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# THE ARCHER



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

## Heath funding crisis

By Ann Bronkhorst

Hampstead Heath, London's largest open space, is under threat from the Corporation of London, the country's oldest local authority. In response to a budget crisis, the Corporation's Heath Management Committee is considering making cuts and closures.

### Safe hands

When the Corporation took over responsibility for the Heath, in 1989 many people welcomed its management skills and vast resources, and thought the Heath would be in safe hands. Some worried, however, about the lack of democratic accountability if disputes arose. And last November a dispute did arise: cost-cutting plans, claimed to be essential by Heath managers, led to heated debates at

packed meetings and in the local press.

### Financial crisis

For two successive years the Heath's budget has been exceeded. Money from the Open Spaces Directorate, which manages the Corporation's seven open spaces, has bailed out earlier shortfalls. To avert an estimated overspend of £330,000 for 2005-6, cost cutting seems inevitable. Measures proposed include cancellation of concerts in



The Heath - looking towards Finchley. Photo by Tony Roberts

Golders Hill Park and closure of the Information Centre at the Lido as well as reductions in garden and conservation staff. The most controversial plans, however, affect the bathing ponds.

### "Unsustainable drain"

Proposals to limit swimming facilities and, in particular, to close the mixed swimming pond have outraged amenity and residents' groups as well as individual users. Catherine McGuinness, chair of the Management Committee, explains

that the ponds are the Heath's "most expensive recreational facility" and "an unsustainable drain" on the budget.

### Costly policing

Opponents of the proposed cuts have also questioned the high costs of policing the Heath. Half a million pounds are spent annually on the Heath Constabulary, the only private police force in London. Its future has not been discussed with the Metropolitan Police, the Greater London Authority or neighbouring local authorities.

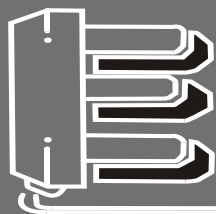
### Decision time

MP Frank Dobson has said, "This is far from being exclusively a Camden issue - it affects many other parts of London." East Finchley users of the Heath may agree. Cost-cutting decisions will be made on 24 January. Information is available on [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk) or write to The Corporation of London, Guildhall, EC2P 2EJ. Objections or support can be sent to [david.milnes@corpoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:david.milnes@corpoflondon.gov.uk) or to [saveourswimming@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saveourswimming@yahoo.co.uk).

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Despite the proposed sale of council-owned Park House, locals are none the wiser as to what might be developed on the site opposite East Finchley tube station.

At the end of November, Barnet's Cabinet and Resources Committee unanimously accepted the highest

unconditional bid from a total of 36, of which 24 were 'conditional' (subject to the grant of planning permission) and 12 'unconditional'. Sherm Properties Limited's offer of nearly £3million was unconditional and leaves them with the responsibility of seeking planning permission. It is only when they do this that

their plans will be subjected to public scrutiny.

### Temporary extension for Institute?

Any new owners will also have to deal with the current lease, held by The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. Having spent many thousands of pounds making the building suitable for their use, the Institute took up residence last summer as an interim measure until their proposed new premises on the former Neurological Hospital site have been built. So the Institute is hoping to come to some arrangement that will enable them to remain in Park House until their new home is ready some time in 2006.

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

### 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 January is the copy deadline for the February 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 020 8446 6935  
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

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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555  
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. 0845 7711 7711

### 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  
Western Eye Hosp. 020 7886 6666

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### Immigration Advice.

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### Legal Advice.

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### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

### 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

## Licence for Bald Faced Stag

Last September the Bald Faced Stag was granted an extension to its public entertainment licence for a period of six months. The extension allows it to remain open until midnight on Thursday and Friday, and until 11.30pm on Saturday.

There should be no more than 200 people in the licensed area, and no member of the public should be admitted or re-admitted after 10.30pm on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. The pool room must not be used between 11.30pm and 9.30am. Public music and dancing is not allowed out-

side the building, and all doors and windows must be kept closed.

There were also recommendations for improved air quality and toilet facilities, and the Bald Faced Stag applicants have been asked to liaise regularly with neighbouring residents.

## Resident falls foul of yellow line

By John Dearing

According to a recent report by the RAC Foundation, a third of people would move home rather than give up their parking space, and 17% of people find it hard to park outside their home at all. This is a familiar problem for many residents of East Finchley, exacerbated, some say, by the CPZ.

Andreas Gavrielides lives in Leicester Road, and has a resident's parking permit, but one night last June he was unable to park in a designated bay, and parked on a yellow line. The following day, according to the Barnet Council Parking Team, a Penalty Charge Notice was issued, although Andreas Gavrielides says he did not ever see one affixed to his car. When he received the follow up notice he decided to appeal, but this was turned down in October, and he was obliged to pay the penalty charge. Subsequently, he received a notice informing him that as he had not paid within 28 days of the offence, the charge was raised by 50%, and failure to pay would lead to dire consequences! An exchange of communications followed, and eventually they conceded that he should only

pay the original charge, but at the time of writing this had not been confirmed.

Mr. Gavrielides still feels that he should not have been issued with a penalty at all, as, he claims, the reason for the yellow line is no longer valid. The line runs across a curb drop, which allowed vehicular access to the front of the adjacent property for a former owner that moved away 15 years ago, and the front has been fenced off. However, while the Council concedes that the yellow line should be removed, they have stated that a parking bay will not be installed until the CPZ is reviewed, and there are no plans for this to take place.

In the meantime, residential development proceeds apace in East Finchley, generally without adequate provision for off-street parking, which can only make the problem worse.

## More cameras, higher fines

By Ann Bronkhorst

In November 2004 the fine for parking on a red route nearly doubled, rising from £60 to £100, as some Christmas shoppers found to their cost. The North Circular, A1 and A41 are among the roads affected. All are main arteries for London and so are controlled by Transport for London.

Next month TfL will add 50 extra cameras to the 225 presently covering London's red routes. Already, traffic wardens can impose fines for traffic offences revealed by these cameras.

A TfL scheme is also being piloted in six London boroughs (Camden is one but not Barnet or Haringey) to test the effectiveness of local authorities fining motorists on non-red routes for a range of traffic offences. The Association of London Government will make a final assessment, probably by April this year. Barnet's decision about administering their own fines for moving-vehicle offences will not be taken until then.

## Ladbroke's manager

THE ARCHER was sorry to learn of the death of the local Ladbroke's manager. As mentioned in our last edition, Brian was dealing with applications for financial assistance from registered charities. Local applicants should still contact Ladbroke's, 99 High Road, which has a community charitable trust.

## Local Planning Applications

### 110 High Road N2

Change of use from retail (Class A1) to betting office (Class A2)

### 385-401 High Road N2

Installation of various internal fascia signage and non-illuminated bay signage

### 35 Park Hall Road N2

Single storey rear extension to kitchen. Installation of new folding sliding doors to proposed lounge. Installation of new French doors to proposed office.

### 18 Fairlawn Avenue N2

Formation of single storey rear extension to accommodate conservatory

### 40 Fortis Green N2

First floor rear extension

### 59 Leopold Road N2

Alteration to roof, including side and rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion

### 245 Creighton Avenue N2

First floor side and rear extension, incorporating "inverted dormer" to side elevation, and formation of first floor terrace to rear. Rear dormer window

### Vale Farm, Long Lane, N2

Submission of details of site investigation, pursuant to Condition 11 of planning permission C01784AS/04

### 25 Howard Walk N2

Erection of single storey rear extension. Addition of side and rear conservation rooflights to facilitate a loft conversion. Enlargement of ground floor side window and insertion of additional ground floor side window.

