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THE ARCHER




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August 2005 No. 146 **20p**
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Future of Stanley Field in the balance

By Daphne Chamberlain

A decision to demolish the Herbert Wilmot Centre in East Finchley has thrown doubt on plans to turn the nearby Stanley Road Playing Field into a community multi-sports centre and raised fears that the disused site will be sold to developers.

The sum of £27,000 is to be taken from Barnet Council's New Deal for Schools budget to finance the demolition of the Herbert Wilmot Centre in Eagans Close.

The week after this decision was confirmed in the face of opposition from local councillors, a council spokesperson told the sports project committee that demolishing the centre "might have a bearing" on whether the council would support their proposals.

Councillor John Marshall said that the building would be demolished for safety rea-

sons, but local people fear that its removal will open up the opportunity to build a through road to Stanley Field behind, and open the way for sale of the land to developers. A well-known builder is already known to be interested.

Setback

The move is a setback for the sports project committee headed by Philip King, of The Walks Residents Association, representatives from the East Finchley Community Development Trust and Holy Trinity School, and Roger Reed from the Football Foundation.

Their proposals for a sports facility and community centre on the site were revealed in *THE ARCHER* in March.

At the East Finchley Festival in June, more than 100 people completing questionnaires about the proposals showed virtually unanimous support, with comments including: "The area needs sports facilities such as these."

Mr King told *THE ARCHER*: "We met council representatives at the end of May, but two months later we still do not know whether Barnet is interested. We have been told they are still considering the future of the field."

"A lot of effort is being made on the community side. We are compiling a database of interested organisations, and Roger Reed has indicated that the Football Foundation would provide about half the development costs. I'm just worried that all these efforts might be cancelled out."

Councillors who opposed the demolition of the Herbert Wilmot Centre said that New Deal for Schools money was intended to be for repairs and maintenance of schools, and would have been better spent dealing with those specific needs.

Councillor Alison Moore told us that schools had been surveyed progressively over the last few years to assess those needs.



Now this is the sort of service we expect from our MP! Rudi Vis at the launch of Open House. Photo by Erini Rodis

Open House: Sixteen different venues around East Finchley, including 11 private homes, were recently turned into art galleries for a weekend to showcase the work of local artists. See page 10 for details.

Suspect car closes High Road

By John Dearing

Police closed the High Road for more than four hours on Tuesday 26 July as they investigated a car believed to have been used by the suspects in the failed bomb attacks in London five days earlier.

The white VW Golf was parked in Strawberry Vale near the road bridge and had been previously under surveillance following the attempted bombings on the tube network

and a bus on July 21.

The High Road was closed from the junction with Church Lane down to Oak Lane from 1pm until after 5pm. The North Circular was closed from Henleys Corner to Colney Hatch Lane.

Traffic quickly became gridlocked around the junction of the High Road with East End Road and Fortis Green.

Residents of Strawberry Vale and neighbouring houses were temporarily evacuated to Martin School where Barnet Council provided refreshments.

Police examined the suspect car at the scene and then took it away for further forensic analysis before reopening the High Road.

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PRINTED BY
Eastway Offset Ltd

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines

September issue: 12 August
October issue: 16 September
November issue: 14 October

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

Face lift for Barnet's parking service

By John Dearing

Barnet Council is proposing major changes to its parking service with the intention of making it more user-friendly. At the Council Meeting on 28 June, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor Matthew Offord outlined a number of key changes he wished to see. These are:

- To address residents' concerns over continued increases in the cost of resident parking permits year after year.
- To make available £5 of visitor vouchers free for every household with a resident parking permit.
- To review all CPZs by consulting with residents and businesses.
- To review giving drivers a 'grace' period after their pay and display ticket has expired.
- To introduce an observation period for loading or unloading in areas where this is allowed, to assist local businesses with their deliveries.
- To introduce the "Moovit" scheme which allows drivers of vehicles loading or unloading to be paged if away from their vehicle.
- To appoint a customer care manager as the first point of contact for customer correspondence and appeals.

Recognising criticism

The council will now investigate each of these proposals in detail and bring forward a report to the Cabinet for their consideration in September.

Councillor Offord said: "Barnet, along with many other local councils, has received a lot of criticism about its parking service, which we are no longer prepared to tolerate."

Phone mast blocked

By Martin O'Donnell

Residents of Strawberry Vale celebrated after Barnet's planners refused an application by Vodaphone to install a phone mast next to the Green Man Community Centre.

Oestein Festoe, from the Strawberry Vale Residents' Association, led a campaign of opposition to the phone mast. He gathered support from other residents, the Green Man Users' Committee, Barnet College and The Peabody Trust.

Barnet's planners cited the detrimental visual impact the installation would have had and the cluttered effect of too much street furniture. Residents will remain on guard, however, as Vodaphone may choose to appeal against the decision.

Mugged for phone

By John Dearing

Two 17-year-old males had their mobile phones stolen in a street mugging on Sunday 10 July at 6.20pm in Dickens Avenue, N3.

The victims were approached by three males, two of whom pulled flick knives and asked the victims for their mobiles.

Fearing for their safety, the two friends handed over their mobiles and all three muggers then walked off towards Queens Avenue.

The first suspect is described as a white male, aged 20, 6ft, of stocky build. He was wearing a light blue vest and navy blue shorts.

The second suspect is described as a white male, aged 18, 5ft 11ins, wearing a black t-shirt and dark blue jeans.

The third suspect is described as a white male, aged 18, 5ft 11ins, wearing a grey baseball cap and grey hooded sweatshirt.

Providing a safe haven

By Craig Johnson

Sanctuary, a project that helps victims of domestic violence and prevents them from becoming homeless, has celebrated a successful first year.

Sanctuary was developed by Barnet Council with the Metropolitan Police, Barnet Domestic Violence Support Service and the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, with help from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Evidence of success

Since Sanctuary's inception, there has been a 12% fall in families being made homeless in Barnet as a result of domestic violence. There has also been an impressive 40% decrease in the number of families fleeing domestic violence by going into temporary accommodation.

By taking a few simple steps such as installing extra locks and panic alarms, the families have been able to stay in their own homes and avoid being uprooted from their community and parted from family and friends.

At the launch of the project's first annual report, Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, cut a cake to mark the occasion. Speeches were made by the Leader of the Council Brian Salinger, the council's Homeless Prevention Project Manager Alvin Wade, Bob Lawrence from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Borough Commander, Mark Ricketts.

This event was also used to launch the Barnet Domestic Violence resource pack, produced by the Barnet Domestic Violence Forum. The free pack, which will be sent to people working on domestic violence issues in the borough, includes details of the forum, information about criminal law and contact telephone numbers.

Planning Applications

66/68 Brendon Grove, N2

Single storey side/rear extension with erection of wall to provide covered access. Single storey front extensions and conversion of garages to habitable rooms.

111 Abbots Gardens, N2

Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

385 - 401 High Road, N2

Submission of details of Condition 12 (landscaping) pursuant to planning permission. CO5629L/05 for erection of a five-storey self-contained storage building.

258 East End Road, N2

Conversion of existing car repair workshops, involving partial demolition and partial reconstruction to form six self-contained flats / maisonettes.

1st Floor Flat, 84 Durham Road, N2

Loft conversion, involving rear dormer window.

10 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single storey rear extension. Alteration to roof, including rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

87 High Road, N2

External illuminated and fascia signs and projecting sign.

72 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Hip to gable and rear dormer window, to facilitate loft conversion.

80 Bedford Road, N2

Alterations to roof, including rear dormer / infill extension, to facilitate loft conversion.

11 High Road, N2

Change of use from offices (B1) to adult education centre and ancillary offices (D1).

472A Long Lane, N2

Demolition of existing building and erection of a two-storey building with rooms in roofspace, to provide six self-contained flats.

130 Old Farm Road, N2

Installation of timber canopy to balcony.



