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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Martin schools in line to be rebuilt

By Daphne Chamberlain

Martin Junior and Infant Schools may be amalgamated into one primary school in 2012-13. Under current Council proposals the school could be rebuilt on its existing site on the High Road.

This is part of Barnet's Primary School Capital Investment Programme, under which schools throughout the borough could be remodelled, rebuilt or amalgamated, in conjunction with the sale of "surplus land".

THE ARCHER can reveal that in 1998 there were proposals to either rebuild Martin schools or to amalgamate them with Coppetts Wood School, a suggestion which was thrown out as unworkable. Then, in 2001, council papers recorded a surplus of playing fields (meaning a surplus to Department for Education guidelines) and a shortfall in the site of the school itself. This was at the time of the proposed move of East Finchley library into a Waitrose development on the Park House site opposite the tube station.

It was suggested that the "surplus" school playing field and the site of the library could be sold for housing development. As we know, this did not happen.

When asked if the Martin field was again under threat, a Barnet Council spokesperson said, "All schools will still have playing fields that meet DfES guidelines, and no playing field will be totally lost." The statement went on to say that the Martin rebuild is not a firm plan, only "provisional and possible".

Under the same provisional plans, Garden Suburb Infant and Junior would be amalgamated in 2013, and Brookland Infant and Junior in 2015.

See page 4 for news of the adjoining allotments.



Photo by Roman Stachera.

Fairies, Elves and Father Christmas declare the Martin School Christmas Bazaar open. See page 8.

Two men charged with murder

Two men have been charged with murder after a woman's body was found in Elmshurst Crescent.

Police were called just after 11.00am on 30 November to a grassed area in Elmshurst Crescent near the junction with East End Road, where a passer-by had discovered the body. The victim was later formally identified as Jacqueline Queen, 39, of Gainsborough House, Thorpdale Road, Finsbury Park N4.

An incident room was opened at Barking under detectives from the Specialist Crime Directorate.



Police examine the scene in Elmshurst Crescent where a body was found. Photo by John Dearing

On 30 November, a man voluntarily attended Milton Keynes police station and was arrested in connection with the inquiry and transferred to a north London police station. Later that day a second man was arrested in north London in connection with the inquiry.

On 3 December, brothers John Seaton, 35, of Tyrell Stanstonbury, Milton Keynes, and James Seaton, 45, of Gainsborough House, Thorpdale Road, Finsbury Park, both unemployed ex-bricklayers, appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, both charged with the murder of Jacqueline Queen and conspiring to pervert the course of justice on or before 30 November.

Both men were remanded in custody until an appearance at the Old Bailey on 12 December.

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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.

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Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
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❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Con men steal £2,800

Three men claiming to be members of Neighbourhood Watch stole £2,800 after entering a home in East Finchley.

The incident happened on Friday 9 December at 1.30pm in East End Road. The victims were having an afternoon nap when they were woken by the sound of voices coming from the upstairs hallway. A male then entered the victim's bedroom and stated that he was from Neighbourhood Watch.

The intruder claimed that he had just caught a man in the victim's street carrying lots of money on him and had come to check the victim's home to see if anything was missing. The male then asked the victim where he kept his valuables and went with the victim to check downstairs.

The victim then noticed two other men coming out of one of the other rooms. The men also claimed to be from Neighbourhood Watch and to be checking for a sign of a break-in. The three males eventually left and the victim then discovered that £2,800 in cash had been stolen. The first suspect is described as a white male aged 40, 5ft 6ins tall, with short brown hair. The second suspect is described as a white male aged 20, 5ft 6ins tall, with short blond hair. The third suspect is described as a white male aged 30, 5'6" tall, with short ginger hair.

All three men spoke with Irish accents and were wearing blue jackets with yellow and blue emblems and blue trousers. Paul Hammond, from Barnet Borough watch, said: "Neighbourhood Watch members do not call house to house like this. If someone knocks on your door and says they are from Neighbourhood Watch, they probably are not, unless you know that they are one of your neighbours."

He advised residents who are suspicious of such callers to refuse entry and dial 999. He also advised against keeping large amounts of cash at home.

Watch out for flaming toys

Barnet Council's trading standards team is warning residents to be on the lookout for a potentially lethal toy.

The 'stressbusting' Puffer Ball, a small squashy ball covered in soft latex-like spikes, bounces and oozes through the fingers when squeezed.

However, the toy, which retails at about £1, smells strongly of petroleum and can burst into flames from the slightest contact with fire, burning violently and for a long time.

The ball, an import from China, which may be CE marked, fails to meet toy safety regulations and



should not be bought or given as a present.

Councillor Matthew Offord, cabinet member for the environment, said, "We are very concerned at the potential risk from this toy, particularly bearing in mind the number of candles and open fires around. We are asking anyone who has purchased or seen any of these toys to contact Consumer Direct London on 08454 040506, or visit the website at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk."

Beware car-jacking

By Sheila Armstrong

Motorists are being urged to guard their vehicles against a new type of car-jacking scam that is becoming more common in London.

Imagine the scene: you walk across the car park, unlock your car, get inside, lock the doors, start the car and put it in reverse. You look in the rear view mirror to reverse out and then you notice a piece of paper stuck on your back window obscuring the view.

So you put the car in neutral, leaving the engine running, unlock the doors and get out to remove it. But by the time you reach the rear of the car the car-

jackers have appeared out of nowhere, jumped into your car and driven off. If you have left your handbag or briefcase, possibly containing your address and maybe your house keys as well as your car keys behind in the car, all these will be lost too.

Yet another reason to do a quick check on the outside of your car before you get in, or get into the habit of reversing into parking spaces so you can drive out quickly.

Planning Applications

Land adjacent to and rear of 373-383 High Road, N2

Erection of a three-storey building, comprising a total of 8 self-contained flats. Associated provision of off-street parking spaces and change to landscaping.

118 High Road /5 Lincoln Parade, N2

Change of use from Class A3 (restaurant) to Class B1.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd, 11- 59 High Road, N2

Minor extension alterations, including new disabled ramp, associated hand-rail and canopy at rear. Two additional disabled parking spaces.

245 Creighton Avenue, N2

Part single, part two-storey, side and rear extension, incorporating "inverted dormer" and rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

1st Floor Flat, 44 Lincoln Road, N2
Alterations to roof, including new dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

238 - 240 East End Road, N2

Alterations to both roofs, including hip to gable ends and wraparound rear/side dormer to facilitate loft conversions. Rooflights in front roof slopes of both properties.

63 Abbots Gardens, N2

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

38 Abbots Gardens, N2

Two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension.

63 Brim Hill, N2

Alterations to roof, including rear and side dormers and rooflights, to facilitate a loft conversion. First floor rear extension. Single-storey rear and side extensions.

9 The Leys, N2

Minor alteration to existing ground floor extension, and window and door to ground floor level. 1st floor side extension. Alterations to roof, including dormer window and rooflights to sides of extension to existing loft conversion.

2 Ludlow Way, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Single-storey side extension (to front of garage). Conversion of part of garage to habitable room. Loft conversion, including rooflights. Insertion of new windows to side and rear elevations. New soil vent pipe (amended description).



Have your say on the future of Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

There will be a public meeting for the people of East Finchley to say what they want the future of Stanley Field to be. It will be held on Tuesday 17 January at Holy Trinity School (just off Market Place and beside the field). The meeting proper will start at 7.30pm, but doors will be open from 7pm for informal discussion.

