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THE ARCHER




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December 2006 No. 160 **20p**
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Photos by John Dearing

Two injured in collision

Two people were injured in a late-night accident at the junction of Fortis Green and High Road. A Volvo S60 and a Peugeot 307 were in collision at the crossroads at 11.40pm on Thursday 16 November.

The Peugeot also hit the traffic lights on the central reservation of the High Road causing considerable damage to the lights and to the car itself.

When fire crews arrived, they had to remove the roof of

the Volvo to free a back-seat passenger. Two people were taken to hospitals in north London but their injuries were not life-threatening.



Traffic congestion built up in the area while emergency crews were on the scene but the road was clear and traffic freely flowing again by 12.30am.

Put East Finchley on the map

By John Lawrence

A campaign is under way to put East Finchley on the map and bring it out of the shadow of its more high-profile neighbours Muswell Hill, Highgate and Hampstead. Traders and local businesses are being urged to get on the bandwagon and help spread the word about what East Finchley has to offer.

The groundswell of opinion is that the High Road and the amenities around it are becoming a destination in their own right. In the last 18 months a surge of new businesses, including the Noble Sage Art Gallery in Fortis Green and, on the High Road, Monkey Face bar, clothes shop Lazooli and gift shop The Cherry Tree, is bringing new life and new trade.

When coupled with much-loved attractions like the Phoenix Cinema, the Finchley Youth Theatre, Cherry Tree Wood and the High Road's excellent established pubs and restaurants, the potential to bring in even more visitors is high.

Paul Homer, manager of the Phoenix, is one of those who would like to get local businesses together to capitalise on East Finchley's changing character. He believes an organised marketing plan is what is needed.

He said: "There's a lot we could do in the London media and on the internet to draw

people here but it needs to be done properly. Either someone locally could co-ordinate it or all the local businesses could give a small amount each year to fund a marketing manager."

Jana Manuelpillai, who runs the Noble Sage Art Gallery, agreed that local businesses and cultural organizations should rally together.

He said: "East Finchley has its own special feeling. It doesn't have the too-upmarket feel of Highgate or the chain store feel of Muswell Hill. It's a great place to come and we should let people know that."

Jana suggested better signposting to the local attractions would be a big step forward. Both he and Paul Homer also called on Barnet Council to pay more attention to East Finchley and help with the publicity drive.

Earlier this year East Finchley was the subject of a colourful Evening Standard spread praising the area for being 'hip' and a great place for families.

What makes East Finchley such a great place to live? THE ARCHER wants to know. See page 5 for details of how you can take part in our survey and win a cash prize.

Security scare at Christ's College

Pupils and staff were sent home from Christ's College in East End Road following reports of a security alert.

Police were called to respond to the incident at 8.20am on Tuesday 31 October. The school was reopened the following day.

Free classes

Barnet College is running classes in East Finchley aimed at adults wanting to return to learning after a break and to move on to further study or finding a job.

The classes are free and informal with friendly, experienced teachers. They are held at the Green Man Community Centre and the Grange Community Flat, usually during school hours.

Subjects include Improve Your Maths and English, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Contact Jan Brennan on 020 8266 4284, Janine Casey on 020 8266 4339, or Sally Holder on 020 8266 4021 for details.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM US!

THE ARCHER team wishes all our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Many thanks to all our distributors who give up their time to deliver the paper throughout the year. We couldn't do it without you.

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PRINTED BY
Eastway Offset Ltd

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

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

Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines

January issue: 8 December
February issue: 16 January
March issue: 16 February

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
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

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

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700

OAP's Advice

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

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014



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Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm (monthly) by appointment only.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Community Services

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

Security van robbery in High Road

By John Dearing

Robbers stole cash from two security guards as they made a delivery to the Abbey branch in the High Road on Monday 30 October.

The guards had pulled up in a transit van and parked outside the bank at approximately 8.50pm. As one guard got out carrying a cash box, his colleague remained in the van.

A man with a hooded top ran up behind the guard on the pavement and struck him with a weapon. After a struggle the suspect stole a cash box containing money.

The suspect, described only as a black male, made off, getting into the passenger side of a small, dark saloon vehicle. Another suspect was driving the vehicle as it sped off the wrong way down one-way Beresford Road. The guard was not seriously injured in the attack.

Anyone who witnessed the robbery is asked to call Finchley Flying Squad on 020 8358 1751 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Car thieves on the prowl

By John Dearing

Following our report last month about a gang of car thieves targeting vehicles in and around East End Road, a reader has informed us that in the early hours of Sunday 12 November, a young man was seen walking up Springcroft Avenue with a small torch, looking into every car, probably for valuables to steal.

The police have been informed but, as ever, you are advised never to leave anything inside your car on view, valuable or otherwise, as the cost of replacing broken car windows will usually greatly exceed the value of items stolen.

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Burglar's cruel charade

By John Dearing

A burglar staged an elaborate charade to rob an 84-year-old woman in her own home. The incident happened on Wednesday 25 October at 12.15pm in Trinity Road, East Finchley.

A man called at the victim's home claiming that there had been a boiler explosion in the area and that two people had been taken to hospital. He said he would need to check the victim's water pressure.

Once inside the pensioner's home, the man asked her to fill pans with water, as the water supply might have to be cut off. While she began to fill her saucepans, he said that he would check the pressure on the central heating.

After a few minutes the man

said he was leaving and that "his colleague" would return within two hours to check the water pressure. Neither the man nor any "colleague" returned and the victim discovered that £40 cash had been stolen.

The suspect is described as a white male, aged 30, 5ft 8ins tall with short dark brown hair and wearing a navy jumper. If anyone has any information about this incident please contact the Burglary Unit on 020 8733 4595 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council:

3 Trinity Avenue, N2
Single-storey side extension, following demolition of garage and outbuildings.

6 Chamberlain Road, N2
Loft conversion, involving formation of rear and back addition dormers.

14 Lankaster Gardens, N2
Rear conservatory.
53 Summerlee Avenue, N2
New rear dormer window and side extension to existing residential property.

41 Huntingdon Road, N2
Roof extension.
127 High Road, N2

Retention of replacement shop windows, lowering of sills, installation of shutters and awnings.
Common walkway in vicinity of flats 127 & 128 Old Farm Road, Strawberry Vale Estate, N2
Replacement of lift machine room access ladder.

Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2
New hard and soft landscaping to create a community garden next to the Green Man Community Centre, including new walls, railings, patios, lawns and flowerbeds.

Kenmore House, 58 The Bishop's Avenue, N2
Partial demolition of existing house, followed by restoration and extension.

Oak Lodge School, Heath View, N2

Two single-storey classroom extensions (44m sq and 49m sq). Re-use existing external UPVC sections.

Correction

A planning application listed in our November edition for 55 Leicester Road, N2, was never granted and not even applied for by the property's owners. The error was in Barnet Council's original list.

Haringey Council:

188 Creighton Avenue N2
Erection of additional first floor and extension at ground floor level to existing building. Conversion of garage to habitable living space. Alterations to elevations.

35 Beacon Lodge, Eastern Road N2
Erection of single storey rear extension.

28 Beech Drive N2
Erection of single storey rear extension and rear dormer window with balustrade.

49 Fordington Road N6
Erection of single storey rear extension.

20 Church Vale N2
Retrospective planning application for retention of rear dormer window with terrace.

35 Creighton Avenue N10
Erection of rear dormer window with balustrade.



Shopkeeper injured in post office robbery

By John Dearing
A shopkeeper was punched in the face and kicked while he lay on the floor when two men robbed the post office in East End Road.

The incident happened on Thursday 2 November at 7.30pm as the 56 year old shopkeeper was about to lock up his store. A man wearing a crash helmet entered the shop, bought a drink and asked for cigarettes. The shopkeeper said he had already locked up the cigarette cabinet and the man left the store with his drink.

A few minutes later, he returned with another man wearing a crash helmet and asked the shopkeeper again for cigarettes, stating that he had the correct money. One of the men then walked behind the counter and punched the shopkeeper in the face.

