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# THE ARCHER



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February 2005 No. 141  
ISSN 1361-3952 **20p** where sold

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

## No to Esso, no to Tesco

The Planning Inspectorate has again dismissed an appeal regarding the site occupied by the Leopold Road Service Station at 217 High Road.

The decision on the redevelopment, proposed by the Esso Petroleum Company Ltd, was judged mainly on “whether the proposal would satisfy the aims of national and local retail planning policies having regard to the need for the retail development, the sequential approach to the site selection and the vitality and viability of East Finchley town centre.”

Readers may remember that a previous appeal made by Tesco/Esso Alliance for the same site for redesign of

their forecourt and an expanded retail facility, was turned down in June 2003.

### Meanwhile nearby...

The Finchley Society has objected to Tesco’s proposals to expand their store in Colney Hatch Lane because it would increase traffic problems in the locality and take away business over a considerable area. The society is particularly concerned at the effect of new and expanding supermarkets on local shops and the way this reduces the amenities of town centres.



The filling station this time last year Photo by Tony Roberts

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## Not all child’s play

By Diana Cormack

After months of hard work, the committee of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood has succeeded in acquiring funding for improvements to the children’s playground. As well as replacing broken and old equipment, the Friends wanted more facilities for older children, plus a high quality safe surface.

They are one of the lucky community groups to benefit from a £30 million Government grant scheme to help local people improve their environment. Funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Living Spaces provides funds and support to help people make the most of open spaces in their neighbourhood. The scheme allows community groups to improve and create a range of spaces from play areas, community gardens, local parks and city farms to ponds, kick-about areas, squares and village greens.

Living Spaces awards grants from £1000 to £100,000 – but money isn’t the only support available. A network of trained ‘enablers’ is on hand to turn the ideas of local groups into a reality. These Living Space enablers help draw up detailed

action plans and budgets and put groups in touch with other organisations who can help ensure projects are successful. Grants are available to neighbourhood groups anywhere in England. Call 0845 600 3190 or visit [www.living-spaces.org.uk](http://www.living-spaces.org.uk) for application details.

### Bigger and better

The success of the Friends’ application means that there will be safety surfaces in line with current regulations for both old and new apparatus in the popular play area. Barnet, who offered to match the money allocated by Living Spaces, is paying for this. There are to be exciting new playthings for older users, including a Skyway cable ride, a bicycle roundabout and bigger swings. In addition to improvements to the present equipment, there will be a new Moses Spring along with a

Moby Spring and a Sharky Spring. It is hoped that the work will be carried out in April.

David Attfield, who spearheaded the Friends’ action said, “The playground is very well used and our plans to improve it enjoyed strong support. This funding helps secure the long term future of the playground.”

To avoid the danger of further falling branches (a huge bough broke off and fell over the play area last autumn) Barnet Council is proposing to cut down four of the oak trees that overhang the playground.

**In this month’s issue...**

Postal thefts .....	p2
Recycling made compulsory .....	p3
Talking newspaper.....	p4
Petition halts development .....	p5
Businesswoman wins award.....	p5
Cat Aid.....	p6
Pubs change for the better.....	p7
Young Archer.....	p8
Tsunami experience....	p9

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

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

### Your contributions

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

**14 February is the copy deadline for the March issue.**

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

#### Barnet

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

### Leisure

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

### Transport

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

### Help & Advice

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 02086833300  
Relate 020 8447 8101  
Samaritans 08457 909090  
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

### Health Advice

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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 02083463511  
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  
Western Eye Hosp. 020 7886 6666

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0845 303 0900  
E.F. Community Police Officer:  
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paul.carter@met.police.uk

### EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

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Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Immigration Advice.

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### Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Councillors' Surgery.

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### Community Services

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

## Beware of the matrix

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has issued a warning to consumers about Web sites running 'matrix schemes'.

These promise the chance of getting a valuable 'free gift', such as an iPod, to people buying a low value product such as a CDROM containing ring tones, for considerably more than it is worth.

However, each buyer joins at the back of a queue to receive their 'free gift', and each 'free gift' is despatched to the person at the front of the queue only when up to 100 further buyers have joined at the back of the queue.

In other words, the queue grows at up to 100 times faster than 'free gifts' are despatched, and the vast majority of buyers never receive one.

Buyers are encouraged to recruit further buyers in order to speed up the arrival of their 'free gift'. This has led to some people actually advertising on auction sites on behalf of the schemes!

John Vickers, OFT Chairman, said, "These waiting-list schemes require many more people to join than will ever receive their 'free gift'. The schemes will ultimately collapse and the vast majority of people who have joined will lose out. Don't be misled into buying by the remote prospect of a 'free gift'."

## Licensing policy on-line

Barnet Council's Licensing Policy is now available online at [www.barnet.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/licensing).

It sets out how the council will deal with licensing the sale of alcohol in pubs, off-licences and restaurants, as well as public entertainments and the sale of hot food at night.

## Postal thefts in East Finchley

By Betti Blatman

On Friday, 14 January, a postman left his trolley unattended in the alleyway at side of Ian Michael Hair Design in East End Road, while delivering mail to flats above the shops, and returned to find it had been stolen. Two young men in a car were seen to snatch the trolley.

East Finchley Sorting Office staff confirmed that the police had been informed and that a similar incident had occurred five minutes earlier in Fortis Green Road. They claimed that postal trolleys are locked and sealed, and 90% of mail turns up at a later date after the dumped trolley has been located. When the retrieved mail is delivered it is accompanied by a letter from Royal Mail explaining the reason for the delay.

These incidents do raise the question as to how safe is our mail these days, and who compensates for the lost 10% of mail?



## Five Bells party ends in fracas

Like a number of pubs in the area, The Five Bells in East End Road held a party on New Years Eve. It all started happily enough, but at around 9.30pm a fight broke out amongst some of the revellers, with around 20 people involved.

Various items were broken including a couple of lamps and a picture frame, and glass was scattered about. The police were called and arrived at 9.36pm. Unfortunately the culprits had already left, and nobody was found who was willing to make

any allegations to the police.

The landlord had little option other than to end the party and close the pub, well before midnight, which was a great disappointment to a lot of people.

## Local Planning Applications

**Former Red Lion public house, Red Lion Hill, N2**

Demolition of existing pub, and erection of a three-storey block (plus basement level) to provide five one-bedroom flats and two two-bedroom flats.

**5 Chambers Gardens N2**

Single storey rear extension.

**Oak Tree, Oak House, The Grange, N2**

Change of use to community flat (Class 3)

**6 Trinity Avenue N2**

Alterations to roof, including side and rear dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion.

**2A Fortis Green N2**

Demolition of existing single storey car sales building, and erection of three-storey block, including rooms in roofspace, to provide two studio flats and two two-bedroom flats.

**1st Floor Flat, 35 Park Hall Road N2**

Alterations to roof, including addition of rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion.

**55 Summerlee Avenue N2**

Alteration to roof, including hip to gable end and rear dormer window, to facilitate loft conversion.

**30 Baronsmere Road N2**

Loft conversion, including rear dormer window and rooflight to front.

**12 Neville Drive N2**

Single storey rear extension. First floor side extension over part of existing garage. Alterations to roof, including new roof over side extension, addition of rear dormer window, front dormer windows, side dormer window on east elevation, and addition of two rooflights to east elevation.

**10 Ludlow Way N2**

Alterations to roof, including rear dormer windows and rooflights to side, to facilitate loft conversion.



