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THE ARCHER



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December 2005 No. 150 **20p**
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Photo by John Dearing

Up the junction

The Transco road works that occupied a good part of the High Road and Fortis Green crossroads caused major traffic congestion throughout November.

On their first morning on 7 November, south-bound traffic backed up past the North Circular, west-bound traffic most of the way to Muswell Hill and east-bound traffic past Ossulton Way. In the evening, north-bound traffic backed up to the A1.

For much of the month, motorists and bus passengers were left facing a wait as

long as 12-15 minutes to get through the lights, even out of rush hour.

And pedestrians faced the hazard of picking their way around the contractors' equipment to cross roads where the green pedestrian signal was not always clear.

The work on the underground gas pipes was scheduled to finish by the start of December.

Traders battle to keep Christmas spirit alive

By Louise Wikstrom and Tom Walker

East Finchley traders have been battling to keep Christmas alive in the High Road after Barnet Council refused to hand over their festive lights. Barnet Council claims the shopkeepers owe them £1,500 for putting up and taking down the lights for two years.

Shopkeepers in the High Road have spent five years raising the money to buy the colourful displays that bring pleasure to shoppers in every Christmas season.

Barnet Council stores the lights for the rest of the year but in November refused to hand them back to East Finchley, claiming the traders owed them two years' installation fees.

Traders weren't told

East Finchley Traders' Association spokesman Dino Loizou, of East Finchley Electricals, claimed that the shops don't have the money because they were never told about it.

He said: "The whole thing is a big joke. We have put years of effort into getting where we are, owning our own Christmas lights, and then the council tries to rip us off. We bought the lights and own them outright

— we just wanted to get our lights back."

Barnet council claims that the East Finchley shops agreed to pay £1,500 for two years. A council spokesperson said: "The traders owe £750 for last year, and unless they pay the money the lights will not be returned to them. Even if they got the lights back only the council will be allowed to put them up on Barnet's lampposts."

Similar disputes

Other places in the borough have also experienced similar problems. Burnt Oak, North Finchley, Edgware and Barnet Town have all had disputes this

year with the council over their Christmas lights.

As *THE ARCHER* went to press the future of East Finchley's lights was still uncertain - but there did seem to be hope as an intervention by Councillor Katia David persuaded the council not to charge the traders for last year's lights. However, the council was still demanding payment of this year's £750 in advance before the lights go up. Dino said: "We usually collect donations once the lights are up - and we don't have enough time now to do it in advance. But I've written to the council and I'm sure it will be all right."

Hollywood comes to Muswell Hill

By Paul Chapman

Hollywood arrived in Muswell Hill in October when a large film crew from Fox Productions encamped at the corner of Fortis Green and Midhurst Avenue.

The crew were shooting a movie based on a Zoe Heller novel, *Notes on a Scandal*, which has already been broadcast as a play for BBC radio. The novel is set

in north London so the film should include scenes with local interest.

Dame Judi Dench was among the stars on set and it was reported that she caused quite a stir when she went into the florists at the top of Collingwood Avenue to buy flowers. As well as Dame Judi, the cast includes Cate Blanchett and Bill Nighy.

The director is Richard Eyre, who also directed *Iris*, and the film is scripted by Patrick Marber, who is best known for comedy scripts. It is an intriguing tale of sex, class, and betrayal with a final psychological twist, and is planned for release next year.

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*Comments to THE ARCHER may be
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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

Childline 0800 1111
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 020 8683 3300
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

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
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

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
E.F. Community Police Officer:
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)
Tel: 020 8733 5562, e-mail:
paul.carter@met.police.uk

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Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Community Services

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

Winter nights warning

Barnet police are reminding all East Finchley residents to be safety conscious now dark evenings are here.

If lights are on in ground floor rooms with open curtains or blinds there are opportunities for burglars to see exactly what is available in your home. When you go out, always lock doors and close windows. Consider the use of timers for lights and radios if you need to be away from home overnight. They will create the impression that someone is in.

Fit good lighting at the front of the house and fit a spy hole allowing you to see who is at the door. Having a door chain means that you can open the door a little way to talk to callers without letting them into your house.

Don't assist the burglars!

Secure garden sheds, which may not be used as frequently now. Make sure that any items in there are also secured if they could assist a burglar to break into your home or are in any way valuable. If you go out for the evening or to collect children from school in the late afternoon, don't leave just the entrance hall or landing light on, with the rest of the house in darkness. Try to make it look as though there is someone still inside the house using lights and radios in at least one room.

Mobile phone mugging

Two schoolboys were robbed of their mobile phones on their way home from school in East Finchley.

The incident happened at about 5pm as the two 12-year-olds sat on a wall outside Foskett House, Central Avenue. While one of the boys was using his mobile phone two suspects approached him and his friend and asked to see it.

He refused at first but one of the suspects threatened to stab him if they didn't both hand over their phones. Fearing for their safety, both boys handed over the phones and the two suspects walked away. The phones were both Nokia 6320i silver-coloured phones. The two suspects are described as black males aged about 17, both about 5ft 9ins. The first one was wearing a black Adidas tracksuit, the second a black Nike hooded top. Anyone with information or who may have seen the incident on Thursday 13 October is asked to contact DC Tyldesley on 020 8733 4595.

Burning car crashes into shop

By Betti Blatman

A driver escaped unhurt after her car burst into flames and crashed into a shop front.

The red Nissan Micra caught fire as it was being driven along Ballards Lane, near Station Road, in Finchley Central on Monday 31 October.

The driver jumped out but the car then mounted the pavement and rolled into the glass door and window of Winkworth's estate agents.

A Fire Brigade spokesman said the driver did not require medical attention and was collected by her husband. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Keep your identity safe

Residents are being urgently warned about a bogus telephone caller at large in Barnet, claiming to be from the borough's council tax department and attempting to obtain their personal details.

Although there have only been two reports so far, the council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) believes there may be many more victims who have not yet come forward.

Advice for residents is to not give any personal information over the phone unless you are absolutely sure to whom you are speaking. Always ask for a name and telephone number and say you will call straight back. CAFT assures residents that the council would not make unsolicited calls of this type or request this type of information.

If con artists manage to get hold of people's personal details, they are able to steal their identities - and subsequently apply for credit cards, bank loans and state benefits under false names.

If you think you may have been a victim of identity theft or want more information on how to protect yourself, call CAFT on 020 8359 2007 or e-mail caft@barnet.gov.uk.

Sorting office opening hours

The Royal Mail sorting office in Market Place will be extending its opening hours for the Christmas period as follows:

Monday 12 - Friday 16 Dec:
8am-12.30pm and 6pm-8pm.
Saturday 17 Dec: 8am-12 pm.
Monday 19 - Friday 23 Dec:
8am-12.30pm and 6pm-8pm.
Saturday 24 Dec: 8am-12 pm.

Planning Applications

Park House, 16 High Road, N2

Permanent change of use from Local Government Municipal Offices (Class B1) to Educational Facility (Class D1). New application pursuant to C00050W/03.

Land near junction of Strawberry Vale and High Road, N2

Upgrading of telecommunications equipment.

Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2

Installation of three radio antennas within the bell-tower.

Corner of East End Road and access road to Christ's College, N2

Installation of an 11.4m high telegraph pole with one antenna, and equipment cabinet measuring 1.3m x 0.926m x 1.623m at ground level.

Grass verge at north-west junction of Lyttelton Road and The Bishop's Avenue, N2

Installation of a 10m high telegraph pole with one antenna, and associated equipment cabinet.

18A Lewis Gardens, N2

Demolition of existing single-storey building. Erection of new two-storey building to accommodate dental workshop.

Ground Floor, 62-64 High Road, N2

Continued use of premises as Class A1.

6 Ashburnham Close, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

61 Bedford Road, N2

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

1 The Bishop's Avenue, N2

Two-storey side extension with rooms in roof. Two rear lights in rear roof slope, and new window to south-west gable to facilitate loft conversion.

119A Abbots Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear conservatory extension

62 Brim Hill, N2

Indian bean tree - reduce density by 20%, encroaching branches as specified.



More ways to recycle

By Sheila Armstrong

One baby can get through 6,000 nappies during infancy, so using real nappies cuts down on the rubbish in our soon-to-be-full landfill sites. And it is cheaper.