Keeping Muswell Hill police station open

By Paul Chapman

It is just one year since Muswell Hill Police Station on Fortis Green Road was reopened to the public. This has only been achieved because of a local volunteer programme to man the front counter.

Previously the Muswell Hill police station had been closed to the public for about five years and Hornsey Police Station then became the nearest alternative with public access. The Muswell Hill station is open on all weekdays, except Thursdays, usually providing a more rapid service than larger police stations dealing with many more incidents. The main incidents are petty crimes such as thefts but more serious crimes such as abduction have been reported.

Over 30 police volunteers of all ages have now been recruited. After about eight weeks of training the volunteers take the responsibility of being the initial point of contact with the public; they may also help with community tasks such as school visits.

The volunteers, working in pairs, are usually expected to man the station counter at least twice a month. One of the younger volunteers, Ash, explains that her motivation is "to give something back to the community".

Tom, a volunteer who has



Ash and Tom at work at Muswell Hill Police Station. Photo by Paul Chapman

lived in the area for over 30 years, says, "This frees up more highly trained police officers for other work." He adds that some local knowledge is very useful. The volunteers all enthuse about the camaraderie of the work and opportunities to attend events and venues not open to members of the public, such as the Crime Museum in central London. In some cases the work leads on to other police voluntary work and one volun-

teer has joined Scotland Yard's forensic team.

Diane Dodd, the organiser from the Metropolitan Police, emphasising the importance of engaging with the community, says the volunteer programme is definitely not policing on the cheap because it would be desirable even if resources were unlimited.

She is appealing for more people to volunteer so that opening hours at Muswell Hill can be extended to six days a week, or at least Saturday. That would require a further 20 volunteers.

Muswell Hill police station is open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays 14.30-19.30 and Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30-14.30. Anyone interested in helping at Muswell Hill Police Station or with other voluntary work can phone the Volunteers Programme on 020 8345 2148 or email MetvolunteersHaringey@met.police.uk.

Commander seeks to reassure public

By John Dearing

Londoners had cause to celebrate on 10 July, when it was announced that the 2012 Olympics would be held in the city, but the celebrations were tragically terminated barely a day later, when three tube trains and a bus were attacked by terrorists, with devastating consequences.

Barnet's Borough Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts, offered his sympathies to those affected by the attacks, and said that there was an increased police presence around the borough, in order to act as a deterrent to further terrorist activity, offer reassurance to residents and the travelling public, and deter those who would use this event to justify committing hate crimes.

Constant patrols

He said that around 90 officers (over a full day) were currently diverted to patrolling in close proximity to tube, train and bus stations, and mosques, synagogues and churches.

Already there had been seven racial incidents reported,

involving all manner of phobias, not just anti-Islamic.

Contacting the police

He expects that racial incidents will continue, but promised that those arrested will be charged, not cautioned. Tackling hate crime (including hoax calls) is a priority, and he urged people to report all racial incidents. He added that concerns about suspicious behaviour should be reported to the police helpline (0800 789 321).

The Chief Superintendent emphasised that the perpetrators were not Islamic terrorists, just terrorists. Everybody was the target of their attacks. His message was to be alert but not alarmed.

Lawyers wanted

East Finchley Advice Service is looking for lawyers to work as volunteers to help local people understand legal issues.

Legal sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-8pm at the service's premises in Church Lane.

The volunteer lawyers advise on simple matters and prepare clients for seeing a solicitor in more complicated issues, but do not undertake case work.

If you are a barrister, lawyer or solicitor interested in becoming part of this valuable service to the community, contact East Finchley Advice Service manager Terry Stone on 020 8444 6265.

Condolence book for bomb victims

A condolence book for the victims of last month's London bomb attacks is at Barnet Town Hall until 31 August.

Miriam Hyman, of Holyoake Walk, East Finchley, was one of the passengers killed in the explosion on the Number 30 bus in Tavistock Square. Miriam, 31, was on her way to her job as a picture researcher in Canary Wharf at the time.

Opened by the Mayor of Barnet, the condolence book is available for anyone to add their comments.

The Town Hall is at The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4. Once inside the main entrance, turn left to the First Contact department. The book is available 9am-9pm, Mondays to Fridays.

Mayor hosts Cypriots

Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, hosted a visit by his counterpart from the Cypriot town of Famagusta. Mr Ioannis Skordis, the Mayor of Famagusta, accompanied by a delegation of his own councillors, visited the Town Hall in Hendon at the end of June.

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Revd. Simon Dyke, his wife Claire and the East Finchley Baptist Church Children's Youth Group. Photo by Craig Johnson.

Jamming session

By Viviana Lotti

What should be spread first on scones - jam or cream? This question generated a lively discussion at the Strawberry Cream Tea party held at the East Finchley Baptist Church in Creighton Avenue on Saturday 2 July.

Overseen by the Reverend Simon Dyke and his wife Claire, the event was organised by the Church's Children's Youth Group (age range from three to 18 years) to raise money for a good cause. For the past five years the church has funded the education of a teenage girl in Lebanon, who also cares for her sick father.

Co-ordinator Heather Ward told *THE ARCHER* that each year the Youth Group devised new fundraising ideas, such as last year's Grow a Fiver project, where children were encouraged to think of ways to increase or make a profit from £5.

This year, for 50pence each, locals enjoyed a traditional cream tea with fresh straw-

berries, scones and jam (both made by the children) and tea, served at tables beautifully laid with pretty tablecloths, vases of flowers and china crockery (acquired by Heather from assorted charity shops).

Despite competition from the Live 8 concert, Wimbledon, uncertain weather conditions and, unexpectedly, an incontinent pigeon, the tables were filled with appreciative customers. The children served teas with care and enthusiasm and also ran a separate 'stall' selling their homemade scones and jam.

So what do *THE ARCHER*'s readers think? Should the jam be spread on the scone first, or should one start with the cream?

Local support group for hospice

By Lucy Chamberlin

The North London Hospice is, many people agree, a jewel in the crown of the wider community. Starting this month, an East Finchley support group also encompassing Muswell Hill and Hornsey will join those already established throughout the boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Barnet, all of which are served by the hospice.

The hospice's costs have spiralled to £4.9 million a year partly due to the necessity of retaining specialist medical staff in an increasingly competitive national market. It receives less than £1 million from the NHS, yet cares for more than 1,000 people each year, as well as providing services in the home, along with bereavement counselling, all free of charge.

The Mill Hill support group has recently celebrated raising £1 million over a year, while the Big Fun Walk from East Finchley to Westminster, organised by the Hampstead Garden Suburb committee, will be a

familiar event to many.

According to the hospice's chairman, Peter Kraushar, plans are in place to contact past supporters as well as a number of shops in the area. The group would have stands at local festivals, and arrange locally based fundraising activities such as walks, concerts, bridge drives and exhibitions, depending on popular demand.

If you are interested in getting involved to support the group, come along to the first meeting on Monday 8 August, from 7.30 pm at 2 Lauradale Road, N2. Alternatively, ring Peter Kraushar on 020 8883 4736.

Top of the class

By Diana Cormack

A member of staff at Martin Infant School has won the London final of Teaching Assistant of the Year, part of the annual nationwide Teaching Awards.

Leslie Smith, who has worked in the school nursery for 15 years, was nominated by headteacher Kevin Anscomb. Qualified nursery nurse Leslie has shown exceptional talent in her role there, with the award describing her as having "the rare quality of making every child feel like the most important person in the world".

Everyone who knows Leslie greeted the news of her nomination with great enthusiasm. In fact, Kevin was inundated with telephone calls and letters from people who wanted to praise the unsung heroine of their school.

Leslie finds time for many other duties: she is a School Governor and active PTA member; she runs the staffroom tea and coffee club, organises collections and gifts, and is the unofficial social secretary and treasurer for team outings as well as being involved in fund raising events.

She gives so much to the school that one family described her as "Mrs 110%". Her advice is sought by many and her compassion is well known.

Mr Anscomb said, "I have not come across a finer exponent of her craft. Leslie is a gifted nursery nurse and an incredibly passionate human being."

