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# THE ARCHER

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



St James Catholic High School, winners of last year's Environment Competition. Picture courtesy Barnet Voluntary Service Council.

## How are you helping the environment?

By John Dearing

Schools, youth groups, voluntary groups, residents' associations and faith groups are among those being invited to enter this year's Environment Competition, which is free and open to all community groups in Barnet.

To enter, simply carry out a project that helps to improve your local environment and then submit a short report. Thanks to the sponsorship of McDonald's and an anonymous donor, there are great prizes for this year's competition, including a first prize of £750 and further cash prizes of up to £1,000 at the judges' discretion. St James Catholic High School, Colindale, was the winner of

the last Environment Competition in June this year and was presented with its prize by the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet.

The St James 'e-Squad' has an ongoing programme of projects including recycling and creating a vegetable garden. The school will be spending the money on further environmental projects.

Entry packs for The

Environment Competition 2006/7 can be downloaded from [www.barnetvsc.org.uk](http://www.barnetvsc.org.uk) or requested from 020 8364 8400. The registration form needs to be returned to Barnet Voluntary Service Council by Friday 3 November and the project report by Friday 23 February 2007.

The Environment Competition Steering Group consists of representatives from the voluntary and community sectors, Local Agenda 21 Groups, Barnet Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) and McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, with help from Barnet Council.

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## Academy will widen school choice

By Rebecca Smith

Ambitious plans to open a City Academy in North Finchley have won vital Government backing. It is hoped the Academy will give many East Finchley families a greater secondary school choice.

The Finchley Academy is due to open its doors in September 2008 on the site of the former Christ Church school in Hilton Avenue, North Finchley, which closed in August 2005. It will specialise in design and the built environment.

The main sponsor of the Academy is the Church of England's London Diocesan Board for Education. The Academy will have a "distinctive Christian identity", although it is planned to reserve 50 per cent of places for pupils from the local community with no religious affiliation.

### Serving the whole community

Sylvia Duthie, East Finchley resident and former chair of governors at Holy Trinity School, is a member of the Finchley Academy

Steering group. She said: "I am actively involved, as a member of the London Diocesan Board for Schools, in the development of the Academy because of the poor access children in East Finchley have when it comes to Secondary Transfer. I am very excited that in September 2008 we will have a new school for the future, equipped for the 21st century.

"Our vision will be to grow a brand new school year by year which will be a centre of excellence in providing the whole curriculum, with the specialist focus of Design and the Built Environment. It will be a Church of England Foundation but half the places will be community places. It is our mission to serve the whole community, as is true of all our Church schools."

### Practical skills

The Finchley Academy will be a co-educational school for 11-18 year olds. There will be six forms of entry from 11-16 and up to 250 places for 16-18 year olds. Alongside the traditional GCSEs and A-levels, vocational diplomas and skills will also be taught in a Practical Skills Centre to be created on the site.

In September 2008 there will be a Year 7 intake of 162 pupils, working up to a full roll by 2011. The sixth form will initially recruit 50 students in 2010, rising to 250 by 2013.

The London Diocesan Board for Schools already has a successful track record in developing City Academies, including the Greig City Academy in Crouch End. It is now looking for suitable sponsors to join them in the project.



## **THE ARCHER**

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January issue: 8 December  
February issue: 12 January**

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## **Gang targets vehicles**

By Craig Johnson

**Police urge residents to lock vehicles at night and keep valuables out of sight after reports that a gang is actively targeting vehicles by scouring East End Road, Hamilton Road, Sedgemere Avenue and Manor Park Road.**

In the early hours of one Sunday morning in October two men were seen trying every car door handle as they walked through the streets, aided by two cyclists acting as lookouts.

If you see anyone behaving suspiciously or anyone who matches this gang's description, please call 999 or contact the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Office at 113 High Road.

The gang are described as one black male wearing a black cap and black and white stripy top and black jeans, aged 18-24 years old, and one light-skinned male wearing a green top with a white shirt underneath, aged 18-24 years old.

The cyclists are described as one white male in his late thirties with a shaved head, wearing his black jacket collar over his mouth, and with white trainers and black jeans, and one white male aged 18-24 wearing a white cap.

## **Research volunteers required**

**Work on developing new tests to determine dementia continues at the Neurological Hospital, Queen's Square, in central London.**

Volunteer helpers are needed for half-hour sessions. Tests being tried out include reading lists of words, naming objects from pictures or verbal definitions, simple mental arithmetic, recognising silhouettes, recalling patterns or dots in space, and identifying pattern continuations. Anyone interested in volunteering should phone Katy Randlesome at the Research Unit, on 020 7837 3611, ext. 3639.