### The Bungalow, Cherry Tree Wood, Fordington Road, N6

Infill from extension. Ground floor rear extension. Creation of new entrance to property. Installation of additional side entrance gate and brick piers.

### 9 Fortis Green N2

Change of use from Class A1 (retail) to Class A3 (food and drink)

### 102 Huntingdon Road N2

Continued use as two flats





## Zone 3 loses out

By Tony Roberts

With the latest fare increases, Transport for London is continuing the phasing out of zone 3 tube fares. There has never been a one-day off-peak travel card for zone 3. Now the single fare into town for zones 3 or 4 is combined at £2.80.

The situation for the new 3-day off-peak card, which replaces the weekend off-peak card, is even starker – the old card (for two days) was £7.00 whereas the new card (for three days) will be a staggering £18. The reason is that you must buy all zones.

One can be forgiven for questioning the Mayor's description of the fares rise as being slightly above inflation, as the following table shows for those travelling into town from East Finchley. The percentage increase figures are rounded down!

	Single	Prepay single	Prepay off-peak	Day card off-peak	W/E or 3 day	7 day
2004	2.50	2.30	1.80	4.70	7.00	23.80
2005	2.80	2.50	2.00	5.20	18.00	25.00
%inc.	12	8.7	11	10.6	157	5

## Barnet's schools top of the class

**Barnet's primary schools scored fourth best in England in English, maths and science, the Key Stage Two tests taken by 11 year-olds in May 2004.**

The Independent Jewish Day School and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Junior School, both in Hendon, and St Paul's C of E Primary School in Mill Hill each scored a perfect aggregate of 300, which was a 100% pass rate in each subject.

The average aggregate score in Barnet was 255 (an improvement from the 2003 score of 248), while the average in England was 237.

The DES tables also showed Barnet as the sixth best authority in the country for improving pupils' performance from Key Stage One to Key Stage Two.

Cllr John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, praised Barnet's children and teachers for their excellent achievement, adding, "We are not complacent, and will still be working hard to improve our score again next year."

## So long samosas

After almost 30 years of tantalising the taste buds, the Mahavir Sweet Mart at 127 High Road has closed down. Customers will be aware that, despite its name, the shop was as celebrated for its savoury as it was for its sweet products.

Anyone with a sweet tooth would be well satisfied with the rich, fudgy assortment on offer. A variety of colour and flavouring made the sweets look as good as they tasted. The Indian snacks sold at Mahavir had a wide reputation and some members of *THE ARCHER* team

salivated when describing the exceptional samosas, the flavour of their home made potato chips and the various curry dishes on offer.

Sadly, this local store with a difference has gone, but the quality of its goods will long be remembered.

## Recycle your Christmas waste

With the twelve days of Christmas now behind us it is reassuring to know we can help to "do our bit" by recycling that Christmas rubbish.

Christmas cards can be recycled at local libraries as of 5 January. The council is also supporting the national Woodland Trust Christmas card recycling scheme, which is supplying special recycling bins at all branches of Tesco and WH Smith. Last year, Barnet residents helped to recycle over 14 tonnes of cards in the North London area, and nationally the amount of cards collected helped the Trust save more than 15,000 trees.

Those who feel creative can

turn their old Christmas cards into next year's gift tags.

Real Christmas trees can also be recycled. Households that receive the garden waste collection service can leave their tree by the side of their green, wheeled bin for collection. Trees can also be taken to Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12 between 6 and 17 January.

For detailed information on the various recycling options available call the recycling hotline on 020 8359 7400 or visit [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

## Better luck this year

By Daphne Chamberlain

Customers of Michael Soper, East Finchley's *Big Issue* seller, will be hoping this year will bring him better luck. Last year, a gang of young boys robbed him of 10 years' savings, but Michael is staying positive. "It's gone, and nothing can be done about it," he says. "People have worse things happening to them – though, mind you, that wasn't what I felt at the time!"

The theft happened in Kentish Town. After he had picked up his consignment of papers, he was on his way to transfer his savings to a higher interest account. The money was in a bag around his neck, but when he removed the bag for a few seconds the boys grabbed it.

### A brave man

"They were about 10 years old, on bikes. I chased them, and so did a couple of other men, but they got away, and they've never been caught. I've just got to build things up again, but that's life. Money can be replaced, but life can't, and I've been in worse situations. At least I didn't have a knife to my throat."

Life as a street-seller can be tough. Even in East Finchley, Michael has had three bikes stolen, but one of his regulars describes him as "a brave man, who continues selling despite all the setbacks. We wish him well." So does *THE ARCHER*.



Thumbs up for a good New Year from *Big Issue* seller Michael Soper. Photo by John Dearing

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Michael Solomons leaving Finchley Supermarket, East End Road.  
Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

## Getting beyond the door

By Daphne Chamberlain

**"It makes me so mad not to get into a place."** The words of Michael Solomons, a local wheelchair user. Many people assume that, from last October, the Disability Discrimination Act legally enforces public places to provide access for all. In fact, its requirement is for "reasonable provision". How far is East Finchley doing this?

A permanent ramp is what a Barnet Council officer considers the best option. Expense apart, though, on some sites, particularly where the High Road slopes down to the station and the pavement narrows, that may not be possible and several shops report that the Council has vetoed the idea.

The Highways Dept (Street Enforcement Section) has the final say about anything that intrudes on the pavement. The Planning Department, though, should be the first people contacted. They must advise the shop of its responsibility, and will discuss the best course of action with them. After that, responsibility is with the shop.

### Permanent or portable

Quite a few have mobile ramps. The most basic must

be the board that the Finchley Supermarket, 123 East End Road, has been bringing out for 10 years. (The owners also deliver to disabled people in East End Road.) Michael Solomons uses this, but the step is shallow and Michael's wheelchair is light.

Tu Destino have made a more sophisticated portable ramp which withstands Sippy Azizollah's very heavy chair.

The Centre for Accessible Environment, though, stresses the importance of selecting the right mobiles and training staff to operate them, as well as getting insurance, as the occasional nasty accident has occurred elsewhere.

### Don't leave us to wonder

Some shops consider their most reasonable provision is

to serve customers at the door. Animal Aid does this, and also displays a large notice welcoming disabled customers and explaining how they will be served.

Information like this is important if a disabled person is not to be left wondering. Most told us they would prefer ringing a bell to attract attention, rather than having to tap on the window, and the leading mobile ramp supplier provides accessory kits with bells and signs.

*Access in Barnet* is a group of disabled people who work closely with the Council. Anne Davies, their Chair, says, "People should do their best. Remember that not all disabled people are in wheelchairs, and think of the inside of a building too. Be positive for 2005."

## Accessibility for disabled people

### Useful contacts concerning disabled access

**Barnet planning department** – Barnet House, 1255 High Road N20 0EJ; 020 8359 3000.

**Access in Barnet** – 954 High Road N12 9RX; 020 8446 6935; textphone 020 8343 7632; [www.dabb.org.uk](http://www.dabb.org.uk); [disability@dabb.org.uk](mailto:disability@dabb.org.uk).

**Centre for Accessible Environment** – 020 7840 0125; [www.cae.org.uk](http://www.cae.org.uk).

**Portaramp** (portable ramp supplier, recommended by CAE) – 0871 200 2225; [www.portaramp.co.uk](http://www.portaramp.co.uk).