The two men searched the premises, stole some cash and also rifled through the victim's pockets and kicked him whilst he was on the floor.

They got onto a dark-coloured moped parked outside and made off down East End Road towards East Finchley, then turned into Church Lane. The shopkeeper tried to chase after the moped to check its numberplate but it was covered up to avoid being identified.

The shopkeeper was subsequently treated in hospital, and the shop was closed for several days. Although obviously injured and traumatised by the experience, he has now recovered sufficiently to be able to re-open the shop.

The first suspect is described as a white male aged 20, 5ft 6ins tall. He was wearing a white crash helmet, white jacket and black and white gloves. The second suspect is described as a male wearing a dark coloured crash helmet and black gloves.

If anyone has any information about this incident please contact the Robbery Unit on 020 8733 4595 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Luisa and Rafael Attwood ready to do some planting with park keeper Chris Ward. Photo by Diana Cormack

Preparing for spring in Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack
The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were delighted with the turn-out for their spring bulb planting session, which took place on a beautiful Sunday at the end of October. They were particularly pleased at the number of children brought along by adults to participate in what was literally a hands-on learning experience.

Nearly 1,000 bluebell, daffodil and tulip bulbs had been donated by the Three Valleys Water Company, who recently built a pumping station next to the derelict park pavilion. Barnet Council provided suitable gloves and digging implements which were demonstrated by park keeper Chris Ward. He advised planters to throw a few bulbs up in the air and to plant them where they landed in order to get a more natural looking spread.

Chris assured THE ARCHER that the bluebells were of the British variety. A map displayed where the planting was to take place, with the bluebells and daffodils being destined for wooded areas whilst the tulips, of which there were fewer, were for the gardens.

Before they went home the children were offered a taste of

Halloween in the form of a cake decorated with a gnarled-looking finger. Hopefully, they will be able to point out the fruits of their labour next spring.

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Lottery funds for library services

By Daphne Chamberlain
Could lottery funding come to the assistance of East Finchley's cash-strapped library? In October, the Big Lottery Fund put up an offer of £80 million to local authorities in England, as part of a Community Libraries programme. Each local authority can bid for sums between £250,000 and £2 million, for projects lasting up to three years.

The funding is to improve and develop buildings, making them more accessible to all the community. The Chair of the Big Lottery Fund, Sir Clive Booth, said: "Local libraries are at their best when they act as focal points for community life, providing a range of reading, learning and information activities. Many are already operating in this way. More want to, but lack capital funds needed to transform or modify buildings."

Local involvement crucial

To be successful, a bid must show that local people are involved in deciding what improvements are made, and how the improved library building will be used. Examples include work with disadvantaged groups, reading and writing groups, language classes, family learning activities, cultural events such as drama, and health-based activities like well-being classes. The money must be seen as additional to other funding, and should go to projects which couldn't otherwise be supported.

The national Museums, Libraries and Archives Council hopes that the lottery money will help local authorities give people what they really want from their library service. Its supporting statement says that libraries are vital community spaces for people to visit freely.

Application forms have already been sent to all local authority library services. Each authority will nominate a key contact, who will discuss projects with the community, and these contacts will be displayed on the Big Lottery website, www.biglotteryfund.org.uk. Bids must be in by 31 March 2007. Barnet Council told THE ARCHER that they were still considering whether to bid.

Seen and heard

An estate agent's board behind The Bald Faced Stag pub is advertising "a brand new gated development of stylish apartments and houses" called Old Dairy Mews. Shouldn't that be moos?

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Light display is saved for another year

East Finchley has its Christmas light display in the High Road again this year - but only just.

At one point in November, it looked as if the main shopping area might go bare over the festive season because the local traders had failed to raise the £750 fee demanded by Barnet Council for storage and installation.

An anonymous donor was on the point of stepping forward to pay the fee when the council announced that all town centres in Barnet would get their lights, regardless of whether traders



had made a contribution.

Barnet Council said that any town centres that had paid money would be treated as a priority and enjoy an enhanced display.

Refuse collections and a greener Christmas

Barnet Council has announced some changes to its usual black box, green garden, kitchen waste and refuse collection days during the Christmas and New Year holiday period:

- On Saturday 23 December, there will be no green garden and kitchen waste collection.
- The Monday refuse collection for 25 December will be on Saturday 23 December. The Tuesday refuse collection for 26 December will be on Tuesday 2 January.
- Normal collections will take place on Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December.
- On Saturday 30 December, there will be no green garden and kitchen waste collection.
- The Monday refuse collection for 1 January will be on Saturday 30 December.

Recycle your Christmas waste

If your household has joined the green garden and kitchen waste service, you can recycle your Christmas tree by leaving it at the side of your green wheeled bin on your scheduled collection day. Otherwise, you can take your tree to the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane for composting.

Recycle your Christmas cards at your local participating WHSmith store, Tesco store, local library or the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre between 2 January and 31 January 2007. For a full list of stores which accept cards see www.woodland-trust.org.uk/cards. Funds raised from the card recycling scheme will help save the UK's ancient woods and trees.

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tel: 020 8349 9340

e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

Pharmacy out-of-hours rota

Out-of-hours pharmacy cover during the festive season will be as follows. In each case the opening hours are planned to be 11am-12.30pm but you are advised to call before setting out.

• **Sunday 24 December:** MCRX Ltd, 800 High Road, N12, 020 8445 0085.

• **Monday 25 December and Tuesday 26 December:** C.W.Andrews, 32 High Road, N2, 020 8883 1559.

• **Monday 1 January:** Gateway Chemists, 334a Regents Park Road, N3, 020 8346 4530.

Thursday late opening for Christmas shoppers

Three shops in the High Road have decided to enter into the spirit of Christmas, planning to open until 8pm on Thursdays in December so people can do some Christmas shopping on the way home from work.

The shops involved will be The Cherry Tree, Lazooli and Fiori. Sue Tollerfield, of The Cherry Tree, said that they will be selling gifts for Christmas and have expanded all their ranges in response to suggestions from their customers about new products. They will also be selling cards and wrapping-paper and will continue their gift-wrapping service.

Picking up Christmas parcels

The East Finchley Delivery Office is extending its opening hours in December to allow people to collect parcels in the evening too.

Opening times at the office in Market Place in the run-up to Christmas are:

Monday 11 December to Friday 15 December: 8am-12.30pm and 6pm-8pm;

Saturday 16 December: 8am-12 noon;

Monday 18 December to Friday 22 December: 8am-12.30pm and 6pm-8pm;

Saturday 23 December: 8am-12 noon;

Sunday 24 December: Closed

A Polish Christmas

By Andrew Shirlaw

No country, it seems, celebrates the Christmas festivities more enthusiastically than Poland. That's the opinion of Martin Orzol and his cousin Basia who work at Budgens. Indeed many young Poles would prefer to be back home with their family and friends.

Martin, from Elblag, near Gdansk, describes the Polish tradition on Christmas Eve to share out a special type of biscuit called Oplatek, before sitting down to the family dinner of up to 12 different dishes, none of which can be meat.

It is also a custom to start the Christmas Eve meal when they see the first star in the sky. There is no drinking of alcohol on Christmas Eve, the Poles wait till Christmas day. After their family dinner, they give out presents and then they go to Church at midnight.

Martin said that he will miss being with his family. "I feel great when I spend time with my whole family. Christmas

is very important for us. It is a very good atmosphere in Poland, people are so nice and very friendly."

On Christmas Day they are allowed to eat meat and to start drinking alcohol, typically vodka (the most popular drink) beer, wine and champagne. Martin visits his friends on the 26th, gives them presents and an Oplatek and then they continue to celebrate with a few more drinks.

He added: "This year I will celebrate Christmas here in London with my cousin and some friends. I think we will go to the Polish Church in Caledonian Road."

An empty chair

Ania and Lila, who are respectively from Kruszwica and Krakow, both work in Finchley. Ania said it is the custom in Poland to stop eating sweets or meat for four weeks before Christmas and to keep a place free at their Christmas Eve dinner table, just in case someone turns up for a meal. They eat a type of fish, Karp (Carp) and Sledz (herring) and also a cabbage dish, Pierogi. At midnight they go to Pasterka, the midnight mass.