Parents are being offered an incentive by Barnet to try real nappies. There is a £51 subsidy for using the local nappy laundering service *Number 1 for Nappies* or a refund against the purchase of real nappies. Nappies today have a new modern look, fasten with velcro, and come in different colours and designs. To find out more call Barnet Council on 020 8359 7400 or e-mail recycling@barnet.gov.uk.

Blocks join scheme

Barnet's successful recycling scheme now offers many flats the chance to recycle at the kerbside. Beech Lawns in North Finchley recently became the 250th block to have facilities for collection of paper, glass and cans. The service, run in partnership with ECT Recycling Ltd, can be adapted to meet the differing

needs of blocks whether council, housing association or private. To take up this service contact ECT on 020 8371 3670 or e-mail barnet@recycling.co.uk.

Well done, Barnet

Along with Devon and Stockport, Barnet was short-listed for an award in the 2005 Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management - the Best Local Authority Initiative.

Barnet's particular claim to fame is for being the first local authority to make recycling compulsory. As a consequence recycling via Barnet's black boxes has increased by 29.6 per cent.

Nicky Buck, Barnet's Environmental Services Manager for Waste Strategy, was also short-listed for the Recycling Officer of the Year in the National Recycling Awards.



Lorenz at LA fitness

Bring out your food waste

By Paul Chapman

Haringey Council is starting to collect kitchen food waste under a new recycling scheme for some residents. Alongside the conventional dustbin and a recycling bin for glass, paper and plastic there is now a food waste bin as well as a reusable garden refuse sack.

Haringey councillor Ray Dodds said in a letter to householders: "The Council has invested heavily in recycling to make it easy for residents to recycle. We're extending what can be collected, and starting to have same day collections for recycling and general waste."

Kitchen scraps account for around one third of total waste, according to the council, so food waste needs to be included in a full recycling strategy.

However, some householders are likely to have concerns. For example, Haringey will need to ensure that refuse collections are reliable, especially in hot weather. People may be happy to recycle paper and glass but may need convincing that collecting food waste is practi-

cal. Some may feel that this new 'bin city' look will do the local environment no favours.

Penalties as waste doubles

On present trends, municipal waste, which includes household waste, is set to double by 2020 compared with 1995 while an EU directive hopes to reduce waste to 35% of 1995 levels. Many councils are seeking to recycle more household waste rather than send it to landfill.

In the future, councils may face financial penalties of higher costs of landfill or possibly fines for failing to recycle enough biodegradable waste.

For more information about the new waste recycling service, contact Haringey Accord on 020 8885 7700.

Italian turns the beat around

By Viviana Lotti

Handsome pop singer Lorenz brought the Latin touch to East Finchley on 19 October when he visited LA Fitness Health Club in East End Road to sign copies of his new single, *Turn the Beat Around*.

Lorenz, originally from Bari, Italy, is currently living in Hampstead Garden Suburb. He was discovered in the UK by Kerry Katona at a charity gala, and has since appeared on many TV programmes, including *This Morning*.

He is famous in Italy, having been a member of the Chippendales there, and more recently a model for top fashion houses before turning to show-business. His amazing physique has been shown naked on billboard posters all over London; these pictures had to be toned down, however, because they were literally stopping traffic!

Lorenz is a member of LA Fitness and keeps himself in peak physical condition by exercising six times a week.

Joe Domantay, manager of LA Fitness in Finchley, said: "We are delighted to welcome Lorenz to our club. LA Fitness wishes him the best of luck with his first single."

Turn the Beat Around was released on 17 October and is available at HMV and Virgin stores.

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The Guild is non profit making with a number of bursaries available.

New shop to watch out for

By Daphne Chamberlain

Look out for Lazooli, a shop with a difference, due to open at 46 High Road this month. *THE ARCHER* has heard that this will be a women's fashion shop with a mixed stock - new, vintage, "quality gently used". Owner Gaynor Spry has told us she will include designer lines and items bought from customers.

Lazooli will also stock hand-made jewellery, vintage bags, shoes, pottery and handmade cards. Her target market is broad, ranging from time- and cash-strapped mums to the 40 pluses. Mums will no doubt be glad to see a relaxation corner with toys, books and cushions.

Gaynor hopes to host event evenings in the shop, like "Dress a Friend" and "Beauty Nights". She sees Lazooli as the right shop for East Finchley.

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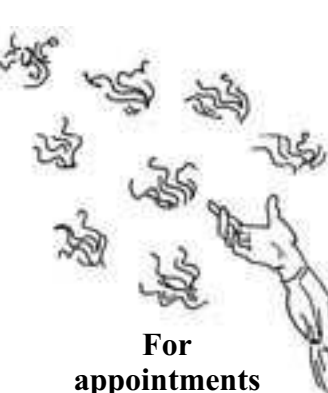
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Northern Line work will disrupt woods

By David Attfield

Urgent repair work to the Northern line in East Finchley, expected to begin in January and to take 3-4 months, will have a major impact on Cherry Tree Wood.

The work is to reinforce the embankment from the High Road to the point where the line goes underground about 300 yards away. Although currently safe, the embankment is reported to be slowly crumbling, making repairs now essential.

The embankment is largely unnoticed by park users because it is covered with trees and other vegetation, much of which will be cut back or removed so that contractors can carry out piling work for the reinforcement.

The embankment will then be capped with a one-metre strip of concrete, covered in green netting to soften its appearance and deter graffiti taggers.

The work is being carried out on behalf of Tubelines, the private company now responsible for the maintenance of the Northern line. They warn that the appearance of the embankment from the wood will be quite stark, at least until vegetation has a chance to grow back.

Access plans

Chris Bull, of Tubelines, who is co-ordinating the works, has given assurances to the representatives of

the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood that no vehicles or heavy equipment will be brought into the park. He hoped that all access could be gained from the High Road by the railway bridge.

Whilst detailed plans are still to be agreed, he envisaged that the current Park House car park could be used as an equipment store and that one bus stop opposite the tube station might need to be relocated by a few yards.

Other embankment work

Meanwhile, maintenance work on the Northern Line embankment between Church Lane and Stanley Road bridges will continue for 12 weeks from 14 November. The contractors are using Stanley Road Field as a site compound. Work is scheduled to take place from 8am to 6pm on Mondays to Fridays, and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Trains should run as usual, and pedestrians will have normal access to the bridges.

The London Underground Customer Service Helpline - 0845 330 9880 - is open for enquiries from 8am to 8pm, weekdays and weekends.

Just the ticket

By Diana Cormack

A local resident has won a victory many of us can only dream of - having a parking ticket rescinded by Barnet Council. Eva Frost has proved that perseverance sometimes pays off.

Eva, of Fordington Road, had been shopping for her sister, who was marooned with a broken leg in her first floor flat in Park Hall Road. In the time Eva took to go up to the flat and return with a visitor's parking voucher, a penalty notice had been issued and there was no warden in sight.

Eva told *THE ARCHER* that she phoned the council immediately but was told any complaint had to be made in writing. This she did, but to no avail. When she asked on the phone what she could do to prevent such a situation arising again, Eva was advised to make sure she had a voucher before visiting people or avoid visiting during restricted times (10am-6.30pm at present) or leave the car with its engine running (but not in a parking bay) while she went to get a voucher.

However, Eva felt very strongly that she was in the right and decided to take the matter to the appeals court, which decided that no contravention had taken place.

"People shouldn't be frightened off by thinking that if you lose you have to pay double," she said. "If you have a case, go for it."

Earlier this year, many readers got in touch with *THE ARCHER* about the activities of local traffic wardens. Residents complained of parking tickets being issued in what they regarded as unrea-

sonable circumstances and of finding the penalty still stood even after they complained to Barnet Council. Eva's success may encourage others.

Isabel Douglas

From the start of December, Isabel Douglas is moving out of her High Road salon to new premises at Oriol Hair & Beauty, in Highgate High Street, Highgate Village.

The trichology clinic will remain as it is, specialising in scalp and hair problems, and organic colouring will still be available. Isabel will be working on the lower part of the Oriol salon, Nova will be upstairs in the main salon specialising in cut and colour.

Appointments for Isabel can be made on 020 8444 3639 and for Nova on 020 8341 2914 / 2751.