"We want as many people as possible to come along, so we can decide together where we go from here," said Roger Chapman, of the East Finchley Development Trust. The Trust is backing local proposals to make the field a centre for sports development. "Even if you don't agree, come along and let us hear your views," he added.

MP Rudi Vis, local councillor Colin Rogers, the FA's Roger Reed, and George Davis, organiser of a successful sports development centre in south London, similar to the scheme proposed by local people for the field,

have all been invited. Architect Chris Hampson will be there to go through the plans he and his architectural partner have drawn up for the field.

Council leader Brian Salinger has told Mr Chapman and Mr King of The Walks Residents' Association that the future of the field will be decided early this year. It is believed that building developers are waiting in the wings.

The meeting organisers will be distributing leaflets and notices throughout East Finchley in the New Year. Come and have your say on 17 January.

Home-Start praises children

Organisations such as East Finchley's Home-Start Barnet play a vital part in the work being done to safeguard local children, the organisation's annual general meeting was told.

Paul Fallon, Barnet's Head of Children and Families, was guest speaker at Home-Start's eighth AGM, held in the Old Barn Community Centre in Tarling Road.

He told the audience of volunteers and representatives from other local youth and family organisations that children were portrayed in the media as either angels or devils. Every generation thought its children were worse than the one before. "We are strangely ambivalent about our young people," he added.

Mr Fallon highlighted government policies, both good and bad. The former included a reduction in child poverty and more parental choice, although not for the kind of parents normally visited by Home-Start volunteers.

He said it was the local authority's job to make things better for children, and that involved a partnership between the statutory and voluntary sectors. Locally they were now seeing a decrease in the number of children in care in the borough, from 400 two years ago to a current 365. The reason for this was because of organisations such as Home-Start Barnet.

He pledged continuing financial support from Barnet for the following year and urged those present to encourage friends to become volunteers.

Home-Start Barnet supports families who live in the borough, have at least one child under five and are experiencing difficulties. This can be anything from post-natal depression to feelings of isolation or finding it hard to cope with twins or triplets.

Volunteers are recruited and trained, then matched with a family they visit once a

week for up to three hours and help in a variety of practical or emotional ways. It is a lifeline for many families, and is known to help prevent family crisis and breakdown.

The scheme is always looking for volunteers. The next (free) training course starts on Tuesday, 17 January and runs for eight weeks on the same day each week. If you are interested, or can help in any other way, please call the Home-Start office on 020 8371 0674.

Charity cheats

By Ann Bronkhorst

Decluttering after Christmas seems such a good idea. Those clothes collection leaflets that drop through the letterbox suggest a worthy way of clearing out wardrobes while helping... well, whom, exactly?

I have seven different leaflets in front of me. Between them they claim to distribute clothes to needy people in 'third world countries', 'deprived areas of the world' and 'Eastern European countries'. One refers to 'our local heritage and environmental project' (no details given) while another urges us (vaguely) to 'help those who really need support'. Kosta Ltd says: 'We support HKL Charity' and Help & Trust assures us that 'God will reward for your good hearts' (sic).

A closer look reveals a marked lack of usable contact information. Phone numbers, where provided, don't answer, or "The answerphone is full". One number is in Lithuania! Occasionally there's an email address or a company registration number so the company could, in theory, be tracked down.

On their track

Rupert Jones of *The Guardian's* Jobs & Money section



Councillor Alison Moore (left) and Christine Watson admire the Grand Draw prizes at the Winter Fair. Photo by Helen Drake

Local artists create an impact

By Helen Drake

A framed print from Tark Butler, a stoneware pot from Peter Hale and a photographic print from Ketan Majmudar were the prizes won by the three lucky winners of the Grand Draw held at the East Finchley Open (EFO) Winter Fair held on Sunday 20 November.

The prize winners were announced towards the end of the event by Councillor Alison Moore, who picked out the winning tickets alongside Christine Watson, one of the organisers of the Fair, which this year attracted an increased number of visitors.

Martin School was once again awash with original artwork as 37 exhibitors set up their displays in the two main halls. Alongside established exhibitors were newcomers such as Ketan Majmudar (cards and prints), Patricia O'Brien (etchings and monoprints), Ann Froomberg (paintings and hand-painted silk scarves), Romaine Dennistoun (wildlife paintings) and Lesley Brooke

(jewellery).

Monica Peiser, one of the Fair organisers, said, "We're excited to have ferreted out so many artists and craftspeople from the locality and we're sure there are plenty more hiding away."

She added that the group had a wide range of different skills that complement each other, but observed that it would be "nice to have some textile workers" and appealed to weavers, woodworkers and toymakers to get in touch.

Visitors to the Winter Fair were asked to pay a voluntary entry fee of £1 to be given to local charity East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact (known as Contact). The

organisers of the Winter Fair would like to thank everyone who came for raising an amazing £600.

Find out more from www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

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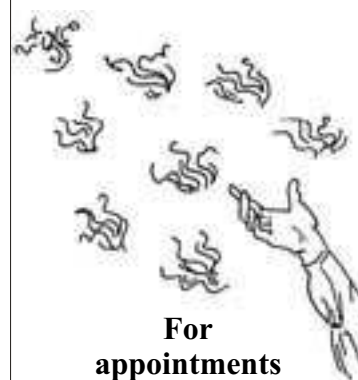
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Lynne Coleman and Richard King with the cup. Photo by Toni Morgan

Allotments are not surplus

By Daphne Chamberlain

THE ARCHER has discovered that in 1998, when Barnet Council was considering the future of the Martin schools, one proposal was to relocate at least some of the adjoining allotments.

Council papers reveal that Stanley Road playing field and the then under-used Vale Farm Allotments were considered as relocation sites. This would have freed a large expanse of land for building.

When told of this, Richard King, chair of the East Finchley Allotments Association, said: "We have always been aware that this is a valuable site. All our plots are taken, however, and we have a healthy waiting list. Our lease comes up for renewal this April."

Each lease runs for six years, so it will be due for renewal again in 2012, which is when the

Martin schools may be rebuilt. Under the current proposal the combined school would be rebuilt on its existing site.

Meanwhile, Richard King and his fellow plot-holders are celebrating winning the trophy for the best allotment site in Barnet for the third time in recent years.

Season's greetings to prolific criminals

Barnet police sent Christmas cards to about 30 of Barnet's most prolific criminals wishing them a happy Christmas and warning them to stay out of trouble.

The cards carried wording inside that included the phrases: "If you continue with your criminal activity, you will ruin the festive season for many people, yourself included, because my officers will be paying you special attention. The outcome of this could be that you spend Christmas and beyond in prison." Each card was signed by Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts, the Borough Commander.

Similar cards were sent out in other London boroughs and in other parts of the country.

Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts said: "Like many other Christmas traditions, every year we notice a crime increase, committed by those too idle to fund their festivities legitimately. I have made it absolutely clear to those offenders who we are focusing on that if they don't want to miss the third repeat of the 'Only Fools and Horses' Christmas Special and to enjoy Christmas with their families they should stay away from crime."

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Learning to take pride in Barnet

By Peter Pickering

I attended the meeting of the Barnet Civic Network in November as a representative of the Finchley Society, and have been invited to tell readers of THE ARCHER something about it.