## **Moped mugger strikes in Manor Park Road**

By John Dearing

**On Saturday 30 September at 9:05pm there was a robbery in Manor Park Road. The suspect rode up on a yellow moped and stopped in front of two women by an alleyway to Trinity Road.**

He demanded the victims' bags and assaulted them before making off with the property towards Trinity Road. Both victims went to a north London hospital but it has been confirmed that their injuries were not serious.

The suspect is described as

a white male, approximately 25 years old, wearing a yellow helmet. Police are keen for anyone with knowledge of this crime to contact either Det Sgt Gornall on 020 8733 4446 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Planning Applications**

### **Barnet**

**84 High Road, N2**  
Change of use from bank to Hot Food Takeaways.

### **61 Lincoln Road, N2**

Erection of two-storey dwelling-house.

### **59 Church Lane, N2**

Conversion of first and second floor maisonette into two one-bedroom flats. Alteration to roof, including dormer window at rear.

### **16 Deansway, N2**

Single-storey rear extension. Part single, part two-storey side extension. Alterations to roof, including rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

### **20 Sedgemere Avenue, N2**

Loft conversion. Rear mansard.

### **61 Ossulton Way, N2**

Single-storey rear and side extensions. Extending balcony over rear extension at first floor.

### **18 Greenhalgh Walk, N2**

Single-storey extension to side and rear, after demolition of existing garage.

### **75 Brim Hill, N2**

Loft conversion, comprising side dormer window.

### **15 Linden Lea, N2**

Single-storey rear and side extension. Replacement of garage door. New front entrance door, and new fenestration to elevations. Alterations to hard and soft landscaping to front garden, and creation of one car parking space and new crossover.

### **Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2**

New hard and soft landscaping to create a community garden next to the Green Man Centre.

### **441 Great North Road (Cherry Tree Hill), N2**

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### **55 Leicester Road, N2**

Demolition of existing buildings, and erection of eight flats, with associated car parking and landscaping.

### **54 High Road, N2**

Single-storey rear extension.

### **Haringey**

### **28 Beech Drive, N2**

Erection of rear dormer window with balustrade and conversion from hip to gable end.

### **25 Ringwood Avenue, N2**

Erection of single storey rear extension, conversion of garage to habitable living space and alterations to elevations.

### **19 Creighton Avenue, N10**

Excavation to basement to provide habitable living space. Extension of bay at front of property to basement and creation of lightwell to rear/side.

### **47 Fordington Road, N6**

Demolition of existing structure and erection of single storey extension to side and rear.

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# Police launch Deaf Link scheme

By John Dearing

Barnet Police have launched the Deaf Link Scheme with the aim of providing a more professional service for deaf and hard of hearing people who work in the borough.

Whether a victim, a witness or in custody, anyone with impaired hearing will be provided with an officer who has received training in deaf awareness and can communicate using British sign language.

Superintendent Ian Forrester, who has responsibility for partnership matters in the borough, opened the launch event on 30 September. Inspector Steve Marsh introduced the scheme and the new link officers who have all been trained in British Sign Language.

Speakers at the event were Mira Goldberg, Chair of Barnet Deaf Forum, and Simon Robinson, Senior Legal Officer for the RNID, who spoke about deaf people and community safety.

## Barclays building may get Italian makeover

By Diana Cormack

The disused former Barclays Bank building on the corner of Fortis Green and the High Road may be taken over by Italian restaurant chain Ask.

Ask Restaurants Ltd has submitted a planning application to Barnet Council for the site at 84 High Road. The proposal is for a change of use from bank (A2) to Hot Food Takeaways (A5) as detailed in the planning applications on page 2 of this issue of *THE ARCHER*.

Ask is normally regarded only as a restaurant but the company, based in St Albans, told *THE ARCHER* that they are a restaurant chain which also offers a takeaway service.

It is almost a year since the controversial closure of the bank and many locals have been wondering what is to become of the large premises it occupied. Warning notices about the condition of the building were posted outside months ago. It could be significant that the company's website states that many of its restaurants are housed in restored buildings of local or historical interest.

## Kick off in Cherry Tree Wood

By Danny Shaw

If you fancy a game of football, then come along to Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday mornings.

