

**JEREMY LEAF & CO.**

Professional Sales & Lettings  
AT COMPETITIVE RATES  
020 8444 5222  
eastfinchley@jeremyleaf.co.uk

Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



**GLH**

CAR SERVICE  
020 8883 5000

November 2005 No. 149 **20p**  
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

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



Mike Gee and friends head the protest. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Barclays to close

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Barclays Bank has announced that it is to shut its East Finchley branch in December after over a century. The bank has been open in East Finchley since 1890. The future of the building it occupies has not yet been confirmed.**

The closure of the branch on the corner of Fortis Green will come as a blow to local customers and businesses, whose closest alternative will be in Muswell Hill.

Barclays said it had decided to cease business in East Finchley because the branch was significantly less busy than others in the area

and could not offer the best level of service. The company plans to invest more heavily in its busier branches such as Muswell Hill, which is viewed as a flagship.

Barclays' area director Tim Archer acknowledged the inconvenience the closure could cause to some East Finchley businesses but said nothing could be done about it.

Asked to explain how the level of service for East Finchley customers would be improved by having to travel to another branch, Mr Archer pointed out that other branches had quick paying-in points, foreign currency desks, and more personal bankers.

He said that East Finchley was often without a personal banker on Fridays, whereas Muswell Hill would provide this service every weekday and on Saturdays.

Told that some customers, particularly the elderly or disabled, feel they will lose out by having to make awkward or time-consuming journeys to see a personal banker, and may not want to bank online or by telephone, Mr Archer made no comment.

Barclays has offered redeployment to the East Finchley staff after the closure on 2 December. Mr Archer said that he had interviewed them all, and was trying his best to accommodate their preferences.

Letters sent to customers have told them that most of their day-to-day banking can be carried out free of charge at the Post Office. The Post Office has confirmed to *THE ARCHER* however, that some transactions carry a fee, depending on the company.

The branch provides a book in the service area for customers' comments and many of them have used it to voice their concern and disappointment about the closure.

## Ring around the Wilmot

By Erini Rodis

**In the spirit of non-violence a ring of hands circled the Herbert Wilmot Centre on Monday 10 October, as local people protested against the council's decision to demolish the site in Egan's Close.**

While Mike Gee and Miranda Dunn of the Green Party, which organised the demonstration, gathered everyone together, children darted off to climb trees on the Holy Trinity School roundabout. "See!" called out some mums, "this is what our kids resort to when they've nothing to do!"

The site has been closed for some time due to vandalism, is letting in water and needs to be cleared of broken glass.

### Loss of facilities

Labour Councillor Colin Rogers was also there. He praised the hard work undertaken over nearly three years by

all the groups and individuals trying to save the centre. The council, he said, was more interested in gaining money from selling the land than in providing proper youth facilities for the local community.

He said: "The closure of the Herbert Wilmot Centre is part of a deliberate ploy by the Tories to deprive East Finchley of youth services, and to allow unscrupulous developers to develop the adjacent Stanley Field. This has left various after-school playgroups, football clubs and choirs without any facilities near to where their members live - it's a cruel and cynical policy."

**Coral Pharmacy**

Cut-price Fragrances

Photo D&P only £2.99 for up to 40 exp (35mm)

Stockists of a wide range of vitamins, homeopathic remedies, and herbal products.  
Open Till 6:30pm (Mon - Fri) 6pm Sat - Parking Available  
129 East End Road N2 0SZ Tel 8883 0442

**PRICKETT & ELLIS TOMKINS**

36 High Road East Finchley N2 9PJ

**020 8883 0033**

Properties urgently required - now is the time to sell!  
Estate Agents and Valuers - Established 1767

**Hotblack Dixon & Co. Estate Agents**

Our success rate in N2 is very high indeed, obviously in Hampstead Garden Suburb but also in East Finchley.  
We have often obtained better prices from our base in the Suburb, so  
**Please call us for a free valuation or try us if you are on a multiple agency basis**

17 Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb  
London NW11 6JY  
**020 8458 8411**

**Now in Stock:**

**ELECTRIC BLANKETS & HEATERS**

**Tel: 0800 279 3463**

Free Delivery On All Domestic Electrical Appliances  
Established 10 Years

**EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL**

www.everything-electrical.com 38 High Road, East Finchley N2 9PJ

• Visit your community newspaper on-line at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk) •



## THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699  
LONDON N2 8JA

WWW.THE-ARCHER.CO.UK

e-mail: THE-  
ARCHER@LINEONE.NET

### Voicemail & Fax:

Editorial/enquiries: -  
**08717 33 44 65**

Advertising/finance: -  
**08717 33 45 28**

PUBLISHED BY  
*East Finchley  
Newspapers*

CHAIR  
*Kevin Finn*

COPY EDITOR  
*John Lawrence*

EDITORIAL TEAM  
*David Hobbs  
Daphne Chamberlain  
Diana Cormack*

SUB EDITORS  
*Ann Bronkhorst  
Wendy Devine  
Pam Kent*

PRODUCTION EDITOR  
*Alison Roberts*

PICTURE EDITOR  
*Erini Rodis*

ADVERTISING  
*John Dearing*

FINANCE  
*Sue Holliday*

ADMINISTRATION  
*Toni Morgan*

DISTRIBUTION  
*Alison Roberts  
Pam Kent*

LEGAL ADVISER  
*Francis Coulson*

PRINTED BY  
*Eastway Offset Ltd*

WEB MANAGEMENT  
*ARC Media*

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

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

### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please  
contact us at the above address.  
*Comments to THE ARCHER may be  
published unless clearly marked  
'Not for publication' within the text.*

### Copy deadlines

*December issue: 11 November  
January issue: 16 December  
February issue: 13 January*

## 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

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

### OAP's Advice

**Barnet Age Concern** 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 8442 1212  
**CrimeStoppers** 0800 555111  
**Victim Support** 0845 303 0900  
**E.F. Community Police Officer:**  
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)  
Tel: 020 8733 5562, e-mail:  
paul.carter@met.police.uk



42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.  
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

### General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am -  
12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.  
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appoint-  
ment only.

### Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

### Community Services

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

## Punished for attack on parking attendant

By John Dearing

**A man was given a 42-day jail term, suspended for two years, and sentenced to 100 hours community service, after a violent attack on a parking attendant in East Finchley.**

Ali Hamzeh, 28, of Kellett House, Colville Estate, Islington, was found guilty at Brent Magistrates' Court on 30 September. Hamzeh, who denied the charge of actual bodily harm, also had to pay £100 costs and £200 compensation to the attendant.

On 14 May this year, Hamzeh had parked on the High Road and was given a parking ticket while shopping. He hit the parking attendant in the face and racially abused him.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Barnet's Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport, said, "Physical attacks on any members of our staff are totally unacceptable. These people are simply trying to do their jobs the best they can."

## Lock up your bikes

By Betti Blatman

**All bike owners should ensure they lock up their bikes, even if they intend to leave them for just a few minutes.**

A local teenager recently left his bike in the afternoon in the alleyway near Tesco, Finchley Central, and during the few minutes he was in the nearby newsagent, a bolt cutter was used to cut through his bike lock and it was stolen. Although the police were informed, they advised that there are well-organised gangs operating locally and it is virtually impossible to trace stolen bikes.

## Security warning after burglary spate

By John Dearing

**East Finchley residents are being warned to keep windows and doors locked after a spate of burglaries in and around the county roads, possibly carried out by the same man. He has been entering properties through unlocked back doors and windows, quickly rifling through drawers and bags for cash and then leaving, sometimes via back gardens.**

The burglar seems to have struck twice in one night. In the first incident, a woman disturbed the burglar in her kitchen in Leicester Road, dropped her tea tray and ran to her front room while he stole her handbag and fled. Later that night a woman's bag was stolen from a house in Huntingdon Road.

A week later, another woman in Huntingdon Road had her bag snatched from her home. A couple in Leicester Road, asleep in front of the TV, had their kitchen window forced and a handbag and wallet taken. The handbag was later found in a dustbin nearby.

Rebecca Smith, one of the victims, said: "I was watching the TV one evening and heard heavy footsteps in the kitchen. I got up to look around and found three muddy footprints on the carpet. The patio door was open and I could just make out a figure in the dark, in the garden behind ours. I locked the back door and then noticed my handbag was gone. Some of the contents of my bag were later found in a garden in Bedford Road."

Those who have seen the intruder have given similar descriptions. He is said to be black, well built and in his 20s.

### Precautions

Barnet Police said that since 18 September and mid-October there were nine such burglaries, three each in Leicester and Huntingdon Roads, and one each in Creighton Avenue, Summerlee Avenue, and Durham Road. Five of the nine were at premises where doors had been left unlocked, sometimes overnight.

Police reminded people to make sure all doors and windows were locked at night or whenever they go out, and not to leave keys in locks or on windowsills where they might be visible from outside. Finally, if the house is fitted with an alarm, use it.

