or San Marino? Losing a match doesn't matter unless it's a final, so let's save the flag flying until it really matters, until there is something to really celebrate. Fly the thing every time England try their luck at avoiding defeat and it becomes a cliché, not a celebration. After all, Bill Shankly was wrong, it is only a game.

Writing competition

The New Writer magazine is offering cash prizes and publication to winners of its annual competition. Entrants can submit short stories, novellas, single poems, poetry collections, essays or articles. The closing date is 31 October 2004, and prize-winning entries will appear in *The Collection*, a special edition of the magazine, in July 2005.

Further information, guidelines and entry fee details are available on <http://www.thenewwriter.com>, or by stamped, addressed envelope from *The New Writer*, PO Box 60, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 2RE.

This information was sup-

plied by East Finchley Writers Group, who meet at 6.30pm every Wednesday at The Old White Lion. New members are assured of a friendly and constructive welcome.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to the-archer@lineone.net

Music on a summer evening at Kenwood:

10 July: Club Classical the ultimate chill out live, **17 July: Bryan Ferry**, **24 July: Music to Watch Girls By**, **31 July: Kenwood Summer Prom**. All concerts are on a Saturday starting at 7.30pm with a firework finale. Tickets from ticket master 0870 333 6206. Visit www.picnicconcerts.com for details.

11-17 July: Incognito Theatre presents *Outside Edge* - a comedy by Richard Harris. A funny, perceptive and poignant account of the foibles and follies of married life set against the background of the local cricket club. At Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet N11. Tickets: £6 - £8 plus concs. Box Office 020 8361 8310. For details visit www.incognitotheatre.com

17-18 July: To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the **8th Muswell Hill (Tetherdown) Scout Group** is holding a **re-union weekend** at Scout Park. They hope that many ex-members will be able to join them. If you were, or know of any former members who might be interested, please phone 8883 4608 for further details.

26 July-27 August: Summer art classes for children aged 5-11 @ art 4fun - it's Colour Me Mine every Mon-Fri 10-11.55 am. Ceramic painting and art classes. Different themes every week to inspire young minds. Call 020 8444 4333 for details or visit www.muswellhill.colourmemine.com



Letters to The Editor

Inaccessible

Dear Editor,
I write to you because of the strange juxtaposition of four articles in your May edition. On the front page [praise for] Barnet council [was reported] for their prompt action in dealing with planning applications and on page seven three new restaurants were reviewed.

None of these restaurants is accessible for people who use wheelchairs, despite Barnet Council having a planning policy, D25, which states "the council will require that new shop fronts are designed to be accessible for people with disabilities."

As a member of Access in Barnet, I reviewed the planning application for 100 High Road, which now accommodates the Poseidon Restaurant. Readers will remember that this used to be Tom's the butchers and a ramp at the front door made this shop fully accessible. A lobby was shown on the plan situated where the now demolished ramp was. I naturally presumed that the ramp would be maintained within this lobby but now a high timber threshold has made this restaurant totally inaccessible. Being an architect myself, I know that this threshold is not a structural requirement.

I did not review the planning application for the Thai restaurant next door; was there one? A new shop front with a similar threshold to that next door has been installed which has made this restaurant inaccessible also.

The situation at Chez Nous, though, is more complicated. This used to be Jerome the jewellers and a planning application would have had to have been made. The pavement level and the inside restaurant level are quite different but the recessed entrance to the flat at the side would have made a very appropriate ramp.

A restaurant that I can get into is the new Turkish restaurant at 214/216 High Road but this restaurant does not have a toilet for people with disabilities despite this being a requirement of part M of the building regulations.

One has to ask oneself whether there is any connection between Barnet passing so many planning applications so quickly and this lack of enforcement bedevilling our High Street, discriminating as it does against a section of our society. I totally support the development of these new restaurants, however I would also like to ensure they are inclusive. I know that in October, as a result of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 I shall be in a position to take restaurants to court citing discrimination but would hope to avoid such a confrontational exercise.

I first wrote to Barnet planners on the 15th February. I have still not had a reply.

Yours sincerely,
Ann Inglis,
Huntingdon Road N2
Editor's reply:

We have to own up that access was not firmly in our mind when

we reviewed these restaurants and we are sorry to learn that the restrictions currently prevent some residents from sharing in the enjoyment of them. We would be happy to publish any response from the Council or the restaurants concerned. Ed

Stop press: we understand from Ann Inglis that she has since heard from the council, but at this late stage we are unable to publish details.

A nasty experience – be warned!

Dear Editor
Recently, I went out to meet some friends. Passing a bank, I decided to use one of the two cash machines. There were two men apparently using the right hand machine, and nobody else nearby. As the machine was about to issue the money, my left hand sleeve was tugged. I turned and a diminutive, moustachioed man waved a £20 note, asking me if I had dropped it. I told him it wasn't mine and turned back to the machine. My money was still in the machine, but my card had fallen on the floor. I retrieved both, turned around and both men had gone. I assumed I had been lucky, but later on checking via the Internet, to my horror I found that £360 had been withdrawn late that evening, in addition to the £140 I had withdrawn. I called the bank, who stopped the card immediately and arranged for a new one to be issued by post (they said).

Next day at a local branch, they told me I must obtain a crime reference number from the police. At the police station I was given a form for the bank to divulge my card details for Data Protection Act purposes. I went back to the branch to get the form completed, returning to the police station to report the crime, thence back to the branch to complete their fraud form, the whole process taking about four hours.