We are looking for people to join in a game of five, six or seven-a-side. We meet near the playground at 10am sharp, and we have our own goalposts and nets! We will be there come rain or shine. Phone Danny on 07710 392971 or email Tibor at tibor@themail.co.uk.

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# Brothers sentenced over woman's murder

By John Dearing

A man has been jailed for life for the murder of a woman whose body was found on a grass verge in East Finchley. His brother has also been sentenced for his part in the crime.

James Seaton, 45, an unemployed bricklayer of Finsbury Park, was sentenced to life at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 13 October for the murder of his partner Jacqueline Queen, 39, whose body was found dumped in Elmshurst Crescent.

His brother John Seaton, 35, of Milton Keynes, also an unemployed ex-bricklayer, admitted perverting the course of justice. He was jailed for 22 months. Jacqueline's body was found

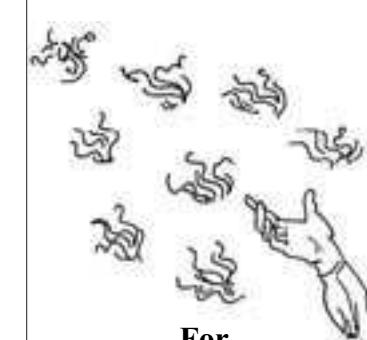


Victim Jacqueline Queen.

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John (left) & James Seaton. Pictures courtesy the Met. Police.

wrapped in cloth on a grass verge on 30 November 2005. James Seaton had subjected her to a frenzied attack, using a hammer and a 12-inch knife, which caused fatal injuries.

The court heard that James Seaton killed his former girlfriend when she told him she was in love with a woman. He hid the body in a wardrobe, called his brother and asked him to come and help him "move some stuff".

As they moved the wardrobe, it broke and Jacqueline's body tumbled out. John put the body in his car, a white Ford Escort, and the brothers drove to East Finchley and dumped it.

Shortly afterwards, John Seaton was arrested for drink driving in Great North Road, N2. He was later released on bail but handed

himself in the next day to Milton Keynes police and told them about the murder. His brother was subsequently arrested outside his home address.

At the scene of the crime, police found knives in water in the kitchen sink, and a pool of blood on a carpet covered in newspaper. In John Seaton's car boot there were blood stains and a blood-stained shovel.

James Seaton denied murder, saying he had a mental abnormality at the time. However, at Snaresbrook Crown Court he was ordered to serve a minimum of 12 years.

Investigating officer Detective Inspector John Nicholson, said: "I am pleased that the jury recognised that James Seaton was neither provoked into his violent actions nor was suffering from such abnormality of the mind that he could claim the defence of diminished responsibility."

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## A monumental clean-up

By Ann Bronkhorst

**One of the finest classical monuments in any London cemetery is here in East Finchley, in the Islington and Camden (St Pancras) cemetery. A massive grey granite and stone structure, it was designed to be awe-inspiring but in recent years has looked shabby. Now, however, the Mond Mausoleum has received a clean-up.**

A specialist firm, David Ball Restoration, tackled the job for the Mond Family Trust, employing men who had worked on the same memorial 10 years earlier. They removed an accumulation of algae, leaves, debris and, of course, bird droppings. Pigeons like to roost and nest beneath the high portico at the front of the building.

These are all ordinary problems that most London householders can relate to, but the mausoleum is a far from ordinary building. Its architect, Darcy Braddell, based it on the Temple of Memes in Rhamnus. It is imposing not only because of its height and its predominantly dark grey colour, but also because of the slope it commands, the ten steps leading up to it, the Ionic columns and the tall bronze doors. Every element of the design conveys solemnity and power.

### A powerful man

German-born Sir Ludwig Mond, who died in 1909, is entombed here. He was an

industrial chemist and inventor who developed the mass production of alkali for the textile industry and, later, ammonia and nickel. He even had a gas named after him. Mond, who became a millionaire, bequeathed his collection of early Italian paintings to the National Gallery. Next door, in the Victorian section of the National Portrait Gallery, a small bronze statuette of Mond suggests his almost Churchillian presence. Also buried here is his son Alfred, Lord Melchett, who founded chemical giant ICI and was twice a Liberal MP.

The mausoleum is a Grade II listed building, one of very few in East Finchley. The cemetery over which it towers is a fascinating place to visit, with memorials and headstones dating back to 1854. Most are quite simple so, in contrast, the massive, severe Mond Mausoleum backed by autumn trees or dark against snow is an impressive sight.