**Disabled Living Foundation** – 020 7289 6111.

## Disabled Access to Muswell Hill Odeon

Muswell Hill Odeon has a portable ramp for entry to the cinema. There is no lift inside, but films are often rotated between upper and lower screens. (They say they also offer a hearing service.) There is also a toilet suitable for people with disabilities.

## Shaping up to the arts

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Have you or anyone you know ever wanted to get to the theatre, a concert or an exhibition, but have been physically unable to do so? Perhaps deafness has prevented you from attending an event. Or maybe you would love to perform or to work with the public, but are prevented by disability.**

*Shape* is an organisation that aims to overcome these obstacles, and to provide training in disability awareness. It has existed for nearly 30 years, but has recently been revamped, and received more investment. So *THE ARCHER* asked for up-to-date information.

### Ticket scheme

This assists disabled, deaf and elderly people to attend London arts events. Registered members get discounted tickets, accessible seats, and a volunteer escort if needed. Signers are available too.

The 200-plus volunteers meet members at the venue, accompany them on public transport, or drive them from their own home. *Shape* pays for the volunteers' tickets and expenses.

There are other voluntary posts – for a few hours a week – in the office.

### Opportunities for performers

*Shape* trains young disabled and deaf musicians and singers to record their own music, and to produce their own CDs. Its National Deaf Theatre Academy offers the only accredited course for deaf theatre practitioners taught entirely in British Sign. In partnership with the Tate and City Lit, deaf people are trained to be gallery guides, again using British Sign.

Disability awareness and access consultation are also on offer, all delivered by people who are disabled or deaf themselves. In addition, *Shape* works with schools and the NHS.

For more information, contact 020 7619 6160, [info@shapearts.org.uk](mailto:info@shapearts.org.uk), or [www.shapearts.org.uk](http://www.shapearts.org.uk).

## Vacancy

***THE ARCHER* team is looking for someone used to working with a PC to take part in the processing of contributors' text to make it suitable for setting on pages.**

The job would involve at least a few hours each month at regular intervals. Training will be provided.

For information please email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), contact Tony on 8883 5954 or turn up at a Saturday meeting, 11.00am at Madden's Ale House, 130 High Road.

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## Colour TV

**A local hairdressing salon recently featured in Sky UK Living's Retail Therapy. In it a country girl who was not into using cosmetics, going clothes shopping and such-like, was given a complete makeover.**

The section of the programme which entailed having her hair styled was filmed in the High Road's 202 salon where Ricardo, who emerged from Channel 4's *The Salon*, came to cut her hair. It was then coloured by 202's own colour technician and make-up advisor Soulla Georgiou.

Intrigued as to why their particular salon had been chosen, staff at 202 were told that the TV researchers had found it in the Good Salon Guide, noticed that staff were Sassoon trained and been impressed by their website.





Wendy Diamant, Duncan Mills, Maggie Driscoll, Kundan Clehane, Lawrie Chivers and Maureen Antionette. Photo by John Dearing

## Christmas sparkle for schools and Brownies

By John Dearing

The East Finchley Traders Association, under the guidance of Lawrie Chivers and Dino Loizou, raised enough money some years ago to fund a set of Christmas lights for the High Road. Particular mention should be made of McDonalds, who contributed half of the £12,000 required at the time.

Since then, the Traders have raised money each year to pay for the lights to be serviced and installed. Now that Barnet Council have decided to take over this function (and the lights), the Association intend to donate the residual fund to some good causes.

### Vibrant community

On Thursday 2 December, a social event was held for the Traders Association at the East Finchley Constitutional Club. The highlight of the proceedings was a speech by Lawrie Chivers, who first talked about the origins of the club some 100 years ago as a venue for local businessmen for lunch and for entertaining. He described East Finchley as a vibrant community and urged everyone to nurture it, particularly the local businesses

that make it such a unique place.

As an example, he asserted that our Christmas lights were the best in the borough, and this was down to the efforts of the Traders. He noted that despite being given the existing lights, the Council had sought a further £1,500 contribution, which the Association had turned down, preferring to decide for themselves how the fund would be used. In deciding who should benefit from the donation, Lawrie said that he attended Holy Trinity School in his youth, and was later a governor at Martin School. He also noted that the Brownies had collected for the Christmas Lights in years past, so he proposed to the Traders Association that these should be the beneficiaries, which they agreed.

To considerable applause, he then presented a cheque to a representative of each of these organisations.

## Never on a Saturday?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Never mind the charter, taste the mushrooms! That's the message from Chris Elder of City Farmers' Markets' Alexandra Palace site. News that the European Parliament is being asked to overturn a 17<sup>th</sup> century charter, forbidding Saturday markets within 6.66 miles\* of Enfield Town, has started speculation as to whether the Farmers would move from Sunday to Saturday.

### Archaic law

Local councillors say it is ridiculous that an archaic law should dictate when Haringey can hold markets. They say it is contrary to EU competition law.

There are similar charters all over the country, and Haringey Lib Dem councillors want the EU to ask the British Government to remove these restrictive clauses if they do not serve any beneficial social purpose. They believe that the Sunday market might be even more successful on a Saturday, and they say it should be up to the local community when any market takes place.

Chris Elder told *THE ARCHER*, "I knew about the charter before I set up the City Farmers' Market here. In fact, I discovered it. I'm very happy with Sunday, and have no plans to change the day.

The market is already generating more local trade. Several of the neighbouring shops are opening on Sundays now. It is important though to realise that there are charters in other places besides Enfield."

### What about those mushrooms?

The Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 9 January and Sunday 23 January, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the theme will be mushrooms. They will be arriving fresh from Cheltenham, along with smoked garlic from the Isle of Wight. Chris Elder promises recipes, cookery demonstrations, and the chance to sample them.

\*Why 6.66 miles? Apparently that was the distance a horse could be expected to travel in a day.

### Advertising Feature

## Treat Yourself for 2005

WITH the Christmas party season over, it is important for us to keep looking and feeling good. And at the **Isabel Douglas Health & Beauty Centre** in East Finchley, you will find experts on hand to attend to your every need. Whether it is a relaxing massage you are after, or a deluxe manicure and pedicure to give the finishing touch to your festive look, the centre offers a range of treatments to suit all requirements.

The Salon, run by Nova Douglas, specialises in top quality cutting and colouring and gives complimentary consultations to anyone wanting advice on their hair.

Nova trained and worked with Vidal Sassoon and prides herself on bringing a little of the West End to East Finchley.

"The salon is very much about quality and keeping up to date with the latest fashions and trends," says Nova.

"We specialise in organic colouring which is extremely good for the hair as there is no

peroxide and no ammonia. It's very gentle, covers grey 100 per cent and leaves the hair in great condition." For those with hair and scalp problems, **Isabel Douglas** is a Trichologist with more than 30 years experience treating hair loss, dandruff, flaky and itchy scalp, greasy hair and



scalp and psoriasis, also an expert in colour correction. Isabel says: "Deterioration and dehydration of the scalp produces dry, limp and dull hair but there are treatments that can help promote natural, silky and shiny hair." But it is not only help with hair that the centre offers its clients. There are a host of

alternative therapies available including osteopathy, chiropody, shiatsu, reflexology and acupuncture. For the ultimate relaxation, you can choose from a wide range of massages, including aromatherapy, Indian head massage and a deep tissue massage to relieve built-up tension.