Teaching Panel Award judges who visited the school obviously agreed and presented Mrs Smith with her award at the Guildhall. As well as winning educational prizes for Martin Infant School, Leslie won a luxury weekend at the Thistle Hotel, Tower Bridge. The national finals take place on 16 October at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

FINCHLEY FORUM NEWS

A round-up of news from July's Finchley Forum meeting by Daphne Chamberlain

Protest at longer pub opening hours

Some residents raised concerns about plans for extended licensing hours and questioned how they fitted in with Barnet Council's policy on drug and alcohol abuse.

Some claimed to have already seen a rise in crime and noise levels, citing fights, drug-taking, and vomit and litter in the streets. Residents of the 'county' roads have met local councillors about their concerns.

Chair Leslie Sussman said that Barnet Council had no power over extended opening unless people objected to individual applications. If there were no objections, extended licensing was a matter of law, and therefore out of Barnet's hands, although Councillor Alison Moore considered that debatable.

The residents were referred to Terry Vaughan, officer for Environmental Health, who said that the Council had no legal obligation to notify neighbouring residents about licensing applications, but had chosen to write to immediate neighbours "close enough to be affected". He told *THE ARCHER* later that this was a distance of 100-200 metres. The licensee is obliged by law to advertise their intentions on the premises and in one local paper. The time limit for objections is 28 days.

Marks and Spencer closure

Replying to questions about the future of the Marks and Spencer site next to artsdepot, Deputy Chief Executive Brian Reynolds said that the Council was looking to re-open North Finchley as a town centre - along the lines of Cricklewood and Mill Hill. He later clarified this for *THE ARCHER* as meaning that there would be consultations with commercial and general interest groups rather than earmarking the site for housing.

He agreed that a link with the arts (which could include a library or book or music shop) could be sensible, particularly as the site had been linked with entertainment back to the days of the Gaumont cinema.

Unused bus stand at North Finchley

A member of the public suggested this should be turned into a car park, but the Parking Operations Manager said that London Buses are going ahead with plans to use it.

Victoria Park

Questions were asked about the former bowling green and the removal of the aromatic herb garden for the blind. It is rumoured that this area will become a car park. Chair Leslie Sussman said he would find out for the next Forum.

Front gardens

There was a complaint that people who keep their front gardens are being penalised by paying £180 for a parking permit, when they are helping the environment by not turning over the space for a car park. Brian Reynolds said that the Council "was not minded to tell people how to run their gardens".

The next Forum will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28 September, at Trinity Church, Nether Street N12.

Buswatch going to Forum

East Finchley Buswatch plan to take their concerns about the area's inadequate bus service to the next Finchley Forum.

This follows the Transport for London Users Group report on the 263 service, which found that just one bus route was insufficient for the stretch of High Road between East and North

Finchley. Buswatch organiser Hazel Burnett is now asking for support from Barnet Council.

For further information about Buswatch, contact Hazel on 020 8444 6824.

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A life spent gunning for Arsenal

By Daphne Chamberlain

“Have you got any 70-year-old fanatics?” That’s what TV channel Five asked the Arsenal Supporters’ Club before this year’s Cup Final. June James didn’t quite qualify, but her older brother David did.



June James with the FA Cup, 2003.

So when the camera crew visited Leicester Road, it was David they filmed (in the ‘Arsenal room’). It was probably no more than he deserved, as he comes over from Australia virtually every year for the last two months of the season.

The beautiful game

June was 10 years old when David took her to her first match in 1946 and by the time she was 13 she was taking herself off to Highbury. Times have changed, but it was still unusual then. She used to stand in the West enclosure, arriving two hours before the game to get as near the touchline as possible.

“It annoys me,” she says, “when people think women only go to a match to ogle the players’ legs. It’s the game that interests me.”

Without a shadow of a doubt (as she didn’t say), June would have played herself if there had been women’s football when she was young, though she thinks her glasses might have hampered her. As it is, she watches

Arsenal Ladies, finding their standard very good.

Though she once had a picture of Denis Compton - double international cricketer and footballer - on her bedroom wall, she won’t single out any player. “The marvellous Thierry Henry always says he depends on service from his team-mates. It’s a team game.”

Fans not yobs

It’s also a game that has changed. June is “not sure” about the new light balls, and hates the gang culture among supporters. She believes that segregation has encouraged yobbism. “I used to like talking to supporters of the other side. All this silly chanting, taunting relegated sides and calling referees names is horrible.”

Health permitting, she still goes to every home game (wearing an Arsenal shirt), and she and David have been regular weekend visitors to Cardiff in the last few years. Nearer home, she often supports Barnet too.

Is June perhaps East Finchley’s No.1 sports fan?



East Finchley Old Boys’ Football Club - L-R, back: J Amot, A McMaster, H Taylor, A Norman, WJ Duke, F Pryor, W Porter, H Bower, T Brett. Middle: E Rooke, H Green, L Lee, F Heathfield, E Mayne, F Puddlefoot. Front: W Brydone

East Finchley football - a century on

More than 100 years ago, this was the face of football in East Finchley. A team of steely-eyed players stare out from this photograph sent into THE ARCHER by reader Maureen Betts. Her grandfather H. Bower is in the line-up for the 1903-1904 team of East Finchley players in Victoria Park, Long Lane.

Do you recognise any of the other names and faces in the picture or can you shed more light on the team around this time? Write to us here at THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Play as you learn

By Daphne Chamberlain

At the Old Barn in Tarling Road is a pre-school playgroup for two-year-olds up to reception class age. One mother brings her child from Hampstead, and she’s the not the only one from out of the area. I went along to their Open Day to find out why.

Stability is one reason. The four members of staff have been together for about 20 years, originally at St Mary’s, Church End, but for the last 11 years at the Old Barn.

“Treat others the way you would like to be treated” is the motto permanently on the wall, and I found a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The aim is to learn through play. One of the organisers, Tracy Lewis, told me that the group follows the Schools Stepping Stones course and has just had an “excellent” Ofsted report. Drawing, modelling, dressing-up, role-play, and lessons in things like ‘magic’ - magnetism to you and me - are on the curriculum, as well as simple gardening, where prime attractions are the insects.

Just outside the door is an enormous garden and play area,

but the children also have fun days further afield. Recently they have visited Capel Manor gardens, explored helicopters at the RAF Museum, driven round in fire engines at the Fire Station, and taken trips up the road to East Finchley Library.

The group is a non profit-making charity, which receives no grant and raises its own funds.

It runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, during school terms. For further details, contact Angie on 07977 846922 or Penny on 07711 654669.

Young Brownies

By Diana Cormack

If your daughter is too young for the Brownies but desperate to join, help is at hand. A pre-Brownie group for five to seven-year-old girls is being held at St Mary’s Church Hall, 279 High Road, East Finchley.

Called “Rainbows”, it will run on Mondays from 4pm-5pm in term time only, starting on 12 September. For further details, contact Mrs Antoinette on 020 8883 5654.

Correction: The photo accompanying the article ‘Fashion show with a difference’ (THE ARCHER, June 2005) was taken by Iwona Susi. THE ARCHER apologises for crediting the photo to somebody else in error.

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(L-R) Martin O'Donnell and Barbara Montague from the Green Man Community Centre with Tom Landell Mills and Nancy Lopez from Groundwork. Photo by Helen Drake

Green fingers

By Helen Drake

The piece of unused land next to the Green Man Community Centre could soon be transformed into a tranquil garden if current plans come to fruition.

The Green Man Users' Committee, headed by Colleen Etem, has secured £20,000 of funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to develop the land, which is owned by the Peabody Trust Housing Association.

Tom Landell Mills, principal landscape architect, and Nancy Lopez, volunteer urban designer, both from the company Groundwork based in Islington and Camden, brought their plans to the Green Man on 25 June as part of a public consultation process.