Scrubbing up well: the Mond Mausoleum. Picture by M. Bronkhorst.

## Broadcaster in charity trek

**In February 2007, Finchley broadcaster Jeremy Jacobs will trek through East Africa in aid of Breast Cancer Campaign. The expedition, through Tanzania's 125-mile Mara game reserve, is the latest in a series of charity initiatives undertaken by Jacobs in memory of his sister Jackie, who lost her two-year battle with breast cancer in 1988. She left her husband, David, and three children.**

Jacobs successfully completed the 1991 London Marathon to help the hospice at Mount Vernon Hospital, where Jackie spent her last few months. At present he is dividing his time between his professions as sports radio

reporter, presenter and public speaker, preparing for an arduous nine days of tropical land travel (which may or may not include brushing-up on his Swahili) and seeking sponsorship on behalf of one of the UK's most worthy but woefully under-resourced causes.

The Breast Cancer Campaign aims to fund research into the treatment of a disease which takes some 13,000 women each year. In the UK alone, one in nine will develop

the illness during her lifetime. Breast cancer does not afflict only women; the BCC estimates that at least 90 men yearly succumb to the condition.

The Campaign is among several local charities vigorously supported by Jacobs and one of the most important. Donations can be made to his website ([www.justgiving.com/jeremycj](http://www.justgiving.com/jeremycj)) Jeremy will post regular reports on his blog once his training schedule is firmly underway.

## Residents face-to-face with Servite

By Betti Blatman

**Residents from the Thomas More Estate in East Finchley joined others at the annual conference of estate management company Servite to address many maintenance and service issues.**

In his opening speech, Matthew Fox, Chief Executive, said, "Be brutally frank with us! We want to know what the issues are and what we are doing right and wrong. If you tell us exactly how it is, then we will try to deal with it."

After being inspected by the Audit Commission, Servite was given one star for how good they were and two stars for prospects for improvement (the maximum

being three stars).

Mr Fox said he wanted to deliver an excellent service (which equates to three stars from the Audit Commission) by 2008. He elaborated on what Servite had done so far, referring to their concept of Right Plan, Right People and Right Tools, and concluded, "We are absolutely not complacent and have a long way to go."

### Key improvements

Caroline McGrogan, Maintenance and Customer Services Director, explained that in April 2005, a separate subsidiary, Servite Facilities Management, had been set up to provide specialist maintenance and reinvestment services for Servite Houses.

Although SFM was already delivering a good service in south London, she said, there was need for significant improvement in their north London service. She explained that two key steps would be taken in the next few months towards improving the north London service: opening a north London office and installing a new computer system.

Closing words came from Nigel Pacey, Housing Director, who told residents: "If we hear the same issues this time next year, then clearly we have failed! We hope you have learned from us today how keen we are to listen. Now we need to go and deliver for you."

The conference was an excellent opportunity for Servite residents to meet and "exchange notes" during the discussion groups and the lunchbreak. Servite's staff were available for consultation, showing that Servite very genuinely is striving to improve its services to residents.

and excellent role models" and the governing body, which was described as "outstanding".

Mr Bowden said: "There are many highlights within the report, but the comment I believe says most about the school is 'There is a buzz around the school reflected in the enthusiasm of the pupils and the excellent relationships between staff'."

The two-day inspection took place on 14-15 September. All teaching staff were observed in lessons, including two newly-qualified teachers who were only in their second week of teaching.

Holy Trinity school is a one-form entry Church of England voluntary aided primary school with a nursery. The full report can be viewed online at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

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# A picture of crime in Barnet

By John Dearing

**Marking his first four months as Barnet's Borough Commander of Police, Detective Chief Superintendent Stephen Kavanagh gave a picture of crime and detection in Barnet.**

He praised the impact made by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. For example, in past years the start of the new school term has meant an increase in robberies, as school children take new mobile phones or music players with them to school. By targeting known offenders and specific transport locations, identified through intelligence gathered by the teams, there has been a reduction in such crimes for the first time this year.

The use of small motorcycles in muggings is on the increase across the capital. In Barnet, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are leading on this, identifying illegal vehicles and impounding them.

The reduction in car crime over recent weeks has been the best out of all the London boroughs, and there have been significant reductions in other crimes such as robbery.

The number of "drug factories" detected in the borough has increased this year, reflecting improvements in the technology used to find them.