A life full of joy

By John Pickering, deputy headteacher, Martin Junior School

Martin Junior School has lost one of its most loved members of staff. The death of Lynn Cornelius after a long fight against cancer has left the school devastated. Lynn will be missed by her husband Ed and daughter Aimee as well as the staff and generations of children who went through her care.

Lynn was a vibrant, lively, positive character. She was always immaculately dressed and conveyed an infectious air that carried everyone along with her. I remember her first day in the school when her appearance made a mark instantly. She quickly made her presence felt and over the 15 years she was at the school left an impression on everyone who came into contact with her.

Lynn was SENCO at the school where her caring approach to children's needs endeared her to everyone. Her main passion at school was art and her skill and ability as a teacher of the subject brought out the artist in all the children she taught.

I worked closely with Lynn and had the good fortune to accompany her on many school journeys where her professionalism and resourcefulness could turn the direst situation into a success.

I remember once being stranded in a tiny visitors' centre in Hastings Country Park with Lynn and 60 children. The rain was hammering down and there was no way that we could leave the confines of the hut. Lynn suggested that we had a meditation session which kept the children enthralled initially but as their patience waned Lynn had them preparing sketches about the week's experiences until eventually the coach came to rescue us.

It was tragic that Lynn was taken ill in her last year at Martin Junior School and was unable to celebrate her 60th birthday in May and her retirement in July. Lynn's life was full of joy and whilst her death brings great sadness to so many people there are so many wonderful things to remember and so much to celebrate. She will be greatly missed.



Lynn Cornelius.

Photo supplied by Martin School

Stanley Field fate to be decided in New Year

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council leader Brian Salinger has said that the future of Stanley Field will be decided "in the New Year".

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, and Philip King, from The Walks Residents Association, told *THE ARCHER* that Councillor Salinger had dismissed Stanley Field as weed-covered, and unlikely to be used again for sport.

Mr King said: "He called it an under-used resource, opened up for development by the demolition of the Herbert Wilmot Centre. Citing Government housing targets, he told us that East Finchley was under-developed in housing compared with other parts of Barnet. Council Officer Dave Stephens added that it was unsuitable for a sports centre because it was hard to find, and had parking problems."

In contrast, Roger Reed, London and South East Regional Facilities Manager for the Football Association, gave written support to the sports plan. He is convinced that the site could become a stand-alone sports development centre, unlike Grahame Park's new artificial

grass pitch and the new pavilion at Princes Park FC by the Welsh Harp. Yet Barnet has had Football Foundation investment for both these projects. Councillor Salinger was given a copy of Mr Reed's letter.

The National Playing Fields Association backs the plan too, saying: "What you are aiming to achieve is truly superb."

The Development Trust points out that Barnet Council took away the means to maintain the field, and that road signing would make it easier to find. It is in the middle of East Finchley, in walking distance for most potential users, and a recent questionnaire showed strong local support for keeping it as a sports facility.

East Finchley is a priority area for recreational development, described in Barnet's Sports Strategy as suffering from limited community recreation facilities.

So will East Finchley save its field for the community of today and tomorrow, or will Barnet sell out to the housing developers?

A library in your own home

By Sheila Armstrong

Library users in Barnet can now use library facilities without ever leaving home. Using the improved online catalogue readers can see which branch library has the book, CD, video or DVD they want, and even see if it's on the shelves.

There is also a link to the online bookseller Amazon so that books and products not in stock at the library can be bought online. Books can be renewed online too.

Barnet Libraries also told *THE ARCHER* that a new service called 24-7 has just been launched, giving online access to reference books such as Encyclopaedia Britannica, Dictionary of National Biography and Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians, amongst other books and databases. Barnet say their coverage will be the second best in London. Check with your local library for a special password to access this service, then visit www.libraries.barnet.gov.uk

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School talks to local residents

Bishop Douglass School invited local residents to a meeting on 20 October to discuss any issues or concerns. Head teacher Angela Murphy welcomed everybody and had a positive approach to developing a partnership in the future so that concerns could be dealt with quickly.

Recently there has been an escalation of complaints regarding pupils' behaviour. Miss Murphy assured local residents that their concerns would be dealt with and emphasised that all incidents should be reported to her as soon as they occur. Miss Murphy's aims are "Building community links" and "School becoming a focus point for the community".

Already, one local resident regularly addresses the school's assembly and conveys to pupils the effect of their anti-social behaviour, and a group of local residents is due to meet with pupils. Sixth form members of the school's Outreach project

working with elderly people are planning to invite all elderly local residents to a Christmas party, which is an indication that some pupils care about the community.

There was an update on building works on site which were due to be finished within a few weeks and on the intensive work to be carried out during half term. Completion of the school's sports hall - a state of the art fitness gym, including courts for badminton, basketball and football - was due by 25 November with the official opening on 19 January 2006. Special membership to the sports hall is to be offered to local residents.

Bread winner

By Betti Blatman

Suzi Sackier, an actress from East Finchley, has been voted London's best breadmaker. She won the London region section of the Carrs 2005 Breadmaker of the Year Awards and is now through to the grand final of a national competition to find Britain's tastiest loaf.

She impressed judges who praised her 'Halva Nice Day' loaf for "a daring combination of ingredients" and "highly individual taste".

Not only is Suzi a winning breadmaker, but as a single parent she is also the main breadwinner in the family. Her acting career took off after she watched Tomorrow's World eight years ago, featuring gadgets which she's interested in. She responded to the BBC's request for viewers to participate in a gadget-orientated session and was selected to join a group of ten people, each given a gadget to work out how it worked. Hers was an electrical parmesan grater with a lighter.

Her off-the-wall humorous response was so appreciated that she became a presenter for testing gadgets to an audience of 700. Although she doesn't



Suzi Sackier. Photo by Chris Hall

take herself seriously and just likes to have fun, she enjoyed herself so much that she registered with three casting agents. Now she takes a wide range of background parts, undeterred by 4.30 a.m. filming starts during winter, and still finds time to bake a loaf or two.

HAVE YOU SEEN PIPPIN?



Missing 5 Nov East Finchley Old Village area. Grey/black long-legged tabby with caramel colouring. Had green collar and identity disc. Is also chipped. His identical brother and I are missing him truly, madly, deeply. Reward offered. Day Tel: 020 7554 8092

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"GREETINGS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON"

Japanese on the books

By Sheila Armstrong

Barnet, which has 15% of London's Japanese population, has invited a librarian, Kyoko Kawabata, to work in Barnet Libraries for the next six months. She will work in a variety of libraries across the borough with the aim of improving services to the Japanese community.

As well as learning about library systems in the UK, Ms Kawabata, a librarian from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, will assist with selecting and cataloguing Japanese material.

East Finchley Library already hosts a Japanese Friendship Group, Nakayoshi Kai, that meets on the third Wednesday morning of each month from 10-11am. It provides an opportunity for the Japanese community, especially young mothers and toddlers, to meet on an informal basis and to borrow from the library's collection of Japanese books, DVDs and videos.

Ms Kawabata plays the Japanese harp, called a koto, and hopes to give some demonstrations, if she can borrow one locally, as her own was too big to bring with her on the plane.



Ms Kyoko Kawabata. Photo courtesy of London Borough of Barnet

A bigger bang!

By Helen Drake

Despite torrential rain and gale force winds in the days (and even hours) before the event, the annual fireworks display held on the Martin Schools' playing field on Thursday 3 November went ahead without a hitch but with plenty of bangs!

Undeterred by the muddy field, spectators put on their wellies and turned up to enjoy the breathtaking display masterminded by fireworks maestro Colin Searle. Fresh from organising the fireworks for the recent Rolling Stones "Bigger Bang" tour, pyrotechnics expert Colin gave East Finchley a show to remember. This year Colin was ably assisted by his colleague, Graham, who has provided special effects for programmes such as *The Bill* and *Coronation Street*.

Once again, organising the fireworks spectacular brought together volunteers from Martin School, the Green Man Community Centre and the East Finchley Development Trust. Azra Nath, Chair of Martin Schools' PTA, commented: "We can tell from the entrance figures that the popularity of the event has increased each year, and we know that our show has a good reputation. People come back year after year."

Maggie Driscoll, Head of Martin Junior School, was particularly touched to see so many



Chris Mentipty, Colin Searle and Azra Nath moments before the first firework zoomed into the night sky! Photo by Helen Drake.

ex-pupils who had come back to their old school, many bringing their friends with them.