"We want to take the uses of the community centre and extend them outside, providing spaces for classrooms, facilities for young children to play and somewhere for older people to sit," explained Mr Landell Mills.

"We are also planning a terrace area that can support functions taking place at the centre. It was felt that there were already quite a few playgrounds in the locality, and that what was needed was a beautiful space in which to sit and relax. We want the space to complement the uses of the centre."

The garden, which the Green

Man Users' Committee is proposing to name the Octavia Hill Garden, after the founder of the National Trust, could be ready for next summer. To see the plans get in touch with Nick Guest at the Green Man on 020 8883 4916.

Steps to success

By Diana Cormack

The Phoenix cinema was recently used as a backdrop to display the talents of one of the country's youngest and newest girl bands.

The group Love Bites, consisting of 15-year-old Hannah, her 16-year-old sister Ami and 17-year-old Nicki, all from Nuneaton, plus 16-year-old Dani from London, were reportedly seen being filmed outside The Phoenix and on Creighton Avenue.

Their debut single "You Broke My Heart" is being released on Island Records later this year. For more information visit www.thelovebites.com.

A survivor from our elegant past

By Kathryn Scorza

In the first half of the 19th century, East Finchley had several elegant houses with grounds, many of them along Fortis Green and East End Road. Most are now known only from photographs, having been demolished many years ago.

One remains, however, at 12-18 High Road, now 'GLH House', which stood opposite the site where the station would be built, long before the railway came to East Finchley.

Early records

The parish map of 1841, compiled to show the annual tithes due from landowners, shows a house on the GLH House site of the same shape as today's building. Parish records show it was registered as 'house and garden' to Thomas Wood, who lived there. He paid a tithe of one shilling and three pennies a year. On a map of the late 1860s it was called Valona House but by the 1880s, it had been renamed The Shrubbery. It was home to a succession of families recorded on the electoral roll. A deed of around 1900 for a nearby property shows The Shrubbery and labels the rear part of the building as stables.

By 1937, when the current High Road numbering had been adopted, it had become No.14. In the 1950s the occupant was a dentist, Sydney Puckey. In 1953, Cyril Wilds bought the house, which he let out as flats, and his Car Hire Service moved to the yard.

The adjoining shop was occupied by a succession of bakers from before the turn of the century. Cyril's son Nigel can remember the smell of baking bread as a child, and bought cakes at Percy Stokes, the baker, after school.

In 1968, GLH took over the newly established minicab business, working from Portacabins in the yard until earlier this year, when it took over the house.

The rear extension was destroyed by fire in the 1980s and rebuilt. The front part of the house was unaffected. The recently-added portico at the front, therefore, masks what is one of the few surviving buildings from the earliest days of East Finchley.



GLH House today (above) and (below) a map from the 1860s centred upon the GLH building, reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey and LB Barnet.



Once upon a time in Cherry Tree Wood

The playground in Cherry Tree Wood was revamped in June. Jake Eiseman-Renyard, now 21, recalls how it used to look.

Having grown up in East Finchley, the Cherry Tree Woods playground has always been of sentimental value to me. I remember how it has changed over the years and I clearly recall the two occasions when I have seen it completely revamped.

I call the old playground, as I first remember it, Edition 1. It had a wooden roundabout, two sets of swings for older and younger kids, a rocking horse, a high slide and what was known as a Witch's Hat. Conical in shape and made from metal bars, it rocked and spun around, and could be climbed on or sat inside.

The Witch's Hat was the first to go, then the big slide was removed, probably both for safety reasons. The roundabout lasted longer but was removed in 1993. The next year, the playground was rebuilt: Edition 2. The two climbing frames with their distinctive red pyramid roofs have been retained but nearly everything else has been replaced again.

Edition 2 featured a pin-ball-style marble drop game and a hopscotch grid painted on the tarmac. There were also brightly-coloured circles forming a trail, looking rather like

giant Smarties and spelling out 'The Cherry Tree Wood Hop Trail'.

Where the pedal-powered roundabout now stands, there was a set of scales, basically two rocking beams that crossed over each other, with a swing on the end of each one. Sadly, it was often vandalised and for most of its existence it was stripped of swings.

Edition 3 opened on the day of the East Finchley Community Festival in June. Features include new swings, a pedal roundabout, and what I call a zip line, where children can hang under a rail and swing back and forth.

Currently, there is still an empty space in one corner of the new playground. It has not yet been decided what will go there but I suggest some form of large outdoor Wendy house. It could be used as a piece of play equipment and double as a storm shelter for the kids.

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Octavia Hill at the Festival

By Sheila Armstrong

Well-known actress Margaret Wolfit, daughter of the actor-manager Sir Donald Wolfit, brought her presentation on the life of Octavia Hill to the East Finchley Festival this year.

Social reformer, and one time resident of Finchley and Highgate, Octavia was influenced by Christian Socialism and worked ceaselessly for others, driving herself to nervous collapse several times in her long life.

When her father became bankrupt it was natural for the family to move to this area as her grandfather lived in Highgate. After an idyllic childhood in a then rural Finchley, she became concerned with the problems of the poor, especially their housing conditions. From the age of 23, she started working to improve their lot.

The handsome and well-kept interior of All Saints Church in Durham Road was an appropriate setting for the evening's entertainment. The disappointingly small audience enjoyed the story of Octavia Hill retold from her own journals by Miss Wolfit.

Open space

The result of extensive research, the presentation threw light on this Victorian philanthropist who is possibly best known for her work in starting up the National Trust, but who in fact spent most of her time on housing reform. Never rich herself, she did it by influencing those who were.

She set up schools, a toy-makers' co-operative and, over the years, organised and managed housing for the poor. A leader in the Open Space Movement, she firmly believed that people needed open space to walk, play and sit in. This eventually led to the founding of the National Trust in 1895.

It was a fitting tribute to Octavia Hill by one of our classical actresses who has performed extensively on stage, radio and television. This presentation has travelled around the UK and to the United States.

Fighting for equal rights

By Diana Cormack

Creative Connections, which has provided educational opportunities for adults with severe learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD) since 1996, has been forced to seek alternative sources to finance courses held at the Thomas More Centre in East End Road.

The centre is part of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute (HGSI). Withdrawal of some government funding could halve these specialist courses because they are not a funding priority with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Many of the benefiting students may be unable to participate, while others may have to pay a fee.

Fay Naylor, principal of the Institute, explained: "More than half of our learners communicate non-verbally, which means that they are unable to study to the required level of literacy and numeracy to qualify for educational support. They are effectively being excluded from the learning process through no fault of their own, and it will have a devastating effect on the quality of their lives."

However, the LSC stated: "The main allocation has not been cut and HGSI needs to deliver our priorities within this allocation."

The courses aim to further the individual's communication skills, self-advocacy and personal development through the arts. Adults with profound and complex problems or with very mild learning deficiency

disorders are well supported in small groups by specialist teaching staff.

Courses work with around 80 learners, mostly between the ages of 25 and 60, the majority of whom live in Barnet. They include older people whose learning problems were not addressed when they were younger.

Praise from inspectors

Following a recent inspection, the Adult Learning Inspectorate intends to include Creative Connections on its Excalibur website as an example of exceptionally good practice in this area of teaching. The Inspectorate reported that learners were offered "good development of personal living skills, good or very good teaching, particularly effective planning of individual learning and good promotion of equality of opportunity."

An on-going campaign has raised awareness of this nationwide problem and, at the time of writing, staff are trying to work out how many students they can provide for in September.

For more information about Creative Connections call 020 8371 7878.

Break out by bike

By Tom Walker

More than 50 cyclists met in East Finchley on Sunday 10 July for the second annual bike ride up through the country roads of Hertfordshire.

The Suburban Breakout event saw them cycle 100km (more than 60 miles) through hilly lanes. Participants cycled all the way to Cottered, just north of Stevenage, and then back.

The ride was not a race, and people of all ages and abilities were able to take part at their own speed. Some stopped for lunch at the halfway point.