Lila said: "I will miss my family and the presents! I have been here for two years and I will celebrate Christmas with my flatmates. Sometimes we go to our church, but it's not the same. It doesn't feel like home."

Mansion makes top five

A home in The Bishops Avenue has been named as the fifth most expensive home on sale in the world.

Toprak mansion, which has its own swimming pool, Turkish bath, cinema, sauna and four kitchens, has been put on the market by its owner Halis Toprak for £50 million.

Forbes international business magazine ranked the home on the world market. It was placed second in Britain behind Updown Court in Surrey, which is on sale for £74 million.

Christmas services in East Finchley

St. John's Christian Spiritualist Church

Saturday 9 December, 7pm, Christmas Party.
Sunday 17 December, 6.30pm, Candlelight Carol Service.
Sunday 24 December, 6.30pm, Christmas Eve Service.

St Mary's Catholic Church

Sunday 10 December, 6.30pm, Advent Carol Service, with instrumentalists from The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, followed by refreshments in the parish hall.
Thursday 21 December, 7.30pm, Advent Penitential Service for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sunday 24 December, for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Masses as usual, 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon; Children's Christmas Mass, 6.30pm; Midnight Mass, preceded by Carols at 11.15pm.

Monday 25 December, Masses, as usual, at 8.30am, 10am and 12noon.

Tuesday 26 December, Feast of St Stephen, Protomartyr. Mass at 10am, with Morning Prayer (all servers are urged to serve at this Mass).

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 17 December, 6pm, Advent Carol Service by candlelight.
Sunday 24 December, 6pm, Nativity Play and Blessing of the Crib; 11.30pm, Midnight Mass.

Monday 25 December, 10am, Parish Communion.

East Finchley Methodist Church

Sunday 17 December, 10.30am, Gift service and young people's play; 6.30pm, Carols by candle light service.

Monday 25 December, 10.30am, Christmas Day family service.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Sunday 17 December, 11am-12.15pm: All Ages Together Carol Service (with presentation by the children and young people); 6pm-7.15pm: Carols by candlelight.
Sunday 24 December, 11am-12noon, Christmas Eve Service.

Monday 25 December, 10.30am-11.15am: Christmas Morning Family Service.

All Saints' Church

Sunday 17 December, 6.30pm, Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 24 December, 3pm-5pm, Children's Christingle Service with Carols; 11.30pm, Midnight Mass of Christmas with Procession of the Christ Child and Blessing of the Crib.

Monday 25 December, 8am, Mass of the Dawn; 10am, Mass of Christmas Day with Christmas Carols.



What's so great about East Finchley? Your chance to win!

What are your favourite things about living in East Finchley? THE ARCHER wants to know.

It may be a great place to live, but why? Is there a restaurant, a shop, a pub, an open space, a club, a church, a group of people or something that happens in the community that makes it special for you?

This is your chance to sing the praises of the people or places around you, or to reveal the hidden treasures in our midst.

Send us your top three reasons for loving East Finchley and we'll enter you into our prize draw to win £25*.

And to prove we know life isn't perfect, you can also tell us one thing you'd like to change about life in East Finchley.

Send your responses to us by email: the-archer@lineone.net, or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Send them by 14 January 2007 and look out for the results in February's edition of THE ARCHER.

To get things started, here's what THE ARCHER team put in their top threes:

Daphne Chamberlain (news editor):

1. The Phoenix Cinema.
 2. Toni's Continental.
 3. The range of different architectural styles and the feeling that it has grown organically.
- What I'd change: The terrible 263 bus service.

Diana Cormack (news editor):

1. Feeling safe when I walk home alone in the dark.
2. East Finchley's "village" atmosphere and its strong sense of community.
3. The appreciation and enthusiasm people of all ages have for THE ARCHER (once described by The Green Party's Noel Lynch as "The glue of the community").

Ann Bronkhorst (sub editor):

1. The foxes still surviving in back gardens, scruffy patches of land and cemeteries.
 2. The acres of accessible open space, much of it still wonderfully wild, in the St. Pancras (now Islington) cemetery.
 3. Our 'milkie', Keith, who knows the neighbourhood shrewdly and keeps a traditional doorstep delivery service going.
- What I'd change: The jaywalkers who dart or shamble across the High Road in front of traffic rather than walking a few metres to a crossing.

Betti Blatman (writer):

1. Living close to Hampstead Heath means going for a walk is like being in the countryside.
2. Enjoying the village atmosphere and lots of little shops instead of the big store chains.
3. A choice of different types of restaurants.

What I'd change: I'd stop too many front gardens being paved over to provide extra parking spaces! And I'd like an escalator or lift installed at East Finchley tube station to improve access to the platforms.

Erini Rodis (picture editor):

1. East Finchley Festival: I always impress my friends with this fantastic day. It's great!
 2. The sense of community: the restaurants, pubs, shops, schools, and The Archer. It's unique and I'm very proud of being part of it all. Of course, I also love the Cypriot community here but then I'm biased!
 3. Of all the open spaces Cherry Tree Woods is my favourite. I especially love the rhythm of the Northern line train as it disappears into the tunnel. This is also the point at which the Northern Line opens out to clear sky which is why my parents decided to settle here after living in the West End in the 1950s: East Finchley was the light at the end of the tunnel.
- What I'd change: Nothing!

John Dearing (writer and advertising manager):

1. East Finchley's distinct character and clear sense of identity.
 2. The shops, pubs and restaurants in the High Road.
 3. THE ARCHER
- What I'd change: Barnet Council's view of East Finchley as an under-developed ward, compared with the rest of Barnet.

Ricky Savage (the voice of social irresponsibility):

1. The Phoenix, London's best cinema.
 2. Maddens, for the beer and the company.
 3. The Big Breakfast at Casa Pepe.
- What I'd change: It would be nice if the Northern Line was not the misery line.

Sheila Armstrong (writer):

1. The Phoenix.
 2. Coffee at Amici Italian deli in the High Road.
 3. The Animal Aid charity shop in the High Road for bric a brac.
- What I'd change: The traffic in the rush hour on East End Road.

Tony Roberts (former editor):

1. Being close to Hampstead, Hampstead Heath and Highgate.
 2. East Finchley is friendly and relaxed.
 3. It's affordable.
- What I'd change: We're missing a good supermarket, a modern library and a meeting place.

Sue Holliday (finance manager):

1. The village atmosphere. Everybody is very friendly.
 2. Tony's, a great greengrocers.
 3. Maddens pub.
- What I'd change: We have too many beauty parlours and hairdressers.

John Lawrence (editor):

1. The Walks, a quiet cut-through that keeps you off the main roads and a centuries-old pathway through the area, usually full of squirrels.
 2. The North London Hospice shop in the High Road, which always seems to have something worth buying.
 3. The primary schools: Holy Trinity and Martin Schools are both excellent.
- What I'd change: I'd renovate the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.

** One winner of the £25 cash prize will be drawn at random from all entries after the closing date on 14 January 2007. Please include your contact details so that we can tell you if you've won.*



Lucy shows off her medal after finishing her 10k run.

Jungle fever

By Lucy Chamberlin

I have been privileged to write for THE ARCHER for over a year now, and having recently graduated from UCL I am considering a career in journalism. Currently, however, all my efforts are focused on fundraising.

On 3 February I leave for Belize, travelling as a volunteer with Trekforce Worldwide, a company dedicated to making a positive difference in endangered environments. Living, breathing, eating and sleeping (hammocks are the norm) in very basic conditions in the jungle for over two months, we will be carrying out sustainable projects that help to provide an alternative source of income for struggling communities, as well as protecting the fragile rainforest eco-system.

Operating in the Mountain Pine Ridge and Davis Falls areas, our work will include establishing trails, renovating

visitor facilities, and carrying out reconnaissance to determine the boundary lines of a new National Park. If we help to preserve the rainforest for visitors and scientific use, malpractices such as illegal logging can potentially be wiped out.