## Give blood

**The mobile blood donation unit will be outside East Finchley tube station on Friday 25 November with blood donating sessions from 1.15 - 4pm and 5.15 - 7.30pm.**

## Thieves target satellite navigation kits

By John Dearing

**The theft of satellite navigation systems from vehicles in Barnet continues to be a problem. In September there were 35 reported stolen and in the first 10 days of October a further 10 were stolen.**

These systems are often held in a cradle, which sticks either to the window or onto the dashboard of the car. Owners are removing the actual device and placing it in a glove box or under a seat but leaving the cradle in situ, which indicates to thieves that there is a satellite system in the car. They then break into it, search it and take the equipment. Police advise that owners should not only remove the device but also the cradle itself, which is usually held only by suction pads. Place the whole system in the boot of your car out of sight or take it with you. A further warning is that some of the newer devices with Blue Tooth technology can even be

identified by use of a compatible mobile phone, which can indicate to the thief which vehicle has a device in it.

Owners are now being recommended to make a note of the serial number of the system and keep this in a safe place. Police are then able to return stolen systems if they find them during the course of arrests.

There is also a website which enables owners to register serial numbers, without charge, not just for satellite navigation systems, but also for mobile phones or any possession with a serial number. It is [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). Police have access to it to check if a system has been registered there when they find stolen property.

## Planning Applications

**114 High Road N2 -**

Installation of new signage.

**Land rear of Sherwood Hall,  
East End Road N2 -**

Erection of single-storey building  
to form two self-contained flats,  
and associated parking.

**40 Fortis Green N2 -**

Conversion of existing storage  
room to self-contained unit at  
first-floor level.

**First Floor Flat, 44 Lincoln  
Road N2 -**

Alterations to roof, including for-  
mation of rear dormer to accom-  
modate loft conversion.

**8 Manor Cottages Approach  
N2 -**

First floor rear extension.

**100 Hertford Road N2 -**

Construction of hip to gable end  
to provide additional floorspace  
at second floor level.

**67 Chandos Road N2 -**

Two-storey side extension.





## Stanley Field - the battle continues

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Does this sound familiar? "We, householders in the Finchley Parish, being convinced of the need of preserving as many open spaces as possible in the district, earnestly appeal to the Trustees of the Finchley Charities not to sell for building purposes the lands they hold in Trust."**

The lands in question included what we now call the Stanley Road Playing Field. The year was 1908. Will Barnet Council take notice of the similar wishes of East Finchley residents today?

### Councillors ask to see survey

Ninety seven per cent of residents neighbouring the Field would like it to be kept for community use and sports development. That was the result of the recent survey carried out by the East Finchley Development Trust. Now Barnet councillors have asked to see the survey.

The Development Trust and the Park Road Residents Association are stepping up their battle to save the field from building developers. They believe that the overwhelming majority of

East Finchley people have had enough of development outpacing infrastructure.

### Sport lends support

They already have provisional support from the Football Foundation, and are now making sure that other sports bodies and influential people know what they are trying to achieve. People like Richard Caborn, Tessa Jowell, Ken Livingstone, Lord Coe, Trevor Brooking are on their mailing lists.

They are visiting similar sports projects, which are already running successfully elsewhere in London, and are investigating all possible funding sources. As one member of the committee said, "This has been a long, hard struggle - and it's not over yet."

## Barnet not yet consulted on road plans

By Daphne Chamberlain

**THE ARCHER reported last month on proposed traffic-calming measures in Woodside Avenue, the long cut-through between the Great North Road and Muswell Hill Road.**

With differences in opinion still raging, we asked Haringey Council whether Barnet had been consulted about the possible knock-on effect of these changes on roads in East Finchley.

The plans for Woodside Avenue include three 'pinch points' to reduce the two lanes to one. Some residents fear the changed road layout will encourage motorists to use neighbouring Fordington Road and Lanchester Road as rat runs, or to change their route altogether to other roads like

Fortis Green in East Finchley.

Haringey said they had asked local residents, emergency services and London Transport for opinions, and were analysing their views, but had not yet consulted Barnet Council.

Spokesperson Tony Kennedy said, "We would not consult Barnet at this stage, as the proposals are unlikely to have a major knock-on effect. They (Barnet) would, however, be included at the statutory consultation stage."



## Independent living

By Sippy Azizollah

**This year's Independent Living Exhibition was held at Alexandra Palace instead of at Wembley exhibition halls. I've been to the exhibition every year for 10 years and have enjoyed looking at all the innovations to help disabled people remain independent.**

As the Dial-a-ride bus climbed to the top of the hill I saw an enormous ramp and platform for wheelchair users and exhibitors to access the Palm Court entrance for the two-day event.

### Gadgets and aids

My main aim was to look at the new gadgets available, but sadly there was only one gadget stand this year. It had some drinking cups that looked extremely good, so I took a catalogue. I spoke to Eva Claramonte (the coordinator of the exhibition) after the show to give her general feedback, and she assured me that next year there will be more gadget stands. The exhibition is there for you, so let the organisers know what you want.

Lots of people were trying out the scooters, wheelchairs, three-

wheel trikes and stair lifts; this is really important, as not all the aids are suitable for all disabilities. There were massage chairs, baths, showers, armchairs and beds as well as alternative therapies, books and much more. I even saw an adjustable bed that can be set to turn you every half hour.

The staff were very helpful and there were three eateries plus a bar where you could refuel if need be. I really enjoyed myself and hope that the Palace hosts next year's exhibition, as I found it a lot less overwhelming than the Wembley halls.

Independent Living Exhibitions are organised by Emap Healthcare, and you can contact Eva Claramonte, Senior Marketing Executive, on 020 7874 0332 or at [eva.claramonte@emap.com](mailto:eva.claramonte@emap.com).

## Getting home safely

**A new mobile phone service has been launched to help people get home safely from a night out in town.**

The Home Office scheme lets you obtain local licensed minicab numbers by texting 'HOME' to 60835. You will receive two licensed minicab numbers and a black cab number in the same area you text from. Texts cost 35p plus standard network charges.

Police are reminding anyone coming home from a night out to use a black cab, a licensed minicab, night bus or tube. Never get into a minicab if you have not booked it through a cab office.

**CARPENTRY & BUILDING SPECIALIST**  
Extensions & Home Improvements  
Property Repairs & Maintenance  
Garden Structures, Fencing & Decking  
For a Friendly Local Service call:  
**M J Griffiths (Builders)**  
TEL / FAX 020 8445 1579

**Utopia**  
**HEALTH & BEAUTY CLINIC**  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
FACIALS • MAKE UP • MANICURES • PEDICURES  
NAILS • BIOSCULPTURE • EYELASH TINT & PERM  
EYEBROW TINT & SHAPE • AIR BRUSHED TANNING  
ST TROPEZ • WAXING • HAIR EXTENSIONS  
SHIATSU • BOWEN • REIKI • HOPI EAR CANDLES  
REFLEXOLOGY • KINESIOLOGY • ACUPRESSURE MASSAGE  
JAPANESE FACIAL MASSAGE • AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE  
CHIROPODY • PODIATRY  
**Telephone 020 8444 4226**  
1A LEICESTER MEWS, EAST FINCHLEY, LONDON, N2 9EJ  
(ON LEICESTER RD - JUST OFF THE HIGH RD BEHIND COOTES PHARMACY)

**VICTORY AUTO SERVICES**  
**Air-Conditioning - Recharge & Servicing**  
Mechanical repairs, tyres,  
bodywork, clutches, exhausts  
MOTs by appointment  
109 Fortis Green East Finchley London N2 9HR  
Tel: 020 8883 9707 / 0023 Fax: 020 8482 9179

**Mary Feilding Guild**  
**Independence, Privacy and Dignity - A residential home for the elderly**  
Do you dread the winter with its early dark evenings, icy pavements and sometimes days without visitors?  
It doesn't have to be like that, Mary Feilding Guild offers a real alternative.  
Why not join our friendly, congenial community of residents.  
Initially you will need to be mobile, however, you no longer have to fear being ill, the Guild provides 24 hour support from kind, well trained staff with a view to providing lifetime care.  
Sited in Highgate, Mary Feilding is set in its own pretty gardens with a summer house. Each en suite room has a mini-kitchen and the dining room offers a choice of menu.  
You can bring your own furniture, TV and favourite things.  
*'I heard about the guild from a friend and am really glad I made the move'*  
If you would like to find out more visit our web site [www.maryfeildingguild.co.uk](http://www.maryfeildingguild.co.uk) or telephone Mrs Miriam Isherwood Tel. 020 8340 3915.  
*The Guild is non profit making with a number of bursaries available.*

**P.A.music**  
Lighting-Sound-FX-Video  
**We Have Moved**  
to: Unit 4  
The Old Printworks  
25 Tapster Street  
Barnet, EN5 5TH  
Email: [p.a.music@fsbdial.co.uk](mailto:p.a.music@fsbdial.co.uk)  
Hire & Sales  
020 8440 8008

**HEALING**  
**Kathryn Scorza**  
Registered Spiritual Healer  
  
**For appointments in East Finchley please call 07703 404 839 or email [kathryn@spqrlondon.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@spqrlondon.co.uk)**





## Action for a safer neighbourhood

Residents asked police in the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team to take action against anti-social behaviour in the Manor Park Road area, as reported in *THE ARCHER* last month. Since then, an action plan has been drawn up.