The Civic Network has been up and running for two years. It is designed to engage organisations representing the full range of communities in Barnet in thinking through ideas for the future of the borough, and to have an input into the implementation of Barnet's Community Plan.

It meets two or three times a year with senior council officers and elected council members present, and the meetings attract an impressively large number of diverse organisations. I am not certain, however, that the ideal way has been found for engaging them constructively. The theme of the November meeting was 'Civic Pride', but the plenary session was only loosely related to that theme. It included an account of the preparation of the Community

Strategy 2006-2016 and a lively presentation of its work, with a video, by the young people (almost entirely female) of the Barnet Youth Forum. Civic Pride was discussed in groups. We were asked to list the things we were most and least proud of in Barnet. Some of the points made in my group I found surprising, but it is good for elderly members of amenity societies to realise that not everyone thinks the same way.

Although Civic Pride is undoubtedly a good thing, and more of it would improve the quality of our lives, I find it much easier to be proud of London and of Finchley than of Barnet. That is not a criticism of the council, but a reflection of the fact that despite the 40 years since the reorganisation of London government the Borough of Barnet feels an artificial political entity, while London and Finchley seem somehow real.

The future of Park House decided at last?

East Finchley looks set to become the new permanent home for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Adult Education Institute. Barnet has reportedly accepted the Institute's offer to buy the Park House site freehold, as the previous preferred bidder, Sherm Properties, has dropped out. The current lease on Park House, opposite the tube station, is being extended while negotiations over the sale continue.

Principal Fay Naylor told *THE ARCHER* there are no plans at present to build on the Park House site. Building of the new Institute arts centre on the Neurological Hospital site is going ahead and four floors of McDonald's headquarters will be rented on a 15-year lease from January 2006.

Should the Institute buy Park House, one of the most hotly disputed episodes in the recent history of East Finchley will come to an end. Residents were deeply divided over proposals to build a superstore with parking on that site, including adjoining land up to Baronsmere Road, backed by

the threat of a Compulsory Purchase order. Local protests led to a hastily withdrawn Cabinet paper and the surprise Grade 2 listing of the library. Indeed, plans to include a new library in the building and to demolish the old one were of huge significance in the local consultation process which followed. With the majority voting against the plans, the prospect of a superstore receded.

In 2004 Park House was put up for sale. A year later, the endgame appears in sight, although questions remain about increasing traffic and appropriate parking controls.

Park House parking problems

By Diana Cormack

Local residents' objections have overturned a planning application for Park House, 16 High Road, by Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. The Institute wanted a permanent change of use to an educational facility and an extension of present opening hours, including all day on Saturdays.

At the end of November a meeting of Barnet's Planning and Environment Committee was told by Jan Hogan, of Ingram Road, and Ken Cordeiro, of Baronsmere Road, about the severe parking problems caused by the current Controlled Parking Zone, imposed without consultation when the Institute opened at Park House in August 2004.

It was suggested that these problems would certainly escalate, for not only Park House had to be taken into consideration, but also the Institute's imminent occupation of part of McDonald's headquarters and of their new building on the neurological hospital site.

The committee decided unanimously that, since the Institute's purchase of Park House is not yet certain to go through, the change of use should last

for only twelve months. The current Monday to Friday opening hours should remain, with Saturday hours limited to 1pm. This could be extended to 9pm on four Saturdays a year to allow for special occasions such as Open Days.

The committee also asked for a review of the current CPZ, which should give more consideration to the impact on residents.

Ken Cordeiro told *THE ARCHER*: "On the whole, East Finchley residents seem to welcome the Institute, but its November newsletter encouraging students to park in residential roads where there is already an acute demand for parking space is not clever PR for a new neighbour on the block. The Institute needs to show sensitivity and balance their needs with those of residents and local traders if they don't wish to create any resentment."

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Taming the wild wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

At last the 'regeneration' of Coldfall Wood (first reported in *THE ARCHER*, November 2004) seems not only possible, but probable. The mayor of Haringey's press office has issued a press statement confirming the success of the application for Heritage Lottery funding.

Last month, the Friends of the wood and playing fields heard encouraging details of how the money will be used from Haringey Conservation Officer Nich Michael.

The almost invisible woodland paths are to be resurfaced by Transco and the gate by the Transco site will be widened to provide access for the disabled. A broken bridge will be replaced and some railings repaired. A new picnic table and six benches will appear and a nature trail will be established supported by leaflets and information boards.

Visitors may appreciate dry feet, better access and somewhere to sit, but what about the wood as a natural environment? Overgrown branches will be cut back and coppicing will continue as a way of managing the trees and letting in light. The long-standing problem of flooding in the wood will be addressed and the unsavoury

water outfall area tidied up. There are imaginative suggestions for the stream itself, involving dams, clay pools, a reedbed and aquatic plants.

Have your say

The Friends clean up litter in the wood regularly and have campaigned for years for its regeneration. Now they and Nich Michael need the ideas and involvement of all those who care about this unique remnant of ancient woodland. Look out for posters publicising a consultation meeting on 22 January at the Vampires FC (by Coppetts/Trott Road junction). Will the 'access' ideas conflict with the conservation/wildlife-habitat approach? The major works are due to start in April 2006 so not much time is left in which to influence how the money gets spent.

Further information from Haringey Conservation Officer on 020 8348 6005 or info@coldfallwood.info

Recycle your Christmas

By Sheila Armstrong

Now the seasonal bean feast is over, think green and recycle your packaging, cards and trees.

The Royal Mail delivers around one billion Christmas cards and parcels. Cards must not go in the black boxes for kerbside collection. They are recyclable from 2-31 January at WH Smith and Tesco, your local library or the recycling centre at Summers Lane in the special bins provided. Funds raised will go to the Woodlands Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.

Have a cuppa

More than 17 million jars of mincemeat, pickles and condiments are bought each Christmas. Empty jars can be put in the black boxes or glass recycling bins, as can all your cans. If all the jars were recycled it would save enough energy to boil water for 60 million cups of tea.

And all that wrapping paper, 83 sq km of it, can go in the black box too; but that means just paper and not metal or foil-based wrappings or ribbon.

Seen and heard...

Hay

Trundling down the High Road at the end of November was an open cart stacked with bales of hay. A journey back into time – or maybe just to one of the Christmas ice-rinks?

Back to the earth

At least five million Christmas trees are bought each year. If you are part of the Green Garden Waste Collection Service you can leave them outside on your collection day. Summers Lane will also take trees and they will all be made into organic compost/mulch. Roads having a block cleanse in January or February will have green garden waste containers for the trees.

Barnet Recycling has reminded *THE ARCHER* that the new edition of Yellow Pages was due out in December and that old copies can also go in the black box.

Finally, a plea from our local charity shops who are inundated with an enormous number of donations in the post-Christmas clear out. They do not always have room for all donations given at this time of year so please be patient and stagger your donations over January and February.

For further information e-mail recycling@barnet.gov.uk or call 020 8359 7400.



Bernhard Herzberg. Photo by Ann Bronkhorst

The oldest student in England

By Ann Bronkhorst

A lifetime of questioning, arguing and travelling has shaped Bernhard Herzberg but not settled him down. He has worked in Europe, Canada, the USA, Africa and the UK, written memoirs, stories, articles and theses, and now, at 96 the oldest student in England, he is still, intellectually, on the move.