# Barnet makes recycling compulsory

By David Hobbs

**Barnet Council has made recycling compulsory for all 113,000 households in the borough. In what the council claims to be a national first, all residents are now required to put glass bottles, jars, tin cans, paper and magazines in their recycling boxes and not in their refuse bins. Although the council says it will only prosecute as a last resort, anyone who persistently and deliberately fails to recycle could receive a £1,000 fine.**

The aim of this scheme is to increase the amount of household waste that is recycled and if the council hits the government target of 30% recycling the council will receive £629,000 from the government in March 2006. This money will go into the council's funds and could be put towards services in need of funding such as education.

Councillor Matthew Offord, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, said, "Barnet is leading the way in new approaches to recycling. We provide one of the best kerbside recycling collections in the country; now we are requiring our residents to use it."

However, flats and communal buildings cannot recycle because they do not have kerbside recycling boxes. In addition, the council is reducing the number of recycling banks in the borough from 69 to 51 by April as a result of concerns about vandalism, fly-tipping and under use. Despite reducing the opportunities for those without recycling boxes,

the council still aims to raise the percentage of waste recycled in Barnet from 21 to 30% over the next year so that it can receive the £629,000 from the government.

## Holocaust Memorial Day Event

**On 27 January, a Holocaust Memorial Day Event was held at The Jewish Museum at the Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, Finchley N3.**

It was a reflective evening on the theme of liberation, resistance and renewal for National Holocaust Memorial Day, with Helen Bamber, a former Belsen relief worker and founder of the Medical Campaign for the Care of Victims of Torture, and Jack Kagen who, at the age of 14, escaped from Nazi labour camp in Belarus and joined the partisans.

## Are you covered?

By John Dearing

**A few weeks ago, the colleague of a friend of mine had her car stolen (not locally). Apparently she got out of the car to unlock the padlock on the office car park gate, and was bundled away by thieves who drove off in her car. Imagine her distress when, after reporting this to the police and her insurance company, the latter told her that, as she had not taken reasonable care to protect the vehicle, it was not covered and they would not accept the claim. As it was a fairly new car, she was out of pocket by several thousand pounds!**

I checked my car insurance policy and found exactly the same clause. I have been in the habit of doing almost the same thing when unlocking my garage – not any more, I won't! I have no doubt that this clause is present in most if not all vehicle insurance policies. I would add that I checked the Highway Code, and the *Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986*. It is an offence to leave a vehicle with the engine still running, and recently an order has gone out to local authorities to issue fixed penalties to drivers who do so.

While checking my insurance policy I discovered I am not covered if the car is stolen by 'fraud, trickery or deception'!

Various other such clauses also caught my eye, and again,

I expect these are universal. Readers may be interested to know that:

- \* people are generally not covered to drive other cars abroad, even if their policies cover them to do so in the UK
- \* even with fully comprehensive insurance they are probably not covered for slashed tyres, frost damage, damage caused by using the wrong fuel, or if the car is used when unroadworthy, or used in the restricted area of an airport(!)
- \* personal accident clauses do not cover you or your passengers if a seat belt is not worn. Check it out!



Viceroy Close car park behind Budgens. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Car Park to become Pay-and-Display

**The company that owns the Viceroy Close car park (behind Budgens) has decided to run it on a basis of Pay-And-Display, and have written to residents of Viceroy Close and local shopkeepers informing them of this.**

To this end, they have (belatedly) removed the latest crop of fly-tipped rubbish, and at least four dumped cars. They have also had the car park surface repaired.

Further information on how the car park will be run is awaited; it is likely that a gate will be installed across the entrance, bays painted on the surface, permits sold to regular users and occasional users charged on entry at a commercial rate, and control measures such as clamping instigated, but none of this has been confirmed yet.

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Hugh L'Estrange producing the current edition of the Talking Newspaper. Photo by Kathryn Salomon

## Our local Talking Newspaper

By Kathryn Salomon

**Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper (BBTN), first recorded in January 1978, is produced by 60 active volunteers and 20 reserves. BBTN is a registered charity serving the visually impaired and blind community. Listeners find out about the service by word of mouth and possibly through Barnet Council.**

Although BBTN does not receive a grant from Barnet they lease the recording studio in Wetherill Road from the Council for a peppercorn rent. The Hendon Times Group have generously made a grant towards the new digital recording equipment.

The newspaper is produced every Thursday. In the morning the Administrative Team unpack the tapes of last week's issue which listeners have returned, check they are suitable for re-use, re-label and clean them. Thursday afternoons find the Editorial Team choosing articles from a proof copy or early edition of the Hendon Times. Material is also included from the Jewish Chronicle, and sometimes RNIB and Disability

Action in Barnet. Two sets of copy are pasted onto A4 sheets; white for the Readers and blue for the Technical team.

At about 7pm the Reading and Technical teams arrive. They are drawn from a bank of eight frontline technical and sixteen frontline reading volunteers. The four duty readers (normally two men and two women) sit around a table in the studio; a console with lights in front of them relays instructions from the control room. In the control room the producer presses a switch on his console to instruct each reader when they are on air, and informs the sound engineer when each speaker is

about to finish and the new one is about to commence. The engineer uses the computer to produce the recording digitally. The session lasts one hour.

When the recording is finished, it is transferred to 180-220 tapes by fast-copiers. Each tape is checked for sound quality. They are then packed into the addressed envelopes and taken to East Finchley sorting office. The Post Office delivers the tapes free and the listener receives their copy on the same day the local paper hits the newsstands.

For further information please contact Victor Corney, 020 8449 0176, [jcorney@fish.co.uk](mailto:jcorney@fish.co.uk).

## Don't get by, get on

By Deidre Anthony and Bob Facer

**With the start of the New Year do you feel that you are in a rut and want to make a new start? Well, help is available in the Green Man Community Centre, courtesy of Barnet College in the community. A new careers advice service as well as new classes to help you brush up on your reading, writing, maths and spelling have started.**

Our free classes are small and friendly, with qualified tutors. You can get a confidential skills check, to help you make a start towards your goals.

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**Literacy:** Monday, 12 noon to 2.30pm

**Numeracy:** Tuesday 9.30am to 12 noon

**Basic skills with computing:** Thursday 12.30pm to 3pm

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The new careers advice service can help you with CV

writing, choosing a course, job applications, interview preparation, and looking for a job. Bob, your new community guidance worker, can provide you with expert, practical help that is free and impartial. You can have a one-to-one confidential session to help make you decide what to do next.

The service is available on Mondays from 10am to 4pm for adults who are twenty or over.

Just drop in to the Green Man Community Centre or call 020 8815 0703 to make an appointment.

## Elvis plays Finchley!

By Carole Lateman

**On Saturday 11 December last year, Swamp Rock was delighted to present a rare London gig from the Kings of Staffordshire Cajun, Elvis Fontenot & The Sugar Bees.**

The enthusiastic crowd kept the dance floor jumping at The Wilf Slack Sports Club, Finchley, the new home of North London's Louisiana dance music. Elvis and the boys played their usual eclectic mix of Cajun, Zydeco and Swamp Pop, with a few new numbers thrown in, such as *Promised Land*, a personal favourite. The band played with their customary humour and verve, and a fun, if steamy, night was had by all.

## Jackie improves South Bank

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Last month we wrote about Shape – the agency which helps disabled theatregoers to enjoy a night out. This month, East Finchley's Jackie Levy tells how her reaction to a traumatic evening at the South Bank may have made disabled access there easier in future.**

Before Christmas, Jackie booked herself and two disabled companions into a Queen Elizabeth Hall concert. They encountered inadequate and misleading signing, leading to a locked door, steps, and a long walk in the cold.