DCS Kavanagh announced the creation of a Priority Intervention Group, to focus on issues relating to anti-social behaviour and drinking offences, and a link between ASBOs, crime reports, CCTV evidence, and licensing.

## Need for better communication

More generally, he felt that the improved detection rate should be matched by an improvement in the quality of interactions with the public, for example through the victim focus desk, targeted follow up and witness support.

Historically, the police service responds to the "loudest voices", such as members of those ethnic groups most anxious to secure police involvement. Other ethnic

groups are noticeable for their reticence in dealing with the police, for example in reporting racial incidents, largely through a lack of confidence in the police service.

To counter this, there is now a policy of pro-active communication through community leaders to explain police action during significant incidents.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair visited Barnet in early October, meeting the senior management team and joining rank and file focus groups. He was quoted as saying, "Barnet police is a good ship", apparently a real compliment!

# Reiki Master in retreat

By Daphne Chamberlain

**After 15 years in East Finchley, Reiki Master Kajsa Krishni Borang has returned to her native Sweden. She now lives on Orust, the third largest of the many Swedish offshore islands, an hour's drive from Gothenburg. "This house feels like a retreat for me", she says, "and I want it to be a retreat for anyone interested in learning Reiki or yoga, or who wants to meditate or just enjoy nature. It's very beautiful here."**



Krishni outside her house. Photo courtesy of Kajsa Krishni Borang

## Is your child starting school next September?

**East Finchley's primary schools are advising parents of all children born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2003 that they only have until 12 January 2007 to apply for a place in a reception class in Barnet schools.**

The London Borough of Barnet now operates a co-ordinated primary admissions process. Parents can either apply online or use the paper application form available from the School Organisation and Admissions Team on 020 8359 7651.

Even if your child already attends a nursery attached to a Barnet school, you still have to complete an application form, on which you will be asked to list schools in order of preference. In addition, parents applying to faith schools like

Holy Trinity have to complete a supplementary form available from the school.

The Common Application Form (CAF) was introduced to ensure all children are offered a reception place and that no family holds more than one offer.

Parents can find further information about local schools in the London Borough of Barnet's Guide to Primary Education, which is available online at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk). This lists admission criteria as well as contact details for all local schools.

The house has its own guest annexe and enormous garden and, with the nearest neighbour 50-100 metres away, is a big change from Park Hall Road.

Krishni must have some favourite things to remember about East Finchley, though? "Oh yes, if you were on the Tube half-asleep, you knew you were home because the line went up over the ground. Also, I liked all the parks around, and the village and community feeling."

Readers may remember our article about Krishni a few years ago, recounting how she was introduced to Reiki while looking after deer on an ashram in India. Wanja Twan, her teacher and fellow-Swede, was one of only 22 Masters initiated by Takata, who brought the Japanese healing art of Reiki to the west.

Wanja was a recent guest at one of Krishni's Monday

evening gatherings at Park Hall Road. These evenings bonded and supported people whom Krishni herself had initiated into Reiki, and will be very much missed by them.

*Looking on the bright side, though, there is that open invitation to visit the house and grounds on Orust. For more details about Krishni, go to [www.krishni.force9.co.uk](http://www.krishni.force9.co.uk).*

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## In memory of Miriam

The sister of Miriam Hyman, who was killed in the 7 July bomb attacks in London last year, is setting out on a worldwide fund raising trip in memory of her sister.

Miriam, 31, of Holyoake Walk, East Finchley, was on her way to her job as a picture researcher in Canary Wharf when she was killed by the bomb that exploded on the Number 30 bus in Tavistock Square.

Her sister Esther and Esther's partner Adrian White plan to travel the world for six months to raise sponsorship for the Miriam Hyman Memorial Fund.

Around £50,000 has already been raised since the Fund was established by Miriam's family and friends in November 2005. The MHMF is working with the charity ORBIS UK to improve

the sight-saving skills of eye-care specialists in the developing world. Already the money is providing training for an ophthalmic paediatrician from India, and will be used to train many more eye-care specialists annually.

ORBIS UK was chosen because Miriam knew the value of good eye-sight, having worn glasses or contact lenses since she was a teenager. She loved art and nature and would not have been able to appreciate these without the gift of sight.

Information and updates on Esther and Adrian's fund-raising journey through South Africa, Thailand, Australia,

New Zealand, Fiji and the USA will be accessible on the ORBIS UK online sponsorship webpage. A TravelPod web log will be updated with news and photos of all fund-raising activities.