Bernhard is tackling his second Master's degree course. He began taking university degrees in his 80s, first a BA in German language and literature followed last year by an MA in Refugee studies, and now an MA course in African Economics and Literature at

SOAS, University of London. His life-story explains why he has felt drawn to these subjects.

As a young Jew in Hanover in the 1920s Bernhard witnessed growing anti-semitism and his parents' refusal to recognise its implications. "I anticipated correctly what would happen," he says. He emigrated to South Africa in 1933, returning to Europe a decade later to fight against the Nazis. Now, he says, "the land of my birth exercises a great pull." He has made German friends and given talks in German schools about the Nazi period.

Bernhard spent 60 years in South Africa, and travelled throughout Africa. Having arrived virtually penniless he

worked for, and eventually managed, several chemical and pharmaceutical companies. He was also an active trade unionist and a persistent opponent of 'apartheid' (the racist system of government which collapsed in the late-1980s). Poverty and exploitation still anger him.

At 96, Bernhard finds it tiring to travel from East Finchley to the University and between its various buildings. He seems undaunted, however, by having to produce several essays of 2,000 or 3,000 words, and finds his fellow students quite welcoming. Perhaps they are a little in awe of someone who is the oldest student in England and whose personal experience gives him a unique perspective on the world.

Let there be lights

The dispute between East Finchley traders and Barnet Council that threatened to rob the High Road of its Christmas lights was solved after an anonymous donor stepped forward.

We reported last month how shopkeepers in the High Road were being told by the council that they could not have their festive displays without paying £750 for the cost of installing and storing them. The traders claimed they were not aware of the charge in advance.

But the lights were switched on after an anonymous donor came forward with the money to pay the council bill.

East Finchley Traders' Association spokesman Dino Loizou, of East Finchley Electricals, thanked the donor and said: "We weren't told about the charge until it was too late. This year, we'll make sure we're prepared well in advance."

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Memories of Cromwell Hall

By Tony Roberts

At The Finchley Society's Local History Group meeting on 26 November at Avenue House, David Smith talked about Cromwell Hall and the sourcing of information for the book *Collected Memories of our Neighbourhood* produced by Cromwell Hall Residents' Association.

He opened with slides: an aerial photograph of East Finchley in the 1960s and maps charting the development of the area from 1800 to the present. The final, large-scale map showed the location of Cromwell Hall by the spot on the north side of Abbots Gardens now known as the 'keyhole'.

David listed as sources contemporary local papers (not always totally accurate), the Borough and Finchley Society Archives, local registers (Holy Trinity School register around 1871 included parents' occupations) communications with the descendants of those who lived there (eventually cross-correlations reinforce credibility) and archaeological evidence/artefacts discovered in gardens. He brought with him pencils originating from Percy Honri's putting green, clay pipe fragments and the inlet from a village pump.

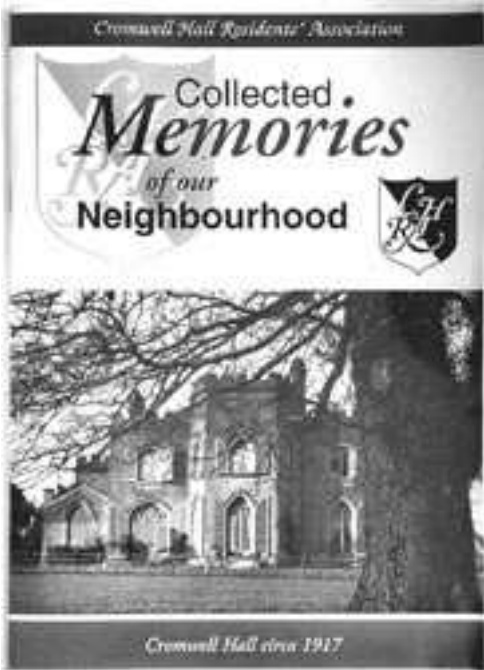
Chance encounter

A chance encounter with a poster mentioning a Peter Honri led David to Mary Honri, another family member, who provided much information including lease and sale documents. He was able to trace the occupancy of Cromwell Hall from the time it came into the hands

of the wealthy Butler family (Edward Butler and Miss Butler) and thence to the Honri family who held the property until its demolition in 1933. Miss Butler and Percy Honri were larger-than-life characters and David regaled his audience with examples of their life-styles. The evening ended with slides of the Hall and its occupants, the Honri family, taken shortly before the Hall was sold for development.

The book contains a wealth of information about the Hall and East Finchley generally and includes fascinating maps and photographs. It is available from David Smith, 8883 4154, for £3.60 including p&p.

For details of the next meeting visit www.finchley.society.org.uk.



The Collected Memories of our Neighbourhood by Cromwell Hall Residents' Association. Photo by Tony Roberts

Utopia

By Daphne Chamberlain

Beauty therapist Mette Knudsen got the name for her new health and beauty clinic from a client having a facial. Mette told me: "Actually, the name she suggested was Beautopia, but this place is not just a beauty salon. We want it to be a place of harmony and well-being."

Mette has leased the premises in Leicester Mews for eight years, and sub-lets to other therapists, who are self-employed.

Many East Finchley people already know Mette herself, complementary therapist Fiona Hurlock, massage therapist Mariana Arando and chiropodist/podiatrist Mary Goulbourn. Mary, expecting a baby at the time of writing, plans to job share with Judith Costa, who has already started tackling the feet of East Finchley's residents.

"It's a pleasure coming in to work," said Fiona. "We're a group of friends, and we hope that friendly atmosphere reaches our clients."

Clients present and potential had the chance to try some of the treatments at the official opening day last month. Mette was pleased with the response. "People just relaxed, some going from one treatment to another. We would like to repeat the experience, perhaps with special getting to know you evenings."

So what can you choose from? Reiki, shiatsu, acupuncture, reflexology, Hopi ear candles, different types of massage, chiropody and the



Fiona Hurlock & Mette Knudsen at Utopia. Photo by John Dearing.

full beauty treatment. Anyone thinking they might need a little more help can arrange to see a doctor specialising in non-invasive cosmetic treatment (Botox and other techniques), though he will not actually be practising in the clinic.

Both sexes and all ages are welcome, though be aware that only the chiropody room is on the ground floor. Utopia is at the newly refurbished 1A Leicester Mews (just behind Cootes Pharmacy). For further information, ring 020 8444 4226.

Coming to the aid of witnesses

By Diana Cormack

For many of us, the only experience we have of a courtroom is what we see on the screen or if we are selected for jury service. But for those called to give evidence it can prove a daunting prospect, particularly if it is for the first time and they do not know what to expect. This is where the Witness Service is on hand to help.

This free and confidential service aids witnesses, victims and their families before, during and after the hearing. It is run

by Victim Support, the national charity that helps people cope with crime. The Witness service is in every Crown Court centre in England and Wales and is used by an increasing number of magistrates' courts.

Trained volunteers run the Witness Service. Margaret McAllister, who lives in one of the county roads, told *THE ARCHER* that there are no specific requirements except to be good with people and have the time to spare.

Margaret works for the Witness Service at Haringey Magistrates' Court in Highgate, which is looking for more volunteers.

They need to be over 18 and able to commit to at least one day a fortnight for a year or more. Six days' training is given, of either two days for three weeks or three days for two weeks; volunteers don't have to live in Haringey to participate.

One of Margaret's young colleagues described it as "very interesting; fascinating; never boring. You learn a lot and you get thanked a lot."