Kind of cool

For expert (and honest!) opinions it is always best to ask the children. Some said they liked the "beautiful colours" and the way the fireworks "lit

up the night sky". Others said, "We were all talking about it at school the next day". A couple of children said, "It was the best I've seen" while another wanted "more rockets". But the final word must go to one boy who said that the fireworks were just "kind of cool".

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You are reading the 150th edition of *THE ARCHER*. To celebrate this landmark in the paper's history, we remember how it all started, rummage in our archives for some of our most memorable articles from recent years and find out what former members of the team are doing now.

Arrow of Desire: 150 issues on

THE ARCHER's chairman Kevin Finn remembers how it all began:

It hardly seems possible but *THE ARCHER* you are now reading is the 150th printed issue of our modest community newspaper. The first 'pilot' single-sheet issue was distributed in a small enclave of East Finchley (streets off and near Fortis Green) in December 1992, exactly 13 years ago.

The brainchild of then-resident Andrew Taylor, a community newspaper was dreamt up over a couple of pints in Welch's Ale House in the High Road. This pub, now Maddens, remains its meeting place. In fact, we believe that *THE ARCHER* is the only newspaper whose office is the recipient of a CAMRA 'Best Pub' award!

The mission at the time was to create a local newspaper exclusively focused on issues pertaining to East Finchley. It was an attempt to prevent the area slipping into anonymous suburbia and to preserve the feeling of East Finchley being an urban village.

In Issue 2, March 1993 (the first tabloid version) its founder said: "East Finchley needs something that is more than a parish magazine. It needs to strike the balance between being a chatty notice board and a genuine local newspaper." To this day this remains an apt description of *THE ARCHER*.

What's in a name?

The title *The Archer* was inspired by the local landmark sculpture by Eric Aumonier, atop the tube station, and was also intended to capture the locale in history (East Finchley was strongly associated with archery) and its desire to deliver local news and information to a specific target readership, the residents of the area.

The masthead shows an icon of an archer whose arrow has already left the bow and is on

an unswerving path to its destination. The original mission statement 'Local News Is Our Aim' remains emblazoned in the wake of the arrow, a constant reminder of the newspaper's *raison d'être*.

In that same early issue, Mr Taylor made an impassioned plea: "It is you, the readers, that will make or break this newspaper. It will only work if we publish the sort of material that *you* want to read, and we can only do that if you tell us what you want to read. It can only become a real community newspaper if the community contributes." These words did not fall on deaf ears.

The evidence suggests that those very few early volunteers got it right, and that their many successors have continued to uphold the original ideals. East Finchley has 'welcome' signs with *THE ARCHER* logo featured on them, and the public benches have the same icon embossed on each end.

The best evidence, however, is that *THE ARCHER* is still here, eagerly read, and still attracts new volunteers. I am aware of no other volunteer community newspaper that has been so successful in its execution and longevity, so well supported by local business, so carefully nurtured by its producers and distributors, or so avidly consumed and communicated with by its readers. Let us work together to ensure its continued development through its teens into adulthood.

The Archer got me started

Here, *Femke van Iperen*, a former contributor to *THE ARCHER*, remembers how the paper helped her on her way to a successful career as a journalist.

Where to start explaining the benefits I have received from my involvement with *THE ARCHER* - and how to say it in just a few words! My time as a local reporter during 2001 and 2003 for this unique paper was valuable in numerous personal and professional ways.

Changing my career from working in television, I wanted to start working in print as a journalist but this is not an easy route to take. *THE ARCHER* invited me with open arms. I learned how to interview interesting people in the community and how to plan, write and structure a story.

I discovered how fascinating and alive a local community still can be within London. Every week I looked forward to our Saturday morning meetings with coffees and drinks in the pub, followed by the 'meeting closed, bar open' sessions.

Since leaving *THE ARCHER*, I now help train students to

become TV reporters at the London School of Journalism. In addition, I write a column on British art and culture for a Dutch national paper, *The NRC*, and features on the differences in culture and business methods for a Dutch/English train company magazine. I also still do some filming and work as a freelance feature writer on other publications.

But nothing like this would have happened without the chances I got at *THE ARCHER*. Truly missing my time spent on the paper, I want to congratulate everyone on the team on this incredible 150th milestone!



Femke (right) at an Archer party in 2003. Photo by John Dearing

Pave the trees

By Ricky Savage

Here's a favourite piece from our very own voice of social irresponsibility, Ricky Savage, dating back to June 1995, long before the issue of building a new Waitrose in East Finchley was even dreamt of.

The parking problem round East Finchley is really starting to bug me. Yesterday I had to double park the car on a pedestrian crossing. I didn't want to do it, but there was nowhere else and some other frustrated driver had dumped his car by that particular piece of kerb, so I figured I may as well do the same.

It's not the first time I've had problems finding somewhere to park. I once had to park a Range Rover on the station platform because there was nowhere else I could leave it. I left a Rover Metro in Budgens once, hidden behind the baked beans and as obtrusive as possible. The only problem was getting it past the frozen food counter at one in the morning.

But now I have had enough of being forced to find new and unusual places to park, which means that it is time for action, time to build the one thing East Finchley needs: a new car park.

Parking lop

I know the merry conservation lobby will get upset, but what's wrong with Cherry Tree Wood? Just because it's got trees and squirrels and people like getting lost in the place doesn't mean that it is sacrosanct. If it was special I could understand it, but it's not. It's just some scummy woodland that has no place in the world. It is pretty simple really, solve the parking problem, get rid of some ancient hide-away for foxes and other vermin, just concrete over the damn place.

Shop chop

Just think how many cars would be able to park completely safely and comfortably there. More people would come to East Finchley, trade would boom, especially if you combined it with a decent hypermarket. No-one would need to park on pedestrian crossings anymore. Nor stop on the High Road to call in on some tiny shop. I mean, why should they if they can get everything cheaper in the hypermarket and be able to park there as well.

Come on, get real, write to the local council and demand that they get on with it. It wouldn't take long to bulldoze the woods, lay the concrete and build the new hypermarket and once they'd finished there would be no more parking problems.

Cat-atalogue

By Paul Savill

First published in May 1994.

All prices are 1994 prices.

It appears as if all the cats in East Finchley have just heard that I have forked over my flower beds for their convenience. Treatment takes many forms from the drastic to the not-so-drastic, as I discovered when I called on my neighbour in Lauderdale Road one May morning.

Cat-apult

As I slipped through the side gate a missile whistled past me. A loud chortle came from the window of the potting shed, from which a long pipe was protruding.

"Bet that scared you," my neighbour's voice boomed from the shed. "It's my anti-cat bazooka. Come and have a look."

Blasted heath

Pure Heath Robinson is the best description of what I saw in the shed. Some two yards of 4-inch diameter pipe was mounted on a wooden cradle; ropes and levers everywhere.

"Made it myself," said my neighbour proudly. "There's a powerful spring in the pipe which is cocked by pulling this lever and it's loaded with tennis balls. I sit here and when the cats pass I let them have it. It's harmless but scares the living daylight out of them and they don't come back. If they do they meet my other anti-cat devices. See there".

Beside the lawn was a translucent object shaped like a dog, about 18 inches long, shimmering in the sunlight. I have seen these advertised in mail order catalogues for about £20 each. The plastic dogs are filled with water and create moving rays of light by means of prisms. Allegedly, they are scary to cats.

Scary eyes

On the other side of the lawn there was a life-sized model of a black cat with glass eyes. Cats are said to be frightened of its 'glowing eyes'. The 'Scare Cat' costs about £8 through mail order advertisements.

But do any of these things work? Presumably not, in view of my neighbour's bazooka.

"Well, I still get cats," admitted my neighbour, "but I am sure there are fewer than before. Mind you, there's this ginger tom from next door which is scared of nothing and actually woos the black cat with scary eyes!"

And here's the letter we printed in August 1994 in response to Paul's piece:

Dear Sir,

While I appreciate that your recent article in *THE ARCHER* was in a light-hearted vein, I think your readers would welcome more humane ways of keeping cats off their flower beds and vegetable plots.

The anti-cat bazooka is not something we would recommend, and your neighbour could well injure humans as well as cats. Instead, here are some ideas:

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Training for 2012

By Adam Justice-Mills

In quiet corners of East Finchley, while many of us are still asleep, children are up and working hard to achieve their dreams. It may seem like many years until the 2012 Olympics but some kids train for many hours a week, determined to be the best they can.