I completed a sponsored 10k run in Brighton on 19 November and am working full time as an admin assistant to try and raise the requisite funds (around £4,000). Whilst there I will be keeping an in-depth diary, and will update THE ARCHER on my return.

If you wish to support this worthwhile cause, please contact Lucy via THE ARCHER. Our contact details are on page 2.

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Fireworks on a starry night

Man-made stars hit the heavens in front of hundreds of spectators in the annual Martin Schools Fireworks spectacular.

More than 1,500 people turned out to 'ooh' and 'aah' at the 20-minute display on the school field in the High Road.

Clear skies on the evening meant temperatures were low but spectators could keep

themselves warm with bowls of chilli, chips and hot drinks.

The event was organised by Martin Schools PTA, in conjunction with the Finchley Community Development Trust and the East Finchley Festival.



Birthday bongs from Sir Trevor

By Craig Johnson and Alex Nunes

Former *News at Ten* presenter Sir Trevor McDonald cut the cake to mark the second birthday of the artsdepot in North Finchley.

Comedy actor and director Richard Wilson was also a star guest at the party for our local arts venue on 26 October.

Birthday guests were treated to a live performance by contemporary dance company CandoCo, which used six spaces around the artsdepot building as its stage.

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So easy you could do it in your sleep...

Barnet Council's recent competition to dream up a wacky photo about recycling was won by *ARCHER* writer and photographer Craig Johnson.

Craig kept things close to home and came up with this bedroom picture to show recycling is easy enough to do in your sleep. Well done, Craig!



In memory of the fallen

The people of Barnet paid tribute to the millions who gave their lives for their country and remembered the loved ones left behind, in eleven ceremonies throughout the borough on Sunday 12 November. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan, accompanied by her escort, Mr Leonard Wilson, laid a wreath at the Hendon War Memorial at 11am.

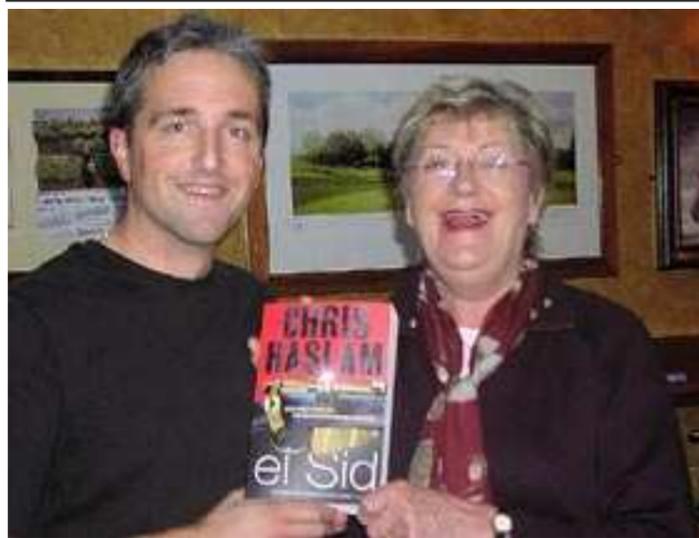
The service was attended by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Freer, and Chief Executive Leo Boland. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chaville, France, which is twinned with Barnet, were also present.



Clissold closes

The Clissold, an historic pub in Fortis Green, closed abruptly a couple of months ago.

The main doors are barred shut, and there are no signs of it ever re-opening. What next, a planning application to build yet more flats?



Bettie Cude receiving her book from the editor. Picture by Sue Holliday

Book competition winners

In September we asked readers to answer the question: *Which ex-British government minister's father was himself a refugee from the Spanish Civil War?* The answer was: **Michael Portillo.**

The first two correct entrants to have their names drawn out of the hat were Betty Cude and Johnny Green. Each receives a copy of local author Chris Haslam's book *el Sid*, which one newspaper reviewer described as essential reading.

Senior volunteers go MADD

Members of Barnet's 500 RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteers Project) took part in the nationwide "Make a difference day" at the end of October.

For their version of "MADD", the 50-strong Knitting Group packed shoeboxes with gifts for needy children around the world. Contributions from the group and their friends included toiletries, stationery and toys, as well as knitted garments and "trauma teddies".

The following day, RSVP hosted one of their regular meals for the homeless, with pizzas from Pizza Express Finchley. For several years, the senior volunteers have been providing the homeless with meals on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

For information about RSVP's many and varied activities, contact Mandy Francis on 020 8445 5265, Pam Cox on 020 8440 0421 or Bill Ibbotson on 020 8441 0291.

Tube station restoration

Work is under way to make East Finchley tube station cleaner and safer for passengers. Walls, roofs and windows will be repaired between now and next summer.

Extra CCTV cameras will be installed along with customer help points and new information indicator boards on the platforms. Most of the work is being carried out overnight to avoid disruption.

Now bring us some figgy pudding...

By Diana Cormack

This is a modern version of the dish demanded in the old song "We wish you a Merry Christmas". Make it and you could really surprise the carol singers at your door. This recipe serves four.

Ingredients

250g / 9oz of dried figs
2 tbsp of seedless raisins
1-2 tbsp of runny honey
Grated rind of half a lemon
A dash of Amaretto, brandy, port, marsala wine or fresh orange juice
2 tbsp flaked almonds (toasted)
Greek yoghurt or vanilla ice cream

Method

Put the figs in a saucepan with about 2cm of cold water. Heat to simmer for about 15 mins until the figs are soft but not mushy. Stir in the honey, lemon rind and whatever alcohol you are using. Serve while still warm with yoghurt or ice cream and the toasted almonds scattered on top.



Ask told "on yer bike"

By John Dearing

As reported in last month's edition of *THE ARCHER*, the Ask chain of pizza restaurants has applied to Barnet Council to take over the former Barclays Bank building at 84 High Road.

The application for change of use to a hot food takeaway (reference C02502D/06) was considered at the meeting of the Finchley & Golders Green planning sub-committee on Thursday 9 November. There was no mention of converting it to a restaurant.

At the meeting, it emerged that the company planned to run a delivery service from the rear of the building, using the alleyway between the gardens at the rear of Fairlawn Avenue and the buildings on the east side of the High Road as access for their vehicles, potentially a fleet of small motorcycles.

None of this had been mentioned in the planning application (the plans reveal provision for a driver area and helmet shelf, but it is not obvious), nor in the consultation notice distributed by Barnet's planning department. It was, however, discussed in the planning appraisal, a document prepared by the planning officers from discussions with the applicants, and used as a

brief for the committee.

Delivery downside

When it emerged that the consultation notice had been distributed only to buildings immediately adjacent to the former bank, the planning committee voted to defer considering the application until its next meeting on 7 December to give the planners time to consult everybody who would be affected. The planners, however, have merely distributed essentially the same notice more widely, and there is still no mention of deliveries.

There are no planning limits on the density of hot food takeaway sites in any given town centre, so the only other grounds for refusing this application are that there has been no study on the effects of noise or fumes on nearby residents. If it goes ahead, the residents of the west side of Fairlawn Avenue are likely to experience the sound of motorcycles just behind their gardens until late every evening.



Naty and Raffaele de Martino bring a real taste of Italy to Church Lane.

A rocketing success

By John Lawrence

Those living near Church Lane know it's already one of East Finchley's hidden treasures, with its excellent general store, florist and beauty shop, Indian takeaway restaurant, fish and chip shop and newsagent.

Now it's even richer with the arrival of a new Italian restaurant in the experienced hands of Raffaele and Naty de Martino.

The couple have opened La Rugoletta, serving pizza, pasta

and panini mixed with a dash of poetry and painting.

Raffaele, who has run the Da Vincenzo Italian delicatessen in Fortis Green for three years, reckons Church Lane is ideal for his new business.

"I've always liked this spot. I go by instinct and I think it's going to be good here. News spreads very quickly and we've already had a lot of people trying us out," he said.

The premises has stood empty for more than two years after an earlier attempt to turn it into a restaurant fell by the wayside midway through redecoration.

Spotting its potential and unable to reach the landlord any other way, Raffaele and Naty put a note under the door and now the place is theirs.