The Haringey Witness Service is at Aztec House, 397-405 Archway Road, N6 4EY. For more information, phone 020 8347 9405.

Pedestrian dies after collision with bus

A woman pedestrian died after she was run over by a double-decker bus in the bus terminus at Tally Ho Corner, N12.

Dulcie Bailey, 89, of Muswell Hill, suffered leg injuries and was taken by the London Ambulance Service to the Royal Free Hospital, where she later died of her injuries.

The accident happened on the afternoon of Saturday 19 November, 2005. An inquest was subsequently opened and adjourned at Hornsey Coroner's Court.

Police are appealing for anyone who saw the collision to contact Sgt Dave Tanner at Alperton traffic garage on 020 8998 5319.

Budgens backdrop for TV drama

By John Dearing

On two consecutive Sunday mornings in November and December, Budgens supermarket in the High Road was the location for filming scenes for a new ITV drama called *Vital Signs*, starring former *EastEnders* Tamzin Outhwaite.

The film crews, who also took over the 'Pay and Display' car park by Viceroy Close for their fleet of vehicles, were blessed with mostly sunny weather during the filming sessions.

In *Vital Signs*, Tamzin Outhwaite plays Rhoda Bradley, a busy mother of three who is fed up with her job as a supermarket check out assistant. The series is written by John Forte and made by Tiger Aspect Productions.

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Bat's life

By Craig Johnson

When darkness falls, bats take over the skies in ancient Highgate Wood. There are 31 bat boxes there and four in Queens Wood nearby. The bat sanctuary in Highgate tunnels is home to the long-eared Natterer and Daubenton species and is part of an ecological project set up by the Corporation of London and London Underground.

In 1996 LU sent out a bat agent to survey the two parallel disused Highgate rail tunnels using remote sound recording equipment and mist nets. In December 2002 a single Natterer was found inside. In February 2003 more Natterers were found in both tunnels. Four species have been recorded: the Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and Leisler's bat. Occupation is highest during autumn when bats form 'harem roosts' involving a male and one or more females. You can see the black boxes, which are monitored for use each autumn, along flight lines and alongside the edges of the woods. In the spring, females roost and give birth to one baby. By August it is ready to fly and fend for itself.

Batty facts

- Bats live in clean, warm places and hate dust and cobwebs so their Halloween image is inaccurate.
- Bat colonies in houses cause no health risks.
- They do not carry disease and are not blind.
- Bat droppings are dry and turn to dust if rubbed between the fingers, unlike mouse droppings, which are hard and remain solid.
- Bats hibernate during winter in tunnels and caves. Their temperature drops and their heartbeat slows in order to conserve energy.

Bats receive special protection under The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is illegal not only to kill or injure any bat, but also to damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter and protection, or to disturb a bat while it is occupying such a place. Bats should only be handled by specially trained and licensed workers.



Bananas for new bar

By Tom Walker & Louise Wikstrom

The owners of Nahling, the Thai restaurant on the High Road, are to open a stylish new cocktail bar on the site of Bar XL that they hope will attract East Finchley's more sophisticated drinkers.

Mick Rayner, Nahling's owner, is turning the site, on the corner of Lincoln Road, into a continental-style tapas bar called Monkey Face.

He said: "Monkey Face is a literal translation of Nahling, and it will have the same logo. I know there's demand for a good bar in the area because of all the people who come into the restaurant asking for one. The whole High Road will change."

The bar will be aimed at a sophisticated audience, with relaxed leather seating and café tables, as well as an age limit of 21 to keep out the rowdy 'Muswell Hill crowd'.

It will be renovated inside and out, creating a new wood and glass shopfront with outdoor seating and a pair of two-foot-tall wooden elephants.

Monkey Face will have a late licence, opening until 2am on Fridays and Saturdays. There will be a range of music with DJs at the weekend, as well as karaoke nights once or twice a month.

The news comes a month after the closure of Barclays bank, another prominent corner site at the junction of High Road and Fortis Green that also looks set to change hands.

No date has yet been set for the opening of Monkey Face.

Sing out the old, sing in the new

By Erini Rodis

Anyone wanting to turn over a new leaf in the New Year will be able to do it to their own song-sheet. A new course, Songwriting For Beginners, starts in McDonalds headquarters ('hamburger university') next to the tube station on 19 January.

My brother, Chris Rodis, will be course leader. He has been writing songs for years, so what started him off? Chris says, "Listening to songs on the radio and thinking they were really good! I liked words a lot. As a kid I'd make things up while just walking along. Some turned into songs while others remained ramblings. I think people worry too much about being original, so much that they never get started."

The course will be especially useful for anyone already writing songs, or singing covers, or playing an instrument, or writing poetry or lyrics and wanting help to structure them. The style in which the song writing will be taught will be agreed with the group. Chris says, "It's important to understand what different styles there are, possibly as many styles as there are performers."

Chris, who grew up in East Finchley, is already known for his community art projects at the Neighbourhood Centre, The Mix, the Thomas More Centre, the Finchley Youth Theatre and for his work at local primary schools over the years, but this course is particularly poignant for him.

He says, "I clearly remember walking up the hill from the tube station when I was about 13 or 14 years old, making up songs, so it's a delicious prospect that I might be helping others to write songs along the same road!"



Chris Rodis. Photo by Erini Rodis

The Songwriting for Beginners course will be held at 11 High Road from 19 January, running from 7-9pm. Contact the booking office on 020 8455 9951 or visit www.hgsi.ac.uk.

Puzzlers:

Rubbery

Is boneless chicken considered to be an invertebrate?

Taking the mickey

Isn't Disney World a people trap operated by a mouse?

Non-stick

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Throw backs

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

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YOUNG ARCHER

Football transcends all faiths

By Shannon Green, Year 6, Holy Trinity School
On 14 November, my class and I visited Arsenal Football Stadium in Highbury with a Jewish school called Akiva, to join other London primary schools.

When we got there we gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Muslim faith to Akiva. We talked about prayer, food and the story of the Qura'n. Then Akiva told us a little about the Jewish faith. They said they eat apple dipped in honey to celebrate a sweet new year and during Yom Kippur they fast for a day.

Then we played football in the sports hall. We were split into groups, each with a trainee trainer to practise skills with us. Then we played football. After that we ate lunch.

Next it was time for the tour! First, we went to the marble hall where we saw a statue of Herbert Chapman, one of Arsenal's best managers. We were told that he came up with

the idea of putting the D around the goalkeeper's box.

Then we went into the stadium and sat in the directors' box! Some of the chairs had names on them, five of them had the inscription K.Edelman. We were told that people wanted their ashes buried in the pitch! So when Arsenal moved stadiums they would build a memorial and those who wanted their ashes buried there would have them buried under the memorial.

Then on to the changing rooms! We saw Thierry Henry's, and Ashley Cole's shirt. Then sadly it was time to say goodbye to Arsenal and goodbye to our new friends at Akiva school as it was time to catch the coach back to school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The Big Foot Theatre Company is setting up a drama club for children at the school.

Out-of-hours activities are to be extended with a view to involving the wider community, for which government funding is available to successful bidders.

As part of Anti-bullying Week activities, there was a mufti day with the children wearing something blue, which is the colour adopted by the Anti-bullying Alliance.

Year 2 performed well when they sang in the Barnet Infant Music Festival.

The annual carol service at Holy Trinity Church was a pleasure for all concerned. The school choir also delighted elderly residents at Homefield with their carol singing.