The manicures, pedicures and nail extensions available at the centre use UV Gel, Silkwrap and fibre glass as a healthy alternative to the usual acrylic used in these treatments. Clients can also opt for a St Tropez tan, the safe and easy way to achieve that all-important sun-kissed look during the winter months. For the ultimate pick-me-up, Dr Steven Harris, who works at the centre, offers Botox as a safe and effective treatment to reduce unwanted fine lines and wrinkles. Nova adds: "Many clients come and spend the whole day here. They get their hair done, have a massage and a manicure and really enjoy a relaxing day of treatments all under one roof."

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Wendy Longworth and colleagues in her new clinic. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## East Finchley physiotherapy clinic opens

The East Finchley Physiotherapy Clinic officially opened on the evening of 8 December and was supported by local GPs and other doctors who were in attendance.

Wendy Longworth has been a practising physiotherapist for over 20 years and started the East Finchley Clinic over 15 years ago. When its previous location above Cory's the chemist closed recently she used the opportunity to find her own premises in Bedford Mews, just a short walk round the corner for her existing patients. Though just a shell when she took over the building, with the help of her brother and his team of builders 2-3 Bedford Mews is now a smart purpose-built two-storey clinic, adding to the improvement and gentrification of the mews.

### Range of treatments

At the practice, Wendy and her colleagues provide a range of services and have access to a network of other associates and health professionals. These include physiotherapists, osteopaths and acupuncturists. Not only back pain and sports injuries but also neurologi-

cal disorders such as strokes or Parkinson's disease can be treated by manipulation, electrotherapy and exercise. Wendy's particular interests include palliative care and women's health.

As well as the three treatment rooms on the ground floor there is a training room above for the clinic's own training purposes; it is also available for other health professionals to use.

Disabled access into the clinic is good, with specially designed facilities for wheelchair users inside. There is a reserved parking space for disabled patients in the mews and except for between the hours of 2 and 3pm there is parking nearby. The clinic is open six days a week. Call at 2-3 Bedford Mews for more information, or contact the clinic on 8883 5888 or visit [www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk).

## Hampstead Garden Suburb Pre-school

By Sylvia Kray

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Pre-school, which is housed in one of the Free Church Halls in Northway, has existed in various forms for over 80 years and has thus provided care and play for the youngest Suburb inhabitants for nearly a century.**

The pre-school was originally established as a play-group by the Free Church soon after it was founded in 1918 but it later became a community pre-school operated by the parents.

Not many people are aware that the pre-school, which is registered with the charities commission, is a non-profit making organisation relying wholly on

grants and funding. One of its policies is to maintain its very competitive and affordable pricing to make it more accessible to the whole community.

The pre-school is run by a committee, consisting mainly of parents, in close co-operation with a team of highly qualified staff. It is part of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and was awarded the highest

grade of *outstanding* at the latest Ofsted inspection. The children attending the pre-school, who are aged from 2½ to 5 years, take part in a wide range of stimulating activities and the majority of the children go on to the local Garden Suburb and Brookland Schools.

For further information please contact Sam Hobbs on 07785 995412.

## How to beat the smoking ban

By Sophie Sweatman

**Prisoner 15121970. You may now leave. You are free. Place of correction? The Nicotine Trap Maze. Sentence? Life with painful early death. Crime: Smoking a cigarette aged 15 to look cool and fit in and continuing to buy and smoke cigarettes, against all advice, for 17 years. Bail: £8,250.**



Who let me out of this prison? It was the author and founder of Easyway International, Allen Carr, who stopped smoking after 30 years. This led to him writing books, now translated into seven languages, such as *The Only Way to Stop Smoking Permanently* and setting up clinics all over Europe, the USA and Australia.

I asked Allen Carr what

brought it all about? He replied, "Sheer Ego. If you'd been the first person to solve Rubik's Cube you'd want to brag about it."

### Getting out of the maze

There is still hope if you have already broken your new year's resolution to stop smoking. If your attempt failed it was because, Carr says, "You didn't know how to do it. Using the books or clinics is like using a map to get out of a maze – once you know the directions it becomes easy."

Allen Carr's method finishes with smoking the 'final cigarette', which, he says, "is very important for the ex-smoker to realise that the moment they extinguish it they are already a non-smoker."

What happens when you stop smoking and visit your smoking friends and family? According to Carr, "Once the

ex-smoker understands the trap, there ceases to be any pressure! The best thing is to say, 'I can't tell you how nice it is to be free!' The worst thing is to nag and hassle other smokers."

### Free and easy

So will banning smoking in public places help anyone? Carr says, "To begin with smokers will be pleased in the mistaken belief that it will help them to stop smoking. Heroin is banned, but that doesn't stop the problem! Smokers cannot force themselves to quit."

However, he adds, "the ban is important in terms of protecting people in the workplace from the effects of passive smoking."

So if this method makes it so easy, who in the public eye could we get to give it a try? Carr suggests Margaret Thatcher, "assuming she's still smoking those little cigars", or Britney Spears or Robbie Williams.

## Victorian evening

**After a very successful Arts Festival in the summer, the committee thought that it would be a good idea to hold a series of winter events. The first in the series of buffet supper concerts was a Victorian Evening at All Saints Church, Durham Road on 4 December.**

The artistes, suitably dressed in Victorian costumes rose to the occasion by giving renditions of old favourites such as *The Lost Chord* and *The Last Rose of Summer*. The audience also played their part by joining in the choruses of *Down at the Old Bull and Bush*, *Daisy Bell* and *Lily of Laguna* to name a few. The artistic and

musical director Geoffrey Hanson created an atmosphere of Victorian charm, which made the evening extremely enjoyable. The buffet supper prepared by members of the committee brought the event to a close and we all look forward to the next concert on 29 January, featuring the Thamyse String Quartet.

## Recorded music society

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Fancy an evening at home – or in someone else's home – listening to music with like-minded people? If so, Haringey Recorded Music Society would like you to join them.**

Don't be misled by their name. The society originally met in Haringey libraries, but has several East Finchley members. The secretary, David Moldon, former Music Librarian for Haringey, assisted in music provision at East Finchley library in recent years, and spoke about composer Richard Strauss at a coffee morning there.

He told *THE ARCHER* that some members take it in turns to host the meetings in their homes, often selecting the evening's programme too. The choice is mostly classical, but occasional

evenings feature lighter music and show tunes. Sometimes Les Aldrich presents new releases straight from the shop.

### Paderewski on film

DVDs are included at times, and one visual highlight was a snippet from a 1939 film showing Paderewski playing the piano.

The Haringey Recorded Music Society meets at 8pm on Wednesdays, at approximately monthly intervals. For reasons of security, venues are not advertised, but details can be obtained by calling 020 8361 1696.





## The Stag's pockets

By Jonathan Blackstaffe

You might be wondering whether pool is a sport or a game. Well, let *THE ARCHER* enlighten you. It's both. But most of all pool is an art form. Pool is beautiful, invigorating, thrilling performance art. The cue is the paintbrush, the table the canvas, the balls the paints, and the players, of course, are the artists.

As the Bald Faced Stag well knows. For the Bald Faced Stag, under the avuncular landlordship of Rob Dobor, is a pub that takes its pool very seriously. It possesses four beautiful tables, pristine and pregnant with potential. These are located in a spacious room at the back of the pub that is as much a theatre as it is a pool hall.