After two weeks and several telephone calls to the bank, I discovered that the card had apparently been sent out by courier. Having not received it, it had to be stopped, and another one issued. I was eventually notified of its arrival at the local branch six days later, one hour before leaving for the airport for a foreign holiday. They did, however, refund the stolen money promptly and without argument.

I was the subject of a sophisticated and well-rehearsed scam. Despite not being physically hurt I was shocked and frightened, but the worst part was the subsequent hassle; imagine the impact on someone less capable of coping. It has been unpleasant just reliving the experience for this letter, and I do not wish to discuss it with anybody – just beware.

John Dearing
Viceroy Close, N2

Send your correspondence to:
"Letters Page", The Archer, PO
Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-
mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Wonderful Wisteria

By Betti Blatman
Did you notice the wisteria covering the front of the house by the Five Bells Pub as shown in this photo?

No? Well you should get a second chance as, we are reliably informed, it will bloom again this month. The house dates back to 1893 when the original occupants, Mr and Mrs Thomas, had 'just a weed' growing, which flourished into the wonderful display seen today.

Photo by Tony Roberts



Archer Bridge
By Mike Graham

Last month we saw that most team events are scored by a method called International Match Points (imps), whereby your scores are compared, and the difference converted according to the IMP scale. At the lower end of the scale the differences are relatively small - a part-score swing of, say, 220 points converts to 6 imps.

Very large swings are rare. Most players "memorise" the scale and know the swings for up to about 1000 points, which is fine for practical purposes. After that, you need to look them up.

Last month we saw an 18 imp swing; the next hand, a distributional freak, saw an even larger one (and yes, it was dealt at the table):

Dealer South		♠	976		
Game All		♥	A9762		
		♦			
		♣	J10873		
♠	542	N		♠	AKQJ108
♥	J3	W		♥	5
♦	A109652	E		♦	K1873
♣	Q5	S		♣	6
		♠	3		
		♥	KO1084		
		♦	04		
		♣	AK942		

The bidding at our table (partner and I North-South) was:

N	E	S	W
4♥ (1)	4♠	1♥	Pass
6♠ (4)	Pass	5♣ (2)	5♠ (3)
		6♥	All Pass

- (1) We play five-card majors, so North raises to the combined trump limit.
 - (2) Not really worth this on values (Four Hearts is pre-emptive), but to sell out to Four Spades with 5/5 shape and concentrated values is a bit wimpish.
 - (3) A brave bid, but Five Diamonds is better. Having passed over One Heart, West must hold spade support to bid this. Note that East is much better placed now, as he knows about the huge double fit.
 - (4) Lead-directing. Intending now to make Six Hearts (South is marked with spade shortage), and paving the way for a ruff against Six Spades.
- There was no defence to Six Hearts; North-South +1430.
At the other table:

N	E	S	W
2♥ (1)	3♥ (2)	1♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass (3)	3♠ (4)
		All Pass	

- (1) Conservative in the extreme. Only five points, but five card support and a void argues for a much stronger bid.
 - (2) Showing a two-suited hand with spades and a minor.
 - (3) Also conservative; Four Clubs, although a slight overbid, would show decent values and direct a good lead.
 - (4) Assuming spades and clubs, and giving preference to spades.
- Four Spades could have been defeated (low heart lead, diamond ruff, club to the ace, diamond ruff), but very few teams defend like that and in practice North led the ace of hearts and switched to a club. South won and led a trump, so our pair came back with +650 to go with our +1430; a swing of 2090 and 19 imps.

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The Beverley Sisters in East Finchley

By Betti Blatman

The Beverley Sisters visited East Finchley on 27 May for the official opening of Mulberry Court retirement homes. Mike French, Regional Managing Director for MacCarthy and Stone welcomed everybody before the sisters demonstrated their famous 'high kicks'.

60 glorious years

The Beverley Sisters consist of Joy (the eldest) and identical twins Babs and Teddy, born 15 minutes apart. This year celebrates the Beverley Sisters' 60-year career and they're featured in The Guinness Book Of Records as the longest running pop group in the world ever.

Apart from having the best parents and the ability to entertain, they were discovered after being evacuated in 1939 and were



The Beverley Sisters Reminisce. Picture by Betti Blatman

known as "Little Ovaltines" throughout the War. In 1944 they were heard singing at school and auditioned for the BBC underground during which the red light went off over the door and Glen Miller appeared, requesting them to be signed up. But when he said that he could knock out some arrangements, they replied, "No thank you Mr Miller as we do our own".

Despite having had no training, they've appeared with a host of international

stars including Pat Boone, Bob Hope, Danny Kaye, Liberace, Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard and Norman Wisdom.

Among my souvenirs

When asked what it's like to sing to the Royals, they replied "rich" and that when they were kids, royalty was worshipped. They reminisced about acquiring 'souvenirs' while at Windsor Castle – soaps, towels and ER milk bottles, which made lovely gifts for neighbours.

Underneath the Queen's

window at Buck House were geraniums unavailable elsewhere so they took cuttings in a plastic bag! When they received an invitation to Highgrove, Joy didn't want to go, because of her feelings about Diana, but agreed and they were met by Prince Charles on his doorstep with a gin and tonic, when Joy decided that "he's not so bad, just a young man in the wrong job!" Prince Charles showed them around his garden, advising that "no pesticides are used here as

we leave it to nature".

Golden Oldies

The Beverley Sisters performed *How Much Is That Doggy In The Window* and *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree*. During lunch, the Beverley Sisters mingled, distributing their autographed photos with requested personal messages and chatting animatedly.

A raffle was held for a Cancer Research Charity and bouquets were presented to the Beverley Sisters.

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