Her complaint to Malcolm Young, South Bank's Director of Planning, brought an apology and an assurance that her next visit would be as relaxed and stress-free as possible.

### Double check

Speaking to *THE ARCHER*, Mr Young said that Jackie had identified a problem with signage that had not been apparent to him, and this would be addressed. He said that building works, which will continue this year, were creating continual disruption.

Arrangements change at short notice, and his advice is to double-check before setting out. The South Bank has published an advisory leaflet, which is sent with tickets through the post. Jackie's tickets were bought through Shape, who say they did not have these leaflets at the time. However, they have them now.

### Be prepared to fight

Mr Young recommended explaining particular disabilities when booking tickets. Jackie also passes on this general advice for all venues:

\* If tickets have not been sent, ask where the collection point is, and if it is accessible. Ask if there are special access arrangements.

\* Audio-descriptive performances are available at some venues

for selected performances.

\* Ask for plenty of legroom. Many venues, including cinemas, offer two tickets for the price of one, allowing a companion to go free. Jackie warns that you may have to negotiate though – possibly going through several staff – if you are not in a wheelchair.

"Be prepared to fight," says Jackie, "and also to ask for help. Do join Shape as well. I've been a member for years."

Shape: 020 7619 6160 / [www.shapearts.org.uk](http://www.shapearts.org.uk) / [info@shapearts.org.uk](mailto:info@shapearts.org.uk).

## Cutting edge

**Push your way past all the discs in Alan's records and you will find that Martin Henham is still running his key-cutting business at the back of the shop.**

Although he retired from the antiques trade a few months ago Martin decided to keep on cutting keys. He's not open Mondays but can be found there most other days including Saturday from about midday. He's still among the best value key-cutting services around and will make house calls if needed.

Phone him to check that he's in the shop on 020 8444 5274 or call in to Alan's Records, 218 High Road.

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e-mail: [info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)



# Local business woman wins award

An East Finchley resident has received international recognition for her community work. The European Foundation For Black Women in Business gave Sandra Fox the award for 'social and humanitarian work within the community'. For the past five years, Sandra has been running *Tap In Computers*, which provides learning support for people with disabilities. Although the business's base is at Sandra's home in Elmhurst Crescent, Sandra prefers it to be a mobile service as she says, "It's best to teach on a one to one basis in your [the client's] own environment."

Her aim is to give people with disabilities more options. She likens it to an empty glass. She can't tell her clients what to put in the glass, but she can at least give them a glass – that is, she can give them opportunities.

## Changing the format

As she is severely dyslexic herself, Sandra knows only too well that the 'normal' ways of learning don't always work. "You don't give me a pen; you don't give me a book. But if you give me technology, I am able to give you the meaning of life." She explained that because she finds reading and writing dif-

ficult, she uses her computer to do it for her. As well as literacy problems, Sandra has a very poor short-term memory. To overcome this, she has developed a method of making a visual picture when trying to remember something.

Working around her disabilities in this way is what she calls "changing the format", and it is what she believes is the key to teaching people with disabilities.

## Being positive

Sandra also believes having a positive approach is very important. She teaches her students to say "I've lost focus" when they

start to struggle with a subject rather than the more negative statement of "I don't understand".

With *Tap In Computers*, Sandra can enable people to have something that she never had – a good education. She explained, "What I am trying to put across to people is – if I can do what I can do, what can you do with an education?"

Sandra would like to thank the Skills Council for nominating her for the award.

*Tap In Computers* – mobile: 07817 460 496, website: [www.tapincomputers.com](http://www.tapincomputers.com) or email: [sfox@tapincomputers.com](mailto:sfox@tapincomputers.com).

Sandra Fox with her award last year. Photo by Andrew Box.



# Petition halts development

By Ann Bronkhorst

**The bulldozers and chainsaws must wait a little longer. Strathlene House and its old oaks and Scotch pines have won a temporary reprieve, thanks to pressure from local residents.**

The large Edwardian house in Creighton Avenue, once part of Fortismere School, has been bought by Festival Care Homes Ltd for about £1.5 million. Their architects applied to Haringey for planning permission to demolish the house and put up a massive three-storey 94-bedroom care home. It would have over 100 staff but parking for only 21 cars.

## Tree protection

The rear of the site is classified as Metropolitan Open Land. The grounds contain many mature trees, only ten of which are now protected by emergency Tree Preservation Orders. Five of these large trees border the gardens of houses in Ringwood Avenue. Earlier felling of other mature trees, some of which were bat roosting sites, has dismayed English Nature and the London Wildlife Trust.

170 local residents, supported by several Haringey councillors and by Barbara Roche, MP, signed a petition in December 2004 urging the council to reject the development plans. Concerns were expressed about an increase in levels of traffic. Cllr. Gilbert (Fortis Green) has said that the footprint and height of the proposed building would be "far, far too large". His colleague Lynne Featherstone (Muswell Hill) says she is "appalled at the devastation to trees" and intends to press for prosecutions

if any work has been carried out illegally.

## Successful pressure

Just before Christmas Haringey council informed Barbara Roche that the planning application had been withdrawn, due to the objections. She comments, "This goes to show the power local people have over their own communities when they work together." A revised application, however, will be made later this spring; no doubt the residents of Creighton and Ringwood Avenues will be on the alert.

# Peter Sellers in East Finchley

By Brian Timms

**I've just read the book *Peter Sellers – the mask behind the mask* by Peter Evans, last published in paperback in 1980.**

It refers to Sellers trying to book a room in a Norwich Hotel by claiming he was the Earl of Beaconsfield. His cover was blown and the author says that the fact that Sellers was carrying a down-market packet of Woodbine cigarettes didn't help his cause.

Evans goes on, "The Woodbines, of course, might have been a noble Lord's idiosyncrasy. But the address in the visitors' book – 211b High Road, East Finchley (where he lived with his parents) – although written with some flourish, did not seem appropriate for the nobility of England, even allowing for

the most punitive death duties levied on the rich."

The book also refers to Sellers advertising his talent in *The Stage*: "Available for production and Sunday concerts, all coms: 211b High Road, East Finchley, London N2. Phone Tudor 7621."

The date would be 1948/9, which is when his mum handed us kids from Martin Schools signed photos of Sellers piled up on her hall stand. "There you are, Love," she said, as she handed them out to the kids lining up on the flat landing.

(For those who have seen the film, *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*, his mum in those days was quite petite. I remember her as trim, bright and perky, with a twinkle in her eye.)

Facing the Martin playing field, the first floor flat is, I believe, the penultimate one on the right hand side.

The book, which I bought from a second-hand seller in Melbourne, was published by NEL Books, New English Library Ltd., Barnards Inn, Holborn, London EC 1N2JR.

## Opening February 2005 + Cootes Pharmacy - Finchley Central COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY CENTRE

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Cat fosterers Jess Christie, Maja Hasan, and Sarah O'Reilly. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Cat aid

**Like them or loathe them, cats are real survivors. The case for neutering them comes from the rather scary statistic that over a 5-year period an unneutered female and her offspring could be responsible for producing around 20,000 cats. If they stray and live rough, cats can become feral or wild. Feral kittens can quite often be tamed but not feral cats. When the Animal Aid and Advice charity hear about stray cats they trap and neuter them.**

Unlike the larger animal charities AAA has no cat shelter and the cats are initially fostered by volunteers in their own homes. Kittens are re-homed but adult ferals usually have to be returned from whence they came.