You might think this hyperbolic but it wouldn't surprise me if Shakespeare wasn't thinking of the Bald Faced Stag's pool room when he wrote, "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players."

### Cue for a break

The pub also boasts two pool teams. They compete in the Hertfordshire Pool League. Indeed, more than simply compete, they're threatening to dominate the league. This is not surprising – the pub has

an impressive track record of grooming players to turn pro. Games take place from 9pm on Thursday nights. Competitors get a free dinner.

On top of that, there's a regular Sunday pool tourney, a single frame knock out. This is open to all comers, entry £2. With there being upwards of twenty competitors and the pub throwing £40 into the kitty, the total prize money is usually somewhere on the fat side of £80.

### Get down there

So, all of you who fancy yourselves as the next Fast Eddy Felsome, or indeed the next Tracey Emin or Sir Laurence Olivier, and all of you who would like to watch the next Fast Eddy Felsome, or indeed the next Tracey Emin or Sir Laurence Olivier, perform, get yourselves down to the Bald Faced Stag and take a break from the norm.



Photo by Jonathan Blackstaffe



Staten Eliot talking to director David Flamholz, with James Trouville looking on between shots.

Picture taken by Ed Phillips.

## An actor's life

By Dawn Powell

**One of East Finchley's newest residents may one day become one of its most famous. Actor Staten Eliot, who has recently moved to the area, has been working constantly since graduating from drama school earlier this year.**

In his latest film *Flip A Coin*, which Staten says is about "looking for love, finding love and fighting for it, and losing it again." His character Philip and best friend Casper use a coin to choose which girl to go after. Everything goes well until they fall in love with the same girl and their friendship becomes increasingly strained as they fight over her. It's an experience Staten can relate to: "Me and my best mate had a crush on the same girl and we didn't speak to each other for a whole day." Oh, the perils of young love – very young in fact, he was 10!

### The play's the thing

Five years later, Staten fell in

love with acting. He was studying Shakespeare at school and had to read out various parts in class. Despite his fear of speaking in front of people, Staten really began to enjoy it. But he chose to study acting [at A-Level] for an altogether different reason. He said, "I had just been talking to this girl, who was gorgeous and was moaning about there being so few boys doing performing arts. I felt very bad for her, so I crossed out law as soon as I got the form and scribbled down performing arts."

### In love with film

Whatever his reason for taking up acting, Staten is passionate about it. While he

recognises that to be 'known' as an actor you have to do American films, Hollywood is not necessarily the path he will choose. He explained, "I just like to work with people that love making film and believe in doing it for the right reasons. Not for money, but for telling a story."

### Relaxing

Another reason that he won't be hot footing it to 'la la land' just yet is that he loves East Finchley: "It's quiet enough to relax and have your own space, but it's close enough to the city to get around. And it's got the Phoenix, which is a fantastic cinema."

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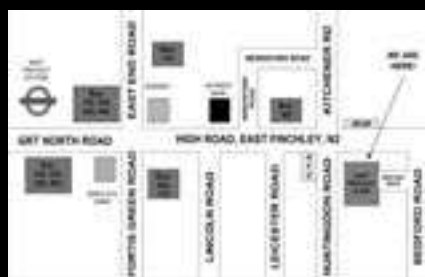


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## YOUNG ARCHER

### New beginnings

At the start of the year, people often make New Year resolutions. They are usually about changes that will hopefully make their life better. But after a few weeks most of them have been forgotten.

One new start, which brings a huge change to everyone's life, is their first day at school. Nine-year-old Jessica Devey of Huntingdon Road, a Year 5 pupil at Holy Trinity, remembers hers quite clearly.

#### My first day at school.

When I walked through the gates, my brother encouraging me, my mother holding my hand anxiously and my father looking through my bag checking I had my PE kit, I walked silently hoping it wasn't as scary as I thought. When I got to the playground, we ploughed through parents as anxious as mine until we got to my teacher.

She wasn't as strict and scary as I thought. I had imagined a tall, strong, bulky person but instead she was a kind, tall, fun lady with long silky black hair and green eyes. I kissed my family goodbye and ran off.

While we were walking down the corridor, with the other children skipping along, I trailed behind, my shoes squeaking on the newly polished floor. When we got to

the classroom I saw a clean playroom with books, toys, cushions, beads and a beanbag. I stopped shuffling and started to have fun!

The other children there were strange to me and they had already made friends. Then another girl that looked a bit like me came up to me and said, "Would you like to come and play with me and Katie? What's your name? My name's Samantha!" So I went to play with them.

Playtime was fun too. I played with a skipping rope, but at first I screamed because I thought it was a snake. At lunchtime I had a packet of crisps, a ham and cucumber sandwich, a Ribena drink and an apple. Samantha and me used the beads and string to make necklaces and we played ladies. After that my mother came to pick me up. She said that it had been four hours but it had felt like four minutes. She gave me a kiss and as we walked home I said, "Can I go back tomorrow?"

### Christmas light delight

By Helen Drake

Local children have been overjoyed to see the juggling clown Christmas light that has appeared outside Martin Schools this year, a welcome return after an absence of two years.

My own children spotted it when we were returning home from ballet classes one evening. As we approached the top of Leopold Road, there were immediate noises of delight as they saw the brightly-coloured, flashing light against the dark evening sky.

I decided to ask some experts for their opinions. Alice, aged seven, said she liked the light because "it's nice and bright" and "it makes

me feel happy", and her sister, Isobel, aged five said she liked the colours. Sarah aged five and Ester, aged three, both said that seeing the light made them "feel excited for Christmas", which was the overwhelming response from a straw poll of children outside the school one evening. The East Finchley Traders Association has made a large number of children very happy this Christmas. Thank you.



Children receiving their presents from Father Christmas, with (from the left), Ruth, Tracy and Claire Photo by Helen Drake

### Christmas fun at toddler group

By Helen Drake

St Mary's Parent and Toddler group was buzzing with excitement on Tuesday 14 December at the annual, Christmas Party. After a magic show from Mr Marvel and some singing, the children waited patiently to see if Father Christmas had a present for them in his sack and they were not disappointed!

Claire Mitchell and Ruth Nator have run the toddler group in St Mary's Church Hall for just over a year, taking over from a long line of volunteers. With the support of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, Claire and Ruth gained funding from The London Network Fund, a charity that supports activities and projects for children and young people in London, and were given £1,070 to buy new equipment. Children now enjoy many more craft activities and the group has also been able to buy a nappy changing table, bikes, toys, and musical instruments.

**Drop in for craft and chat**  
"We aim to offer a friendly, happy environment where parents and

carers can relax and have a cup of tea and a chat," commented Claire. "Since we introduced the craft tables we have attracted many more children over three years old who now come to us in the morning and then go to nursery in the afternoon." Parents and carers who come to the group are asked to contribute £1.50 for the first child and 50p for any other children. The price includes unlimited tea and coffee, and fruit or

biscuits mid-morning for the children, all provided by the fantastic Tracy Harrow.

The group runs on a drop-in basis at St Mary's Church Hall on the High Road, Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am during school term times. The spring term starts on 11 January. "New volunteers are always needed," stressed Claire, and all parents, carers and their children are welcome. Contact Claire Mitchell on 8442 1881.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

#### Holy Trinity

The junior pantomime *Robin Hood and Maid Marian*, written by the staff, was enjoyed by all, as was the nativity play created by teachers for the infants.

Neil Bell took choir members to perform at Barnet Choral Society Concert. He also conducted all the children singing Christmas carols for a CD to be sold for school funds.