Nick Bloom, the event's organiser, said, "We want to encourage cycling and show how close the countryside is. People don't realise how quickly they can get into farmland from here."

The fastest people do it in four hours, and they're tired and sweaty - but the people who take eight hours look like they've been for a walk in the park."

Hares or tortoises?

He stressed that the event was about people having fun, not about endurance or competition - the only goal was to finish, and there was a speed limit throughout the ride of 30km an hour.

While 100km might sound like a long way, it's surprisingly easy for a reasonably experienced rider. Anyone who commutes by bike from East Finchley to Central London could manage it with no problems.

Imitating Archie?

By Daphne Chamberlain I was definitely not imitating Archie, our famous local statue. To begin with, I was in Herefordshire, not on the top of East Finchley station. Even so, the other weekend I became the other kind of archer for an hour. It was great.

Full of enthusiasm after my taster lesson, I contacted the Aquarius club, who meet at Fortis Green reservoir. A force in North London archery and regular championship winners, they have about 100 members, generally from Barnet and Haringey.

Aquarius has a youth section, with a usual starting age of 10 going up to 18.

The good news for me is that they hold regular crash courses for beginners (equipment provided), and there might be a few places left for a course at the end of August.

Please contact Maggie on 020 8440 1558 for details.



Sunny Sunday cycling - the bike ride gets underway on the High Road. Picture by Tom Walker

There are provisional plans to run a 200km event from East Finchley next year, if there is enough interest.

The ride was organised by the Central London CTC (Cyclist Touring Club), a

charity that promotes cycling in the capital and runs three bike rides every weekend all over the Greater London area.

For more information, call 020 8365 3806 or visit www.centra1londonctc.org.uk.

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Catch that Penguin!

By Helen Drake

It may have been the hottest day of the year so far but Mr Penguin still travelled from Antarctica to open the Martin Schools Summer Fun Day held on Saturday 18 June, and did a roaring trade selling ice creams from the back of his push bike!



Dave Day gets into a flap. Photo by Iwona Susi

And Mr Penguin wasn't the only famous guest of the day. Ariel, the Little Mermaid, appeared, followed by Peter Pan, a couple of dastardly pirates, Little Bo Peep (without her sheep of course!), an assortment of fairies and princesses, playing cards from Alice in Wonderland and a traffic light. It was like the East Finchley version of the film *Shrek*. Councillor Alison Moore, aided by Mr Penguin, had the tough call of judging the children's fancy dress competition, with first prize going to the beautiful Ariel.

Culture Vultures, our fancy dress hire shop on the High Road, received a particularly big thank you from Dave Day (aka Mr Penguin) for the free loan of the penguin costume.

Once the fancy dress event was over, people spent the afternoon sitting on the grass listening to the live music from Alan and the Bluebirds, whilst munching on Sharon O'Driscoll's famous homemade scones and taking in the mellow atmosphere. Meanwhile the children had an abundance of activities to choose from including painting t-shirts for their dads for Father's Day or letting off some steam on the free bouncy castles.

Azra Nath, Chair of Martin Schools' PTA, said, "It was clear that the children were having a genuinely fun time and were leaving with armfuls of prizes. We are so grateful to all the local businesses for their generous support".

Young Archer Summer Competition

There is still plenty of time to enter *THE ARCHER's* summer competition to write or draw an adventure based on Archie, the statue at East Finchley tube station.

The competition is open to readers of up to 16 years of age and there are three categories:

- A story of no more than 400 words involving Archie in any way you like.
- A poem about Archie.
- A cartoon strip of Archie with up to six pictures in black and white.

The closing date is 8 September and there will be a small prize for the winner. Please remember to include your name, age and contact details.

Post your entries to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email them to the-archer@lineone.net.

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Visitors always welcome

YOUNG ARCHER

Chess Success

Two local schools, both coached by John Fleetwood, reached the English Primary Schools Chess Championships. Two nine-year-old team members have written about the event, starting with Nathan Franklin:

The Holy Trinity chess team went to Pontins (on the coast of Norfolk) and stayed there for the weekend where a national chess championship was being held on 18-19 June.

Holy Trinity have done very well, considering that they have never qualified before. Our team was Michele Dole, James McCann, Muti Musafari, Lucas Rudden, all from Year 5, and Nathan Franklin and Gabrielle

Dominic Northcliffe-Brown, who has been playing chess since he was four, writes:

On Friday 17 June I went to the National Chess Primary Schools Semi-Final at Pontins in Hemsby. As I was a member of the Brookland Under-9 team, our coach told us we had to go to bed early.

After two days' play we were delighted to discover we had come joint first with Dulwich College Prep A team. Our Under-11s team came third, so that meant both teams had qualified for the final.

The following Sunday we went back to Hemsby for the final. From 129 teams there were

Antoinette from Year 4. We came 30th in the semi-final and got presented with a bronze trophy.

My family and I loved it and the apartment we stayed in had all the things you need. Outside there was lots of grass to run around, play sports and we even had a barbecue. The Holy Trinity team might not have come first in the competition, but we were the best at having FUN.

now only eight left. We came fourth overall, the Under-11s came fifth overall (out of 175 teams) and so we were the best state school.

Our brilliant coach is John Fleetwood and the Under-9 team was (in board order from 1 to 6): Dan Levit (captain), Dominic Northcliffe-Brown (me!), Alex Yap, Jack Vincent, Sheriar Khan 5/6 and Rahul Shah 5/6. The Under-11 team was: Joshua Yap (captain), Sabrina Barr, William Northcliffe-Brown (my brother!), Natan Janner-Klausner, Julius Dein and Rohan Shah.

Fortismere fun!

By Ann Vautier

Fortismere Secondary School's summer fair, held on Saturday 2 July, was a major success, raising nearly £16,000 for the Fortismere School Association (FSA), which funds projects, equipment and activities for students.

As always, the event, opened this year by actress Michelle Collins, was well attended by nearby residents and supported by local businesses, in particular by the main sponsors Keaton's estate agents.

Also in July, many local residents, along with hundreds of students' family members, attended the end-of-year concerts and five performances of *Oliver*, the musical. Over 200 people contributed to the success of the production.

Techknow Community workshops

During this past term, Fortismere ran a series of free weekend and after-school hours technology workshops open to the wider community. The workshops in batik design, felt making, woodwork, ICT (beginners) and ICT web design were made possible by government funding received by Fortismere because of its Technology College status. An exhibition of some of the work done in the workshops will be held at the school in the latter half of September. Assistant Head Karen Allaway is now planning a second series of

workshops, which she hopes to make available this autumn to parents, businesses, local teachers and adults in the community. For more information, contact techknow@fortismere.haringey.sch.uk

Sports facilities open to public

Since Fortismere's new gym and all-weather pitch were completed a year ago, they are proving popular with several com-

munity groups playing netball, basketball, badminton, football and cricket after school hours. The school's sports facilities are available for hire all year except two weeks at Christmas. During term time, the facilities are open to the public from 7pm to 10pm weekdays and from 9am to 8pm on Saturdays. For more information, or to book the school's facilities, contact Justin Carter of Jarvis Accommodation Services on 020 8885 9392.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

Year 6 had a wonderful week on a school journey to the Isle of Wight and Year 5 spent two successful days at Phase's Wood in Hertfordshire.

Years 3 and 4 enjoyed an end of term visit to Cherry Tree Wood. The school held a Healthy Living Focus Week, which included a healthy picnic followed by a sponsored walk around the school grounds. Parents and carers were invited to participate, with proceeds of over £500 going towards outdoor play equipment.

Year 6 boys Russell Warman and Freddie Wells were presented with medals for representing the Barnet Borough School Football team, which came second in the London league.

End-of-year events included a Leavers' Service at Holy Trinity Church, a peripatetic music assembly, a summer barbecue organised by the Holy Trinity School Association and a summer concert, Kenwood-style.

Martin Schools

The hard work put in by the PTA who organised the Summer Fun Day paid off well, with the amazing sum of over £4,500 being raised.