They have increased their patrolling of the area - Manor Park Road and the Thomas More Estate are two of their three priority patrol areas at the moment. They have not come across any anti-social behaviour directly but they have talked to local youngsters and reminded them of the police presence and the need for good behaviour.

The Manor Park Road area is now included in the daily briefing for all police teams, to raise awareness of the problem and to encourage more patrolling of the area. A 'tactical tasking team' will give priority to

vehicle crime.

Police say there were no reported crimes in Manor Park Road between 1 September and the time of going to press. There was one call to police on 26 September at 7.20pm regarding youths causing a disturbance. Unfortunately the Safer Neighbourhood team was not working that evening and no officers were available to attend until midnight, by which time the youths had gone. The team said the response time was disappointing but calls of a more urgent nature would be given a higher priority.

## Finchley Forum round-up

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Council silence on Stanley Field proposals**

Philip King, of the Stanley Field working party, asked September's Finchley Forum why Barnet was not communicating with them. He said that, although they had been given a council liaison officer, the only information they had received was that demolishing the Herbert Wilmot Centre "would have some bearing" on the fate of the field. They had been told that their plans to use the field for sports development would be taken to a Council meeting, but later found out this had not happened.

Julia Chrysostomou, Chair of the Association that used to run Stanley Field, accused Barnet of cutting youth provision, particularly around East Finchley. Eighteen months ago, her association, along with other youth groups, had been forced to vacate the Wilmot Centre. She said that a Council officer had suggested she could have half the pitch back, if the other half was used for building. She concluded she had been lied to and needed clarification of the situation.

### Over-development warning

George Shaw warned that over-development of East Finchley was a time bomb. There was insufficient infrastructure to sustain it. Councillor Sussman agreed that Barnet's growing population, plus government pressure to build, was a problem. Brian Reynolds announced a future meeting between the Chief Executive and staff to discuss this.

### Barnet asks for extra buses

Barnet has asked Transport for London for one extra 263 an hour. Hazel Burnett, of the East Finchley Bus Watch, was told this after the meeting. She had asked for a response to her letter about the High Road's only North-South bus route.

Ms Burnett predicted that this service, already condemned by Transport for London's Users' Report as inadequate, would be unable to meet the needs of new housing developments along the High Road.

The next Forum will be at 6.30pm on 18 January at Avenue House, East End Road.

## An open & shut case?

By Diana Cormack  
**By the time you read this, the new café in Cherry Tree Wood should be open. Barnet Council gave *THE ARCHER* the opening date of 21 October. This is almost exactly three years since vandals burned down the original kiosk and two years since its replacement was due to open.**

During this time the complaints from park users about the lack of this facility seem to have fallen on deaf ears. Many locals contacted the council after an article by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood earlier this year and the Friends also organised a petition at the East Finchley Community Festival in June.

Eileen Cannon, the café's original leaseholder, had a good reputation for her home cooking and her caring attitude towards her customers. They were pleased to hear that she was planning to open the new kiosk with a Halloween theme event at the end of October 2003, but then came the news that Barnet had decided to put the lease out to tender.

A series of reports on potential leaseholders about to sign the relevant documents has since followed, but none came to fruition. Now it seems that an agreement has been signed by none other than... Eileen Cannon.

## Local dentists' accolade

By John Dearing

**The East Finchley Dental Centre has received an award for patient satisfaction and care. The award was presented in October to Darren Freedman, principal dentist, by Dental Solutions UK, who conducted a patient survey and assessed the centre against nine different criteria for excellence in patient satisfaction.**

Mr Freedman said that he was pleased to have received the award and gratified that staff at the centre on the High Road had been recognised for their hard work and attention to patients' needs.

He and his partner Adam Motamed have chosen to work within the NHS. He said that most media reports stress the lack of access to NHS dentistry and that, reportedly, about 50% of all people in the UK are not registered with a dentist. However, he was pleased that, at least in East Finchley, patients could attend a centre that offered the



Darren Freedman, the principal dentist. Photo by John Dearing

flexibility of both NHS treatments, and those not available under the NHS.

Mr Freedman emphasised the importance of communicating to patients all the options available to them for dental treatment. To support this, the dentists undergo a process of continual professional development through courses and peer review.

Mr. Freedman also announced that they have

opened a second treatment suite within the practice, developed with the help of a grant from Barnet Primary Care Trust. Patricia Ogbu has joined the practice as associate dentist, after working with them earlier this year as a locum. As part of this expansion, they intend to increase their range of services, particularly for children, and to increase the numbers of patients.

## Council hedges your bets

By John Dearing

**Have you got a problem with your neighbours' hedge or have they got a problem with yours? You may be interested to know that, since June, as a result of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, Barnet Council, like other English councils, will arbitrate over disputes about 'high hedges'.**

If you have tried and exhausted all other avenues for resolving a hedge dispute, including negotiation with your neighbour, you may take your complaint to the council. The fee for the service is £450.

The council will arbitrate if the hedge in question:

- is comprised wholly or predominantly of a line of two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs;
- is over two metres high;
- acts, to some degree, as a barrier to light or access;
- adversely affects your reasonable enjoyment of your domestic property (that is your home or garden).

The council will examine each case individually, taking into account all relevant factors.

Note that the legislation does

not require all hedges to be cut down to a height of two metres.

If the council decides that action should be taken to resolve the complaint, they will issue a formal notice to the person responsible for the hedge, setting out what must be done and by when.

Failure to comply with the requirements of a remedial notice would be an offence. If convicted in a magistrates' court, the hedge-owner could be fined up to £1,000.

Further details may be found on the LBBC web site at: [http://www.barnet.gov.uk/environment\\_transport/hedges.php3](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/environment_transport/hedges.php3)

## Is your parking spot pukka?

By Betti Blatman

**Residents in East Finchley who have paved their front gardens in order to provide themselves with an exclusive parking space are being asked to check they've obeyed all regulations.**

If you drive across the pavement to park on your property, you are required to obtain permission from Barnet Council to do so.

In addition, if you have applied for a dropped kerb on the pavement outside your property or paid for white lines across the entrance to your drive, you should recognise that these are not enforceable deterrents to prevent members of the public from parking in front of your property.

For further information contact the council's street enforcement officer on 020 8359 4600 or the dropped kerb department on 020 8359 3024.

### ST. JOHNS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Tele: 079 444 989 30 ~ Web: [www.stjohnsfinchley.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsfinchley.co.uk)

#### Services

Sunday 6.30 p.m. Thursday 7.30 p.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month 6.30 p.m.  
Healing every Tuesday between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.  
Weddings ~ Christenings ~ Funerals (at the church or cemetery)  
by arrangement with the Minister  
All are welcome  
4 Woodberry Grove N12 (behind Homebase)

A friendly welcome awaits you

### EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

[www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)

**Family service and Junior Church  
Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.**

Worship Music Social events Wheelchair friendly  
tel: 020 8349 9340 e-mail: [info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)





Fred in East Finchley, 2005. Photo by John Dearing

## Tales from the Far East

By Daphne Chamberlain

**After the Gang Show (see above) Fred Pentland-Firth was sent out to the Far East. He has happy memories of "beautiful" Kashmir, where last month's earthquake struck. "We went up to the hill stations for a break from the heat." This was 1946, and Fred's RAF unit was helping to restore infrastructure and vehicles after World War II.**

Next stop was Burma, where he found chaos in the centre of Rangoon. "The docks were smashed, tramlines were standing up like javelins in the roads, there was no electricity, no sanitation. We lost two men from smallpox, but the Burmese were so friendly - and so clean. They washed completely at standpipes at street corners, their longyis draped around them for privacy."

Fred thinks people today don't realise the vital part Burma played in the war. He regrets the isolation of present-day Burma, too. He wishes more people could see the Schwe-daym Pagoda, the world's biggest Hindu temple, its roof restored after being stolen in the war. He remembers beautiful bamboo houses intact in the suburbs of Rangoon whose wealthy occupants invited RAF units to see stylised Burmese dances and outdoor boxing-matches.

Fred worked on restoring the many vehicles sent over for war use by the UK and the USA. They had been corroding in the humid heat, but once made over, were sold at auction "for next to nothing". He was one of the drivers who transported them

to their new homes - sometimes up at the Chinese border.

It was hard to settle after all this, but his "most interesting job" was still to come. In the early 1980s, he spent four years in Zimbabwe, supervising the refining of gold and silver from slime in the copper mines - but that is another story.

## Farmers' Market news

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**There will be farmers' markets at Alexandra Palace on 6, 13 and 27 November, and 4 and 11 December. Organiser Chris Elder is also planning one Saturday market in December, with a date to be confirmed.**

The market needs an alternative site for Sundays when Alexandra Palace is not available. The organisers would like to know of any reasonably large site with a hard-standing surface, preferably close to Alexandra Palace.

For details and updates, please contact 020 8291 1124 between 9am and 5pm Mondays to Wednesdays, or 07780 520 610.

## Curtain up on the Gang Show

By Fred Pentland-Firth

*Fred Pentland-Firth of Market Place, N2, responded to our request for VJ Day memories with something entirely unexpected. Here's his story in his own words:*

**On VJ Day in 1945 I was stationed in the RAF at Chigwell, being groomed with hundreds of other "erks" for technical work in mobile signals units in the Far East. After peace was declared, the gates were thrown open. We were given three days' unconditional leave.**

I spent mine in the city, and was present in Piccadilly Circus on VJ Day and beyond. What a celebration - unbelievable! People just went mad. There were fireworks, and all inhibitions just disappeared. Total strangers welcomed soldiers and airmen in uniform, and invited us to their homes.