The choir visited Wilmot Close, Tarling Road to sing carols to the elderly residents.

The annual Christmas Fair organised by the Holy Trinity School Association raised an amazing £2,750.

Year 5, who are learning tag rugby, were taken to Twicken-

ham to watch the rugby match between Oxford and Cambridge universities.

#### Martin Schools

The Christmas Bazaar organised by the PTA made a staggering profit of £3,800.

Year 4's Christmas Show *Moving On* was brilliant. Headteacher Maggie Driscoll paid tribute to the wonderful grounding given at the school, which adds to the talent in the community. Former pupils have been visiting from Fortismere to perform for younger children. Another, now at Compton, was the son in December's ITV play about a man who falsely claimed to have won the lottery.

Continuing their tradition of seeing a different Shakespeare play every Christmas, the juniors enjoyed a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The steel pan orchestra and the violin group performed concerts and children dressed up to raise money for Barnet Hospital's Life Saver appeal.

The infants learned an important lesson about democracy in an election to decide the theme according to which all classes would be named next term. Sea creatures proved to be the winner, ahead of flowers, animals and birds.

All enjoyed the Christmas production of *Humph the Camel*.

### East Finchley Baptist Church

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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.  
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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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





# The New Year in Brittany

By Jane Revell



A "galette des rois," photo supplied by Jane Revell

**Brittany at Christmas is an interesting mix of Celtic and Catholic tradition. A Breton legend tells of dolmens and menhirs walking to the sea to have a drink on Christmas Eve, leaving the treasure buried beneath them unguarded.**

People would search for this treasure in their absence, but they had to make sure they got away from the ancient sites before the twelfth stroke of midnight, or the great stones would return and they would be done for!

Nowadays many Bretons go to evening mass on 24 December before coming home to open their presents that same evening. Then they sit down to a Christmas dinner which tends to go on into the early hours of Christmas Day. Foie gras, then seafood (oysters, crayfish, lobster and scallops are all specialities of this region), often followed by turkey with chestnuts, or lamb, with a chocolate yule log for dessert. The courses go on and on, every one washed down with wonderful wine or champagne. In the past, families would often lay an extra place at table in case a poor person or traveller passed by and knocked on their door, but that charming custom seems to have vanished in recent years.

## Twelfth Night

What has not vanished, is the celebration of Twelfth Night: the Feast of the Kings or Wise Men

A special cake, the *galette des rois* is baked for the occasion and a charm is hidden inside it. The person who gets the slice with the charm is 'king' (or queen) and must then choose their 'queen' (or king) for the evening. And who decides who gets which piece of cake? The smallest member of the family, who hides under the table! (With thanks to my Breton friends Genevieve Georgelin and Alain Mouden who helped to provide this information.)

# Play it again Simon

**Sixteen-year-old Simon Hoare of Cherry Tree Road, East Finchley, recently won a trip to the USA in a rather unusual way. Here is what Simon, a sixth form student at Woodhouse College, has written about it for *THE ARCHER*.**

The prize was to go and live the American dream for one week. I played my clarinet live on BBC Radio London down the phone line at 12.30 one night. Then I was in the final six in front of two judges at a London hotel, which ended up with me on a trip to America.

Over in the US I attended High School in Delaware for three days and played in their marching band. This was all in preparation for the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, which was a great success. It was amazing how all the kids drove to school and the school itself was so similar to those in the movies. I also travelled up



Photo supplied by Simon Hoare (centre) with new American friends.

to Washington DC and had a look around; the White House is huge.

After spending the week in Delaware and having a great time, I travelled up to New York City where we went shopping, sight seeing and had a black limo tour. Some of the best sights were Times Square at night, which was totally spectacular and the Christmas tree in the Rockefeller Centre, which was

ridiculously big. Brooklyn Bridge was beautiful with all its white lights, and when we saw the Einstein action figures up for sale in the market that did make me laugh.

Sadly I returned on 28 November from one of the best experiences of my life. Now I am waiting for the Delaware High School marching band to visit London to play in the New Year's Day Parade where I will rejoin them.

# New Year in Australia

By Brian Timms

**Australia cements its reputation as the New Year hanger-over centre of the World with the usual early run on the celebratory grog and Sydney Harbour bridge fireworks, watched and listened to internationally by 600 million people, most still in their pyjamas.**

Down Under it is of course essential to show true mateship by keeping going until the entire 20millionpopulationhasgonepast midnightandinto 2005,so with the westernside three hours behind the eastern side of 'this Grate Nashun' one is fairly smashed by the end of the event.

We mostly spend New Year's Eve in big hats and fly nets, throwing prawns on the barbie, knocking back a coldie, chatting up a bloke or sheila, or musing whether the Poms will ever beat us at cricket.

There are nostalgic fly-free pub refuges in some major cities where warm Old English beers are served to the deserving over-60 Finchley gang in Oz - Shirley Crane, Don and Carol Carnie, Hazel Astley, Pat Chick, Mary Hall and Brian Timms - des-

perate for an end-of-the-year nostalgia inducer.

We wistfully muse on the New Years 'back home' - the trolleybuses; coal yard by the station; United Dairies' horse-drawn milk carts; Mrs Pacey at the newsagents; The Rex cinema; coats for goalposts in Cherry Tree Wood.

And even when the sun comes up on 2005, and we lie under umbrellas on deserted beaches, the nostalgia never wears off. We blame *THE ARCHER*.

For those with relties in Oz, and wishing to check the environment, try the live radio internet site [www.abc.net.au/](http://www.abc.net.au/) or the Sydney radio station [www.2UE.com](http://www.2UE.com) which also broadcasts the Sydney New Year's Eve celebrations.

# Feliz Año Nuevo!!

By Irene Zevallos

**New Year should last two days at least... to enable us to plan what to do or where to go, wait for midnight hour to play superstitious fun games... like eating black beans for money, twelve grapes, twelve wishes, kissing someone nice, to keep doing it the rest of the year, running around the block, carrying a suitcase, to travel during the year and drinking champagne ... for the pleasure of it.**

The night will end with dancing, having tasty food and running to the beach the next morning for a sunny swimming session, for even though the peak tourist season runs from June to August (driest season in the highlands) you will always find great swimming and surfing along our Peruvian coast, from December to April.

## Land of variety

That is New Year in Peru, with our tropical weather on the east coast and dry desert in the west, from temperate to frigid

## Same wishes

Remembering my spectacular time in London and being aware of the tangible differences our countries have, at the end of the day, the warmth of our hearts and our willingness to enjoy life are there and will hopefully remain forever. Whether the top and bottom of the world, we each wish for better years to come and great things for each other in 2005!

# Local history group

**The inaugural meeting of the Local History Group recently set up by The Finchley Society will take place in Avenue House, East End Road N3 at 8 pm on Thursday 10 February. Entry is free and non-members are welcome.**

There will be talks by the two Borough of Barnet archivists: Yasmine Webb will speak on the Barnet archives and Hugh Petrie on national archives and their relevance to Finchley.

The Finchley Society's own archives will be described by

Maggie Ferguson, the society's vice chairman and archives custodian. A discussion on the group's future activities will follow if time permits.

Information on The Finchley Society and how to join from 020 8883 2633 and [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk).

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References required





## 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 10 & 24 January 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.