AAA's charity shop is next door to the Phoenix Cinema and distinguished by the large amount of bric-a-brac in its windows. The charity is generally concerned to promote responsible pet ownership in North London and specifically with the welfare of stray and other cats. It is run solely by volunteers who both fundraise and care for the cats; all the money made goes to the animals.

### Looking for homes

At the moment the AAA are looking for more people to foster cats, providing temporary homes. The length of time a cat

is fostered depends on how long it takes to find it a permanent home, the less attractive or older cats taking the longest time. Fostering is ideal for someone who likes cats but doesn't want to have a permanent pet.

Volunteers to help trap feral cats are needed too, as are those with transport.

The shop is also looking for people who are prepared to stand in occasionally when regular volunteers are away: ideal for those not wanting a regular commitment but able to do the odd day or half day in the shop.

If you can help in any of these ways please get in touch with Doreen Rolph on 020 7607 1723. She is also the person to contact about stray cats. For advice about cats, stray or otherwise, or free neutering, call the shop on 020 8444 6290.

## Did you know?

A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

A rat can last longer without water than a camel.

A male emperor moth can smell a female emperor moth up to 7 miles away.

Some insects can live up to a year without their heads.

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue!

A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.

Every night, wasps bite into the stem of a plant, lock their mandibles (jaws) into position, stretch out at right angles to the stem and, with legs dangling, fall asleep.

Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.

Cat's urine glows under a black (UV) light.

An elephant can smell water three miles away.

Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Termites eat wood twice as fast if you play loud music.

A snail can sleep for 3 years.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

Did you know that you are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider?

More people are killed by donkeys than by plane crashes.

## RSPCA news

### Stabilising cat numbers

**Spring is on its way and this year a further decrease in the number of 'Spring kittens' dumped, abandoned or taken into RSPCA animal homes is anticipated. The Home Checker for the placement of adoptive cats now makes significantly fewer visits than three or four years ago.**

This is due to the C4 neutering scheme that is running in the Greater London area. Since it started four years ago over 12,500 cats have been neutered at no cost to their owners. The aim is to maintain a stable cat population and the halt in growth of numbers is now becoming a reality.

### Safe and happy

Neutered cats live longer, safer and happier lives. They do not stray or get lost seeking a mate, and are less likely to catch the deadly feline AIDS virus.

You may apply for free neutering if you:

- a) are in receipt of benefits/pension
- b) are feeding feral or stray cats
- c) are on low income
- d) have large numbers of cats
- e) cannot afford to pay

The C4 Free Neutering Scheme is funded by several animal charities. In East Finchley the RSPCA and Animal Aid and Advice participate.

If, as a cat owner, you qualify and would like your pet 'done', call in for an explanatory leaflet and application form at the Animal Aid and Advice charity shop beside the Phoenix cinema or at the RSPCA Clinic which is open Monday and Thursday evenings from 6.00 to 7.30 pm, in Park Road, opposite the children's playground.

But hurry up – the mating season will soon be upon us!

The Christmas Fayre raised over £150. Thanks to all who gave their support on a cold winter's day.



East Finchley therapists Simone Baroke, Kathryn Scorza, Fiona Hurlock and Marj Lawrence.

Photo by R. Scorza.

## Therapists in new venture

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Cootes pharmacy is starting a new venture in its Church End (Finchley Central) branch next month. Director Alnoor Thobhani is setting up an NHS health check and a complementary therapy service, which he hopes will work in co-operation with local GPs. Four therapists well known in East Finchley will be spending part of their working week in the Ballards Lane premises, while still keeping their links with N2.**

The East Finchley Four – nutritionist Simone Baroke, homeopath Marj Lawrence, Shiatsu practitioner Fiona Hurlock and healer Kathryn Scorza – see this as a way of extending the principle of patients' choice, tying complementary treatment in with the mainstream. "We are complementary, not alternative," they told *THE ARCHER*.

Fiona, who will still be working at the Isabel Douglas Centre as well, believes

that "the body's natural estate is health" and explains that health will be the emphasis in the Cootes practice, (though beauty can be a by-product of that).

While the hope is that GPs will refer patients, anyone is welcome to contact the therapists for treatment. As they will be working at different times in shared premises they would prefer to be called on their individual phones. (See their advertisement.)

Alnoor Thobhani told *THE ARCHER* that there will be ample room in the Ballards Lane premises to hire out to practitioners of other therapies, but he wants to consolidate the practice first. He expects the treatment rooms to be open before the end of February.

The Ballards Lane shop (no 110, on the site of the former Boots premises) can be contacted on 020 8346 0051, and the Cootes branch in the High Road on 020 8883 0073.



## Veterans reunited

By Diana Cormack

Veterans of the Second World War can sign up to a programme that has awards available from the Big Lottery Fund. Veterans Reunited marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war in 1945. The programme, which commemorates those who served at home and abroad, has three strands.

### Heroes Return

This provides lottery money to help UK resident veterans, their spouses or carers to revisit a country where they did active service during World War 2. Widows and widowers of veterans, even those whose spouses died after the war, may also be eligible. Applications must be received by 31 March 2005 and visits must take place by 31 December 2005.

For more information visit [www.heroes-return.co.uk](http://www.heroes-return.co.uk) or contact the Veterans' Association on Freephone 0800 169 2277

### Home Front Recall

This is intended to fund activities and events for groups in this country. Small grants are available to help commemorate all those whose work here was so vital to the war effort, including Britain's code-breakers. Money can be obtained for things like street parties, special services, parades, reunions and other events that bring the community together to enable

all generations to remember the great contribution made by people on the home front. Veterans who wish to organise or take part in reunions or other events may also obtain funding. For further information and an application pack phone 08457 458 458.

### Their Past – Your Future

Young people are being given the opportunity to learn about the Second World War directly from those who were involved.

The Imperial War Museum has been developing an educational scheme to enable school children to research and learn about the experiences and roles played by both civilians and those in the forces. Museums, libraries and archives nationwide have also been encouraged to get involved in the Veterans Reunited Campaign.

THE ARCHER would be pleased to hear from anyone who is involved in any aspect of this scheme.

## Fabulous fabrics

By Ann Bronkhorst

Two current exhibitions within easy reach of East Finchley will delight lovers of fine fabrics and fabric-crafts.

Head south quickly (it closes on 12 February) to catch the London Quilters' Winter Exhibition at The Gallery, Swiss Cottage Central Library, where fifty colourful quilts and patchworks are on display. One's the prize for the winner of a raffle for a breast cancer charity. For more information contact Steve Roper on 020 7974 6523.

Head north in a more leisurely way (it's open until 20

March) to see *Woven Splendour* at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Cat Hill, Barnet. MoDA is twinned with the Museo del Tessuto in Italy and this is their first exchange exhibition. Luxurious textiles from the fifteenth century onwards, such as sumptuous Italian silks and velvets, are on display. For more information contact 020 8411 5244 or [www.moda.mdx.ac.uk](http://www.moda.mdx.ac.uk)

## A change for the better

By Jonathan Blackstaffe

It's not easy to say what constitutes a good pub. So much is dependent on taste, mood and company. The best you can do is to apply the New York Times film-reviewing rule and ask whether the pub realises what it sets out to achieve.

So, do the re-vamped Five Bells and The Old White Lion accomplish what they set out to?

### Ring the changes

Let's start with the Five Bells. With its garden, homely atmosphere and simple food, this has always been a family pub. And, having been renovated and the management changed, it is still a family pub, only a little larger, better-equipped and with much improved toilets.