### Next stop - the Albert Hall

Chigwell was now behind me, and I was posted to join Ralph Reader's Gang Show as an electrical technician. They were putting on a Pageant of the RAF in the Royal Albert Hall on 23 September 1945. "So go to it, you guys! You've only got a month for rehearsals," we were told.

We were living in St Regis Hotel in Old Burlington Street and in Houghton House in Aldgate.



Fred Pentland-Firth in Kashmir, 1946

Some nights the rehearsals were conducted at the American Air Base at Chipping Ongar. Sheer hard work for just one night's celebration at the Albert Hall!

It went off perfectly well, and was a sell-out. We all had a whale of a time. The first public pageant of the peace we had just gained was something I shall always remember. I still have

my performer's pass for the Albert Hall on that date.

Later, I flew out to India, via Morocco, Egypt and Iraq to Karachi - and thereby hangs another tale...

## Remembering the Few

By Diana Cormack

**Sixty-five years after the event, Prince Charles has unveiled a memorial dedicated to those who fought in the Battle of Britain.**

The monument is on London's Victoria Embankment, close to the former RAF Headquarters. It consists of sculpted panels depicting scenes from those days between July and October 1940 when a small number of fighter pilots and crew from 14 countries fought the German Luftwaffe in the air. As well as honouring "the Few" who took to the skies, the Battle of Britain monument also pays tribute to all those on the ground who contributed to this remarkable victory.

The idea for a memorial came from Bill Bond, founder

of the Battle of Britain Society, and was created by sculptor Paul Day. It cost £1.65 million and was funded entirely by public donations.

The Society still requires funding to complete the project and maintain the monument. You can send a donation, payable to "Battle of Britain of London Ltd", to 11 Greenland Rd, Barnet EN5 2AL. For more information visit [www.bbm.org.uk](http://www.bbm.org.uk)

## STEAM CRAZY

*Extractor Carpet Cleaning*

C/o 23 St. Pancras Court  
High Road  
East Finchley  
London  
N2 9AE

**Insured  
Service Cleaning  
Carpets Upholstery etc.**

Industrial water injecting  
& extracting machine  
using biosoft &  
biodegradable chemicals

**FREE SPOTTING  
& DEODERISING**

**Contact Theo  
020 8141 4061  
078 4158 6165**

## OSTEOPATHY

at

## The Twyford Practice

*Osteopathic consultation and treatments  
in Fortis Green, N2.*

**Robin Kiashek,  
Osteopath and Naturopath,  
Bsc (Hons), Ost Med.,  
N.D., M.R.N.**

**For appointments:  
please phone 020 8815 0979**

or visit:

[www.robinkiashek.co.uk](http://www.robinkiashek.co.uk)  
for further information

**Klages Plumbing & Heating Agency LTD.**

CONTACT TELEPHONE No: 020 8346 7218 / 8636

**KLAGE**

**A NAME IN PLUMBING FOR OVER 40 YEARS**

## Sports Therapy

**Treatment of  
sport & non-sport  
injuries for people  
of all ages**

**Soft & deep  
tissue  
manipulation**

**Muscular-Skeletal  
Complaints**

**Mobilisation  
Rehabilitation**

Isabel Douglas  
Health & Beauty Centre  
90-92 High Road  
East Finchley N2 9EB  
020 8444 3639/1516





## Walking London's green pathways

Local resident Tony Roberts and a colleague completed the 78 miles of the Capital Ring in January this year, having previously completed the London LOOP (London Outer Orbital Pathway). He writes:

The characters of the two walks are quite different. As well as being only half the length of the LOOP, the Ring is significantly more urban and there are many more points where it is easy to join the route or have lunch.

The south-western part of the route is the most 'rural' as it passes through Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, Isleworth and Syon Park before taking the Grand Union Canal tow path northward.

South-eastern parts of the route are rural too, sharing the way with parts of the Green Chain Walk, a source of confusion (we went wrong twice).

The East Finchley stretch is fairly tranquil, following the Mutton Brook through Lyttleton Field and then through Hampstead Garden Suburb and Cherry Tree Wood to Highgate Wood.

Anyone planning to do the walk should consider buying the paperback *Recreational Path Guide, The Capital Ring*, Aurum Press £12.99, available from Stanfords and other large book shops. It contains detailed maps. There is a similar book for the London LOOP too.



Official opening in Highgate Wood of the Capital Ring. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Opening the Ring around London

By Daphne Chamberlain

**London's green walk, The Capital Ring, is officially opened, and at least four stalwart walkers have certificates to prove it.**

At the end of September assorted VIPs, including Jenny Jones from the Greater London Authority, Capital Ring manager Colin Saunders, and what Mr Saunders called "a chain-gang of mayors" assembled in Highgate Wood.

By a miracle of timing (and probably mobile phones), four groups of walkers also arrived from different parts of London at the same time. Their convergence point was the signpost outside Highgate Wood café, where a tape was later ceremonially cut.

The Capital Ring is a 78-mile walk along footpaths through inner London's parks, woodlands and nature reserves. Our immediate section runs through Queen's

Wood, Highgate Wood, Cherry Tree Wood and Lyttelton Playing Fields. Accompanying leaflets for all 15 stages of the Ring give information about the terrain, transport links, cafés and toilets.

## Disabled Ramblers

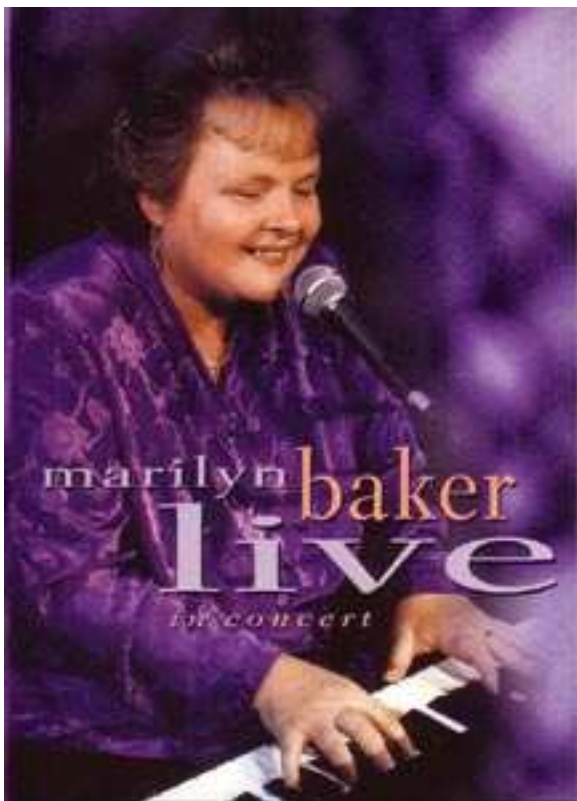
By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Dr. Mike Bruton founded Disabled Ramblers after travelling 50 miles in a rickshaw to raise money for charity. It now campaigns for easier access to the countryside for people with mobility problems, arranging rambles of around eight miles across England and Wales, including the Thames Path, with a sister group in Scotland.**

As very few members can walk more than a few yards, buggies, scooters, power-chairs, manually-operated wheelchairs, friends, families and volunteer helpers are all par for the course. Routes vary from easy (on the level) to challenging (uneven, steep or rocky).

Dr. Bruton formed the association as the Countryside Access Group (subsidiary to the Disabled Drivers' Association) before registering it as a national charity under the name of Disabled Ramblers. The aim is to make rambling safe and easier for the disabled, while preserving the character of the countryside.

Bookings are available now for 2006. For further information, contact [www.disabledramblers.co.uk](http://www.disabledramblers.co.uk) or write to Robin Helby, Membership Secretary, Disabled Ramblers, Little Croft, Guildford Road, Shamley Green, GU5 0RT.

## Finchley Christian Fellowship (An Elim Pentecostal Church) 'A Church for EVERYONE'



**This is a golden opportunity to hear this amazing blind Singer/Songwriter in Concert  
Sunday 13th November - 11:00am  
The Finchley Youth Theatre  
142 High Road, East Finchley, London N2**

## Changing face of the cemetery

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Since June 2004, East Finchley's Islington and St. Pancras cemetery, the largest in London, has been managed entirely by Islington Council. Many changes have taken place, and more are planned when there is enough money.**

The merged management is housed in the Islington office on Church Road North; this winter the old Camden office at the main gate will become the new reception centre. Near the Coppetts Road gate, a large area has been cleared of trees and scrub to create a new burial site. Next year, funding permitting, other parts of the cemetery may also be landscaped. Improvements have been made to the crematorium and its garden of remembrance, to some of the roads and even to the visitors' toilets.

### Combating crime

The new entry barriers and the closure of the gates at Exit Road and Coppetts Road have not pleased everyone. More effective control of one main gate, and the installation of CCTV cameras at each gate, has increased security, however. Small-scale vandalism remains a problem but there is less vehicle crime and fly-tipping, and a more visible police presence inside the cemetery.