Poems, paintings and pizza

This is a genuine Italian restaurant with a chef working at

a real pizza oven right in front of diners and the quality of the food on offer is high. The walls are decorated in warm red and brown tones and hung with paintings and poems by local artists.

Raffaele, from Salerno, near Naples, and Naty, from northern Spain, want to give La Rugoletta the feel of a proper pizzeria, but this doesn't stop them offering a full English breakfast for the morning trade too.

La Rugoletta opens Monday to Saturday from 9am to 10.30pm, closing slightly later at weekends. A licence has been applied for but, in the meantime, customers are welcome to bring their own drinks.

And for those wanting to know the meaning behind the name, La Rugoletta is the Neapolitan dialect word for rocket, the delicious leaf that also happens to be Raffaele's favourite ingredient.

Spoil the fraudsters' Christmas

By John Dearing

In the weeks before Christmas, identity fraudsters can easily conceal fraudulent transactions among the increased credit card transactions their victims make. For some unfortunate people, the New Year can start with more discomfort than just a hangover.

National Identity Fraud Prevention Week ran from 16-22 October. Organisations taking part included the Police, the Identity and Passport Service, credit checking companies, and the Federation of Small Businesses. The ways in which your identity can be stolen were highlighted, and the steps you should take to prevent this happening.

Typical tricks include:

Bin raiding, where people go through your rubbish looking for bank statements, pre-approved credit offers, utility bills and anything else they could use to establish an illegal account in your name.

Card skimming, where a shop assistant or waiter copies the information from your card and sells it to professional criminal gangs.

Unsolicited phone calls asking you to update your personal information.

Similarly unsolicited emails (this is called 'phishing').

Theft of your wallet or purse, together with bank cards, driving licences and many other sources of personal information.

Fighting back

There are many ways to protect yourself against identity theft:

Purchase a home shredder and shred all documents that could possibly carry personal information.

Check your credit card and bank account statements carefully, as soon as they arrive.

If any statement is late, assume it has been stolen and check with the relevant company.

If possible, regularly monitor your accounts online.

Obtain a credit report from one of the credit reference agen-

cies from time to time to make sure there are no accounts illegally set up in your name.

Never give PIN numbers to anyone, especially unsolicited callers.

For more information, visit the National Identity Fraud Prevention Week web site at www.stop-idfraud.co.uk.

Be a-mazed by new museum attraction

By John Dearing

Visitors to the Church Farmhouse Museum in Greyhound Hill, Hendon, can 'get lost' now that work on a new maze has been completed. The turf and brick maze is believed to be the first of its kind in the borough of Barnet and will be officially inaugurated next spring, although visitors to the museum can explore it now.

The maze is known as a 'puzzle maze', because it has several false trails as well as the correct one. Made from nearly 1,000 bricks set into grass, it was designed by the borough's Heritage Officer Hugh Petrie and building contractor Martin Cragg and was constructed through money left to the museum by the late Colette Anna Fontaine, from Edgware, with additional funding from the Friends of Church Farmhouse Museum.

Museum benefactor

Ms Fontaine was an artist and a museum enthusiast. On her death, she left an equal amount of money to both

Barnet Museum and Church Farmhouse Museum. Church Farmhouse decided to use its share to enhance the museum garden's appeal to children and create a lasting memorial to Ms Fontaine's generosity.

Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Learning Infrastructure, said: "This maze is a fine addition to the Church Farmhouse Museum which will, I am sure, be popular with visitors old and young. Mazes are magical things that can provide hours of fun for children. I am looking forward to testing my puzzle solving skills to reach the centre of the maze."

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YOUNG ARCHER

Christmas Code Breaker

Solve these clues and then use the first letter from each answer to find the message. Answers below.

Try making some up for your friends to do.

This has spiky leaves and red berries.

They sang to the shepherds.

Presents are wrapped in this.

The tree where a partridge was.

The old name for Christmas time.

Special hymns for this time of year.

Something to wear from a cracker.

This reindeer had a shiny nose.

There was no room here for Mary and Joseph.

Baby Jesus was born in this building.

Queen Victoria's husband brought this German Christmas custom to Britain.

We kiss under this.

Open this calendar daily in December.

Hang this up to hold your presents.

What's bugging you?

Music teacher Alan Gruner wrote this song for the children of Martin Infant School to sing in assembly on National Bug Busting Day.

Scratch scritch

Give it an itch

What's that in your hair?

Scratch scritch

Give it an itch

You really must take care.

Wash 'em out,

Comb 'em out

Remember, don't share hair.

Christmas
code breaker
Answers:
Holly
Angels
Paper
Pear
Yuletide
Carols
Hat
Rudolf
Inn
Stable
Tree
Mistletoe
Advent
Stocking

Christmas Jokes

What's the difference between the ordinary alphabet and the Christmas alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has no L.

Which Christmas carol do parents prefer?

Silent Night.

Why does Father Christmas have three gardens?

So he can hoe, hoe, hoe.

What does a cat on the beach have

in common with Christmas?

Sandy claws!

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Claustrophobic.

What song do monkeys sing at Christmas?

Jungle Bells.

Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?

"Rude"olph.



Splash, squelch and stumble trip

By Helen Drake

Michael Rosen, poet, author, broadcaster and hugely expressive performer, enthralled children and staff when he visited both Martin Schools to coincide with National Poetry Day in October.

Recounting funny episodes and naughty tales from his own childhood and family, Mr Rosen showed the children how details from their own lives could be catalysts for writing poems and stories and that situations can be transformed by writing about them.

His own journey to becoming a poet began because he didn't like sharing a bedroom with his older brother. While writing his first poem about the experience he discovered that, actually, sharing a bedroom with his brother wasn't so bad after all.

"Michael has a passion for creativity with children," said Robin Kent, a producer from Teachers TV who was filming Mr Rosen's visit to the school for a programme (working title: 'Imagine with Michael Rosen') to be shown sometime in December. "He allows space and room for children to be imaginative and creative."

Barking driver

A woman is spotted driving out from Lincoln Road into the High Road and away southwards out of sight. Seated on her lap at the steering wheel, a ginger-haired child. Surely not? And indeed, on second (amazed) glance it's not a child but a DOG.

Captivated children

One of Mr Rosen's best-loved books *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* has just been published in a new pop-up format. The Infant School audience reacted enthusiastically to

the author's re-telling of this popular bedtime story, with lots of "splashing", "squelching", "stumble tripping" and finally squeals of delight at the end as everyone managed to escape the bear.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

All the children learned about different styles of skipping in workshops organised by Mr Jacobs. Now enthusiastic youngsters can buy skipping ropes at the school to practise their new-found skills. Shoe boxes wrapped in Christmas paper have been filled with suitable goods to be sent to children in other countries who are victims of war, poverty, famine, disease and natural disasters. This is part of Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project.

£90 raised from a cake sale has been donated to Oxfam Unwrapped. The Book Fair resulted in £450 of commission, which will buy new books for the school library and teachers' resources.

The school's Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 9 December.

Martin Schools

The Junior School paid grateful thanks in saying farewell to Jane Conway, Chair of Governors and associated with the school as

parent, PTA founding member and governor for many years. Her role as Chair is being taken on by THE ARCHER's own Helen Drake. Plans for redeveloping the junior playground are being worked on by the company and children chosen from each class.

Visiting instructors have been giving Year 4 children workshops in film animation. They will be able to spot some of their work when they go to the Phoenix cinema to see the film *Alice in Wonderland*, which is also Year 4's Christmas production.

Year 5 learned a lot about the river and its surrounding area on a visit to the Thames Barrier.

The school year has kicked off with great results for both the girls' and boys' football teams.

Assemblies have been held for Eid and Diwali. On non-uniform day there was an assembly on the theme of volunteers in our lives which raised over £200 for Voluntary Services Overseas.

After two years as head of Martin Infants School, Kevin Anscomb has given up the post for personal reasons and decided to pursue a career outside teaching. Former deputy Katie Dawbarn is now Associate Headteacher with Janine Waterman as her acting deputy. Mrs Ann Hull-McCracken, head of Deansbrook Infants, is the school's Executive Headteacher.