The school council filled 60 shoeboxes with small gifts donated by the infants to send to the Pebbles Project, which is setting up crèches and schools in the impoverished townships in South Africa.

Well done to Helen Matthews, of the infant school office, who raised money for the breast cancer charity by completing the 26-mile Moonwalk.

End-of-term visits for the infants included trips to Highgate Wood and picnics in Cherry Tree Wood.



Fejro Marino as Bottom and Orezime Mmarino as Quince. Photo by John Dearing

One Night of Shakespeare

By John Dearing

Pupils from East Finchley's Bishop Douglass School performed an abridged version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Ryan Theatre in Harrow on Sunday 3 July, as part of "One Night of Shakespeare", which was produced by the BBC and The Shakespeare Schools Festival.

This involved 10,000 young performers from 400 schools performing 30-minute productions of Shakespeare's plays in 100 theatres across the UK. They performed their own interpretations of adaptations by the author Leon Garfield.

Talent-spotting

The purpose of the Festival, now in its sixth year, is to provide an opportunity to introduce Shakespeare to youngsters who might otherwise never read the Bard's plays or see them performed. It also serves to identify talented individuals for the future.

The Bishop Douglass School production was directed by Alan Spence, a teacher at the school. The

cast, whose production was the second of four performances that evening, performed to a full house and clearly had lots of support from friends and relatives.

Farce in the forest

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a romantic comedy of manipulation, subterfuge and mistakes, almost a farce in the theatrical sense. It involves elopement, jealousy, fairy potions, last-minute adjustments and everyone living happily ever after.

The young cast went about their performances with enthusiasm, and clearly enjoyed appearing on stage. Fejro Marino was outstanding as Bottom, and generated much

laughter and applause. While space precludes a full cast list, other performers of note included Orezime Mmarino as Quince, Robert Uwusu-Anning as Thisbe, Joseph Ascik as Lysander, Liridona Ahmeti as Hermia, and Bianca Francis as Helena.

If there was a criticism to be made, it was that the theatre was rather large for young voices to fill without any amplification, and it was occasionally difficult to hear the dialogue. Full marks, nevertheless, for how well rehearsed the cast was, and how confidently and fluently they moved around the stage.

Playground swings into photo shoot

By John Lawrence

An East Finchley playground was the backdrop to a photo shoot for a national advertising campaign.

A photographer, lighting staff and stylists took shots of six models in the playground in The Walks just as the children of nearby Holy Trinity School turned out from school on Thursday 7 July.

The set-up was an office boardroom table where three people in business attire were having a heated meeting while three onlookers watched in the background.

Most of the Holy Trinity children were too eager to play on the slides and swings to bother with the visitors.

The finished photo will be used to illustrate a nationwide campaign by the Charity Commission to get more people involved in community improvement projects. Expect to see it appear in the press and magazines from August onwards.

Scrub the decks!

East Finchley resident Judith Platts signed up to join the crew of a tall ship on a sailing trip in the Mediterranean. Describing herself as at the top end of the 18-75 age group on the vessel, here she reveals what life is like on the ocean wave.

It is 4am of day two on board the 60-metre square rig Stavros S Niarchos of the Tall Ships Youth Trust. We are on watch until 8am, sailing from Majorca to Minorca.

Yesterday was busy, busy. A 7am flight from the UK, followed by joining the ship, signing on, getting lectures on safety, watching a video on hygiene, then an introduction to lines (ropes) with the emphasis always on safety and replacing everything exactly as found. We were issued with safety harnesses and fully protective wet clothes (ominous!), then shown where to collect life jackets, should they be needed.

There are 60 people on board of whom 48 are volunteer crew who work in watches of 16. We were still finding our way round when we were called to climb the rigging and experience up and over. This was not compulsory but...! After that, the duty roster was put up and, finding we have a 3.30 am call, most of the watch decided to retire to our bunks early.

Learning curves

As the days begin to form a pattern many other curves have to be scaled: understand-

ing exactly what instructions mean, learning the names of the lines and different areas of the mast, scrubbing the decks, cleaning the heads (toilets) and cleaning and polishing the brass. The day in the galley (kitchen) is fun; although you start at 6.15am, you are free after the last of the washing up at 6.15 pm. The food is excellent. There have been very few free periods as we have been busy trying to catch the wind, requiring constant changing of the sail settings.

In total we travelled over 300 miles of which 180 were under full sail. You cannot believe the silence when the sun has gone down and you are proceeding under sail. Dolphins played in the wake of the ship, the sea alive with jelly fish.

Each day was constantly taken up with jobs. This may sound like hard work rather than a holiday but the people you meet and the philosophical discussions in the middle of the night all make for a tremendous experience. The age group ranged from 18 to 75 years. This crew member was well into the latter category and loved every minute of it.

Brookland arts week draws a crowd

By Jane Pendry

During Arts Week, which began on 13 June, children at Brookland Junior School in Hampstead Garden Suburb were given the opportunity to enjoy a variety of artistic pursuits such as painting, modelling and creating textile pictures.

Visiting artists included textile artist Claire Beaton working on textile renditions of fairy stories in Year 5; Polly Rockberger helping Year 3 pupils create dramatic textured collages in Year 3; Sue Rosenberg teaching pupils in Year 4 to create layered lino-cut prints; Tony Gotlop teaching water-colour techniques and Ricky Grimes showing children how to make clay totem poles in Year 6.

The event was supported by the Borough, with Barnet art advisory teacher Jill Whittard providing her expertise and supporting pupils on a variety of artwork projects.

There were drama and music activities, too. Years 3 and 5 visited St. Jude's Church for the children's lunchtime concert, and professional musicians ran percussion and song-writing workshops to help pupils write lyrics and develop their own musical

masterpieces. The school's peripatetic woodwind teacher, Stuart Curtis, accompanied by a classical guitarist, delivered a stunning performance of jazz and classical music to the whole school.

Head teacher Heather Blackmore said: "Arts Week enables pupils to discover gifts they never knew they had. Some are inspired to play an instrument while others learn that they can express themselves through painting, collage or textiles. The dramatists among them have the opportunity to explore their talents. A special thank you must go to event organiser Rob Verrill, our music co-ordinator, Tania Lloyd, Andrew Craze for his drama workshops, all the visiting professionals and parent helpers and, of course, the pupils themselves for making the event such a resounding success."

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Deferring Success

In the weird and wonderful world of The Great British Summer, failure has been banned. Instead of failing, some members of the Professional Association of Teachers want us to think of it as 'deferred success' and that means you have the best cop-out clause since British Rail got away with blaming the wrong sort of snow.

Just think of the wonderful possibilities that the future holds. A predictably dire display by Becks 'n' Co on the football field will not be a defeat, but a success deferred. Failing to beat the Aussies at cricket will not be a disaster, it will just be deferring the victory until the next time, or the time after. It is what we have all been waiting for, the perfect excuse.

Wouldn't the collapse of Rover have sounded better if they'd announced they were deferring success? Would Michael Howard have quit as Tory leader if he'd proudly announced that he had not lost the election, but just deferred the success until next time? Now Virgin Trains can describe the breakdown of your train outside Milton Keynes as deferring its successful arrival at Euston. Brilliant, isn't it?

It's not just sport or politics or the railways that have been waiting for years for this opportunity to present incompetence and failure as success. In future when you find yourself in Paris and your luggage in Moscow the airline can say it is merely deferring the successful delivery of your stuff. The double-booked, half-built hotel is just a minor matter of them deferring the successful completion until after your holiday.

If only they'd deferred success in the past, Napoleon would never have been defeated at Waterloo, Francis Drake wouldn't have defeated the Armada, and Admiral Villeneuve would not have had to admit defeat at Trafalgar.

Wow, the future is bright, the future ain't pear-shaped, the future holds no fear of failure as long as you've got deferred success. It's just that, like deferred gratification, I want it now.

Computer Problems?