Inevitably, with such a

vast acreage, there are boundary issues of various kinds. Recently, a fire in the Fuel Lands allotments scorched mature trees in the cemetery; luckily, wet weather prevented further damage. The eastern fence adjoining Coldfall Wood and the playing field has never been secure but the battle against fly-tipping along that boundary is having some success.

### A lung for Barnet

Islington's Councillor Fox, executive member for sustainability, thinks the present management plan will benefit wildlife. "To many, a cemetery is an unlikely 'public space', however it has clear potential to contribute to Barnet's green space," she said.

Walkers, bird-watchers and other local visitors to the cemetery will welcome the continuation of previous Camden and Islington conservation policies - for example, the bat and bird boxes. The popular wildlife walks are to return but only with clear guidelines on safety and control for group visits.





Youngsters at the Green Man Mother and Toddler Group resist the temptation to chew their medals after completing their Pedal Push! Photo by Helen Drake.

## Pedal push for Childline

By Helen Drake

**Bikes, dolly pushchairs and toy carts were all put to good use by children at the Green Man Mother and Toddler Group on Thursday 6 October when they took part in 'Pedal Push', a national fundraising event for the charity Childline.**

The children at the Green Man in Strawberry Vale joined toddlers and youngsters from nurseries and playgroups across the UK taking part in

this annual event, launched in 1995, which has raised over £1 million for Childline. Children are sponsored to pedal, push or ride around a small course set up in their local centre.

Organisers Vanessa Elsley and Barbara Poulter were surprised by the good driving skills of the children. The youngest participant was six-month-old Sienna who enjoyed being pushed around the obstacle course by her mum, Nicola Hargrave.

The Green Man Mother and Toddler Group meets on Thursday mornings from 9.30-11.30am during term time at the Green Man Community Centre.

Launched in October 1986, Childline is a free 24-hour helpline (0800 1111) for children and young people in distress or danger in the UK. For more information or to make a donation go to [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

## Explore Parkland Walk

By Craig Johnson

**Parkland Walk is the longest of the three nature reserves in Haringey, the others being Queens Wood and Railway Fields.**

This 4.5 mile linear green walkway follows the course of the railway which used to run from Finsbury Park through Highgate to Alexandra Palace. It was opened in the 1980s and is looked after by dedicated warden Mr David Hope. You can find entrances off Shepherd's Hill next to Highgate tube station.

The grooviest animal that lives there has to be the Chinese Muntjac, which could explain why these small deer are popping up in front gardens in East Finchley.

Plant lovers will be happy to know that there are around 100 species of flower growing there, with buddleia from western China flowering on the 17-arch brick viaduct at the Crouch End Station path.

Peering through the hanging ivy at the top of one of these arches is a large sculpture of a Spriggan, which relates to Cornish folklore. It is said that these cousins of the pixie, which grow into giant form, will put a curse on anyone who mistreats the pixies. They will also lead lost persons astray and steal chil-



The Spriggan. Photo by Craig Johnson

dren, turning them into their own forms, so be careful!

Sadly there has been a 70% increase in crime here recently, so park police are on patrol with bylaws in place to sort out any troublemakers along the walk. You can see more photos of the Parkland Walk at

[www.britphoto.net](http://www.britphoto.net) and get more information at [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk). BTCV is the UK's largest practical conservation charity. Founded in 1959, it helps volunteers take hands-on action to improve both the rural and urban environment.

## The lady of the lake

By Lucy Chamberlin

**Isn't it annoying when you're doing indoor lane swimming and someone just a bit faster creeps up behind you and smugly overtakes you? Don't you sometimes resent the monotony of white tiles and buzzing strip lights? Wouldn't you like to be in the open air?**

Like Wyn Cornwell and Frieda Schweizer (*THE ARCHER*, May and September 2005), I can recommend the Hampstead Ladies' Pond. Although their fantastic combined age of 182 eclipses my 21, I have been a Pond swimmer for 10 years (summer only, although I do have designs to join the winter-swimming elite).

After the first cold shock and acclimatisation, which seems to take about half-a-pond's length, it is the sense of space and freedom that gets you. With the late afternoon sun on the reeds and the Heath beyond, the view from the water in summer is an image of tranquillity. Even in the rain it is beautiful.

Moving at your own pace you

can enjoy the setting, serenaded on weekend afternoons by Kenwood concert rehearsals. Herons and resident families of moorhens are frequent sights; last month there were also kingfishers, a couple of exotic-looking ducks and a flock of parakeets in the surrounding trees.

Plunging into the 15ft depths, you encounter murky green light, re-emerging thankful to gulp down oxygen and not to have touched the bottom. Whatever is under the surface is a mystery and should remain so.

The best thing about swimming in the Pond is that this source of rejuvenation and *joie-de-vivre* is also exercise, to be found not far from East Finchley.



Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

- Back Pain
- Sciatica
- Whiplash Injury
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Tennis Elbow
- Stroke
- Parkinson's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Hip Replacement Rehab
- Acupuncture
- Incontinence

[www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk)



East Finchley Clinic  
Unit 2/3 Bedford Mews  
Bedford Road  
London N2 9DF

**020 8883 5888**  
Fax: 020 8444 8874

## The East Finchley DENTAL CENTRE

*Dedicated to making you smile!*

- NHS & Private Patients Welcome
- Friendly, Experienced Dental Team
- Special Care for Nervous Patients, Children, Disabled and The Elderly
- Preventative Care
- Cosmetic Treatment, Teeth Whitening
- Mercury Free White Fillings
- Crowns, Bridges and Dentures
- 24 Hour Emergency Cover
- Open 9am - 6pm Weekdays  
Sat. (by arrangement)

Tele: 020 8444 3436

144, High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9ED





## YOUNG ARCHER

### Who's that guy?

By Diana Cormack

**Mention the name Guy Fawkes and everyone thinks of the Gunpowder Plot. The strange thing is that the men plotting to blow up the Houses of Parliament 400 years ago in 1605 chose Guy Fawkes to be part of their group because he wasn't known in London.**

Originally from Yorkshire, Guy had been living abroad as a soldier, where he had learned a lot about explosives. His job was to wait alone overnight on 4 November in a cellar under the Houses of Parliament with 36 barrels of gunpowder put there by the plotters. Then, when King James 1 came to open parliament the next day, Guy was supposed to light the fuse leading to the gunpowder and run away before the king and all his members of parliament were blown up.

The reason behind this was that the conspirators were Catholic and did not want a non-Catholic king and his government ruling the country. Their plan was discovered after one of the group, who wanted to protect a friend, sent a letter warning him not to attend the king's opening ceremony. Guards were sent to search the building and Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder were found.

For their crime of treason the plotters were terribly tortured and eventually executed

in January 1606. After this it was ordered that special prayers of thanks should be said every year on 5 November. In the following years people began to hold celebrations with huge bonfires on top of which an effigy of Guy Fawkes was burned. Children begged for money to buy fireworks by making their own "guy" and "Penny for the guy" became a familiar cry on our streets.

Bonfire Night is also known as Guy Fawkes' Night. So the name of a man chosen because nobody knew him is still remembered 400 years later!

*"Please to remember  
The fifth of November,  
With gunpowder,  
treason and plot.  
I see no reason  
Why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot!"*

To mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary there is a special Gunpowder Treason exhibition being held at the Tower of London. Call 0870 756 7070 or visit [www.tower-of-london.org.uk](http://www.tower-of-london.org.uk) for more details

### Reading winners sail in

By Sheila Armstrong

**This year's summer holiday reading scheme - The Reading Voyage - was very successful in Barnet with over 3,000 children taking part.**

At East Finchley Library, 207 children signed up and 93 completed the scheme by reading six books or more.

Rachael Reilly, Children's and Youth Librarian at East Finchley, told *THE ARCHER* that the winners' party at the library on 27 September was very suc-

cessful. A total of 51 winners received their Reading Voyage certificates on the day.

The Reading Voyage is sponsored by the charity The Reading Agency, which works with libraries to promote reading with children. More information from [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk).

### 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**

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

**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

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

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

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

## Up, up and away!

By Helen Drake



Photo by Helen Drake

### PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

#### Holy Trinity

The school received a thank you letter from Homeless Action in Barnet for the generous donation of food in tins and packets collected at the annual Harvest Assembly.

Book Fair week gave parents and children the opportunity to purchase fiction and non-fiction books; the commission received enabled the school to buy more books for the library.

Sixty-five tickets provided by Vue Cinema were offered on a first come, first served basis for a special preview screening of Nanny McPhee.

A special gourmet evening to taste the dishes of school chef Francois Nouillat and his Restaurant Ecole team, along with a licensed bar and a food quiz, was organised for parents by the Holy Trinity School Association.

Arty Fact Theatre Company visited the school and performed to all the classes.

#### Martin Schools

The junior school took part in Black History Month celebrations. One aspect taken was to invite visitors in who could impress upon the children the possibilities for people from all backgrounds to succeed in different careers. This term Year 6 are reading 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin.

Year 6 had a wonderful week and learned a lot about history, geography and nature on their School Journey at the Pestalozzi Village near Hastings. Being away from home was a new experience for many, which developed the children's social skills and helped them to compare their local environment with the seaside town.