"I was very excited when we won the Olympics bid, and when Ellen McArthur went round the world," says Louise Latham, aged 12. Louise, of Creighton Avenue, sails her Cadet dinghy every weekend and in competitions around the UK.

She has sailed for a couple of years and is already making an impression on her coaches through her performance and determination. It is a family affair taking Louise and boat on long trips and buying equipment means everyone is involved.

Meanwhile, swimmer Alice Pearson of Hertford Road reckons the training she puts in is worth it. "I have to train all the time if I want to win a gold at the nationals, so I swim 40,000 metres a week - and I need to grow more!" Alice, 12, eats loads more than her friends to keep her strength up and says taking part in the competitions costs several thousand pounds a year. "It's repetitive but never dull - our coach gives us targets and makes it fun."

Gymnast Esme Girling says, "Good coaching is very important, but so is having fun, and the people you train with." Esme, 11, of Lincoln Road, came fourth in a recent London-wide competition. A pupil at Fortismere, she trains 13 hours a week plus competitions - more in the school holidays - with Barnet council's club, hoping to reach national level in the next two years.

East Finchley boy Josh Deraji, 12, has a difficult question about his future as an athlete. He started running cross-country to improve his football fitness but did so well he's been scouted to the Haringey & Enfield Athletics club. "I really want to do my best - my hero is Hicham El Guerrouj - but I love football as well."

All these kids, and many others, were inspired by the Olympic bid. Let's hope their national sports organisations can match their commitment and give them the support, encouragement and finance to go for gold.

Christmas Services

St Mary's Catholic Church

Sunday 18 Dec: 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon, Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass; 6.30pm, Advent Carol Service.

Monday 19 Dec: 9.50am, Morning Prayer and Mass.

Tuesday 20 Dec: 9.50am, Morning Prayer and Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Wednesday 21 Dec: 9.50am, Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion; 7.30pm, Penitential Service.

Thursday 22 Dec: 6.50pm, Evening Prayer and Mass.

Friday 23 Dec: 9.50am, Morning Prayer and Mass.

Saturday 24 Dec: 9.50am, Morning Prayer, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions; 6.30pm, Children's Mass; 9.30pm, Carols & Readings; 10pm Mass.

Sunday 25 Dec: 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon, Mass.

Monday 26 December: 9.50am, Morning Prayer and Mass.

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 18 Dec: 6pm, Carol Service.

Saturday 24 Dec: 6pm, Blessing of the Crib; 11.30pm, Midnight Mass.

Sunday 25 Dec: 10am, Christmas Day Eucharist.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Sunday 18 Dec: 11am-12.15pm, All Ages Together Carol Service (with a presentation by the children & young people), creche

provided; 6-7.15pm, Carols By Candlelight.

Sunday 25 Dec: 10.30-11.15am, Christmas Morning Family Service.

All Saints' Church

Sunday 18 Dec: 6.30pm, Christmas Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 24 Dec: 3-5pm, Children's Christmas Service with Carols and Christmas Party; 11.30pm, Midnight Mass of Christmas with Procession of the Christ Child and Blessing of the Crib.

Sunday 25 Dec: 8am, Mass of the Dawn; 10am, Mass of Christmas Day with Christmas Carols.

St. Johns Christian Spiritualist Church

Thursday 22 Dec: 7.30pm, Candle Light Carol Service. All are welcome.

East Finchley Methodist Church

Sunday 11 Dec: 10.30am, Gift Service and Christmas Play.

Sunday 18 December: 6.30pm, Carols by Candlelight.

Sunday 25 Dec: 10.30am, Christmas Day Family service.

Christmas, the Swedish way

By Louise Wikstrom

In December, Sweden is mostly a country in the dark with the sun only peeking out for a few hours a day. Perhaps it is no wonder then, that when it comes to celebrating the big holiday of the season, Christmas, it is centred on the return of light.

The most important decorations are lamps, put in all windows and kept lit all day. In the middle of December the Queen of Light, Saint Lucia, is celebrated and, over time, the celebration has developed into something quite unique.

Early on 13 December, people gather in schools, hospitals and at work to watch Lucia stride into the dark room with up to 100 maids following her. They all wear white robes with red silk bands around their waists and hold candles. Through singing, the maids explain that Lucia has come to bring light and hope to the people in the dark north.

Christmas itself is celebrated a couple of weeks after Lucia - but on Christmas Eve, not Christmas Day. Families gather and spend the whole day together, with Christmas food, gifts and a Donald Duck cartoon on TV at 3pm that it has become traditional to watch.

The food is usually a smorgasbord of different dishes. Traditionally, you start with all the cold food - herring, slices of ham and salads - before moving on to the warm food: meatballs, sausages and gratins. Finally, it is time for dessert that, according to tradition, is rice pudding. As for drinks, a special fizzy Christmas drink named julmust is the favourite.

In the evening, someone in the family goes out, saying they need to buy a newspaper or post a letter. A few minutes later, an old man in red clothes, a hat and big beard knocks on the door and asks, "Are there any good children here?" It is Santa Claus, come to hand out the gifts - the children have been waiting for him all day.



Bringing the light: Lucia with candles on her head

Will East Finchley get more 263s?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Despite having been officially identified as a problem route, the 263 has got worse. This was revealed at a London Transport Users Committee meeting at Avenue House in October. But there are signs that something may be being done about this at last: At the same meeting, a Transport for London representative revealed that TFL is reviewing the 263 schedule.

Extra buses requested

Confirming to *THE ARCHER* that they have made an informal request to TFL to consider extra buses on this route, Barnet Council also told us they have appointed consultants to study the problem.

East Finchley Buswatch wants to ensure that the problem of the long "solo stretch" between East and North Finchley is dealt with promptly. Buswatch convenor Hazel Burnett told us, "It's all very well looking at difficulties in turning round at Barnet General Hospital. We know that could cause a knock-on effect, and we acknowledge traffic difficulties, but what we want is action on the part of the route where there is no alternative bus."

143 not forgotten

The Users Committee also noted the high level of complaint about the 143 service, and another survey has found that this service has also worsened.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Peace and

reconciliation week

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, Holy Trinity School focused on the theme of peace and harmony during the week in which Remembrance Day fell.

The story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes, which tells of one girl's influence on the message of peace, was used as a starting point. A theatre group showed the children about life during the war years, and a team of Japanese volunteers shared traditional folk tales, origami and calligraphy.

Stimulated by a wide variety of media and experiences the classes produced banners depicting faith, hope, love, goodness, kindness, gentleness, joy and peace. Each class had its own aspect to concentrate on. Year 5 learned about The Berlin Wall of 1961. Tara O'Donnell imagined she had been at school there. She wrote: "My mummy said it was time to go to school. I was skipping along the road when I ran into my friend Helga. She said to me: 'Hello Tara. Have you seen the wall?'"

We walked a little further and there it was - a massive wall with barbed wire on top. My mummy and I looked at the wall. My best friend and lots

of other children lived on the other side of the wall. That day the school was half empty. At playtime we watched the workmen build the wall higher. We wished our friends could be here with us."

Scarlett Johnson in Year 2 wrote about Sadako's story: "On 6 August 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Sadako was two when the bomb dropped. Most of her neighbours died but she did not. When she was 12, after running a relay race she felt a bit dizzy and sick. A week later she fell to the ground and could not get up. Her friend told her teacher. She phoned her mum and dad. Soon they came and took her to the Red Cross hospital. A week later her friend came to see her. She had bought Sadako some origami paper. She told her of the crane legend. Sadako wished to get better so she began to fold. Unfortunately, she had only made 644 when she died. Her mum and dad finished the cranes for her."

Deadline for nursery places

Holy Trinity School is reminding parents and carers that the last date for applying for nursery places is only weeks away.

Anyone wishing to apply for a place for their child for the academic year starting in September 2006 needs to do so by 7 January 2006.

These places will be for children whose date of birth is between 1 September

2003 and 31 August 2004 inclusive.

The places will be allocated following the school's published admissions criteria. Applications should be made to the school in Eagans Close, East Finchley N2 8GA.

