



## Tributes to Phoenix cinema chairman

Michael Cohen, long-serving chairman of The Phoenix Cinema Trust, has died. Mike had been a member of the board for 17 years and became chairman in 1994.

Friends and colleagues said his strong belief in the importance of independent local cinema was apparent to all who heard him talk about the Phoenix and its role in the East Finchley community.

Michael's keen business and financial mind was instrumental in the continuation of the cinema through bad times and good. There is little doubt that without his hard work and enthusiasm the cinema would never have been able to build the new foyer in 2001.

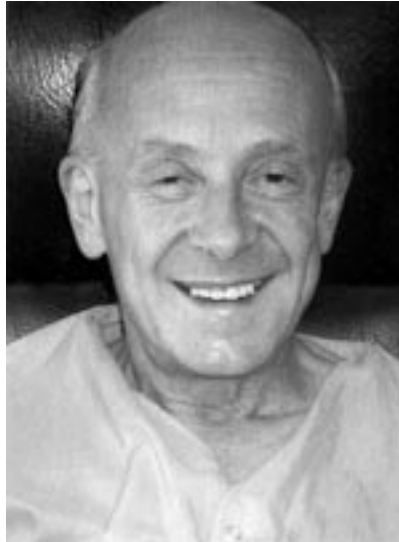
It is a sad irony that only in the last few weeks before his death the Trust had been informed of the successful bid to plan work that will fully restore the cinema to its glory.

A statement from The Phoenix said: "This is a project that undoubtedly Mike would have loved to have got his teeth into. Mike's death has left a void within the Cinema Trust that will be hard to fill."

### Public service

Born in 1940, Michael moved to the Barnet area in 1968 and quickly became involved in local politics, serving as a Labour councillor for six years from 1972. He was one of the founders of the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association, chaired Barnet Arts Council from 1984, and was Chair of Barnet Arts Workshops.

His other public commitment was to improve housing. He left a top position in a merchant bank to become a regional director of the Housing Corporation in 1982, and then took on the daunting post of Chief Executive of the Guinness Trust in 1987, with the result that the



Mike Cohen - photo by Julian Bub

Trust is now seen as one of the major innovative developers of housing and regeneration.

Amongst many other commitments, he served on the board of Barnet Housing Aid Centre and then became its chairman until 2004. It's not surprising that in 1999 the Prince of Wales asked him to become a trustee of the Prince's Foundation, a charity set up to develop a holistic approach to architecture and urban regeneration.

Michael's friend Alan Ereira said: "Mike was always charming, cheerful and good-natured. Even those who never met him will get the occasional feeling that something is missing. He was a quiet man, one of the few quiet men whose dedicated energy holds the world together."

Michael leaves a widow Jennie, three children and five grandchildren. The Phoenix cinema will organise a tribute to him and his contribution to the cinema later this year.

## Are you making the most of your black box?

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As part of the Recycle from Home scheme, all households should receive a black box that can be filled with eleven different household materials:

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- mobile phones
- newspapers, magazines and junk mail
- shoes

- textiles
- Yellow Pages

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## The mothers of fashion

By Claire Cassidy

Typically, maternity wear has never been considered the most flattering clothing a woman can wear. However, in today's day and age, with so many women working throughout their pregnancy, it is no longer possible to rely on a pair of dungarees and a few shirts.

Finding themselves continually dissatisfied with the maternity wear the high street had to offer, two East Finchley women decided to create their own range to suit the needs of pregnant women. Marcelle Rose and Justine Csaky have created the Beau and Belle capsule collection using Marcelle's background in fashion buying and designing to give them a head start.

The aim was to create three key pieces, a crossover top, trousers and a wrap dress, that would see women throughout their pregnancy and after. They chose black as their signature colour as they felt it was smart, stylish and suited everybody.

Marcelle and Justine believe that pregnant women need to have a few key items that are well made and versatile, unlike many of the ranges found on the high street. To achieve this they kept designs simple and used a top manufacturer.



Marcelle Rose and Justine Csaky

The collection took a long time to develop, and the births of their second children pushed the project back a year.

The Beau and Belle collection has been available to purchase over the internet since June, and Justine and Marcelle agree that the response has been overwhelming.

### Hoping to expand

Although the collection remains small at the moment, they hope to expand it eventually and start selling in boutiques as well as online. Both are concentrating on motherhood, but can see Beau and Belle becoming a full time occupation. For more information see [www.beauandbelle.co.uk](http://www.beauandbelle.co.uk)

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## Night of a thousand lights

By Linda Soper

Alexandra Palace is to play host yet again to one of the most spectacular firework displays in north London. On 5 November from 4.30-11pm there will be ice rink sessions and a beer festival with lots of warming food. Sponsors Capital Radio will be there for the evening too. The road through the park will shut at around 4.30pm and reopen at 11pm. Entry will be £2.

Two days earlier on 3 November, Martin Schools, The Green Man Community Centre and the East Finchley Festival Committee will be staging their own dazzling firework display on the Martin Schools field in

the High Road. This has become a favourite annual event in East Finchley. Gates open at 6pm and the fireworks start at 7pm. Refreshments will be available and tickets will be available on the door.

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