Year 4 have been involved in animation workshops on the theme of Hans Christian Anderson. This came about because the Phoenix cinema recommended the school to the Barbican Centre, whose team has been most impressed with the pupils' work and enthusiasm.

A bright new office now welcomes visitors as they enter Martin Infant School.

BBC Television is filming infants for their CBBC programme 'Higgle Biggle'.

Parents were also invited in by written invitation from their children to sample the new school dinners. There has been such a fantastic response to this that it may become a permanent feature of the school day.

### Bishop Douglass School

FINCHLEY

Hamilton Road, East Finchley N2 0SQ

#### Temporary Exam Invigilators

Required for January 2006 and / or mid-May to July, invigilators to supervise public examinations. Those appointed will be given full training. Payment is at the rate of £ 10.00 per hour.

The person appointed will work hours to suit the exam timetable, but should be prepared to start work at 8.30 a.m. And work until the end of the afternoon (approx. 4.00 p.m.)

Bishop Douglass is a rapidly improving school with a positive future and a commitment to raising standards in every direction.

This is an opportunity to ensure that our students write their examinations in accordance with the regulations of the Examining Bodies in an orderly and supportive environment.

Please forward your C.V. and letter of application to:

Mrs. K. Weston 020 8815 5045  
[kwatson@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:kwatson@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk)

**If you were near the High Road in East Finchley on Friday 7 October at 4pm, you would have seen a cloud of 282 blue balloons floating up into the sky as Martin Schools' parent teacher association (PTA) launched its 2005 balloon race.**

"We wanted to celebrate the completion of major building works that have taken place in the school and also raise some money," said Azra Nath, Chair of the PTA. "We thought that holding a balloon race would be a spectacular and fun way to do both."

Children and staff returned after the summer holidays to find the Year 1 classroom spaces reconfigured into two spacious rooms, and new offices created for the deputy heads of both schools. Infant School secretaries Muna Whitaker and Helen Matthews have moved into a smart new office on the ground floor near the main entrance. "It means we are much more accessible to parents," said Muna.

Amanda Neilson, vice-chair of the PTA explained: "We had to obtain permission from the Civil Aviation Authority and co-ordinate with the London Terminal Control Centre to release so many balloons. On the day, it took us two hours to fill the balloons with helium and it was a bit tense keeping them tethered down in the net. We didn't want any to escape and get a head start in the race!"

The last time Martin Schools PTA held a balloon race, the winning label was sent back from Belgium. "It will be interesting to see where they come back from this time," said Azra.

As we go to print, the PTA reports that 11 labels have been sent back so far from several places including Clapham Common, Mitcham in Surrey and Cheshunt in Hertfordshire. One label has even been returned from Tufter, a cat who lives in Soho.





*Immigration and British citizenship have been much in the headlines in recent months as our politicians continue to debate what 'being British' really is. Here, two people who have recently been made British citizens in the borough of Barnet - one a long-term resident and one a recent arrival - tell us about the ceremony and what it means to them.*

## I'm a British citizen at last

By Betti Blatman

After living in this country for many years, I was finally due to become a British citizen. Unfortunately, the day this was to happen was 7 July. While at the hairdresser I heard the radio news of the terrorist bombs in central London and the atmosphere in the salon changed immediately, with reactions of horror and disbelief.

My own mood changed from excitement to sadness. Throughout the day I was receiving phone calls, texts and emails from friends and family abroad checking that we were not in central London and asking if we were okay. All I could say was that I was finally going to be a British citizen, today of all days!

I attended the citizenship ceremony at Hendon Town Hall accompanied by my son and friends. We were greeted by the Registrar and completed some documentation, after

which we were introduced to the Mayor of Barnet.

The ceremony began with an introduction to becoming a British citizen and, together with around 20 other new citizens, I pledged allegiance to the Queen and wondered if I should send her a 'thank you' note for allowing me to be one of her subjects. The charismatic Mayor welcomed us all to Barnet but I felt we should be welcomed to Britain or the UK.

We were then presented with our certificates and lovely pens inscribed 'British Citizen 2005'

and invited for a cup of tea and biscuits - in the true British style! We also had the opportunity of being photographed with the Mayor handing us our certificates.

On my return home, I invited my neighbours to join me to celebrate the occasion as best we could. Everybody was discussing the bombs in London that day and how I couldn't have chosen a worse day to finally become a British citizen. Since the ceremony, I have also received my British passport.



Roni Batal and family. Photo by Ann Bronkhorst

## Treated like a true British citizen

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Friendly, helpful officials, a mayor who speaks to everyone individually and chats to the children, the national flag in view, but furled, and finally the invitation: "Now that you are British, have a nice cup of tea."**

Nobody could feel anxious or intimidated at the citizenship ceremony I witnessed recently, one of Barnet's regular twice-weekly ceremonies. Equally, nobody could be unaware of its essential seriousness. The new citizens pledge allegiance to the Queen. Expectations are made explicit: respect for law and order; tolerance; integration; use of the English language; an active role in the community.

### Roni's story

Roni Batal, of East End Road, was "hungry for this day", 13 September, when his British citizenship was confirmed at Hendon Town Hall. Later I discovered why he feels so grateful to this country.

Roni is from Syria but he is a Kurd of the Yazidi faith, not a Muslim. Arrested in 1997 and again in 1999 for Kurdish political activities, he was heavily beaten and the injuries still trouble

him - and his family could not trace where he was held.

With their encouragement Roni came to the UK in July 1999. At Heathrow airport, where he applied for asylum, he was amazed that the uniformed officials and police smiled, were not threatening and did not demand bribes. It was his first feeling of freedom. He says, "There was no pressure on my shoulder."

Now settled contentedly in East Finchley - he describes north London as "beautiful, like a paradise" - Roni has worked as a driver and speaks English fluently. He and his South Korean partner Soo Kim have a two-year-old son, Siamand, but it is unclear how long Soo Kim will be allowed to stay in Britain. Life is often difficult but Roni feels confident about the future. "England is my country now," he asserts.

## Going Loco

Anita Rai, a television producer, lives in East Finchley. In May she travelled to Mexico to film a new cookery series called 'An Italian in Mexico'. The programme will air daily at 11.30am and 6.30pm on UKTV Food from 26 December onwards. Here she recalls her experiences:

**My journey started in Mexico City, after an 11-hour flight. Another seven hours in a van along bumpy roads took me to Oaxaca (pronounced WA-HA-KA), the gastronomic capital of Mexico.**

Our first day of filming was at Oaxaca Central Market for our shopping sequences. I have never seen such an array of produce: a patchwork of primary colours, the waft of smoky spices and perfumed fruits, and piles of different types of chilli, beans and vegetables. There are at least 100 varieties of chilli.

We saw tortillas and tequila, and racks of meat hung in grotesque shapes on the stalls. Live

turkeys sat sunbathing in their cages waiting to be someone's dinner.

In the evening there was a terrifying electrical storm. We took refuge in a bar as hail (as big as golf balls) battered the roof. Soon the ground was covered in what looked like slushy snow, something I didn't think I'd see in Mexico.

That evening we dined *al fresco*. Unfortunately, it was May and the ubiquitous May beetle was just starting to rear its ugly head. Every day for one month at dusk they fall from the sky. Black, glossy and two inches in length - they don't care where they land. Within half an hour the patio was covered with a moving black rug. Apparently

it is fun to throw them at each other so I took cover and cowered in a corner until the excitement wore off.

Before returning home, I thought I would try out a temascal, a traditional Mexican relaxation ritual, reputedly excellent for body, mind and soul. After stripping to nothing but a white sheet I was whipped with a branch. Trying to suppress my laughter, I was guided into the temascal, which is like a stone igloo with hot stones giving a sauna effect. Drinking a strange potion to the sound of bizarre drum music, I slipped into a relaxed trance that had me in its grasp for two days. I rather liked that feeling and would go back again for more.

# Va' Pensiero

## Restaurant

*Enjoy an Italian meal  
in a warm friendly atmosphere*

**Varieties of Pasta, Pizza, Grilled Fish & Meat Dishes  
Lunch Menu available - Coffee served in the afternoon**

**Childrens Menu available when dining in the Restaurant**

**Christmas bookings are now being taken**

**132 High Road, East Finchley N2 9ED**

**To book a table, call Tel: 020 8444 7117 Fax: 020 8883 2138**

**Open every day 11:30-11:00 (11:30-11:30 Friday & Saturday)**







## Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

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

## DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.  
❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378  
❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.  
❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.  
❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 14 & 28 Nov at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome  
❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.  
❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.  
❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736  
❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315  
❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.  
❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.  
❖ **SwampRock** events: Call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280 [www.swamprock.org.uk](http://www.swamprock.org.uk)  
❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706  
❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

## CLUBS & SOCIAL

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

# Showing off the shows

By Viviana Lotti

**A unique display of Britain's 149-year exhibition history is running at Church Farm Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon. An Exhibition of Exhibitions: from the Great Exhibition to the Millennium Dome is on until 20 November.**

The collection belongs to New Barnet resident Don R Knight, who has spent nearly 40 years amassing memorabilia of every major exhibition held in Britain, beginning with the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace in 1851.