East Finchley Baptist Church



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Minister: Simon Dyke

Visitors always welcome



Year 5 class after their successful Battle of Trafalgar assembly. Photo courtesy Brookland Junior School.

Schoolchildren remember Trafalgar

A Year 5 class from Brookland Junior School commemorated the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar with a spectacular assembly on Friday 4 November.

All 30 children in 5P created a dramatic presentation of the life and death of Admiral Lord Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar, including two moving renditions of Nelson's death.

Their teacher, Jane Pendry, was amazed at the pupils' enthusiasm. Many undertook their own research, wrote their own scripts and added in their own directions.

Head teacher Heather Blackmore explained how the assembly fitted into the ethos

of the school in Hampstead Garden Suburb. "Brookland school prides itself on its inclusive multi-cultural make-up. Every year, each class produces its own assembly, which usually reflects the diversity of the school, for example, Diwali, Chanukah and Eid. It was wonderful to see so many children from such a wide range of cultural backgrounds take part in an assembly which explored a pivotal moment in European history."

Pupil Molly Rubin, aged 9, added, "I thought it was moving when Nelson asked Hardy to kiss him."

A week later, on 11 November, Brookland Junior pupils performed a moving Remembrance Day assembly. The children, all from 6C, sang songs from World War II and performed very moving vignettes covering the trauma of evacuation, the dramatic D-Day landings and the end of the war.

Caught short...



After all the complaints about no public toilets on the High Road, some kind person finally pays attention to the needs of the desperate! Picture by Debby Hillier

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

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

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

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

Places at playgroup

By Diana Cormack
Places are available at the
Old Barn pre-school playgroup, for children from two years of age.

Run by four experienced members of staff who have worked together for about 20 years, the playgroup has recently received an "excellent" Ofsted report. The aim is to learn through play, and there are large playing areas with plenty of activities and equipment both indoors and out. There is a garden where children can carry out simple gardening techniques as well as learning about insect life. Visits are regularly organised to places which increase their learning experiences in a fun way.

The playgroup does not receive a grant and is a non-profit making charity. It raises its own funds, usually with events in which the children can participate. It is held at the Old Barn in Tarling Road on weekdays during term-time from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

You can get more information from Angie on 07977 846922, from Penny on 07711 654669 or phone the Old Barn Centre on 020 8349 4613.



Light up a life

By Diana Cormack

For more than a decade GP Joanna Rustin has been raising money for the North London Hospice. She regularly took part in their organised sponsored swim and, after it was discontinued, decided that she would carry on alone.

So since 2002, despite having a busy local practice and being the mother of three children, Dr Rustin has somehow found the time to organise and carry out her own sponsored 100-lengths of a 25-metre pool. Her sponsors are the staff and patients at Cherry Tree Surgery in Southern Road, which she runs with Dr Sergio di Cesare.

The amount raised has increased from £150 in 2002 to £260 in 2003. Dr Rustin did not do the swim last year, which caused a lot of comment and might explain why at the end of October this year she raised £400. A certificate for this remarkable achievement is on display in the surgery's waiting room.

"The hospice provides such

a wonderful service that it is a privilege to give something back to them," Dr Rustin told *THE ARCHER*.

In fact, she uses the money to sponsor a light dedicated to any practice patient who has passed away during the year. This is part of the North London Hospice's annual *Light up a Life*, which was due to be opened by Tony Blackburn on 27 November. Relatives and friends can sponsor an outdoor light in memory of someone who has died, which will be lit from 4.30-9.00pm every day for a month.

This event is non-denominational. Details can be found in any North London Hospice shop or by telephoning Theresa Bowman at the fund raising office on 020 8446 2288.

Open sesame!

By Diana Cormack

Hopes of the new café in Cherry Tree Wood being open at the end of October were dashed, despite Eileen Cannon being given the go-ahead by Barnet Council.

With her car full of everything necessary to re-start her business there after a gap of three years, Eileen was met by a totally unexpected problem. The key she had been given didn't work!

Eileen put the key in the lock and tried to turn it; helpful passers-by tried as well; strong men tried; wiry women tried; but all to no avail.

Barnet were surprised, but not as surprised as Eileen when she was told that the only other key that might work was held by park-keeper Chris Ward, who was on his honeymoon. (Belated congratulations Chris!) At the time of writing the café is still closed and Eileen is still waiting for the right key to the door.

Woods playground 'wonderful for kids'

By Diana Cormack

Despite the inclement October weather, there was a very good attendance at the annual general meeting of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, held in the East Finchley Methodist Church Fellowship Room. As well as stalwart members of the group, there were also several new faces ready to contribute to the proceedings and, hopefully, to the continued activities of the Friends' work in the park.

Compliments were paid to the committee on their hard work instigating the improvements to the children's playground, which were described as "a wonderful fillip for local kids". Barnet Council has yet to put up the commemorative plaque presented by Living Spaces to mark this event and no representative from the council attended the meeting. However, local ward councillor Colin Rogers was there and, amongst other things, he gave an update on the park funding and tree maintenance. Also there were representatives of the police force and Community Support Officers who willingly responded to the many questions about their role as they patrol Cherry Tree Wood.

Other subjects under discussion were the lack of toilet provision for the disabled and the lidless litter bins which allow

animals to scavenge, let light refuse blow away and are not emptied often enough. If there is inadequate provision for the proper disposal of litter, it seems futile for the Friends to organise litter-picks.

The hedging event has proved to be worthwhile however and the planned coppicing has been successfully completed. The Friends had a stall at the two local festivals held in the summer in Cherry Tree Wood, where they collected a lengthy petition about the opening of the café, which has since been leased.

In talking about the future of the Friends, it was suggested that there could be more activities for children with perhaps the formation of a junior section. Three new members were elected to the committee. To find out more about the Friends visit www.cherrytreewood.co.uk

Retro chic at its best

By Lucy Chamberlin

As I turn into a tiny alley off Camden Passage at the Angel, strains of Fats Domino and Blueberry Hill reach my ears.

Pierrepont Arcade, with its combination of vintage charm and trendy art, certainly has character, and Fat Faced Cat, the small shop at no.7 opened earlier this year by East Finchley resident Angela Zdero, is no exception.

Angela has had a long-term interest in textiles and, after completing a theatre studies degree in costume design at Central School of Speech and Drama, she did a two-year course in costume construction.

She has worked for screen and theatre and now, with the assistance of husband Rob (who also runs an online Brazilian radio and music shop), she's able to indulge her passion for fabrics through Fat Faced Cat - a friend's nickname for their moggy that has stuck to the shop too.

Every item is a testament to Angela's originality. Much is sourced from her own large collections, and she makes individual bags and skirts as well as taking commissions. Customised or retro, quirky designs, flamboyant colours, chic styles, theatrical creations - attention to detail is a must.

Clothes and shoes rub shoulders with suitcases, jewellery and hats, much like the clientele: from Japanese tourists and funky fashionistas to older women and serious collectors, this is a haven for anyone who values quality.

The emphasis is on 60s, 70s and 80s trends, but to all those seeking the fluffy, the beaded, the spangly, the silky, the felted, the tweedy, the shiny, the spotty or the stripy...Angela will probably have it.



Angela at her retro shop in the Angel.

And they called him Finchley!

A British couple have chosen the name Finchley for their new-born son.

The reasons behind the mad moniker have not been revealed but it is definitely part of a grow-

ing trend for unusual children's names.

Also uncovered, in a survey by baby product firm Bounty of the 600,000 new baby names registered in Britain last year, were Ikea,

Bambi, Paprika and Caramel.

Not surprisingly, the survey found that one in five children with unusual names use their more sensible middle name instead, if they have one.

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- ❖ **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** - 12 Dec 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** Tuesdays 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.

Love, longing and sea-life

By Sheila Armstrong

For the second year running Kazzum are putting on the artsdepot's Christmas play for children. *The Little Mermaid* promises to be imaginative, exciting and visually stunning with puppets playing some of the characters as well as being used to enhance some of the costumes. Thanks to ultra violet light the puppeteers won't be seen; essentially it's a development of their production at The Bull two years ago.

In a recent interview with *THE ARCHER* Peter Glanville, artistic director of Kazzum Theatre Company, described their show as a powerful story by Hans Christian Andersen which allows children to engage with both the pathos and humour of the tale. *Time Out* called it '...a touching story of love and longing with assorted luminous sea-life...enchanted for all ages.' Peter sees it as very much an alternative to panto.