# Stars come out to remember Jack

By David Howes

**When I was asked to attend the gala screening of *Ready when you are, Mr McGill* written by the late Jack Rosenthal, I didn't actually know who he was. I knew he was important because Victoria Wood almost brushed past my shoulder in the lobby of the Phoenix, and I could have sworn that was Sir Tom Courtenay as I queued to get my popcorn.**

Google had given me facts and career milestones to digest, but what I couldn't get from the Internet was the evident warmth and regard with which Jack Rosenthal was held. This was a Phoenix packed to the rafters – actors, directors, friends, and family – anyone and everyone with whom Jack had ever worked (or discussed football). Not a bad showing for a man who mingled with the famous, yet preferred his Saturdays in front of Teletext following his beloved Man United.

The lights dim and an expectant hush falls. Two hours, plenty of belly laughs, and much applause later it was over.

I'm feeling quite uplifted, so why does it feel bittersweet? Simply because neither you nor I can watch this film until at least Christmas 2005, and even that is not guaranteed. ITV in

their wisdom have decided they cannot find room in their schedules until then, leaving Mr McGill screaming inside his film can, "I'm a piece of quality television, get me out of here!"

Not only have we been here to celebrate Jack, we're here to help the Phoenix achieve its £60,000 target needed to take its seating into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Maureen Lipman kindly donated all of the money raised tonight, £4,500 in all, to this very cause. It feels fitting as the Phoenix represents all the values Jack upheld himself; independence, originality, quality over quantity.

Wasn't it Oscar Wilde who said, "Man knows the price of everything, but the value of nothing"? Let's hope the Phoenix finds the rest of the money to keep bringing the value of quality independent filmmaking to East Finchley.

## Phoenix film first

**The first Barnet Script competition reached its climax on Sunday 12 December when the film made from the winning script received its premiere at the Phoenix.**

The 2003 script competition sponsored by Barnet Arts, the Phoenix Cinema and Finchley Cinevideo Society (FCS) was given impetus by the FCS promise to film the winning script. In the end 65 scripts were received. Joe Spalter, the film's executive producer said, "Choosing was a really tough job but we were won over by local script writer Rick Limentani's charming script about Hubert – a rather special Teddy Bear."

### Hubert's travels

Making *Hubert's Travels* was highly ambitious and took nearly a year. Producer Trevor Williams commented, "It has been a truly local effort; FCS provided the crew, almost all the action took place in Barnet and we found help and co-operation everywhere. Finchley musician Marc Folan composed a special score whilst Susi Earnshaw's Theatre School and the Garden Suburb Theatre helped provide the cast. Finally we were delighted that the Phoenix offered us their cinema for the Premiere."

Scriptwriter Rick Limentani, returned from Film School in Paris for the showing, attended by all the people involved in the film including Director Michael Slowe. The film tells the story of a battered little teddy bear who has the power to be a positive influence when ever he comes into someone's life. After being rescued from a lake by a sad little boy, Hubert helps the child to be happy again then continues to

change for the better the lives of people with whom he comes into contact.

Finchley Cinevideo Society has been making non-professional films for 75 years and meets weekly at the Quaker Meeting House in North Finchley – details from Peter Kidman on 8292 6367



'Alarms and Excursions'.

Photo supplied by Andy Mills on behalf of Incognito Theatre.

# Am dram and soda

**It is a scene familiar to anyone who's ever been involved with school productions, amateur dramatics or the local Gilbert & Sullivan society. A damp winter evening, a short walk to find a tiny theatre built after the war on the site of an old soda water factory, a feeling of suppressed excitement in the air. In the interval a door at the back of the auditorium is thrown open and a tray of coffee is handed round to the audience. It is good to know that theatre is alive and well in Friern Barnet.**

The history of the site has its own fascination: a Victorian factory producing aerated water, its subsequent use by the Incognito Theatre for rehearsals, finally, thanks to local fundraising, a 60 seat theatre for training young people built in a surge of post war enthusiasm.

### Alarms and excursions

The joys and delights of am dram were evident at the Incognito's fast paced December production of the witty *Alarms and Excursions* by Michael Frayn. A hard working cast of four did all seven pieces, rehearsing for us Frayn's theme of machines going wrong or complicating our lives. In *Heart to Heart* the music at a party is so loud that two men claim the same woman as their wife, while in *Immobiles*, the answerphone is a major factor in confusing an airport meeting. Perhaps the mobile phone wasn't so all-pervasive when Frayn wrote these pieces as, surprisingly, it doesn't feature in any of them.

David Jason may have started his acting career here in the sixties but it is Andy Mills who seems to be the moving force of Incognito at the moment. Not only did he act in and direct the production but he also did set design and publicity. A large yet friendly group, Incognito aim to have seven adult productions and one youth production a year and are always looking for new members, both in front of and behind the footlights. (Memb. Sec. Ruth Nixon 020 886 3274).

The next production is Hedda Gabler in February. Details from the box office on 020 8361 8310 or [www.incognit Theatre.com](http://www.incognit Theatre.com).

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Homeopath Consultations

Wednesday 19 January 9.30 - 12 noon.  
Free consultations with experienced homeopath Cassandra Marks to recommend remedies for coughs, colds, joint pains, arthritis and other winter ailments at the CW Andrew Pharmacy, 32 High Road

### Finchley & District Philatelic Society

Wednesday 19 January, 7.30 pm to start at 8 pm  
John Bohn will give a talk and display on 'British pictorial envelopes of the 19th Century'.  
All made welcome. Meet at Trinity Church Hall, Nether St, N Finchley. Enquiries to Brian Merryweather 020-8444-3251. Visit our websites at [www.stampdomain.com/finchley](http://www.stampdomain.com/finchley) & [www.ukphilately.org.uk](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk)

### Help Yourself Homeopathy course

Saturday 22 January from 10am till 6pm  
One day course: Learn how to use Homeopathy for first aid and minor ailments.  
At Muswell Healing Arts, N10 Cost £50.  
Phone Penny Hill 020 8444 2882

### Swamprock at Wilf Slack Sports Club

Saturday, 22 January Doors open 8 pm Bar to 11.30 pm Music to 12 pm  
Swamprock present Louisiana-style Dance Night with live music featuring Whiskey River band  
Wilf Slack Sports Club, 19 East End Road, N3. £8 entrance  
Further info: Carole Lateman 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth 01727 830280 [www.swamprock.org.uk](http://www.swamprock.org.uk)

### The Finchley Society's local history group inaugural meeting

Thursday 10 February at 8.00pm at Avenue House East End Road N3  
Talks by the Borough archivists: Yasmine Webb will speak on the Barnet archives and Hugh Petrie on national archives and their relevance to Finchley. The Finchley Society's own archives will be described by Maggie Ferguson. Time permitting, future activities will be discussed.  
Entry free and all welcome.





# Arts and Crafts Fair

By Helen Drake

"East Finchley is now firmly on the map in the London arts and crafts world," says Christine Watson, organiser of the first East Finchley Open (EFO) Winter Arts and Crafts Fair, held on Sunday 21 November at Martin School.

Sponsored by Eccentrics of Muswell Hill, and Prickett and Ellis estate agents, the Winter Fair attracted more than a thousand visitors, many of whom commented on the high quality of the arts and crafts, the relaxed atmosphere, and the excellent food, which was supplied by the Arts Café, aka Martin Schools PTA.

Business was brisk from the moment the doors opened at 10.30am, with many visitors saying that they had come with the intention of buying Christmas presents for others, but had actually been enticed into buying things for themselves.