A crowded Christmas Fair raised over £3,400.

Martin Schools

Martin Junior School has planted a horse chestnut sapling presented to them by the Finchley Society. Hopefully, they will be able to watch it grow as they grow.

Year 3 had an enjoyable educational visit to the Science Museum.

Year 4 learned some more about Victorian design and the impact of the Great Exhibition of 1851 on their day at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The swimming squad were a credit to the school when they took part in Barnet's Swimming Gala at Copthall Pool

Martin Schools' Christmas Bazaar was a huge success and all the hard work by the organisers resulted in a record £5,000 being raised. The money is to go towards the junior library and for reception age playground equipment for an outdoor classroom.

202 hair salon on the High Road is holding a raffle to be drawn in January to raise money for the school.

Infant children took part in the tree planting along with the juniors, helping to fill in the hole dug by school caretaker John Mitchell.

The infants thoroughly enjoyed a performance of the Town and Country Mouse by the Open Wide Theatre Company.

Penguin Class performed beautifully in the Barnet Infant Schools' Music Festival.

Six-year-old Rees Moss-Matthews in Year 2 won an illuminated globe because his balloon went furthest in the PTA's balloon race. It was picked up in Le Havre.

East Finchley Baptist Church

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

Visitors always welcome



Bishop Douglass pupils entertain the residents of Nazareth House. Photo by Toni Morgan

Bishop Douglass school celebrates

By Toni Morgan

Pupils at Bishop Douglass school worked extra hard at the end of last term to hold their annual Christmas party for the elderly residents of nearby Nazareth House.

Year 10 pupils this year extended their party invitation to residents of Paul Byrne House and neighbours in Benedict Way and Hamilton Road.

The very successful evening began with a traditional Christmas dinner, followed by carol singing, for which they were joined by a group of year 7

pupils and enthusiastic participation by the guests.

To everyone's delight, two of the guests (one of whom had been a dancer) provided additional entertainment.

The pupils of year 10 hosted the evening, ensuring that each guest was looked after and also helped serve the meals.

During the year they held

fund raising events, assisted by year 7 pupils, to provide the food, wine and presents. A game of bingo and a visit from Santa Claus, who gave out presents to each resident, rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

Bishop Douglass school achieves success

Bishop Douglass school in Hamilton Road had a good reason for celebrating last month when school inspectors gave a glowing report and took them out of special measures.

Headteacher Angela Murphy, who came to the school following Ofsted's criticism of the quality of teaching and pupils' behaviour, commented on the good news saying that it had been a team effort - combining excellent teaching and a great improvement in students' attitudes in and outside the school.

Councillor John Marshall, cabinet member for education, added his congratulations. It is hoped that local parents will recognise the improvement and be encouraged to send their children to the school.

Fun with numbers

Are you a Sudoku fan? Those little number puzzles have suddenly become as popular as crosswords, but if you were spelling out numbers, how far would you have to go before you used the letter A?

The answer going the rounds is supposed to be one thousand, but the question was set by an American. If you're talking English English (sic), you can take 899 from that.*

And did you know this? 111,111,111x 111,111,111=12,345,678,987,654,321.

*One hundred and one.

Fairies, elves and Father Christmas

By Helen Drake

Martin School children transformed themselves into fairies and elves for the day to act as Santa's helpers at their Christmas Bazaar, held on Saturday 3 December.

Their duties included opening the bazaar and welcoming the first guests, then escorting children into the magical, ice-cave grotto to meet Father Christmas. "Each one of Santa's helpers took their job very seriously," commented Azra Nath, chair of the Parent Teacher Association.

Azra also heaped praise on pupils from Year 6 who ran a nail bar (which apparently had more male customers than female!) and supervised the "calendar colouring" and "decorate a Christmas card" tables that were set up to entertain young children.

"The support we received from the whole school and the

local community, especially the local businesses, was tremendous. We would like to thank everyone," said Azra.

Holy Trinity School held its Christmas Fayre on 3 December too and attracted a huge crowd of parents and children.

Popular attractions were the food bar offering home-cooked dishes from across the globe and the mug-making stall that let visitors put their favourite photographs on to the side of special mugs.

Children, parents and staff worked hard to make the event a success. All funds raised from the day will be ploughed into new school facilities.

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>



Glad rags: Owner Gaynor Spry, left, with friend Nancy Candlin modelling a selection of clothes from Lazooli. Photo by Viviana Lotti

Ready to wear

By Viviana Lotti

The first clothes shop in East Finchley for many years held its official opening party on 2 December. Lazooli, situated in the High Road near the tube station, stocks brand new, vintage and retro women's clothing, as well as jewellery and accessories. There are also plans to sell artwork in the near future.

The shop is owned by Gaynor Spry, an East Finchley resident of some seven years and originally a book editor. "I loved publishing," she said, "but when you've done it for 10 years it doesn't pose the challenges it used to."

Inspiration for her new career came when she visited a very beautiful clothes shop and thought, "This is lovely, I could really get excited about this."

Gaynor praised the helpfulness of her retail contacts, family and friends, who attended the party to support her in her new venture. She also paid tribute to the building team for refurbishing her shop to a very high standard in record time.

How did Gaynor come up with the shop's name? She

explained: "Lazooli was a word I made up as a child. I thought 'lapis lazuli' was pronounced 'lapis lazooli', and I also thought the stone was gorgeous. The name and the stone conjured up an exotic image of gems and treasures."

The shop's decor feels luxurious and welcoming: turquoise walls with gold patterned wallpaper in the alcoves, discreet modern lighting and dark wooden flooring. The stock has various sources, including Portobello and Camden Lock markets, with the jewellery made locally. A wide range of sizes will be catered for and, as the mother of a three-year-old boy, Gaynor has ensured the shop is child-friendly, with plenty of room for pushchairs.

A new treat in Church Lane

By Erini Rodis

Situated among the gifts and flowers of Jennie Mann's shop in Church Lane is a discreet little beauty room, run by beauty therapist Mandana Moghaddam.

Opened towards the end of last year, it is designed as a retreat for stressed-out mums or anyone who wants to truly pamper herself.

Mandana says, "The aim is that they'll find the atmosphere more enjoyable than usual. It's a bit like a micro department store in the middle of Church Lane. I used to buy myself flowers, so I hope my customers will be also interested in Jennie Mann."

An East Finchley resident until recently, Mandana's career spans two decades working in central London, including Belgravia, Selfridges and Harley Street, even doing non-surgical face lift treatments.

Loving this area as well as the atmosphere at Jennie Mann, she decided to approach the owners for a collaborative project. Before long their stock room was converted into a beauty salon and a mutually beneficial arrangement was born.

It's now possible to browse through high-calibre artistic flower arrangements, curiosities and hand made crafts, while deciding on a treatment.

All the usual beauty treatments are on offer, from waxing and hair removal, to eyelash and eyebrow tinting and shaping, facials and manicures, plus a very popular Swedish massage



Mandana gets a bit handy... Photo by Erini Rodis

covering neck, face and toes.

Prices are £10 for eyebrow shaping, facials from £35 and massage from £45. However, there's an introductory offer of

10% off these prices until the end of January for all readers of *THE ARCHER*, so why not treat yourself? To book, call Mandana on 020 8447 0854 or 07764 227767

Angelic performance

By Linda Soper

Children from the Hornsey Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy, based in Muswell Hill, put on a delightful play in December telling the story of the Angel leading the way to the young Jesus.