Started 16 years ago, the London-based Kazzum put on last year's successful *Pinocchio* at the artsdepot. They tour schools, arts centres and festivals and also work in the community with refugees. Peter recently worked as Educational Director with Peter Hall at the Rose Theatre in Kingston.

The Little Mermaid runs from 8-31 December at 1.30pm or 5.30pm. Contact the artsdepot for tickets on 020 8369 5454 or www.artsdepot.co.uk.

Cabaret, old chum?

By Sheila Armstrong

The artsdepot hosted Spice Cabaret in the bar area on Friday 11 November. Tables were full and food was available but it was a large space and failed to create the intimate feeling of a cabaret club.

Music was provided by Pre-Plague, Artisan, Tristan Parkes and Briony Greenhill. Gbolahan Obisesan performed his own poems with a certain flair and even managed to make forgetting his words ok.

Mitchell and Smith: Improvable (yes), who have played at Edinburgh, provided comedy and 'improv'. Tom Allen, who won

Rainbows make their promise

By Diana Cormack

"I promise that I will do my best to love my God and to be kind and helpful." This was the first promise made by members of the Rainbows, a pre-Brownie group set up in September by Maureen Antoinette. Rainbows are the youngest members of Girlguiding UK, and being a Rainbow is all about having lots of fun.

Rainbows look, learn, laugh and love. They look at the wider world and begin to understand that they are part of it through a series of fun activities. They learn in many ways through activities at Rainbow meetings, where they can laugh during games, songs, parties and celebrations as well as make a mess and enjoy life. The concept of love begins through their experiences of caring and sharing at Rainbow meetings.

Before their party to celebrate the promise-making, the girls



enjoyed a fun-activity, courtesy of Tu Destino, High Road florists and balloon artists. Androulla Costi and Ros Castro Garcia

provided a variety of balloons and carefully guided the group through a creative creature-making session.

After they had made their promise the Rainbows were presented with certificates and Rainbow bags and books by assistant Ivana Sharp and Brownie leader Kundan Clehane.

The Rainbows meet from 4-5pm on Mondays during term time at St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road. For further details phone Mrs Antoinette on 020 8883 5654 and visit www.girlguiding.co.uk.

Film festival tackles tough topics

By Louise Wikstrom and Tom Walker

The Jewish Film Festival came to East Finchley in November as the Phoenix Cinema took part for the first time, playing host to six of the festival's films.

The cinema screened two feature films, two short films and two documentaries over three days, focusing on subjects from the Holocaust to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Tomer Inbar, an Israeli soldier who refused to serve in the occupied territories, also gave a Q&A session after a screening of *On the Objection Front*, a film about his struggle against public condemnation.

He said: "I'm surprised how many people came to see the film here. The biggest problem in Israel is that people would rather stay at home than see what's happening around them."

Other films shown at the Phoenix included *The First Time I Was Twenty*, the story of a Jewish misfit in pre-war France, and *Wall*, a documentary about the everyday lives of people on both sides of the wall between Israel and the West Bank.

Audience member Eva Davis said: "The Jewish Film Festival

is needed. It gives the Jewish people a film festival that's relevant to them."

The festival is now in its ninth year, coming to London for the third time. It opened in Leicester Square on 2 November, with most of the films being shown at Haverstock Hill's Screen on the Hill.

RSVP invites you

By Sonia Singham

RSVP - the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme - is part of Community Service Volunteers, and is for anyone aged 50 plus, with time and energy to spare, who wants to make a positive contribution to the community. Recently I spent a pleasant and informative morning at Finchley Memorial Hospital, with RSVP Partnership Project Organiser Doreen Miles and Duty Co-ordinator Anne Bowyer.

The Hospital Manager at Finchley Memorial was enthusiastic when approached about having a volunteer scheme in the hospital. Some six years on, the partnership between RSVP and the hospital management has proved to be very successful. The scheme uses a holistic approach, where the professionals provide the clinical aspect and the volunteers the social.

Volunteers receive training before starting, and have the full support of staff. After training, they carry out a range of activities on the ward, which are identified for them in advance by the staff, so that nobody's time is wasted.

Finchley Memorial specialises in stroke and orthopaedic rehabilitation, and one of the stroke wards

has received a National Certificate of Excellence, with acknowledgement of the contribution made by RSVP.

At present there are approximately 40 volunteers at the hospital, and more are always welcome. There is also a vacancy for the Co-ordinator, who should be as local as possible, and also have transport. Hours of working are flexible, and the salary is paid from a charitable trust.

The scheme has been so successful that it has been proposed to replicate it in two other local hospitals.

For more information about the scheme, please contact Doreen Miles on 020 8449 9468. Doreen is in charge of primary care projects.

What's On...

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

Wednesday 7 December – Saturday 10 December:

The Guild Players, Finchley's amateur drama group, present *Dick Whittington*. Performances at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, Finchley, N3, at 7.45pm. Matinee on Saturday 10 December at 3pm.

Thursday 8 December – Saturday 10 December:

Macbeth goes modern. The Finchley Youth Theatre is staging a very modern version of Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*. The production at the theatre in High Road will be set in a modern urban landscape complete with 'hoodies'. Tickets for the play each evening at 7.30pm are available from the box office on 020 8883 9957 or by email from admin@FYTheatre.org

Friday 30 December:

Give blood. The mobile blood donation unit will be outside East Finchley tube station with blood donating sessions from 1.15pm – 4pm and 5.15pm – 7.30pm.

14 January 2006:

The **North London Chorus** presents Bach mass in B minor, at St James Church Highgate at 7.30pm. Contact 07787 788246 for tickets.

Would you like to learn how to build a website?

The Green Man Community Centre and Barnet College are running a course on building websites using Dreamweaver, the leading professional tool for the design and development of websites.

This 10 week course takes place every Wednesday evening from 11th January 2006 from 7-9pm. The course costs £120.

To book a place, please call Nick or Patrick on 020 8883 4916.

Please note this course is only suitable for people already familiar with word processing.



OBITUARY

Arthur Bell, 1910 - 2005

By Daphne Chamberlain

Arthur Bell, who died in September, lived all his 95 years in Church Lane. His East Finchley connections extended even further back, as his father ran a timber yard at the end of Lankaster Gardens.

A pupil at Alder School, Arthur later became a landscape gardener, which is how he met Anni, his German-born wife. Unable to speak a word of English, she had come over to work for a year as an au pair in Hampstead Garden Suburb, at a house where Arthur was employed. Undeterred when she refused his first marriage proposal, he said he would wait for her all his life. They eventually married in 1954, and Anni has shared some of her happy memories with us.

"You couldn't have a row with him," she says. "He would make a joke out of anything. I didn't know anyone who didn't like him." Very young for his age, Arthur kept his natural hair colour all his life, and never used a walking stick. A non-smoker and non-drinker, he indulged himself with Anni's cakes and puddings.

Like his father and brothers, he had kept an allotment on the Fuel Lands in the past, and maintained his own large garden until just before he died.

Anni and Arthur had recently



Arthur Bell. Photo courtesy of Anni Bell.

visited relations in Germany and Canada, and visits here from Anni's brother and his accordion guaranteed musical evenings for Church Lane neighbours. "Arthur joined in with his guitar," Anni told us. "He was a wonderful whistler too." For a time, he played guitar in a group based at All Saints, Durham Road, which entertained senior citizens.

Our sympathies go to Anni, their daughter Annette, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and close friends.

Letters to the editor

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, at publication.

Post Office is no substitute for bank

Dear Editor,

In your November issue you reported on the front page about the closure of the East Finchley branch of Barclays Bank. I have been banking there for the last 23 years.

I feel that other customers should know that letters sent out to customers from Barclays' head office saying that most of their day-to-day banking could be done in the Post Office is misleading customers into thinking they are getting the same counter service as the bank offers.

What they fail to tell customers using this service is that if customers pay in monies/cheques through this service it takes FIVE DAYS to reach their account and seven days for their cheques to clear.

Your paying-in book from Barclays is not stamped and only a receipt is given to say that the Post Office has taken the deposit but no acknowledgement of how much you have paid in.