A rear extension has created a spacious back room with lots of tables for dining and a reasonably sized flat screen TV, one of three TV's in all.

The extensive menu is modestly priced. The drinks selection isn't so varied but you'll find something to quench your thirst.

So, does the Five Bells achieve its aims? I'd say, yes. It feels friendly and comfortable, albeit uninspiring. But it's not trying to be inspiring, it's trying to be a decent local pub, and has changed for the better.

### For whom the lion roars

The Old White Lion provides an interesting contrast. It is attempting to capture the zeitgeist – it's trying to be a gastro-pub. Gastro-pubs were very much in vogue last season but as soon as the average Joe (or, in this case, Jonathan) on the street describes some-



Kitsch or cool? The Old White Lion. Photo by Jonathan Blackstaffe

thing as in vogue it's become passé. Still, the Old White Lion hasn't missed the mark if the young, relatively stylish crowd it attracts is anything to go by.

The Old White Lion could be described as somewhat kitsch. The two stone lions flanking the porch suggest that kitsch was the aim. It probably wasn't. Cool was probably the aim. Not that there's anything wrong with kitsch, as the Old White Lion proves. Like the Five Bells it has become more spa-

cious, with décor now predominantly brick and wood plus the obligatory brushed chrome. There are also several interesting hanging glass objects that might be art, lights or something else entirely.

The chalkboard boasts an appetising range of food, cooked, a sure sign of confidence, in an open kitchen. Complementing the food is a wide selection of drinks. The overall effect is fairly stylish, making the Old White Lion the coolest local venue.

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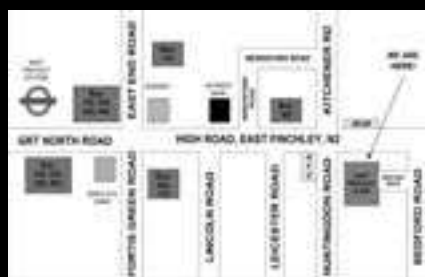


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# The future's not orange

By Diana Cormack

Parents and pupils at Martin Infant School were able to take a look into the future at a special demonstration arranged by head teacher Kevin Ancomb. Kevin believes strongly in preparing children for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and feels that the younger they begin learning, the better. With this in mind he has plans for an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) suite for the infants and will start things off this year with an interactive whiteboard.

More than 60% of primary schools in Britain now have these electronic whiteboards and, as they are gradually being installed in classrooms, teachers have to become even more computer literate. Instead of what used

to be called 'chalk and talk', this latest method of teaching uses large-scale computer technology, with the electronic whiteboard replacing the traditional 'blackboard'. Basically, it is using a computer and its facilities projected

onto a large wall screen. As well as the commercially produced software and hardware available, teachers can prepare their own lessons for classes and use them when they are needed.

## The numbers game

Research has shown that, if used effectively, they can benefit pupils of all abilities. Those at Martin Infants took to the interactive voting system they were introduced to at once.

Using handsets similar to those on *Who wants to be a millionaire*, children are able to answer questions about a lesson by pressing their chosen numbers. A graph is produced for the teacher showing individual results. One of the benefits of this method is that timid children, shy to speak up in class, or those with English as a second language, can become immediately involved.

## Demonstration

Steve Marshall, Barnet schools' ICT advisor, spent an afternoon with the youngsters before giving an after-school demonstration to parents. They can be confident that their children are being given a great start towards becoming proficient and confident in ICT, equipping them for the rapidly changing technology they will face as adults.

# Schools support the tsunami appeal

By Diana Cormack

Staff and pupils at our local schools took part in the three-minute silence held for the victims of the terrible disaster, which has devastated so many lives. The children all responded magnificently and they have continued to do so. Both Holy Trinity School and Martin Schools held non-uniform days in order to raise money for the relief fund. Holy Trinity collected over £702 and Martin Schools over £825, a wonderful effort by all concerned.

At a special Tsunami Sponsorship Meeting, a working party of parents and staff from Martin Junior and Martin Infant Schools was established to explore options for raising money to provide more long-term help. Children have already been coming up with their own ideas – some pupils brought in £13 of pennies which they had made by selling their own toys; Year 5 children will be selling nearly new toys, books and videos at a cake and deli

sale organised by the PTA; selling hot-dogs and holding sponsored goal shoots are just two of the fund raising activities suggested by the juniors. The infant and nursery children are to take part in a sponsored non-stop fifteen-minute exercise routine.

With such commitment to the victims of this tragic event, Martin Schools will be adding to their established reputation for charitable works in the community.

## SHORT STORY

# The time machine

By Len Willcocks

Simon would buy any curiosities – however strange. He resold them all, and was doing very well, thank you.

One afternoon a man walked into his shop, carrying a long metallic cylinder. "Would you buy this from me?" he looked at Simon with piercing eyes, which seemed to see into his very soul. "Believe me, you will have fun with this. Where I come from it is used a lot, but be careful how you handle it."

"A nut case," Simon thought. But he was coming under the spell of those eyes. Just to get the fellow to go, he gave him £30.

Winter darkness having arrived, he shut up shop and sat down with a whisky. The cylinder was heavy. What a strange thing..... He ran his hand along its casing, heard a click, and a panel flew open.

It was larger inside than out, containing a bucket seat

with straps, with dials and gauges in front of it. Throwing caution to the wind, he climbed in and sat down. Another click, and the panel shut. He was trapped inside.

Then he saw a window, a control stick, and numbers on a screen – 2004. When, panic-stricken, he touched the control, the numbers changed to 1780.

He had the nightmare feeling of falling – like a lift out of control. When it stopped, he was on a common. A man on horseback galloped by, chased by military men with muskets. East Finchley in the 18<sup>th</sup> century!

He changed the control to 2030. This time there were two roads outside, raised on pillars. Streamlined vehicles flew over traffic hold-ups,

while above them people flew small machines with wings strapped to their backs.

He was carried along a moving sidewalk – past a television shop where characters seemed to come out of the screens as if in real life, past people talking on phones showing faces. Past a rack of *ARCHER* newspapers, headlined "East Finchley welcomes Mars explorers".

He had had enough. He went back to 2004. Next morning there was no cylinder in the shop – but burn marks on the floor where it had rested.

His first customer was the man with piercing eyes. "I want to have a look round," he said.

Simon fainted. He was out of this world.

# YOUNG ARCHER

## Storms

Last month many parts of the country were battered by terrible storms. Ten-year-old Alice Donnachie, of Hertford Road, East Finchley, has written this poem about a storm.

## Stormy Night

Clap of thunder  
Like a gunshot,  
Fills the air  
And my ears.

The howling wind  
Whips up the  
Dead leaves  
And litter,  
That is scattered across  
The cracked paving stones,  
Are suddenly illuminated by  
A flash of lightning  
Before being plunged  
Back into the darkness.

The very few people  
That are still out there  
Turn up their collars,  
Pull their hats  
Snugly over their ears,  
And hurry on  
Still battling against  
The ferocious whistling wind.

I draw the curtains  
And clamber back into bed  
As the pounding of the rain  
On the roof  
Lulls me into a deep, dreamless sleep.

## Clever Clogs Corner

Do you know why people say, "It's raining cats and dogs"? Apparently, in northern mythology there was a belief that the cat had a great influence on the weather. The dog was a signal of the wind and, like the wolf, was an attendant of the storm god Odin. So the cat can be taken as a symbol of the pouring rain and the dog of the strong wind which can come with a rainstorm.