Regular Events

SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm. An "ageing well" class for older people.
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk. Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga classes** Tuesdays 8-9:30pm at EF Methodist Church. Experienced teacher. Call Rosalind 8444 8134.

DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 8 & 22 Aug at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events: Call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280 www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Thursdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Sophie on 8444 1890
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people. Contact Rene & Reuby 8883 0448 or Sylvia 8958 7878
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

Open House: the spirit of East Finchley

By Helen Drake

The second East Finchley Open arts weekend was launched in style by Rudi Vis MP on Saturday 2 July as the artists, their relatives and friends, along with Councillors Alison Moore and Colin Rogers, gathered on the High Road outside Mulberry Court.

To add that extra bit of pizzazz, three bicycle-driven rickshaws ferried art lovers from one venue to another, each location showing a pink "Open House" banner. Work on display at the 16 venues included paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, jewellery, ceramics and poetry.

East Finchley Open (EFO) is the largest group of artists working together in Barnet and has evolved from an original nucleus of five people in early 2004 to a thriving group of 50 artists. For many who had previously been working in isolation, it has been a great pleasure to discover each other and share ideas, skills and successes.

Monica Peiser, who was displaying her individual jewellery alongside the vibrant, music-inspired paintings of Mike Sharp, and the sculpture and black-and-white prints of David Aronsohn, enthused about the "unique mix" of the group.

Night of fire

By Erini Rodis

If you popped into the Tally Ho gallery at the end of July, you might have seen Craig Johnson's *Night of Fire* exhibition.

East Finchley resident Craig's photographs display a very different view of city life:

At first glance they seem to be blurry midnight townscapes as seen through an inebriated lens. Look more closely, however, and you start to see things: a bridge on the North Circular, a favourite pub, shadows of folks illuminated just briefly by a bus going by, and it begins to feel quite personal.

A brilliant example of long-exposure experimentation; you could get quite lost dreaming on. Be dazzled!



Artist Rena Zenonos with some of her work. Photo by Craig Johnson

David Aronsohn, founder member and Chair of EFO, referred to "the spirit of East Finchley's creative community", and welcomed the increased volume of visitors and sales compared with the first "Open House" last year.

Councillor Phil Yeoman opened the EFO exhibition venue at All Saints Church, Durham Road at a private view on Monday 27 June. The exhibition formed part of the East Finchley Arts Festival, and at the private view Arts Festival

Director, Geoffrey Hanson, spoke about the positive collaboration of the EFO and the Arts Festival this year. EFO member Eddy Sayer, composer and percussionist, performed a Balinese gong ceremony to bless the EFO exhibition and "Open House" with happiness and well-being.

Mr Aronsohn announced that the next EFO event will be an arts and craft fair, to be held in the autumn. For more information on EFO go to www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Pay back time for Falstaff

By Sheila Armstrong

Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was brought to The Gatehouse in Highgate in a 1950s setting by Wild Thyme Productions in mid July.

It was a great show: humorous, plenty of amusing period details, and with singing and dancing to contemporary pop music from a talented cast. There was even a touch of discreet nudity. The Carry On films were an obvious influence on this fast-paced farce.

Finchley resident Joan Lane brought her production, directed by Stephen Jameson, direct from a stint at the International Shakespeare Festival in Germany earlier in the month. Known for their innovative productions and committed to making the Bard's plays accessible to all, Wild Thyme enjoys a high profile in Germany, and

on the basis of this production a similar one here.

Paul Bigley was convincing as the down-at-heel knight Falstaff who plans to seduce two Windsor wives, unaware that they are friends and find it all great sport. There follows the usual Shakespearian twists and turns with husbands, suitors, servants, a duel and a young couple who are in love and are forced to marry in secret. All

this culminates in Falstaff getting his come-uppance.

The leads were strongly played and all the comic characters had their well-worked-out eccentricities firmly in place throughout.

Another successful show at the Gatehouse and another successful production by Wild Thyme making Shakespeare fun and more accessible to modern audiences.

Methodist concert

By Tom Walker

The Methodist Church on the High Road was filled with the sound of classical music influenced by everything from jazz to gypsy on Sunday 10 July.

The audience was treated to a highly entertaining evening by Bryan Fairfax on violin, Catherine Morphet on clarinet and Caroline Soresby on piano, playing pieces by a range of 20th century composers, from Debussy to Beethoven.

Caroline was very impressive on the piano, moving her fingers across the keys with great skill, and performing a solo. Catherine's clarinet was a deep blues saxophone one minute and a soaring bird the next, while Bryan's violin completed the package with style. The concert ended on an interesting note, with a piece by Hungarian composer Bela Bartok. Bartok was inspired by the music of the ancient Hungarian gypsies, who knew nothing about composition and instead improvised whatever sounded good to them, with intriguing results.

The right atmosphere

Bryan has been coming to perform at the church for eight years. He said, "I really like to play here. The acoustics are good and the atmosphere is lovely - this is just right for us. I think this is one of the best concert halls in North London."

About 40 people were in the audience and many approached the trio after the concert to say how much they had enjoyed it. There were free refreshments in the interval, and a collection for the North London Hospice, which raised over £135.

The Methodist Church holds a concert once a month; the next scheduled event is a performance by an instrumental trio on Sunday 11 September. Admission to the concerts is free, with a collection for a charity of the artists' choice.

What's On...

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

Throughout August:

Concerts at Kenwood: Saturday 6 August - *Jools Holland and his R&B orchestra*; Saturday 13 August - *Classic FM Opera gala*; Saturday 20 August - *The Bootleg Beatles*; Saturday 27 August - *Katie Melua*; Sunday 28 August: *The Last Night at the Proms*. See www.picnicconcerts.com or call 0870 890 0146 or Ticketmaster 0870 333 6206 for bookings.

Thursday 25 August - Thursday 15 September:

The Barnet Open is a mixed exhibition showcasing the work of local artists in the borough. This summer, 35 practising artists from varying backgrounds and walks of life will showcase their work in the Apthorp Gallery as part of artsdepot's answer to the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. Some artists will be exhibiting work for sale. See artsdepot.co.uk or call the box office on 020 8369 5454. For more information contact Nancy Walsh on 020 8369 5469 or email nancy.walsh@artsdepot.co.uk.

Saturday 3 September:

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Flower Show, 3pm - 5.30pm, Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. Teas, raffle and plants for sale. Contact: 020 8455 6507 for more details.



Good food for strong bones

Here is the latest in our series of articles on food and diet by nutritional therapist Simone Baroke, who practises in East Finchley. She can be contacted on 020 88830915.

According to figures released by the UK's National Osteoporosis Society, every three minutes someone will suffer a bone fracture due to osteoporosis, affecting one in five UK women over the age of 50.

These are startling figures, and the earlier you start taking sensible preventative measures, the more likely you are to avoid becoming part of this statistic. Even if you've already been diagnosed with the disease, there's still a lot you can do to slow its progression.

Live scaffolding

Most people think of their bones as dead scaffolding material, but they're actually a vibrant matrix of highly active cells that help control body mineral levels by constantly remodelling themselves. When, over a prolonged time period, excessive levels of minerals are drawn out of the bones without being replaced, the bones lose density, and osteoporosis develops.

Good nutrition is a primary factor in bone health. Minerals, like calcium, are required in a number of essential physiological functions, and insufficient dietary intake (or poor absorption) forces our body to rob the bones.

Calcium tablets are, at best, only part of the answer. To maintain and build bone mass, we need a whole array of different nutrients. I've outlined some of the most important ones below, plus useful food sources.

Calcium (bone building mineral): dairy products, nuts, seeds, tinned fish with bones, beans, lentils, tofu, broccoli, cabbage, dried apricots and figs.

Magnesium (bone building mineral): fruit & veg, especially green leafy vegetables, wholegrain products, nuts, seeds, legumes.

Vitamin D (ensures absorption of minerals from digestive tract): oily fish, eggs, dairy products, mushrooms. Exposure of skin to sunlight produces vitamin D. Try to catch 10-15 minutes two or three times a week, but take care not to burn.