Adults who sampled the Team Barnet menus with their children have been giving positive feedback on the school meals.

The new welfare room and nursery toilets are looking good and functioning well.

The PTA has organised Christmas cards to be designed and printed for the festive season.

Martin Schools' PTA Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday 2 December.

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Sunday 17th December

11.00am - 12.15pm:

All Ages Together Carol Service

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6pm - 7.15pm: Carols By Candlelight

Christmas Eve (Sun.24th Dec)

11.00am - 12.00pm

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day (Mon.25th Dec)

10.30am - 11.15pm

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



St Theresa's celebrates forty years

By Lisa Omar

St Theresa's Roman Catholic Primary School in East End Road celebrated its 40th anniversary at the end of October. The celebrations began with a Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 17 October in St Philips the Apostle, Church End Road, Finchley.

Archbishop John Arnold held a wonderful and moving service, with Father John from St Philips Catholic Church, Father Anthony from St Mary's Catholic Church and Canon Louie Thomas. The Mass was attended by pupils, current and former staff, representatives from the governors, London Borough of Barnet and the Diocese of Westminster, plus parents, friends and family.

Opened in autumn 1966 by Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, St Theresa's was built on land originally owned by Finchley Manor House. Mother Mary Xaverine Roper-Kelland, the then superior of the Manor House Covent and a direct descendant of St Thomas More, was the prime mover in the scheme of building St Theresa's, and Sister Mary Patrice Lang was the first head teacher.

Most of the teachers were Sisters of the Manor House

community along with three or four lay members appointed by the Borough of Barnet. The Sisters either retired or moved out into ministries elsewhere, being replaced by lay teachers. Mary Perpetua Wilson, who left St Theresa's to take up missionary work in Africa, was the last Sister to be a full-time member of staff.

On 19 October, St Theresa's children gave an impressive display when they performed traditional European dances. Each class had been allocated a different country and some of the children wore the national dress.

The day was completed with the parents enjoying a feast of dishes from many different countries in the hall, which had been decorated with artefacts from many lands.

The final day of celebration was on Friday 20 October, when the governors gave the current pupils a day's holiday.

Brownies is the best

By Katy McLeary

I go to 4th East Finchley Brownies every Monday for one hour and fifteen minutes. Brownies helps you to learn lots of different skills. At Brownies, we do lots of art and games. We also talk a little about our week and our good deeds.

Recently I went to Brownie camp. I went for five days and I had lots of fun. We spent a lot of time outdoors in the fresh air but we spent quite a lot of time indoors as well doing activities. Brownie camp taught me that I need to help more at home. I made lots of new friends at camp. Everyone was extremely helpful and kind to me. In the end I didn't want to come home.

I will be very upset when I leave Brownies because I have enjoyed it so much. It has helped me and showed me how to do

lots of exciting things.

Brownies is for girls aged between seven and 10. All girls that age should go because Brownies is so much fun. I can't believe I am leaving. Brownies is the best way to spend your Monday evenings.

The 4th East Finchley Brownies urgently needs new adult helpers to keep the group running. They meet at St Mary's Church Hall, High Road, on Mondays during term time from 5.15pm to 6.30pm. To find out more, contact Marie Antoinette on 020 8883 5654.

Keep tract of your digestion

By our nutrition expert Judy Watson

With Hanukkah and Christmas festivities upon us 'tis the season to enjoy lots of food and drink treats. However, a few too many can leave our poor digestive systems feeling a little battered.

Increased fat and sugar in the diet from cakes, biscuits and fried foods can be a real strain on the gallbladder, which is responsible for the breakdown of fat by releasing a substance called lecithin.

Without this, all the food you have eaten can remain undigested in the stomach resulting in stomach cramps, bloating and acid reflux. The liver is a busy organ particularly overnight when it tops up the gallbladder.

So by the end of a busy day of eating rich foods the effects

of poor digestion can take their toll. Following a few tips will keep your digestive system tract moving through the season:

Have a light breakfast such as muesli and yoghurt, or fruit, yoghurt and seeds. This provides fibre and digestion-friendly bacteria.

Keep a couple of pieces of fruit in your bag or your desk to top up fibre and vitamins throughout the day.

If you're having a rich dessert, have a light main meal and cut out the potatoes. Take an artichoke supplement to help



Siobhan Nandlal living the healthy life. Photo by Sally-Anne Wigfield

Choosing health

By Diana Cormack

Although many people hanker for a change in their lives, most of us do little to bring it about, but after ten years as an insurance underwriter Siobhan Nandlal took the plunge. An aromatherapy course at Barnet College was the spur which set her on her present path.

Inspired by the healing and medicinal power of the oils, she began to look at other aspects of treating the body with natural products. This led to her working in the health food industry and, for the last four and a half years, Siobhan has been running The Natural Choice at 105 High Road.

Holistic help

Since 2002 she has built up a loyal customer base ranging from young children to the elderly. Old people who have gained relief after many years of pain are among those who thank Siobhan for her beneficial treatment. She is not a doctor and does not diagnose, but Siobhan believes in the holistic approach and by talking to her customers she tries to look at the underlying causes, not just the symptoms. She feels strongly that where we live and our present day lifestyle means we have certain defi-

ciencies and need some form of supplementation.

"This doesn't mean that we are ill," she told *THE ARCHER*, "but we do need some help and support. Men in particular need to be more aware of their needs."

Recently the shop hosted a food sensitivity testing day, following others on healing, reflexology, chair massage and nutritional advice. It is the only store in north London with an Ecover product refilling service, thus saving on plastic bottles.

Amongst the many goods in stock are organic and natural foods and non-chemical cosmetics; if an item is not available Siobhan will order it for you. The only way to appreciate the impressive range of goods is to go and look. Not only will you be surprised at what you find but you might also solve a present problem, for Siobhan will make up Christmas hampers on request.

The Natural Choice is open from 9.30am to 6pm Monday to Saturday.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Cool

It's cool time again, time to slip into your Hong Kong silk robe, put on the Rolex Oyster Perpetual Chronometer, pick up the Walther PPK 7.65 automatic and enter Bondworld because 007 is back. James Bond is 50s cool in a very English Brilcream way. Back then it was cool to drive a Bentley Continental and even cooler to have your cigarettes made to order by Morland's of Grosvenor Street. Bond stayed cool through the 60s and even if Roger Moore was a bit naff, that wasn't Bond's fault, you could blame it on the 70s, a decade that cool forgot.

Back in 1953 when Ian Fleming invented the suave James Bond he was inventing the man he'd like to be, right down to the handmade shoes. As the British Empire careered out of control towards its nemesis at Suez it was comforting to know that sending in a well-dressed 'psychopath' would solve all our problems. In Bondworld there would have been no Suez crisis. Same thing with Vietnam, Bond could have gone in, killed the baddies, bedded the girls and showed the Yanks how to do it without needing to take off his tuxedo.

As time and cinema moved on, Bond stayed the same. OK, so the Aston Martins got newer, got replaced by a Lotus and then a BMW and then back to Astons. Gadgets became the name of the game and each new Bondworld theme park attraction had something new from Q. Invisible cars? No problem, Pens that turned into aircraft? They're working on it along with X-ray vision and the ability to walk on water.

Bond himself has been through almost as many regenerations as Doctor Who, but has stayed the same 'psychopath', the same killer and the same relic of a bygone age when 'men were men' and dreamed of driving a Bentley, getting their shirts from Turnbull and Asser and checking in at the Playboy club for a little light gambling. So no change there then; even if the world has moved on, Bond hasn't.



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.

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** - 11 Dec at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events feature a different band each month. See www.swamprock.org.uk or call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** 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 Jane on 8883 4340
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, contact Admin Office 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
- ❖ **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 John 8883 8114.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



The Archer's Craig Johnson & Gina Yashere.

Gina's only joking

By Craig Johnson

My good friend and favourite comedian Gina Yashere was in town recently and updated me on her current tour since performing at the artsdepot in North Finchley last summer.