## Ha ha!

**Pat (coming in from school):** It's raining cats and dogs out there.

**Mum:** *Why do you say that?*

**Pat:** I've just stepped in a poodle.

## East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

**Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm**

For more information  
please contact the Church Office  
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

**Visitors always welcome**

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Durham Road, East Finchley  
Church of England**

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



## Four days' work nets £4,000

By Ann Bronkhorst

**A remarkable feat of fundraising took place on Sunday 9 January when 450 people raised over £4,000 for tsunami survivors.**

Shree Aden, the Hindu community group based in Church Lane, regularly raises funds for orphans, the elderly and specific local charities. But it was felt that the earthquake and tsunami survivors needed urgent help: something special had to be done.

So, in just four days, using telephone trees and personal visits, all the members of this close community were contacted. An afternoon

of entertainment including live music was arranged for 450 guests. Suppliers and restaurants donated the food and soft drinks while Compton School generously provided the venue free of charge.

Suresh Depala, one of the community's governors, said how proud he was of the young members who achieved so much in such a short time. He expects the money raised to go to UNICEF or to the Red Cross.

## Successful tools appeal by local resident

Fortis Green resident and President of The Finchley Society, Bill Tyler, has started an appeal for hand tools – things like saws, hammers, gimlets, nails – anything that can be used to help people hit by the earthquake or tsunami to rebuild their houses, community buildings, schools, fishing boats etc.

He claims that our sheds, and toolboxes must have still-useable but long-unused hand tools as well as packets of nails, screws and bolts with nuts etc., and has asked us to look them out for him. And he has been proved right! The response

has been overwhelming: he is receiving items ranging from the extremely useful right down to the downright unserviceable.

Distribution initially to Sri Lanka will be through the Mayday group working with the High Commissioner.

## Look back in hunger

By Diana Cormack

**This year there will be many events commemorating the end of World War Two. To some they will bring memories of personal experiences, to others they will be just another piece of history. Looking back over sixty years to those days of austerity and rationing may provide a very bleak picture. But, despite the physical and emotional stresses people had to endure, it seems that the health of the nation was generally good in the war years and part of the reason for this is put down to their enforced diet.**

Today the word *diet* immediately brings to mind a self-imposed healthy eating and exercise regime in order to lose weight. The food available then had the benefits of high fibre content and low cholesterol, properties which are much valued nowadays. By necessity, it was mostly home-grown and those who prepared it were given plenty of advice on what to do on the 'kitchen front'. The Ministry of Food, newspapers, magazines and the BBC produced hints, recommendations and suggestions aimed at keeping people fighting fit.

Throughout 2005 *THE ARCHER* hopes to publish war-time recipes for readers to try. The first one uses potatoes, which the Radio Doctor said were best unpeeled and should be eaten every day for their Vitamin C content (in place of bread, which used imported wheat).

### Potato Jane (serves 4)

#### Ingredients

- \* 1½ lb/ 700g sliced potatoes
- \* ½ leek, chopped
- \* 2 oz/50g breadcrumbs
- \* 3 oz/ 75g grated cheese
- \* Salt and pepper
- \* ½ - ¾ pint/ 300-450ml milk

#### Method

- 1 Put a layer of sliced potatoes in an oven-proof dish.
- 2 Sprinkle over some of the cheese, crumbs, leek and seasoning.
- 3 Continue with alternate layers, ending with a layer of cheese and crumbs.
- 4 Pour over the milk and bake in a moderate oven (Gas Mark 4, 350 F, 180 C) for 45 minutes.
- 5 Serve with a raw vegetable salad.

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**CONTACT David Moldon 8361 1696**



Sharon, and her daughters Claire and Katherine.

## Heart-felt tsunami experience

By Kathryn Salomon

**Sharon Harrington, a Teaching Assistant at Martin Junior School for eleven years, planned a dream holiday in Sri Lanka for herself, her daughters Claire, 21 and Katherine, 18. Katherine had been working for three months on an I-to-I charity project in a shanty town near Colombo. While Sharon worked really hard to pay for this trip of a lifetime, Katherine, in Sri Lanka, planned a fabulous itinerary of sightseeing and sunbathing. Their trip started on 18 December, with a tour of the places where ordinary people lived and they were struck by the lack of materialism amidst the deep poverty.**

The fact that the most luxurious hotel on the beach was fully booked probably saved their lives. They stayed in another hotel just up the road behind. On Boxing Day morning, while the girls were having a lie in, Sharon suddenly heard a terrible noise that proved to be the tsunami which had broken through the hotel on the beach, two walls on the road and a restaurant and was coming up the street. Tourists and locals ran up the road towards their hotel and their second floor room became a haven and a first aid station for many injured people who had deep wounds. Sharon and her daughters ripped up sheets to use as bandages and gave some of their clothing to those who needed it.

Eventually, after a series of flights and adventures the family was removed from the disaster zone by the charity I-to-I and relocated well away from danger.

Sharon repeatedly stressed how wonderful the local people had been. Instead of fleeing and looking after themselves they were so caring and helpful to the foreigners. These people



White ribbons are hung up as a sign of mourning.  
Photo by Sharon Harrington.

had so little to start with and then had to cope with a major disaster, but there was no looting and no profiteering from the tourists in their midst and they shared whatever they had with the foreigners. Sharon is burdened by a deep sense of guilt about leaving these lovely, gentle people and coming back to England, even though she knows she was of little help to them and probably a burden on strained resources. She is determined to go back

next summer and help Father Catalano, the priest her daughter had been working with on his Shanthi Community Animation Movement and is currently fund raising to help the people she has come to love.

*I-to-I is a charity that provides travel and work experiences to people of all ages, from all backgrounds.*

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## Regular Events

### Sport & Fitness

❖ **Counselling & psychotherapy** at the Green Man Centre. Call 8440 4174

❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 020 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. 020 8883 5269

❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee Wisbey 020 8883 7029

❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, EF. Ring Penny Hill 020 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.

❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217

❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 020 8444 7783.

### Dance, Drama, Art & Music

❖ **Adult Line Dancing.** Call Footloose 020 8440 8530/ 8216 5633.

❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.

❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378

❖ **Broadway & West End Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.

❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call Vicky 020 8883 1554

❖ **Columbian party dancing** classes, Call Nelsy 020 8444 2012

❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.

❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Monday 7 & 21 February at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.

❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736

❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315

❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 020 8883 4070 for info.

❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976203669.

❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 020 8340 2706

❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 020-8349-4613

### Clubs & Social

❖ **Bingo**, Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916

❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm

❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Sophie Spence 020 8444 1890

❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at Clissold Arms. Contact Lillian on 020 8444 1793.

❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people, Rene & Reuby Hyams, 020 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee 8958 7878

❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251

❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613

❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society**, informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 020 83611696.

❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495

❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.

❖ **Muswell Hill Synagogue**, Tetherdown, 020 8883 5925

❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, 020 8883 4390

❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, 020 8349 4613/1961

❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276

❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.



Elvis Navarone-Rivers in Action. Photo by Femke van Iperen

## Elvis Show at Maddens

By Betti Blatman

**On 29 December, after the football crowd at Maddens pub finished watching Arsenal beat Newcastle on screen, they were entertained by Elvis Navarone-Rivers in the "Elvis Show", featuring a selection of Elvis Presley's songs.**

He wore a white, jewel-encrusted jumpsuit but did not attempt the well known physical movements normally associated with Elvis performances. A local resident at Fairacres, Barry, enthusiastically played his tambourine throughout

the entire performance which ended at 3am.