Mr Knight originally collected commemorative stamps marking these events. He went on to amass this impressive collection of pictures, posters, stamps, postcards, guides, coins, photographs and other mementoes spanning a century and a half of British exhibitions.

The most famous include the International Exhibition of 1862, the British Empire Exhibition of 1924-25 at the then-new Wembley Stadium, the 1951 Festival of Britain, and the more recent Millennium Dome exhibition in 2000.

At a private viewing at the museum on 9 October, Mr Knight led guests through the carefully laid-out exhibition, providing commentary and insight into a little-celebrated area of Britain's rich heritage. There was fascinating information on each event: for example, the 1908 Olympics were held in London instead of Rome (the designated city) due to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which caused the Italians to cancel the Games to divert all resources to the stricken region. Also, Golders Green resident Abram Games, who designed the poster and commemorative stamp for the 1951 Festival of Britain, became the only stamp designer to have his name on a stamp.

For more information, visit [www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk](http://www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk).

## Fair helps provide holidays

By Viviana Lotti

**The Family Holiday Association (FHA) is a national charity providing grants for one-week holidays to families. It is holding a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 12 November from 10.30am until 4pm at the Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Admission is £2.**

The Fair will feature at least 20 craft exhibitors, 'Dinner for Two' stall, tombola and light refreshments. An antiques valuation service is also available at a small charge.

The Association, currently celebrating its 30th anniversary, was founded by Golders Green residents Joan and Patrick Laurance, now in their 80s.

The Laurances' lives were touched by tragedy years ago with the death of their baby, Patrick's unemployment and a sick child to care for. A friend lent them his flat so they could have a short break.

Later, when Patrick became a councillor, the Laurances started the charity to help other families in similar or worse situations afford a holiday. Prob-

lems can include ill health, disability and bereavement. In their first year they raised £1,200 and provided grants to 17 families. They estimate they have sent 90,000 people on holiday in 30 years.

The Association has seven caravans at various holiday sites, and is buying more, to enable families to have a break in both holiday and term time.

Feedback from families is overwhelmingly positive. After his first ever holiday, one six-year-old said, "I feel all happy and laughing inside."

For information on the Association and the Craft Fair, contact 020 7436 3304 or [www.FamilyHolidayAssociation.org.uk](http://www.FamilyHolidayAssociation.org.uk)



(Back row L-R) Budgens staff Rosie Townsend, Valerie Francis and Anita Depala with Sippy Azizollah (in front). Photo by Erini Rodis

## Shoppers snap up homemade treats

**Shoppers gave generously when Sippy Azizollah and the staff of Budgens organised a raffle and the sale of homemade cakes and treats.**

The £285 raised from the event was split between Challenging Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood, which is Budgens' chosen charity, and the Barbara Bus Fund, which provides accessible transport for wheelchair users. Sippy thanked all the store's staff for helping her run the event and all the shoppers who bought treats and gave donations.

## Art for everyone

By Helen Drake

**The East Finchley Open (EFO) group of artists goes from strength to strength and is preparing to hold its second Winter Fair on Sunday 20 November from 10.30am-4pm.**

Martin School assembly halls will once again be transformed into a dazzling display of local creative talent. A wide range of high quality, original artwork including painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, textiles and crafts will be on show. Visitors can buy and commission artwork or simply enjoy the imaginative display.

Lisa Vallentin will again be taking up the challenge of drawing instant portraits, and children can have their faces painted. Visitors can relax in the Arts Café and enjoy soup, paninis, cakes and other winter refreshments. Proceeds from the door (£1 voluntary contribution) will this year be donated to the local charity CONTACT to pay

for a festive Christmas meal for its over-60s luncheon club. Each £1 donation will also entitle you to a raffle ticket; first prize is a piece of artwork by an EFO artist.

More than 1,000 visitors came to the first Winter Fair. The EFO is confident of an even greater level of success this year for an event that is becoming a key part of the East Finchley calendar. With prices ranging from 50p to £1,000 this is an opportunity that makes original contemporary art and craft affordable for everyone.

The EFO has an active membership of 50 local artists and craft people, making it the biggest and most successful group of its kind in North London. For more information go to [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)

## Phoenix film fest for kids

By Sheila Armstrong

**East Finchley's Phoenix cinema is hosting part of the 2005 London Children's Film Festival. Heralded as the first London-wide celebration of film for children and young people, it is backed by the Barbican and the Independent Cinema Office in partnership with Film London.**

Films from all over the world will be shown on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-20 November at the Phoenix and other participating cinemas across the capital including the Barbican and ICA.

Paul Homer, new manager at the Phoenix, told *THE ARCHER* that there was also a screening for schools on Wednesday 16 November at 10am of the Dutch movie *Lepel*, suitable for age seven upwards.

As well as an exciting range of international children's films, there are workshops on animation, music and make up, as well as on planning and making

films. The Phoenix is holding a free animation and storyboard-ing workshop on the weekends of 12-13 and 19-20 November an hour before the screenings.

Special events at the Barbican include animals in film, dance and storytelling, as well as the 200th anniversary celebration of Hans Christian Andersen's stories in film.

For full details, collect a film festival brochure from the Phoenix or visit [www.londonchildrenfilm.org.uk](http://www.londonchildrenfilm.org.uk).

Meanwhile, the Kid's Club Screenings for 6-11 year olds still take place at the Phoenix on Saturday mornings at 11am.

## What's On...

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

### Thursday 3 November

A taster **workshop for Nia** at Studio 2, LA Fitness Centre, East End Road, 6-7pm. Also Saturday 5 November 10-11am.

### Sunday 13 November

Blind singer/songwriter **Marilyn Baker in concert** at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road, 11am. Admission FREE. Hosted by **Finchley Christian Fellowship**.

### Saturday 19 November

**Finchley Choral Society** performs *Anthems for Peace* at St. Jude on the Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, 7.45pm. Box office: 020 8346 9230

### Sunday 20 November

**East Finchley Open Winter Fair**, Martin School halls, 10.30am-4.00pm. Artwork at affordable prices.

### Thursday 24 November

Talk on the history of **Finchley Memorial Hospital**, Finchley Society, Avenue House, East End Road, 8pm. Non-members welcome.

### Friday 25 November

**The Friends of Montclair** hold a *Thanksgiving Dinner*. Non-members welcome. Details from 020 8361 8978.





## Italian imagination

By John Dearing

For some years, East Finchley was without an Italian restaurant, so when Va' Pensiero was opened in the High Road in August 2004 by Parviz Toserkani, lovers of Italian food were delighted.

Va' Pensiero is the name of a song from the opera "Nabucco" by Verdi. It begins: "Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate," which translates as: "Fly, thought, on wings of gold," and could be interpreted as "Go with your imagination!" This guided Parviz and his head chef when they set up the menu, with the help of an Italian food consultant.

### From maths to management

Parviz studied at Queen Mary College in the 1980s, gaining a degree in applied maths, and during that time worked at Pizza Express. After finishing his degree, he chose to stay with the company in central London, and once made 425 pizzas in one extraordinarily busy shift!

He worked in the company

management until 1992, and then in restaurants abroad, returning to the UK in 1999. In July 2000, he opened his own restaurant in Radlett, which was quickly so successful that it expanded into the next-door shop. They regularly play host to TV stars working in the studios in Elstree. In 2004, the opportunity to open in East Finchley arose and this year Parviz opened a restaurant in Beaconsfield.

Evenings in Va' Pensiero are candlelit for an intimate atmosphere, and twice a month on Tuesdays there is live jazz with Linda Be Be singing to a guitar accompaniment.

Va' Pensiero is open from 11.30am to 11pm every day and until 11.30pm Fridays and Saturdays. Call 020 8444 7117 for bookings.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### The end of the line

As summer trundles miserably into autumn and winter you can bet that the misery line would make its own special contribution to the gloom. And, guess what, it did, by shutting down for a week. Another brilliant chapter in the life of the Northern Line, something that makes it less a transport system, more a music hall joke.

Well, I guess it has always had reasons to be miserable, even before it became the Northern Line in 1938. The oldest bit, back then called the City and South London Railway, was opened in 1890 between King William Street in the City and Stockwell. In the first two weeks over 160,000 people used it, but within ten years they'd re-routed the line to Moorgate and poor old King William Street was shut. Then came the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead line extending out to somewhere in the middle of nowhere called Golders Green and opened in 1907.

The underground may be littered with closed stations and strange bits of line, but only the Northern Line can boast a real music hall joke. It was a station called North End, or Bull and Bush, after the song, and was between Hampstead and Golders Green. The thing is, they never opened it. The Edwardian NIMBYs objected and that was that. Not a nice start for a poor unsuspecting railway.

After that things could only get worse. The New Works Programme of the late 1930s was meant to turn north London into the Northern Line's domain, but it didn't. No extension beyond Edgware, no line to Ally Pally and no link between Mill Hill East and Edgware. We were lucky to get Archie. We were also lucky to get new trains in 1938. The poor old Northern Line was unlucky in being stuck with the things for 50 years. No wonder it was miserable.