It was a really original tale of the nativity, and was performed

to trustees, then again to parents. Eliz Mehmet was well cast as the Angel; her smiling face shone rays of inspiration to everyone.

All of the cast worked really hard and were focused, giving excellent performances. The children sang songs and had no trouble remembering their lines. Any disabilities were

forgotten as they performed like professionals.

There was audience participation and carols were sung. It was a very uplifting experience, particularly seeing the children demonstrating their walking skills and knowing how hard they worked to make the show a success.

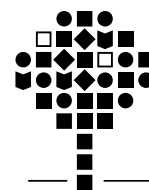
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Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **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** - 9 & 23 Jan 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
- ❖ **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.

Making Contact

By Helen Drake

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact (Contact) has received a cheque for £600 from the East Finchley Open group of artists and craftspeople, raised at their recent Winter Arts Fair.



The organisers of the EFO Winter Fair, (L-R:) Christine Watson, Monica Peiser, Sian Jones (Co-ordinator of CONTACT) and David Aronsohn, present their cheque. Photo by Helen Drake.

Sian Jones, Co-ordinator of Contact, said, "This donation is crucial as our core funding doesn't cover all our services and it is difficult to find anyone willing to fund existing services."

Contact, set up in 1985 to help the vulnerable and isolated, offers a range of services to mainly elderly or disabled people living in East Finchley. Clients can receive gardening assistance; have volunteer help with transport, odd jobs and form filling; have a regular visitor; and access other voluntary or statutory services and financial benefits. When funds allow, Contact organises

regular outings for the elderly and housebound. Their popular shopping bus runs twice a week for people unable to carry their shopping on public transport. It is Contact's most costly service.

The core funding from Barnet Council only pays the wages for the key workers for a limited number of hours a week. A small amount of additional funding from the Pension Service has enabled Contact to expand its services to other parts of Finchley and provide additional support to the most vulnerable.

Most other services offered rely on volunteers. Contact

hopes to recruit a cook (paid/ or volunteer) for the Traditional Lunch Club held every Tuesday. If you are a good home cook and get on well with people, Sian would like to hear from you. For more information about Contact or to make a donation phone 020 8444 1162 or e-mail efncontact@dsl.pipex.com

Blackmail in the family

By Betti Blatman

Incognito Theatre in Friern Barnet recently presented an outstanding production of A Small Family Business by Alan Ayckbourn.

This blistering comedy is nonetheless a black morality play and won the London Evening Standard Drama Award for best play of 1987.

When Jack, honest and upright, takes over as managing director of the family furniture business, he expects to find scope for improving efficiency, but his managerial skills are no match for the wholesale fraud, deceit and theft he uncovers both in the business and amongst his family.

Almost at once he has to succumb to blackmail, because of his daughter, and this is only the first of the moral compromises he will have to make.

The play was directed by David Longstaff and every member of the cast portrayed and performed their characters to the highest standard. Particularly excellent were Will Piper as Jack McCracken, Graham Boon as Ken Ayres and David Parsons as Benedict Hough.

For further information on future productions by Incognito Theatre, visit www.incognitoteatre.com or telephone 020 8361 8310.

Turn again, theatre-goers!

By Daphne Chamberlain

Did you take the family to a pantomime this Christmas? If so, how was your journey? Next year, why not just look behind you: at the Guild Players in Ballards Lane Methodist Church?

When I went to their matinee of *Dick Whittington*, the hall was packed with enthusiastic children and appreciative adults. "It's real traditional theatre, better than the Cambridge Footlights show," I heard a young man tell his girlfriend. Well, of course it would be. After all, the character called Sam Seaweed said he used to go to Holy Trinity School.

All the panto must-haves were there, from thigh-slapping Principal Boy to inoffensively naughty Dame. There was an interesting programme, too, giving facts about the real Dick Whittington, and explaining the vital factor needed for this kind of show: communication with the audience. The excellent cast certainly had that. They were supported by a lively mini-

orchestra, who romped through the Lambeth Walk and several other songs and dances before finding their way to Amarillo.

The Guild Players have been around for 60 years, but the members are all ages. Most are from Finchley, but others are from Archway, Enfield, Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Tottenham, and they don't necessarily have any connection with the Methodist Church. They've had a healthy influx of new members recently, but more are always welcome.

Pantos are for Christmas, but there are other plays throughout the year. Watch out for details of their next production, planned for May. For further information, contact Betty Robertson on 020 8441 7696.

No ordinary prince

By Hamasseh Mostafazadeh-Asl

The Ordinary Prince is a powerful play that was given a performance to match at the Finchley Youth Theatre. The play strives to break down common preconceptions of teenage pregnancy and addresses the relationships between parents and children.

Author Clifford Oliver tells the story of a 14-year-old boy, Adam, who struggles to understand the reasons why his biological father left him when he was a baby. It is a sad irony, therefore, that by the end of the play Adam follows in his father's footsteps by leaving his girlfriend, Carley, and their unborn baby.

The play draws attention to the important role young men play as fathers and the heavy burden of responsibility placed on their shoulders, which often proves to be unbearable.

The emotional hardships of this story and the consequences of teenage pregnancy were wonderfully conveyed by the enthusiastic, youthful cast.

The young audience particularly sympathised with both of the central characters, Adam and Carley, played by Mark Lazar and Johannah Maria-Feinberg. The talents

of Edmund Cox must also be commended; he provided comic relief in the smaller role of Tim, Adam's friend.

Clifford Oliver parallels this story with a fictional fairytale version of Adam's life, allowing the audience to compare the harsh reality of Adam's situation with the fairytale-like expectations one might have of it. This opens up many questions regarding teenage pregnancy, often leaving the audience to think and answer them for themselves.

The Ordinary Prince will be returning to the Finchley Youth Theatre in High Road next year. I urge you to go and see it, not only to support the formidable acting talents of our local community, but also to engage all family members in thinking about the issues around teenage pregnancy and in seeing things from a young person's perspective.

Is 2006 the year you learn how to surf the web and use email?

The Green Man Community Centre offers a wide range of courses to help you make the most of new technology. If you just want to learn how to use email or even get a professional qualification we have the course for you.

Learners study at their own pace with a friendly tutor on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

For more information about the courses on offer call Helen on 020 8815 0703.

The Learndirect Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College



Anyone for cricket?

By Paul Chapman

The success of the England team in regaining the Ashes last summer should be a tremendous boost to the sport of cricket.



Photo by Paul Chapman

Keerthi Ransinghe, who coaches youngsters at the Middlesex indoor nets on East End Road, said it was good to start as young as six or seven years old. Commenting on the current popularity of their cricket courses, he said, "The youth courses for this term are fully subscribed and there are many promising young players."

However, other local sports enthusiasts are less optimistic that youngsters will gain from the popularity of Freddie Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen. Unsurprisingly, the issue is lack of funds.

Burt Gravis at Haringey Sports Development, a chari-

table trust, said that local cricket was limited to clubs "mainly in the east of the Borough" and in primary schools where there was "support from the Middlesex Trust".

Paul Ealy, speaking for Sports Support from Haringey Council, said that in Haringey "cricket is not a high priority because limited funds makes it better to concentrate on strengths at the moment which are football, athletics, netball, dance and gymnastics".

It would be gratifying if the government encouraged local authorities to support our young cricketers, as the next Andrew Strauss could be living in East Finchley right now!