The 32-year-old, who lives in Woodford Green, Essex, says audiences at her show are all ages and she has no problem making such a diverse audience laugh. All her shows so far have sold out.

She said: "Most people have no idea what to expect from my show. But I would describe it as real family fun. My audi-

ences range from around 11 to 74. I'm not saying I'm the cleanest comic ever but there's no filth."

Gina's last dates on her current tour are in Norwich on 20 and 21 December. Find more details at www.ginayashere.co.uk/2006tour

Vienna waits for you

By Betti Blatman

Colin Stone's piano performance of Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues on 29 October at The Red Hedgehog Chamber Music Café and Gallery in Archway Road, Highgate, was a memorable experience.

Stone first came to prominence in 1986 winning the Royal Over-Seas League Piano competition in London, his performance of Liszt's 'Data Sonata' at the Queen Elizabeth Hall being a notable triumph. That same year, encouragement at the Busoni Competition in Italy and a highly acclaimed Wigmore Hall debut launched his career as a soloist and many concerto engagements followed. He regularly records for BBC Radio 3 and his CD for Olympia of Shostakovich's two piano sonatas was praised by Classic CD Magazine as "an outstanding release".

A dream realised

Although Clare Fischer bought the lease to the then derelict building in December 2003, her bank provided only £12,000 but, with a friend's backing of £350,000, she was able to pursue her enthusiasm for attracting major artists to perform in an intimate venue.

Clare is grateful to James Lisney for suggesting she name the venue after a 19th century coffee house in Vienna, the regular haunt of many classical composers such as Brahms, Schubert, Schumann and Mendelssohn. Brahms, for instance, obsessively refused to eat or drink anywhere else; there is a famous lithograph of the composer striding along in his top hat with a tiny red hedgehog at his heels. The place is often referred to in musical correspondence in relation to many musical figures of the period.

The original Red Hedgehog was associated with food, drink, conviviality and lively conversation between musicians, artists and thinkers. It is this atmosphere to which the Red Hedgehog on Archway Road aspires. In a 21st century touch, Clare offers a 'green travel discount' to those arriving in eco-friendly vehicles, cycling or using public transport. For further information, telephone 020 8348 5050 or log on to www.theredhedgehog.co.uk

Stephen and Sophie show strikes a wrong note

By Betti Blatman

After chaotic disorganisation, with the artsdepot doors opening late at 7.50pm on Sunday 22 October and no programme available for the evening's entertainment, "The Real Tuesday Weld" band finally appeared on stage fronted by lead singer and founder, Stephen Coates.

Accompanied by Ian Watson (accordion), Daniel Glendining (guitar and vox), Stephen Pilgrim (drums), Ali Friend (bass) and Grant Windsor (keyboards), Stephen attempted to create jazzy cabaret-style music but sang and spoke unenthusiastically and at such a slow speed that he almost came to a full stop.

The unusual photography created some visual disturbance from the films in the background. The audience soon became restless and within 20 minutes five people left followed someone else a few minutes later.

Sophie Solomon then joined her support band and with her

The draughtsman at the Noble Sage

By Andrew Shirlaw

A new exhibition of art by the pioneering modernist Indian sculptor S Dhanapal is on view at the Noble Sage, on Fortis Green, until 12 January.

His early work embodies traditional Indian rural art themes. The exhibits, many of which are for sale, include a colourful painting entitled Village Women, completed in 1947, of four Indian women wearing brightly coloured, traditional rural outfits. There is also a highly unusual painting of a rural musician entitled Tampura Player, which Dhanapal painted in tempera.

Dhanapal was heavily influenced by the work of Henry Moore, apparent in one of his sketches, a sensual ink drawing from 1965, entitled Reclining Nude Figure. Another nude drawing of a woman seems to be inspired by classical European art; it is simply called Study of a Woman.

I particularly enjoyed the more typically Indian paintings of dancers and rural characters Dhanapal completed during the early part of his career and also a highly abstract ink drawing made in 1999, towards the end of his career.

A witness to change

Dhanapal's career began during the period marking the end of British rule in India and he witnessed the rise of the independence movement in India and the political, artistic and social upheaval of the time. He sculpted important contemporary political leaders including Mahatma Gandhi.

The Noble Sage Director, Jana Manuelpillai, said: "Dhanapal was a crucial artist at the turning point in South Indian modernism. He also had an extraordinary gift for drawing and painting that equalled his renowned sculptural talent. It seems fitting that Dhanapal should be celebrated with a large-scale show of his most private drawings and paintings."

Spike portrait unveiled

The ground floor salon in Avenue House, East End Road, now displays a portrait of Spike Milligan. It was unveiled at the end of October by his daughter Silé. The artist, Julia Breck, co-starred with Spike in the 1970s television "Q" series.

Organisers of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund hope that it will be complemented before too long by a bronze statue of the late comedian and writer, which will be placed in the grounds of Avenue House.

Further information is available from David Smith on 020 8883 4154 or 07944 049 250, or from www.spikestatue.org.uk.

What's On...

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

Saturday 2 December
Auction of celebrity pictures at Avenue House, East End Road, 7.30 pm. Bid for original artworks by Jamie Theakston, Terry Wogan, Zoe Ball, Jonathan Ross and others. De luxe buffet and entertainment from award-winning singers including Angels of Kaos. Tickets £20. Tel 07950 359209.

Sunday 3 December
An Evening With Maureen Lipman; all proceeds going to North London Hospice, 7.30pm, The Burroughs, Middlesex University, Hendon NW4. Tickets £25, including refreshments from North London Hospice Fundraising Office, 47 Woodside Ave, N12 8TF, 020 8446 2288, or from 2 Lauradale Road, N2 9LU, 0208 883 4736, or at the door.

Sunday 3 December
Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit at the Phoenix Cinema, a rare screening of the 1990 TV series from Jeanette Winterson's novel, starring Charlotte Coleman and Geraldine McEwen; three episodes of 55 minutes each starting at 2pm. This event is a tribute to Charlotte, who died in 2001, from all at the Phoenix Cinema Trust, which is celebrating its 21st year. Charlotte's father Francis was the first chair of the trust. Tickets for this event are £7.50 or £6 concession from the box office 020 8444 6789.

Saturday 6 January
SwampRock presents Oceans 7 playing Rock 'n Roll and Rockin' Rhythm 'n' Blues, All Saints Art Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, London N20. Doors open at 8 pm. Large dance floor. Non smoking. Admission £9. Further details from Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth on 01727 830280.

Throughout December
Exhibition by local artist and sculptor Fiona Goldbacher, The Phoenix Cinema.

**Letters****Car owners beware**

Dear Editor,

There has been a spate of thefts from cars near where I live in recent weeks. The evidence is there from all the broken glass on the pavements in the mornings.

Someone I know had their radio stolen and another car had its spare tyre stolen from under the boot.

As there seem to be more incidents like this about, this is a warning to all car owners to make sure you lock it up securely and hide away any belongings that might tempt a thief to smash your side windows in.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Rossiter,
Long Lane, N2

My clothes just disappeared

Dear Editor,

If only I had taken notice of the "Bogus Bag Collectors" article on page 6 of the November ARCHER. Just two days after reading it I put out a bag of clothing for the Great Ormond Street Hospital's (GOSH) appeal. I put it out at midnight before the collection day, but thought that was safe to do because I live at the closed end of a cul de sac.

The bag was beside our front door, not out on the pavement, and I didn't think anyone would come down here without reason. The next morning, I went to put something else in the bag, but it had gone. However, in my road and surrounding roads, there were plenty of GOSH bags still waiting to be collected.

I am wondering whether to stop contributing in this way and to only donate my goods to local charity shops. How sad that what has become a traditional method of giving to different charities should be spoiled by those whose only thought is to take.

Yours regretfully,
DE Cormack
Cherry Tree Road, N2

Library service under review

Dear Editor,

In your October issue, Mr Gilbert of the Friends of Barnet Libraries is reported as calling for a widespread discussion on the future of the library service. In fact, such a review has just been announced by the Government, and is headed by civil servant and ex-Chief Librarian Andrew Stevens.