*Although there are lots of Elvis impersonators, there was only one Elvis. Had he not died 27 years ago at the age of 43, he would have been 70 on 8 January 2005.*

## Book Group

By Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

**Book groups are catching on all over the country. In January I was lucky enough to be invited along to an East Finchley book group to discuss their latest book and have a nice cup of tea.**

Encouraged by public schemes such as the Richard and Judy book group, and the BBC's *Big Read* programme last year, book groups are becoming popular. They keep people reading regularly, and usually reading a wider variety of literature than they would have chosen on their own.

The group I attended were discussing the book *Property* by Valerie Martin – winner of the 2003 Orange Book Prize. *Property* is a bravely unromantic account of slave ownership in the southern States of America before the civil war. One of the huge draws of book groups is the chance to talk about the book you have just read with other people who have also just read it, and the issues the book raises were the subject of much discussion.

This book group was begun around June 2003, when

Rebecca, its founding member, phoned up a few people and they brought a few people "and we've been going for over a year". They meet roughly every month. The group is all-female, but members insist it's by default. "The men didn't pass the shortlisting process" one member laughed, "but our partners are always trying to tell us which books we should read."

The group has read sixteen books, and members take turns in selecting what the group will read next. Past choices include *Star of the Sea* by Joseph O'Connor, *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon. Members say they haven't had a 'bad' book yet. "No book's been appalling," one member summed up, "but some have been very difficult."

## FILMS & CINEMA

### Barbara Bus supporters at the Phoenix

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Film fans will soon be able to see a special screening of *The Goodbye Girl*, and at the same time help to provide mobility for people who cannot use conventional transport. The Phoenix is showing the 1977 Oscar and Bafta winning film (PG certificate) with light refreshments on Sunday 20 March. Proceeds will go to the Barbara Bus Fund, which provides vehicles and volunteer drivers for the disabled.**

The show was one of the bright ideas of East Finchley's Sippy Azizollah, who raised over £4,000 for Lupus UK last year. Sippy, a regular Barbara Bus passenger, chose her all-time favourite film. "Everything is in it," she says. "It's a feel-good film. I've seen it about 15 times, but whenever I put it on again, it always cheers me up."

The Fund owns a selection of specially converted vehicles, which can accommodate from one to three wheelchairs, plus able-bodied passengers. Drivers are friends, relatives, carers, or registered volunteers, and the hundreds of annual journeys range from a few hours to

holidays abroad and tourist trips round the UK. Julia Pryor, Co-ordinator of the Barbara Bus Fund, will introduce the event. She told *THE ARCHER* that Sippy's scheme has come at an excellent time, as one of the vehicles needs to be replaced this year.

*Phoenix staff say that anyone can book a requested event. The cinema hosts charity film screenings, children's birthday parties (a film and a picnic), and photo shoots, on mornings throughout the year. Ring the box office on 020 8444 6789 for details.*

*To book tickets for *The Goodbye Girl*, call Julia Pryor at the Barbara Bus office on 020 8416 0733.*

## THEATRE REVIEW

### Hot Mikado

By Betti Blatman

**On Monday, 27 December last year, it was a full house at Upstairs at The Gatehouse, (the small theatre above the Gatehouse Pub in Highgate) and the audience were treated to a brilliant performance of *Hot Mikado* based on *The Mikado* by W. S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan, but a sizzling fusion of jazz, swing and soul directed by John Plews.**

The choreography, music and singing were performed with such enthusiasm that it was quite evident the cast were enjoying themselves as much as the audience who showed their appreciation by several encores. The costumes, lighting, music and stage sets reflected the attention to detail

in a wonderful and faultless production. John Plews, Director, was inundated with compliments on the show.

As a result of public demand it played for one final special performance on January 29. *Hot Mikado* was a sell-out last year too: can we expect another run next Christmas?

## What's On...

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

Sunday 20 February - **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Snowdrop Outing to West Wycombe Park**, Bucks. Price £14 (not including pub lunch). For booking form, call 020 8455 0455.

Thursday 24 February at 2.30pm, "**Will societies like ours survive?**" – A talk for **The Finchley Society** by John Hajdu in the Drawing Room at Avenue House, 17 East End Road N3 (020 8346 7812). Non-Society members welcome and entry is free.

Thursday 24 February 7pm for 7.30pm, **The Rotary Club of Finchley** is holding an evening of **Jazz, Ploughman's and Profiteroles** featuring '**Just the Job**' Jazz Band, at Holy Trinity School, Eagans Close, to raise funds for the local M.S. Ambulance. Price £15 including Ploughman's and Profiteroles – bar available. Tickets available from Andrew Galatopoulos Tel 020 8346 8634.

Saturday, 26 February, from 8pm - 12pm, **Swamp Rock** presents at Wilf Slack Sports Club, 19 East End Road, N3, **Louisiana-style dance party** with live bands featuring Z-Funk, red hot Zydeco. Further info from Carole Lateman 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth 01727 830280 or www.swamprock.org.uk

Saturday, 12 March from 8pm - 12pm, **Swamp Rock** presents at Wilf Slack Sports Club 19 East End Road N3 **New Orleans Mardi Gras Party** with **The Cadillac Kings**, listed by The Times in Best New Albums of 2004 for 'Highway 17'.

**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

**Elvis has left the building**

Back in long-forgotten times when rock'n'roll had not been invented, some 'poor white trash' called Elvis Aaron Presley shambled into Sam Phillips' Sun Studios down in Memphis. When Phillips heard him sing he knew that he'd found what he was looking for, a white boy who sounded black. In segregated America that was something to shout about because this white boy could cross the colour line. That was in January 1954. By July he'd been hooked up with Scotty Moore and Bill Black and made his first record, Arthur 'Big Boy' Crudup's *That's All Right* and rock'n'roll was born.

Within a year he was causing riots, within two years his contract had been bought out by RCA, he'd got Colonel Tom Parker managing him and he'd become the most dangerous man in rock'n'roll. The hits came and kept on coming. Between then and March 1958 Elvis was the king. The records defined not just rock'n'roll but also a generation. From *Heartbreak Hotel* via *Blue Suede Shoes* to *Jailhouse Rock*, the snake hipped, leather jacketed kid from the wrong side of the tracks changed music.

**Viva Las Vegas**

Then it ended. On 24 March 1958 Elvis left the building and joined the army. After that he was never the same. When he came out it was not back to rock'n'roll, it was back to Hollywood. Of my ten worst films of all time at least six are Elvis movies from the 60s. This was not rock'n'roll, this was so bad it made Cliff Richard, Britain's cut-price version of Elvis seem classy.

And then, when he did return to live gigs it was in sequins. The king of rock'n'roll sang in a casino, in a white jump suit. He was fat, bloated and pointless. He died on 16 August 1977, just 30 days before Marc Bolan wrapped a mini round a tree – guess which death affected me most.

Now we have the strange world of the Elvis impersonator. Some fat bloke from Bolton done up like a chicken in tin foil grinding out the worst of the Las Vegas years when what we should have is the snake-hipped and dangerous Elvis of *Jailhouse Rock*. Like I said, Elvis left the building when he joined the army and nothing will change that; not even the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

**Watercress beds**

Dear Editor

I have read with great interest the articles by Tony Roberts on your website on the history of East Finchley. I was born in 1955, moved to Hertford Road in 1957, and left in 1979 to live with my new wife in Finchley Central. I moved to Barnet in 1982 and Arkley in 1994, where I still reside.

I remember the Black Bess café and tea-rooms, the Merry Miller bakery (Clark's), and the dairy where McDonalds is now. I went to Holy Trinity and Alder schools, and we held our junior carol services in the old Congregational Hall.