Pop up to the museum

Children and adults with a love of pop-up books should hurry along to a new exhibition running at the Church Farmhouse Museum.

The exhibition, entitled 'Movable and Toy Books', runs until 19 March at the museum in Greyhound Hill, NW4.

In the 1770s, Robert Sayer produced the first movable 'turn-up' books, in which flaps on the pages were lifted to change the pictures. They are known as 'Harlequinades' as they were based on contemporary pantomimes featuring the characters of Columbine and Harlequin. In this period too, 'peepshows' began to appear: cut-out scenes placed one behind another, set in a frame to give an overall 3D effect. These started a quickly growing interest in 'toy books' with flaps and movable pictures.

Their popularity continues to the present day, with master-designers such

as the American Robert Sabuda creating intricate works of paper engineering. Barnet councillor Katia David, cabinet member for Culture, Community Engagement and Human Resources, said, "This exhibition adds a whole new dimension to an ageless, constantly evolving type of book that has only increased its allure over the centuries."

For more information visit Barnet Council's website: www.barnet.gov.uk or call Church Farmhouse Museum on 020 8203 0130.

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Winter warming tips for water pipes

Now that the winter weather has arrived and with forecasters predicting a particularly cold season, Thames Water is advising customers to make sure their water pipes are well wrapped up. Its tips to prevent burst pipes are:

- Lag pipes in the loft (or anywhere else likely to freeze) with felt or pipe wrap. Tanks should also be lagged but remember to leave a clear space underneath to allow warm air to circulate.
- Check that loft insulation is thick enough and still in good condition. Run it over the pipework where possible.
- Repair dripping taps and overflows. When the temperature drops to freezing, a build-up of ice could prevent water draining away efficiently.
- When temperatures are very low, leave the trap door to the loft ajar so warm air from below can circulate.
- Ensure you know where the stopcock is so you can turn it off in an emergency.
- Keep the name of a reliable plumber to hand.
- If the worst happens and the pipes do freeze, turn the water off at the stopcock and thaw pipes slowly using a hot water bottle or cloth soaked in hot water. Never use a blow lamp or heat gun. If they burst, turn the water and central heating system off before calling a plumber. It will also be necessary to have the electrics checked by a qualified electrician.

Phil Scholes, customer services director at Thames Water, says: "During the winter we experience an increase in the amount of bursts and leaks in our own mains following a sudden or prolonged spell of freezing weather. Customers can also have this problem in their own homes and businesses, which causes major upset and inconvenience. The risk is even greater if people are planning to be on holiday during the winter. A few simple precautions are all that is needed to prevent a nasty shock on returning home."

Letters to the editor

Help build a safer neighbourhood

Dear Editor,

Just a quick letter to update you with the progress of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

As you may be aware, the team plans to re-locate to 113 High Road where the police office is under construction. Work is nearly complete and we anticipate moving to the new office early in the New Year.

As a consequence it is anticipated that in January we will set up three Community Action Panels covering the areas of the Grange Estate, Strawberry Vale Estate and East Finchley village.

As Safer Neighbourhoods teams engage with communities, through various methods such as meetings or contact points, the teams will gain an insight into the local community's crime and disorder concerns.

In order to ensure that the work of each Safer Neighbourhoods team is focused on resolving these problems, each team will require a process to involve local people in deciding the priorities for their local Safer Neighbourhoods team to work on.

Yours sincerely,
Police Sergeant Alex Kay
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team

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.

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Lunch on the hoof

I was saddened and disappointed to hear that one of Thailand's finest zoos has abandoned plans to let the punters eat the exhibits. Call me weird, but it puts a whole new perspective on the world of exotic eating or, as the French would say, Cuisine extraordinaire.

Back when men were men and most of the world had yet to be 'discovered', your average explorers had few things on their minds, most of them to do with not getting eaten. And, having discovered that not everything out there wanted to eat Europeans, they decided to do the eating themselves. Pity the poor dodo, slow, edible and rapidly extinct. OK, so it wasn't as tasty as a turkey, but who cared? From there it was just a short, sharp shot to the cooking pot and extinction.

Across North America the passenger pigeon flew supreme. As millions of them took to the air there were enough to block out the sun. By about 1900 the bird was extinct. An early demonstration of the American way with wildlife, probably coupled with some bloke discovering that it was good in a pie.

The French, being the French, probably sent top chefs out to their colonies to explore the culinary possibilities of everything from water buffalo to something small and furry that got pan fried with garlic before anyone got round to working out what it was. A whole menagerie ended up in the kitchen, filleted, marinated, roasted, baked and served with a cream sauce. At the grandest dinners, scientists embraced the spirit of the age and tucked into everything from giraffe to antelope to tiger. Just think what would have happened if tigers had tasted absolutely fabulous stewed with a little rosemary and a few shallots. On second thoughts, don't.

After that golden age of cuisine we went soft and stuck to beef, pork, lamb, chicken and rabbit. It took nearly 100 years before we started sticking ostrich, alligator and kangaroo on the barbie. So, what could be better for the more adventurous gourmet than visiting the zoo, selecting your lunch from the exhibits and settling down to dine on pan fried zebra? Maybe Delia or Jamie would come up with a new cookbook and we could find a new way to drive animals to extinction by eating them. And me? I'll stick to being a vegetarian.



THE ARCHER reaches the parts other papers cannot reach...



"I promised to take THE ARCHER to Antarctica: here's the proof. Pics were taken on a kayak expedition to survey chinstrap penguin numbers along the Antarctic peninsular."

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More proof that *THE ARCHER* is eagerly read all over the globe. East Finchley travel writer Chris Haslam kept his copy close at hand in the coldest reaches of the Antarctic.

Chris, of Creighton Avenue, is a travel writer for the *Sunday Times* and was sent south on a kayak expedition to survey penguin numbers along the Antarctic peninsular.

In between counting birds and marvelling at the icy landscape, he read his local newspaper to catch up on events back home.

If you are heading for any wild and wonderful destinations in 2006, take *THE ARCHER* with you and send us a photograph. We would love to know where the paper is being read.

The long bow of THE ARCHER reaches Oz

By Brian Timms

THE ARCHER is distributed every month to almost 10,000 homes in East Finchley, but it also reaches a little further afield.

Your favourite newspaper has an avid readership far away on the other side of the world, where a close-knit group of expats enjoys the laid-back lifestyle of Australia.

Our map shows exactly where the long bow of *THE ARCHER* reaches Down Under. You may recognise the names of some of the readers out there, with all the women exclusively listed here by their maiden names.

There's Hazel Astley (ex-Leopold Road) and Donald Carnie (The Grange) in Melbourne; Pat Chick (Manor Park Road) in Blue Mountains; Mary Hall (Chandos Road) in Sydney; Carol Carnie (The Grange) in Perth; Shirley Crane (Brackenbury Road) in Balingup, West Australia, and myself Brian Timms (Huntingdon Road) in Moruya, New South Wales.

All of us went to local schools - Martin, Manorside, Holy Trinity, Alder - but with recession biting, most emigrated to Australia in the early 1960s seeking a new life and work in the sun.

But the gang of seven can't resist the lure of East Finchley, returning as often as we can to stalk beloved back alleys or stare fondly at old buildings. And when we're not here, we keep in touch with the old place through the pages of *THE ARCHER*.



Illustration by Tony Roberts

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