**Tina Harrison
Great North Road, N6**

Twinning decision was divisive

Dear Editor,

In the October issue of *THE ARCHER* there was an article entitled "A twin town with a difference." Why is it different? Barnet's mayor is going to Cyprus but not to Morphou (Guzelyurt) yet the object of twinning is to bring goodwill between people of those towns.

In fact, Barnet Council has twinned with a town council in exile. How divisive is that?

Morphou, known as Guzelyurt to the Turkish Cypriots, is in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The island has been separated since the Turkish Intervention in 1974. Whatever caused one of the Guarantor Powers to behave in this way? Its compatriots had been pushed into enclaves, and genocide was a definite possibility. After all, it had happened before.

I saw some of the evidence of this in Maratha when visiting a memorial with the names of all the villagers on it who had been massacred. Even an 11-day-old baby had not been spared the slaughter. On another trip I saw a huge refugee camp where some peasants were living in cardboard boxes with their animals tethered alongside after they fled in terror from their villages. Never in my life had I witnessed such poverty. I was shocked.

Clearly Cyprus has a big problem. It is not helped by ethnocentric articles. How insensitive too is just the use of the word "Morphou" and

ignoring the Turkish Cypriot name for the town, Guzelyurt. Discrimination does not solve problems, it adds to them.

The two communities need to talk. Both have lost homes in the other's sector. Both have lost relatives. We all have the capacity to feel pain but imagine rebuilding your lives after such devastating experiences. That is why only the people who live on the island can solve these problems as they have lived through them or it is built into their culture. They then have to live with the outcome of the decisions they make. If outside agencies endeavour to impose a solution it will fail. They can put forward ideas but the inhabitants must decide their destiny.

After Barnet Council made such a divisive twinning decision it should now be seen to be fair to those of its electorate with both Greek and Turkish Cypriot roots. If it is incapable of doing that it should stick to local politics.

**Sheila Ertughrul
Leopold Road, N2**

Your food waste can kill

Dear Editor,

I should like to make a special appeal through *THE ARCHER*. Recently our beloved dog found and swiftly devoured a chicken bone that had been discarded on the pavement. This punctured his intestines and stomach.

Despite extensive surgery, he haemorrhaged internally, developed peritonitis and we finally made the agonizing decision to relieve him of his distress. His last week was horrendously painful and traumatic for us all. Similarly, a while ago a piece of chewing gum on the pavement was embedded in between his paw-pads which became septic, causing pain and distress.

While Barnet Council increasingly gives planning and change-of-use consent for food take-aways, and despite the plenitude of garbage cans in the vicinity, I must sadly assume that more pets will be killed by reckless customers.

Yours truly,
**Carmen Stevens
Baronsmere Road, N2**

Thanks for making my Halloween

Dear Editor,

On Saturday 29 October, I was given permission to raise funds for Lupus UK, a charity with the vision of raising awareness of this debilitating illness, at Budgens in the High Road, East Finchley.

Thanks to store manager Rosie and everyone who lent a hand. We

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

ran a raffle and lucky dip and there was a selection of homemade food. The final total was £180.

A huge thank you to the managers of Amy's, The Five Bells pub and Dolce Italia for donating the fantastic raffle prizes. Budgens also donated Gift vouchers and Sony Discmans among other treats for the lucky dip. Thanks also go to Tu Destino, the flower and balloon specialists, for the loan of my witch's hat and twiggy broom.

And last but not least, thanks go to you, the residents of East Finchley, who have all shown interest in and supported my cause by filling the collection boxes so kindly.

**Sippy Azizollah,
East End Road, N2**

Don't leave our leaves

Dear Editor,

Do all your readers know that every autumn part of the High Road's pavement disappears? Opposite Oak Lane, where the pavement is very narrow, we have no option at this time of year but to wade through a thick mass of wet leaves over puddles. It's inconvenient, and could be dangerous.

Your paper took this up with the council a couple of years ago, and I remember you were told that Barnet had special problems because it was a very leafy borough. Apparently the Council employs a temporary "leaf clearing force" to work their way round.

Those of us at the forgotten end of East Finchley would like to know why this task force always takes so long to reach us. Isn't it time for Barnet to turn over a new leaf - and clear away the old ones?

Yours sincerely,
**Valerie Leslie,
High Road, N2**

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Boys named Sue

Welcome to the post-secular, post-modern, post-thermonuclear family world, where no child is named from the bible or history or because we always liked granddad, but because it sounds nice. Yes, folks, welcome to the world of weirdness.

Who knows where it started, but according to some survey, children are getting given ever-weirder names. I'm not talking about hippies deciding that Dandelion is a good name for a boy, I'm talking about calling your children after pieces of fruit. St. Bob Geldof started it with Peaches and Gwyneth Paltrow has kept the flame alive with Apple. So what's next for Mr and Mrs Martin? A second child called Banana, a third called Cranberry?

Fruit have nothing on the drinks cabinet when it comes to name-calling. I'm sure that the folks who gave us 'Footballers' Wives' were only joking when they called one of the characters Chardonnay, but the world is now full of little wines. What next, a quick stroll down the wine racks of the supermarket thinking that Frascati would be a good name for a girl, or Merlot, or Champagne?

But heaven help the poor child saddled with a name like Gewurtstraminer. I'd pity that kid as much as I'd pity one called Special Brew or Carling. That said, calling your son and daughter Artois and Stella just sounds pretentious.

There are so many ways to give your child a strange start in life. What about Bambi and calling your child after a cartoon deer? Or just do some serious misspelling mixed with alcohol and go with Brandi. For the seriously cruel, there is still Bacardi, ensuring that the jokes will move from soft drinks to white powders as she moves through her teens.

At the end of the day there are few better ways to humiliate your child than calling it after a place. The Beckhams called their first-born after a suburb of New York and their second after the back seat of a car. Now someone has gone several better and called their child Ikea. Does this mean it was conceived in a car park just off the North Circular or in a bed of that make? And what about the child called Finchley? Does he have a brother called Whetstone and is Barnet far behind? Anyway, I don't see the problem, I've always thought Ricky is a good name for a boy.

Nicky Sharp

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Smile, please!

By Helen Drake

Nine-year-old Annie Levy is a girl who likes to get things done. So when she came up with an innovative idea to raise money for Leukaemia Research it was "just like Annie", says her mum Vicky, to want to put her idea into action immediately.



Budding photographer Annie Levy. Photo by Helen Drake

Annie sent invitations to neighbours with children letting them know that "wonderful photographer Annie Levy's in town and is offering to take a photograph of you and your family. Why not come for a cup of tea and a photo?" Participants were asked for a donation of £1 per photograph for Leukaemia Research.

On the weekend of 8-9 October, Annie converted her living room into a photographic studio. She wanted her pictures to reflect the personalities of those being photographed. When two friends arrived in their football kit, she photographed them with a football and played her dad's Arsenal video to conjure up the right atmosphere.

Annie, who is in Year 5 at Martin Juniors, was supported by all her family. She said: "My parents let me use their digital

camera, and my dad is going to help me process my photos using an internet site. My little sister Katie was in charge of cutting the cake for the visitors and giving out stickers to people when I had taken their photos."

Leukaemia Research is a charity close to Annie's heart as her grandfather Lionel died of the disease before she was born. Lionel came from Liverpool, so Annie wore her Liverpool Football Club shirt while taking the photos. Vicky said, "Grandma Sue was very pleased."

Annie has organised other fundraising events such as a street stall for the Tsunami appeal, and putting on a piano and violin concert with some friends for Battersea Dogs Home. She is already brimming with ideas for her next event.



"Can we have our ball back, mister? We left it there 45 years ago!
Photo of The Shree Aden Centre by John Dearing."

New balls, please!

They say some things never change but former East Finchley resident Brian Timms didn't realise how true that could be until he returned to the area recently.

Brian was over here on holiday from his home in New South Wales, Australia, where he has lived since the 1960s, when he saw a sight that stopped him in his tracks.

As he walked past the Shree Aden centre in Church Lane he spotted a tennis ball lodged in one of the air vents near the roof. Back in the early 1950s when Brian was playing outside, the building was the Holy Trinity Church Hall.

Incredibly, he remembered it was he and his fellow teenage friends who had got that ball stuck there FIFTY years earlier when they were using the vents as tennis ball target practice.

In all the years since then, the ball has remained exactly where they shot it.

People come and go throughout the years, it seems, but this particular ball has real staying power.

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