Particular items that caught



Portrait artist Lisa Vallentin at the East Finchley Open Arts and Crafts Fair. Photo by Helen Drake

this writer's eye amongst the 38 exhibitors were evoc-

ative photographs of Cherry Tree Wood and Hampstead Heath by Eti Wade, exquisite stained-glass mirrors from Rosemary Thornton, and beautiful hand-painted silk scarves by Clara Hancock. An intriguing exhibitor was Eddy Levin and his Golden Mean Gauge, a metal measuring device that gives its user perfect proportions, essential for good design. Visitors were able to see the creative process in action with skilful on-the-spot portraits provided by artist Lisa Vallentin.

Christine Watson admitted that organising the Winter Fair was a step into the unknown. "We had no idea that it would prove so popular. But as it is, people have been asking me when we're holding the next one. We're hoping that, like the Chelsea Art Fair, the East Finchley Arts and Crafts Fair could become a regular on the London arts scene."

And if the Golden Mean Gauge has caught your imagination, visit [www.goldenmeangauge.co.uk](http://www.goldenmeangauge.co.uk) for more information.



Eddy Levin demonstrates the Golden Mean Gauge. Photo by Helen Drake

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### On the buses

**I am a self-confessed petrolhead, I don't do diesel, I don't do buses and I try not to do tubes. Give me power under my right foot and an open road and the environment can wait. My other car is a bus? Not likely mate, I've been on buses, I didn't want to go on buses, but when some vile piece of slime did several grand's worth of damage to my car I had no choice.**

Buses are not an alternative to a car; they are a sub-standard alternative to walking. They are slow, even slower when they've got a bus lane to dawdle down. They are cold because the heating is an afterthought and they are uncomfortable because they are designed that way.

Modern buses are proof that if you put wheels on a box you have a bus. They are the lowest common denominator of automotive design. You don't get buses designed by Pinninfarina or Bertone, they stick to Ferraris and Maseratis. Instead they get some fool with all the artistic talent of a dead cat to do the job, which means that buses are designed by people who can't design. So your all-new twenty-first century monster is so ugly that the kind of nostalgia freaks who long for steam trains, soot and pollution are in their element, hence the weird love affair with the Routemaster.

Routemasters are not nice. They are a cold, noisy and uncomfortable trip back to the 1950s. They should have been replaced by something halfway decent at least 30 years ago but were allowed to struggle on their noisy way for far too long. Their replacement by the bendy, burny buses was proof that, on the buses, things really can get worse.

The service is nothing to write home about, it's something to write vitriolic letters about. Buses don't bother about being late; it's not their fault, so why take responsibility for it? Customer service? Not on the buses where the passenger is always wrong and if you don't like it, you can walk. And who said buses were cheap? Ken the newt may think they are wonderful, but he would. Just as he thinks it's cool-and-funky to put the fares up by 20% as his New Year's gift to us all. And me? Well, I get my new car next week so normal service, for me at least, can be resumed.

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

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



## Pedestrians have right of way!

By Kathryn Salomon of Gurney Drive

In Holland and Germany cyclists and pedestrians live in peace and share the pavement. If you inadvertently stray onto the designated cyclists' path a gentle tinkling of their bell and a smile reminds you. The cyclists travel slowly and don't mow the pedestrians down. If only this were true in Britain! Here many cyclists think that pedestrians, of any age, are motorists in disguise and therefore the devil's spawn!

Yes, some cyclists are considerate, but many think that the Highway Code does not apply to them; they switch from road to pavement to open park space as whim dictates and any pedestrian in the way must jump. In the park, grown men on bikes wearing cycling helmets weave in and out of families with small children. If you remonstrate the shrill mantra is repeated, "Do you want me to be killed on the road?" No, I don't, but neither do I want to be knocked down on a footpath or see children knocked down in a park. As to that old canard that cycling is the most ecological form of transport, not if the cyclist takes a short cut across park or Heath, churning up or eroding the terrain.

Should cyclists be allowed on pavements or footpaths? Yes, so long as cyclists don't speed, and remember that pedestrians have right of way and can walk at their own designated pace without being abused – surely not too much to ask?

## Letter to The Editor

### Tracing the Barker family

Dear Archer

**I wonder if any of your readers can help me. I am trying to trace descendants of my great-grandmother, Kate Barker (nee Goddard) born around 1887 in Saxtead, Suffolk.**

Kate gave birth to an illegitimate daughter, Violet Elsie (my grandmother), in 1909 and subsequently moved to north London (I believe the Finchley area) where she married and went on to have, I believe, four more children. Violet remained in Saxtead and was brought up by her grandparents.

Kate died at quite a young age (30s or early 40s) and Violet never had any contact with her half

brothers/sisters.

I would like to hear from anyone who has any knowledge of the Barker family.

Jackie Evans

Holme Croft, Hacheston  
Suffolk, IP13 0DT

email: [jackieevans@suffolkonline.net](mailto:jackieevans@suffolkonline.net)

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## Bravos and bouquets

By Sonia Singham

**Having seen a poster advertising Haydn's Creation being performed by the North London Chorus, some visitors to London decided to attend the concert at St James' Church, Muswell Hill N.10. So enthralled were they by the performance that they rushed out during the interval to buy a posy of flowers for the conductor.**

Those who attended the concert agreed that it was of a very high standard. Much credit should be given to the Musical Director, Murray Hipkin, who has enabled the choir to flourish and develop since being appointed two years ago.

In addition to the customary bouquets presented to the artistes and conductor, there was a special one for Helen Collyer, the accompanist to

the choir since 1999. At the end of a six-month contract as trainee repetiteur at English National Opera, Helen has been engaged for six months as 'chef du chant' at the Atelier Lyrique of the Opera Nationale de Paris at the Bastille Opera House. The choir and conductor offer their warmest congratulations to Helen and look forward to welcoming her back to the NLC next autumn.





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Penny Hill taking a class. Photo by Toni Morgan

## What is Pilates?

By Penny Hill

**During my training with Ballet Rambert, I discovered a wonderful way to combine the rigorous training required for dance with a technique which developed my strength and suppleness.**

Pilates is a method of exercise developed by German-born Joseph Pilates in the early 20th century. It can be performed on specialist equipment or on mats. It is a form of exercise suitable for everyone and is used on many different levels, from injury rehabilitation to training for sports and dance.

### Fit for life

Poor posture is often the result of poor habits that creep up on us over the years. Doing Pilates brings our awareness to this area and gives us the tools to improve it. My classes emphasise the use of the abdominal muscles, to help strengthen and protect the back and,

consequently, improve posture. The exercises help to develop stronger muscles, better flexibility, more effective breathing, greater co-ordination and generally raise your level of fitness.

In my Matwork Pilates Class most of the exercises are done on the floor so there is no stress on the joints. The technique encourages continuous flowing movements that develop the level of fitness that is relevant to your life.

I have been living locally for almost 20 years and teach exercise at LA Fitness, The Manor and Finchley Youth Theatre I also teach in small groups and do personal training. Recently I have

been developing a more holistic approach to health and fitness and this allows me to focus on the individual.

Over the years I began to want to help people with their health beyond the confines of a class, so I trained and qualified as a homeopath.

These two disciplines complement each other and give people the greatest opportunity to achieve their health potential. I am fully qualified and am a member of the Pilates Institute and the Alliance of Registered Homeopaths. As for the wonders of homeopathy, well, I'll save that for another day.

For more information, contact me on 020 8444 2882.

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