And on the subject of music hall jokes: did you know that all the soil dug out to build the Metropolitan line was dumped just off the Fulham Road at a place called Stamford Bridge and Chelsea built a football stadium on it? Did you know that they once tried to mask the rancid smell of the tube with perfume in 2001, only for the passengers to decide it was worse than the original stink? No wonder the Northern Line is still miserable.

## Nicky Sharp

BSc (Hons) Ost Med  
Osteopathic Practice  
has moved to:

Nova Dental Care  
260, East End Road, London N2 8AU  
Tel: 020 8815 9433

## Letters to the editor

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

### Get tougher on graffiti

Dear Editor,

It is always a welcome sight to see graffiti being removed - 'Cracking down on graffiti' (*THE ARCHER*, September 2005). However, photo opportunities for councillors will not be enough to solve Barnet's graffiti problem.

Tackling graffiti requires a proactive, zero-tolerance approach. New graffiti needs to be removed within days to prevent build-up at a particular site. After the long-overdue cleaning of graffiti on East End Road, new graffiti is left to start the cycle again.

Barnet Council's procedures discourage effective removal. Charging private residences for cleaning, and delays in tackling fresh graffiti leave citizens feeling resigned and disempowered.

In contrast, the change in Highgate from being graffiti-blighted to a virtually graffiti-free zone, shows that the problem can be dealt with. What is required is the will.

Yours faithfully,  
Siân Harris  
Durham Road, N2

### The Misery Line

Dear Editor

I want to know if fellow travellers on the beleaguered Northern Line are as annoyed as me with London Transport who treat us like idiots. The line suffered for over a week with terrible delays but not once to my knowledge did they announce the truth. All they did was make announcements such as severe signal problems and stuck trains. Did they seriously think that we

would believe that load of codswallop? Why not tell us the truth?

Only after the drivers took the matter into their own hands and stopped work did London Transport admit the truth about the safety concerns over the signals.

Having used other tube lines to get to the office whilst the Northern Line was closed, I realise how inefficient the Northern Line really is.

Some readers may have seen recent pictures on the television of the crowded trains. I can say that is often normal. It would be against the law to let animals travel in those conditions.

What is London Transport going to do about the Northern Line? They need to spend some serious money to improve it and not divert the money to other lines because of the Olympics 2012. After all, we will still need to get to work during and after the Olympics.

Helen Day  
Leslie Road, N2

### Volunteers needed for Poppy Appeal

Dear Editor

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 13 November and house-to-house collections will be taking place before that date from the end of October. This annual appeal is one which I am sure the people of the Borough of Barnet will support, not only by giving generously, but also by helping with collections.

The Royal British Legion cares for those ex-service personnel who are sick, disabled and unemployed. Our local organisers, who are vol-

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

unteers in the Borough of Barnet, visit ex-servicemen and women who need help and advice for various reasons. Welfare work includes housing, rehabilitation, and residential or convalescent care.

All this is financed mainly by the proceeds from the annual Poppy Appeal. The Poppy is not simply a mark of respect to those who died. For the Legion and the general public it is also a symbol of those whom some of us often fail to remember, those still living who need help as a result of war and conflict.

More collectors are desperately needed in every area to assist hard-pressed volunteers. Anyone over 16 can be a collector; you don't need to have any link with the services. All you have to do is contact your local Royal British Legion branch on 0800 085 5924 and ask for the Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Yours sincerely  
The Worshipful Mayor  
Cllr Andreas Tambourides

### Water good job

Dear Editor

Since you kindly published my letter about pollution on East Finchley Allotments (*THE ARCHER*, October 2005), I must offer a bouquet to Thames Water for a more recent incident. We found a major flood of foul water from an apparently disused drain-pipe flowing across our site one Sunday afternoon. Having called Thames Water, we were impressed and grateful to see their emergency repair crew arrive within a couple of hours and the flood was stopped immediately. Good work!

Richard King  
Chairman, East Finchley Allotment Holders' Association

### Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat  
at reasonable prices  
Free-range poultry  
Home-made sausages  
(including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,  
Fortis Green, London N10  
Tel. 020 8883 5303

### Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths

Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.

email: admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk

28 High Road, London N2 9PJ

Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 / 0989

www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk



State Registered  
Chiropodist/Podiatrist

Miss H.C. MIKELLIDES BSc (Hons)  
SRCh MChS DpodM

♦ Nail Surgery & Replacement  
♦ Verruca treatment ♦ Sports injuries  
♦ Skin complaints ♦ Biomechanics  
♦ Local Anaesthetic

COOTES PHARMACY 020 8883 0073  
134 High Road East Finchley London N2 9ED  
Mobile: 07958 443 623

## TONY'S CONTINENTAL EAST FINCHLEY

Daily Fresh Fruit and Veg.

Wide Selection of Olives

Greek & Italian Pasta

All Kinds and Sizes of  
Greek Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Large Selection of Non-Dairy Milk  
(Soya & Rice Milk)

Wide Range of Nuts

140 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9ED  
Tel: 020 8444 5545







Chris Haslam and his best friend get to grips with his latest thriller.  
Photo by Erini Rodis

## Film of the book?

By Diana Cormack

**When you hear Chris Haslam's life story, you can't help thinking it would make a good book or even a film. After a childhood in rural Norfolk, Chris's plans to become a Marine were shattered by a death-defying fall whilst scaling a Scottish mountain. This failed to dampen his spirit of adventure, however. Intriguing exploits in various countries (some of them none too safe) led to jobs ranging from firearms instructor to ski guide.**

Chris, of Creighton Avenue, still roams the world, but now as a travel writer for the Sunday Times. He is also the author of two books, with a third on the way; rather like his family life, for Chris and his wife Natalie have a seven-year-old son, a two-year-old daughter and a recently born baby boy. Natalie herself was born in East Finchley and the family lives in the house where she was brought up.

Chris attributes being a writer to his own upbringing. With no television and

a houseful of books, he was an avid reader, tackling books well beyond his age range. He also wrote, first poetry and then short stories, winning prizes for both.

Chris told *THE ARCHER* that he likes old-fashioned adventure stories and his readers may see a reflection of that, but with a very modern twist. His first, *Twelve Step Fandango*, was published in 2003 and was the only British nomination in the Best Original Paperback category of the Edgar Allan Poe Awards in the USA. His second, *Alligator Strip*, appeared in June of this year.

Critic Matthew Lewin wrote that Chris has "that rare talent of being able to combine seriously funny stuff with a truly engrossing thriller." Both published books have the same anti-hero, but his new one is based on a true story of missing Spanish gold.

With his job allowing him to continue his travels, to write and to spend time with his family, Chris has no plans to change things. Film interest in *Twelve Step Fandango* has yet to come to fruition, but who knows what the future holds? Perhaps one day we will see his life story on the silver screen!

## Poetry competition

**Poetry might mean prizes, if you enter the Barnet Open Poetry Competition - but hurry, as the deadline is 15 November.**

Barnet Borough Arts Council (BBAC) is offering £200 as the first prize for adult entrants, and £20 for juniors in two categories, 7-11 and 12-16 years. The poem can be on any subject but must not exceed 35 lines.

Adult entry costs £4 and junior entry £3. There is a £1 discount for Barnet residents. Entry forms are available from the library, from [www.artsinbar.net.org.uk](http://www.artsinbar.net.org.uk) or by sending a SAE to BBAC c/o All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20 9EZ.

## From MOT to ART

By Diana Cormack

**Instead of the inevitable block of flats which usually springs up on any piece of vacant land or property, the old MOT car workshop at 2a Fortis Green is set to bring a refreshing change to the East Finchley scene. At present the building is being renovated and upgraded in order to house an art gallery, scheduled for opening in March 2006.**

The Noble Sage Art Gallery is the brainchild of local resident Jana Manuelpillai. Highly qualified and experienced in the art world both here and in the United States, Mr Manuelpillai hopes to make the gallery a centre for artistic talent emerging from or inspired by countries overseas. He told *THE ARCHER* that he would be travelling to places such as India and Sri Lanka to select paintings, sculpture and a variety of smaller exotic items, not only for the gallery but also for a small gift shop on the premises.

Jana's emphasis is on the merger of cultures from which new and beautiful styles to be appreciated by all can develop. He describes himself as "Sri Lankan, born in Walthamstow, brought up in Wembley, living in East Finchley, half Christian, half Hindu," and would like his gallery to reflect a similar range of hybrid culture through its art.

## SECUREBASE

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

*Your Security problems Solved!*

- Audio & Video Entry Phones
- Access Control
- CCTV
- Intercom Systems



ESTABLISHED 1988

**0800 279 0791**

112 High Road, East Finchley N2

[www.securebase.co.uk](http://www.securebase.co.uk)

## Artsdepot winners

Congratulations to the winners of the artsdepot birthday competition from the September *Archer*.

Geets Joseph and Eveline Nicholas correctly answered that the artsdepot opened in October 2004. Both win Friends' memberships of the North Finchley arts centre.

# STEWART DUNCAN

OPTICIANS, SINCE 1962

- EYE EXAMINATIONS
- DESIGNER EYEWEAR
- CONTACT LENSES
- LATE NIGHT
- DYSLEXIA CLINIC
- DVLA APPROVED
- OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

**020 8883-2020**

**126 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY**