In addition, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has commissioned projects into specific aspects of future provision, such as the role of bookshops.

I am sure that these reviews will deal with all the issues which are of concern to the Friends, and a good deal more besides. Of course, they may have become aware of them since your report was published. If not, details are on the MLA web-site (www.mla.gov.uk). Or speak to your local librarian.

Yours faithfully,
John Bagley
Stokes Court, Diploma Ave, N2

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

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

Learn to lobby

An East Finchley author has published a book revealing the secrets of getting your voice or your cause heard in public. Dr Stuart Thomson has co-written *Public Affairs in Practice* which argues that the power and importance of local people and local communities is growing.

Two recent campaigns in East Finchley have used the power of local people; firstly against a mobile phone mast at Holy Trinity church and secondly against Waitrose coming to the High Road.

Dr Thomson, of Manor Park Road, said: "These campaigns have shown how effective it is to mobilise local feeling and how strength in numbers can make a difference. Councils and companies alike are increasingly aware that they have to take notice of what local people say.

"Whether it is dealing with planning applications in the area or being part of a more nationally co-ordinated campaign such as a boycott, we all have more power. Government changes to the planning system mean that developers are under a duty to consult, and it is important to ensure that we make the most of this opportunity.

"Knowing the decision-making system you are dealing with, where the pressure points are, the timescales, and the relevant people you need to engage with are all important parts of being a lobbyist."

Dr Thomson, Senior Public Affairs Adviser at law firm and Parliamentary agency Bircham Dyson Bell, uses his book to explain the skills needed to be successful in public affairs and tells organisations how to engage with the Government, MPs, the Civil Service and other policy makers.

Phoenix Kids Club is back

By Lois Lawrence

The Kids Club is running again on Saturday mornings at the Phoenix Cinema. I went to see *The Corpse Bride* with my friends. I liked it because we did activities before the film.

We made masks of ugly people and put them on ourselves and then we played a game of Consequences where we all had to make up a story line by line.

We were sitting down in front of the seats right by the screen. When we had finished we could sit wherever we wanted and then other people came in to watch the film with us.

My friends and I had crisps and drinks. I like going because everyone is very friendly and everyone gets involved. The films are always good too.

Saturday Kids Club activi-

Help your local hospice

The North London Hospice Shop at 123 High Road celebrated its 15th birthday in October. There are now 10 of these charity shops, the latest being a large one at 377 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, which can take small items of furniture (phone 020 8447 8884).

Every year, more than 1,300 terminally ill patients and their families are cared for in their own homes and at the Woodside Park in-patient unit. The hospice receives only a small amount of funding from the NHS and, as a registered charity, relies heavily on donations. It must raise more than £3 million a year to continue providing free comprehensive care to the people of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Any old phones?

As well as supporting the shops by giving or buying goods, you can also help by handing in your old mobile phones and chargers for recycling to raise money. Hospice moneyboxes are available to pop loose change into at your home or in your work place. At virtually no cost you can visit www.everyclick.com and choose the NL Hospice to support, then let everyclick do the rest.

Ebay expert wanted

Sometimes the charity receives collectable items and, at the time of writing, is looking for a volunteer to help sell such things on eBay. If you are interested call fundraising on 020 8446 2288 for more details.

Plans are under way for the provision of a children's hospice. Whilst there is already some funding to support a small service in the community for children, a great deal more will be needed to build the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice to serve Barnet and Enfield. Anyone interested in helping with this is asked to phone the Appeals Office on 020 8449 8877.



Eugenia von Piccardio, who manages the East Finchley hospice shop with Mary Boylan. Eugenia and the shop featured in THE ARCHER's second birthday edition of February 1995. Photo by Diana Cormack

Wave goodbye to nits

By Diana Cormack

National Bug Busting Day on 31 October aimed to tackle the persistent problem of head lice. Schools have differing methods of dealing with an outbreak. Parents and carers worried about using insecticidal shampoos may be pleased to learn about a special combing kit which can be used in conjunction with normal shampoos and conditioners. The kit is reusable and suitable for all the family because it contains a variety of scientifically designed combs to remove both adult and baby lice.

Hair today ...

The idea is to break their life cycle and stop them from reproducing. However, to be successful, hair must be checked and combed through regularly when it is wet. Looking in dry hair doesn't solve the problem because the newly hatched lice (nymphs) are tiny and hide when disturbed, so inspections by the school nurse ("Nitty Nora") are now a thing of the past.

Feeling lousy

Nits are the white empty egg cases stuck to the hair shaft in which the nymphs have hatched over seven to ten days. Lice reproduce after six to fourteen days and live for a month. They cannot jump, fly or swim but are passed on by direct head to head contact. They cannot be caught from pillows, etc. because they are like heat seeking missiles and aim directly for a warm scalp from which they can suck blood. This is what often, but not always, causes the itching that reveals their presence.

Anyone can catch head lice; it does not mean that your hair is dirty. To get rid of them, however, it is essential to use a regular wet combing method every few days over a two week period or more.

A non-profit making charity, Community Hygiene Concern (CHC), produces the Bug Buster Kit, which the British Medical Journal, August 2005, said was four times more effective than insecticides for treating head lice. It costs under £8, contains clear instructions and at the time of writing is available at Andrews Pharmacy and Cootes Chemist on the High Road. For more information visit www.nits.net/bugbusting or call 020 7686 4321.

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Fiona de Lys has opened a one-woman business in the High Road.

A floral dream blossoms

By John Lawrence

When Fiona de Lys was 15 years old and working as a Saturday girl in a florist's shop in Temple Fortune, she dreamed of running her own flower business one day.

That dream has come true with the opening of her new shop in East Finchley, the stylish and impressive Fiori.

Fiona's shop provides stunning floral gifts and arrangements as well as a range of pretty accessories for the home, including lanterns, baskets, cabinets, tables and ornamental shells.

Fiori (meaning flowers in Italian) has brought a splash of much-needed colour to its corner location at the junction of High Road and Kitchener Road, formerly a dowdy insurance office.

After her early morning trip to the flower market, Fiona is there Tuesday to Saturday from 10am until 7pm, or later, to serve evening commuters.

She has a qualification in design and display and has been a florist for some years, most recently as a freelancer. The desire to work for herself has always been with her. When the High Road premises came up for auction earlier this year Fiona had to make her mind up quickly.

"I came to have a look and knew it could work. I live in Hampstead Garden Suburb

but what I've noticed about East Finchley is what a strong sense of community there is. Since I've opened, I've had so many people just coming in to wish me luck and I've been really touched by that."

But does the High Road need another florist's to compete with Tu Destino and Josephine's, not to mention Jennie Mann's in Church Lane? Fiona believes there's room for everybody.

"I'm not here to compete with anyone. We all have our own style. What I want to offer is flowers and furnishings for the home, something that's personal, pretty and unconventional."

STEWART DUNCAN

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126 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY



The High Road banking hall as National Provincial customers would have seen it in the 1930s.

The changing face of counter service

By David Melsome

The dark wood panelling, the counter-top scales and the blotting pads are from a different age of banking. Our picture shows the 1930s interior of what is now the NatWest bank in the High Road, then known as the National Provincial Bank.

The banking hall first opened in 1901 and has been through many makeovers since, most recently a fully-fledged transformation that has doubled the space available to customers and brought the facilities and décor into the 21st century.

Light wood floors, comfortable waiting areas and a new enquiry desk now greet customers, along with three accessible cashier desks and two private interview rooms.

Branch manager Anna Angeli said reaction to the revamp has been positive. "It's light and airy and we've got twice the space we used to have. Customers have been pleasantly surprised and it's a much better place for my team to work in."

All work on the branch was carried out after hours and at weekends so that opening times were not affected. As part of the project, the NatWest cash machine will be moved from its position in Beresford Road onto the High Road. "We hope customers will feel more secure using it there," said Anna.

The East Finchley branch is one of the first in the area to be updated. It has had to cope with a huge surge in transactions since Barclays Bank on Fortis Green closed a year ago.



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