My parents still live in Hertford Road, but have moved near the end, further away from the High Road. Our Sunday school teacher at All Saints in Durham Road lived at the bottom of Hertford Road on the south side – i.e. the odd numbers, diagonally opposite my parents' house.

She would have been 100 now, and she told us that my parents' house, which was built during World War One, stood where watercress beds were, and that she remembered them. I know the stream that runs through Coldfall Woods

**Letters to The Editor**

passes under those houses. Have you any information on this, please? Or on any of the other landmarks?

Regards,  
Mark Littlefield.

Ann Bronkhorst adds:

**Paddling for watercress references in local archives and maps has produced a few small bunches of information.**

Where the statue of La Deliverance now stands, in the Regents Park Road area, there were watercress beds in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, recalled by local people in brief anecdotes. It seems a Mr Ginger owned the beds – or behaved as if he did. H.G. Gregory remembered [date unknown] "the adept manner in which he walked the plank across the beds to pick our cress at a penny a bunch." And two girls in the 1880s, whose parents had charge of watercress beds at Finchley, probably the same ones, were taken out of St. John's school, Whetstone, every summer term when the entire family moved to live at Church End for the watercress season.

Nearer home, two 1894 Ordnance Survey maps for Muswell Hill and East Finchley reveal large watercress beds on the north side of Mutton Brook in Dirthouse Wood, later renamed Cherry Tree Wood. Equivalent maps for 1911 show no sign of them. Presumably the land was drained – though people today walking across the grass after heavy rain might dispute this – and one more local food source disappeared.

**Devastated**

Dear Editor

I am devastated by the Asian earthquake disaster. I cannot imagine how those beautiful countries have changed since I was last there. I spent the last two winters in India, mostly in Madras and the East Coast where I drew and painted the colourful landscapes and people. From there I travelled to Kerala with my paints, making friends and filling sketchbooks. In former years I wintered in Indonesia and Thailand, and it is tragic to think that the villages I stayed in, and the people who were so friendly, have vanished or are experiencing the absolute horror of the aftermath.

My travels have culminated in a wealth of watercolours and oils. I want to give something back to those countries that gave me such pleasure, and the only way I can see is to offer up my paintings for sale.

**Fund-raising sale**

I am exhibiting this work in my studio and invite visitors to purchase at very reasonable prices, paintings and prints.

ALL sales go to relief funds, cheques made payable to the charity of your choice.

Those interested can phone me on 020 8346 7011.

Mari l'Anson  
The Grove, N3

Mari l'Anson lived in Leslie Road for many years. Recently her paintings have been exhibited at Chorak and The Phoenix cinema.

**Split ends**

Dear Editor,

In the January 2005 edition of *THE ARCHER*, in the Advertising Feature "Treat Yourself for 2005", the article mentioned "We specialise in organic colouring which is extremely good for the hair as there is no peroxide and no ammonia" When I contacted Isabel Douglas Health & Beauty Centre, I was informed that "there is a low amount of peroxide used" which is inconsistent information.

Yours faithfully

Name and address withheld

Isabel Douglas replies "I use Permanent Hair Color by Color Herbe for Hair, who guarantee that it contains no peroxide and no ammonia. If the person concerned wishes to contact me directly, I can arrange a free consultation."

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

**OBITUARY****Norman Burgess, 1922 -2004**

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Norman Burgess was the former Chair, archivist and publicist of The Finchley Society; supporter of Avenue House, the Stephens Collection and College Farm; founder-member of the Octavia Hill Trust and Barnet Cyclists; backstage man and actor with the Finchley Methodist Church Guild Players; Liberal Councillor and Chair of the Education Committee for Finchley in the early 1960s; stalwart member of the Old Fincunians; former Superintendent of East Finchley Methodist Sunday School; teacher at Manorside, Deputy Head of Frith Manor, and Headmaster of Wessex Gardens School.

He also made his mark outside Finchley, being a steward at the Albert Hall, and working on the donations desk of the Globe Theatre until a month before he died.

**Inspiration and energy**

Even on a first meeting you were aware of his tremendous energy, determination, and insistence on having every detail correct.

He didn't believe in the kid glove approach (though private conversation revealed a reflective side), and didn't



Norman and Betty Burgess at the Bothy, Avenue House, 2004.

mind becoming a hands-on campaigner either. In the last year of his life he helped clean Finchley County School's unique war memorial for its commemorative photo. He and his fellow Old Fincunians lost their battle to preserve it, but did persuade Barratts to install another memorial outside their new development.

The Stephens collection, the museum in Avenue House to the ink magnate, is flourishing. In fact, the BBC plans to present a radio play about Stephens later this year.

Norman also inspired the Finchley Society Archives in Avenue House, which hold a great store of local history, and his fund of knowledge was appreciated by Barnet Cyclists when he led their local history rides. They remember him too

at evening events "in his red silk waistcoat and musical tie, spreading good cheer and joie de vivre".

**Tireless campaigner**

Born in East End Road, he attended Holy Trinity primary school before winning a scholarship to Finchley County, and, rejected for military service, he spent World War 2 touring the country for Simms, the East Finchley factory, talking on tank construction.

Norman's funeral eulogy included a quote from the Guild Players that "when Norman built a set, it stayed built". Perhaps this sums up his fight to preserve the things he valued, particularly in Finchley.

Our sympathies go to Betty Burgess, their three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

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## The milk of human kindness

By Diana Cormack



Sara and a throng of volunteers are joined by Rudi Vis on Saturday 22 January. Photo by Erini Rodis

Local mother of two Sara Sibley was so moved by a TV programme about the plight of babies involved in the tsunami disaster that she determined to do something to help. Sara, who works as a nanny and has lived in East Finchley all her life, set about organising a collection of baby formula milk powder, new baby bottles and beakers by contacting her friends and anyone else she felt could help.

Word spread rapidly, helped by sticking up posters and leafletting schools and businesses. Sara was also interviewed on the nationwide commercial Radio Aid campaign and London Greek Radio, as well as featuring in newspaper articles. Barnet Council assisted by putting up directions to the Green Man Community Centre at Strawberry Vale for the collection on Saturday 22 January, attended by MP Rudi Vis.

The response was terrific. "It was way over what I expected," Sara told *THE ARCHER*. "It's been amazing!" So much was donated that the van sent to transport it to Chiswick Temple had to be changed for a much bigger one. Because their original donation of

boxes to pack the goods in proved to be too few, The Big Yellow Box Company pledged to provide as many as were needed. Similar stories of generosity surfaced throughout the day, such as the family who gave seventy seven tins of milk and seventy seven baby bottles in memory of their father who had just passed away at the age of seventy seven. Or the lady who bought £1000 worth of powdered milk with money she had collected from family and friends. Tesco exchanged any boxed liquid milk that was given for tins of the powdered variety and manufacturers Avent donated four hundred of their baby bottles. Shan, of Budgen's in the High Road, wrote labels for the tins in Singhalese.

Sara, a committed Christian, was delighted with the multi-faith involvement in the event. "It further illustrates the power of the human spirit," said Tarun Patel of Neasden Temple. "The local community can be justly proud."

And the local community can be justly proud of Sara.



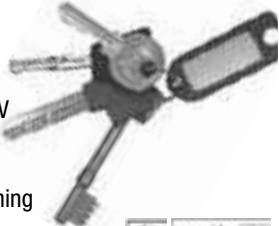
Sara helps the children pack the milk. Photo by Erini Rodis

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