Vitamin K (essential for calcium metabolism): cabbage, kale, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts & green leafy vegetables.

Manganese & Boron (trace minerals essential for bone formation): pineapple, apples, pears, grapes, peaches, raisins, nuts, whole grains (e.g. oats), tea, spinach.

Substances which are detrimental to your bones include salt, red meat (especially processed meat) and coffee, so it's best to reduce their intake as much as possible.

COMPUTING

Stop spyware now

By Omar Idrissi

Not so long ago, viruses were a computer's worst enemy. These days, although viruses cause more damage, spyware and adware are the new threats to our systems.

What is Spyware?

Spyware is the part of software that can collect your personal information without your knowledge or permission. This information may include details of websites you have visited and sensitive information including user names and passwords.

Spyware can apply to any legitimate but annoying program that users consent to have installed on their PCs (sometimes unwittingly), as well as programmes that hop on board without permission. Both can drain a computer's resources, slow internet connection, spy on your surfing or even forcibly redirect your browser.

Your computer could become vulnerable to spyware if you download items from the internet; music from file-sharing programs; free games from sites you don't trust; or other software programs from unknown sources.

If you experience slower internet connection speeds,

unwanted pop-up ads even when you are not on the internet, changes in Web browser settings or home pages, or suffer computer unresponsiveness, your computer may be infected.

Because the typical goal of spyware is to steal information, some types of spyware may run quietly and your computer may not display any outward signs of infection.

The best way to check for infection is to scan your computer regularly using an updated free spyware utility such as Spybot, which can be downloaded from the internet. It is recommended to run spyware programmes once a week if using a broadband connection and once a fortnight for those with a standard dial-up connection.

Omar Idrissi is a senior technician at IT 1-4 in the High Road. Contact his team on 020 8444 2299 for a free computer health check (quote ARCHER/SPY).

Reading Voyage

By Sheila Armstrong

Barnet children's libraries are again running their summer holiday reading scheme *The Reading Voyage*, part of the national summer reading challenge for children.

In East Finchley Library, the Reading Voyage Art started on Tuesday 26 July and will continue each Tuesday between 2-3pm throughout August, ending in mid-September. Children coming along can help to create a giant frieze, which will chart their progress on the challenge.

Pirate Pandemonium will take place on Thursdays between 2-3pm from 11 August, again finishing mid-September. On the theme of adventure and exploration there will be games, quizzes and piratical fun for children of all ages.

On Thursday 25 August between 11am-12 noon, children can take part in Voyages on the Net, an exploration of good websites for children. The official end of the whole scheme is Saturday 17 September.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to children reading six books over the summer. All events are free but you may need to book for some of them. Contact East Finchley Library for a free leaflet or phone the children's librarian on 020 8883 2664. The website is www.readingvoyage.org.uk.

Good with numbers?

By Diana Cormack

Are you good with numbers and have a few hours a month to spare? Could you help the Motor Neurone Disease Association by giving your time as a local volunteer?

The North London Branch of the MND is looking for some help with organising finances and administration. As well as fundraising, the branch, which covers the N postcodes up towards Cheshunt and Potters Bar, raises awareness of MND locally and supports sufferers and their families. This involves open support meetings, financial support and volunteer visitors.

The position of treasurer needs to be filled soon. It would suit someone who enjoys working with numbers, and who is able to maintain straightforward financial records and explain

financial information clearly

Volunteers will be given a full induction, guidelines, expenses and insurance along with coaching from the previous post-holder and experienced organisers. Meetings are held four to six times a year in north London.

Even if you've never heard of Motor Neurone Disease, the MND Association would like to hear from you. Your skills could help a small but enthusiastic committee that really does make a difference. To find out more please call Stef Cormack on 020 7801 8667 for an informal chat.

Letters to the editor

We saw the deer too!

Dear Editor,

In your article 'Oh deer!' (*The Archer*, July 2005), you were wondering whether anyone else in East Finchley had seen the deer.

We spotted it in our back garden in Vivian Way, off Deansway, on the afternoon of Sunday 3 July. It was a fully-grown roe deer, and it was munching our grass, and then it moved on to grazing on some shrubs. After a while, it left quietly, and we have not seen it since.

We are also interested to hear whether others have seen it, where it came from, and where it is now.

Yours
Steff Marsh
Vivian Way, N2

Disabled parking bay abolition

Dear Editor,

You will already be aware that there are enormous pressures in Fairlawn Avenue regarding heavy traffic and excessive parking fines that residents are obliged to pay.

One resident happened to see a notice affixed to the lamp-post nearest to a disabled parking bay announcing that the London Borough of Barnet planned to abolish this facility.

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

We are outraged by this precipitous notice which was undated and which is depriving us of our rights as Fairlawn Avenue residents. We believe it is significant that LBB should conduct themselves in this cynical, high-handed manner when many residents are on holiday already and none of the remaining residents has even seen this notice.

We do not even know whether their actions comply with the Disabled Access legislation passed in recent years.

There are many elderly and disabled residents in Fairlawn Avenue already paying for residents' permits and visitor tickets who are reliant on this bay specifically for their own immediate needs, as are disabled visitors for whom there are no other spaces allocated, especially with the longer restrictions introduced from Monday to Saturday in this CPZ zone M.

Tim Worthington
Fairlawn Avenue, N2

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No sweat for your pet

The holiday season has arrived so the RSPCA has sent out its annual reminders to those owning pets to make sure their animals enjoy the summer too.

Whether you leave your dog or cat with friends or relations, in kennels or a cattery, make sure that the necessary inoculations are up to date. Give clear written instructions on the amounts and usual meal times with the food you leave for them. Also leave some bedding and a special toy with their water bowl and supper dish. They will appreciate the familiar smells of home.

In hot weather, exercise should be taken in the early morning and cool of the evening. Don't take your pet with you on days out to crowded places where he or she will be jostled and bewildered. Instead, leave them in a cool place in the house with plenty of fluid and a snack.

Finally, never leave any animal shut in a car, even with a window open. Your return may be delayed or someone might attempt to let your pet out or even report you to our inspectors. Again, their own home in cool comfortable surroundings is by far the best place on a hot sticky day. With a fur coat and no sweating mechanism, you would think so too.

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



Mia's Wish cheque presentation

By Erini Rodis

The cheque presentation from the East Finchley Slimming World club in the Methodist Church struck a strong emotional chord on Wednesday 29 June.

The club did a sponsored walk around Hampstead Heath to raise money for Mia's Wish; a charity which works in conjunction with the Whittington Hospital Maternity Unit in Archway to raise funds for specific neo-natal equipment.

The money raised was a phenomenal £750 - not an easy feat, as leader Jacqueline O'Shea reminded them they'd had to "starve themselves walking straight past the cafes of Hampstead" in order to complete the task!

New grandmother to baby Freddy and charity founder Joan Law accepted the giant cheque on behalf of Mia's Wish, and told how back then her daughter Katerina "...had enjoyed a fantastic, healthy pregnancy, going to 42 weeks. Tragically baby Mia was stillborn. To this day they don't know why".

By setting up Mia's Wish it meant that other parents in a similar situation could be offered a private space to grieve, or use of a digital camera so they could at least have a memento. The charity's continuing aim is to contribute towards specific items and thus encourage something positive out what could only be imagined as intense personal pain.

Joan added, "this money will enable Mia's Wish to purchase a blood pressure monitor for the Maternity Day Unit. This just goes to show you can lose pounds in weight and gain pounds for a good cause! The Law family, on behalf of the charity, thanks everyone who took part."

If you'd like to donate to Mia's Wish, please call Joan on 07843 869 180.

East Finchley Slimming World Club present their cheque to Mia's Wish. Photo by Erini Rodis.

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for Strawberry Vale and The Grange.

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. Please call 020 8883 0433 or email distribution@the-archer.co.uk for details

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