Esther herself was selected to be a Woman of the Year at the 2006 Women of the Year Lunch in London following her positive response to the loss of her sister in the London Bombings. Esther was nominated by a council of over 40 women.

Esther said: "I am proud and overwhelmed to be given recognition by the prestigious Women of the Year lunch for our positive response to the events of 7/7. However, in no way can I take sole credit for the fund-raising success of Miriam's family and friends who have joined forces from the outset to raise around £50,000 for the Fund so far."

To log on to Esther's fund raising diary see [www.travelpod.com/members/estherbunny](http://www.travelpod.com/members/estherbunny) or [www.ukorbis.org/bins/fund\\_page.asp?cid=9-3397-4017&lang=1](http://www.ukorbis.org/bins/fund_page.asp?cid=9-3397-4017&lang=1).

## Changes to Northern Line timetable

By John Dearing

**Train times on the Northern line are to be changed in off-peak hours. David Millard, General Manager of the Northern line, says the changes are designed to improve customer service.**

He told *THE ARCHER* that overall performance on the Northern Line was fairly good last year but, despite the current programme of track renewal work, problems increased this year. Neither the Northern Line management nor Tube Lines, who maintain the line, can countenance further degradation of service, he said.

Disruptions to service are inevitable given the "ageing assets" of the Northern Line, and train delays lead to gaps and bunching of subsequent trains. Mr Millard said that this effect would be minimised by simplifying the service pattern.

The changes, effective between 10am and 4pm, and after 7pm Mondays to Fridays, are as follows:

- All Charing Cross branch trains will terminate at Kennington. To travel on to Morden, cross the platform.
- All Morden trains will run via Bank.

• All Mill Hill East trains will run to and from Finchley Central only; a shuttle service will run every 15 minutes. To travel to and from central London, change at Finchley Central.

More trains will run between Finchley Central and High Barnet. By separating Bank and Charing Cross trains at Kennington, and Mill Hill East and High Barnet trains at Finchley Central, each route will be substantially less affected by any delays that might occur elsewhere on the Northern line.

Before the changes, there were 12 trains and four Mill Hill East trains per hour, and after the change there will be 16 High Barnet trains, plus the four Mill Hill East shuttles per hour. Overall there will be no reduction in the number of trains running.

*David Millard was previously interviewed in the October edition of THE ARCHER*

## Bogus bag-collectors

**On Monday 2 October, a slightly battered white car drove down Sedgemere Avenue collecting bags that had just been thrown into the middle of the road. The collection bags belonged to a well-known national charity. Half way down the road a large bag of bric-a-brac was jettisoned into the gutter and the car drove on.**

Ringing the number on an unused charity bag elicited the information that there was no collection in the area scheduled for that week; the charity appreciated the reporting of the incident.

A resident in a nearby street recalls having put out some carefully packed china for collection and having heard the sound of breaking china later in the day.

It seems that some unscrupulous people are collecting the unused charity bags left outside front doors and then creating their own round. They take what they want and discard the rest.

The national charity concerned has urged anyone seeing anything suspicious to contact them on the telephone number on their bag. The car registration number would be useful. Anyone unsure about whether the collection is genuine can ring the charity's number for confirmation.

## Fat chance

By Diana Cormack

**Despite much protest from local people, Barnet Council went ahead and demolished the Wilmot Centre in Eagans Close several months ago, thus depriving the area of a building which had long been used for the benefit of young people in particular.**



*Out of play. Photo by Diana Cormack*

At the same time they deprived them of a healthy outdoor activity which could still be going on to this day.

Alongside the building was a basketball pitch which was well used by teenagers. The basket ball stands now lie abandoned in a corner of the wasteland which the Wilmot centre site has become. At the time of writing the basketball

pitch was being used for parking by workmen renovating the houses nearby.

In the run-up to London hosting the Olympic Games in 2012, and with the present and persistent debate about fatness and fitness, it seems strange that the council should have decided to remove this facility as well. Or perhaps no one in officialdom noticed?

## Don't bank on 'hospice' recycling bin

By Diana Cormack

**Recently a new recycle bin appeared alongside those already based on the High Road between the library and Martin Schools. Bearing the logo of the North London Hospice, the dark blue bin is for clothes and shoes. The words "helping to support the hospice" are accompanied by a statement in small print informing the public that a donation will be made from the proceeds of the collection. However, our local hospice shop which has been at 123 High Road for 15 years, since October 1991, displays a notice in the window pointing out that "these bins are owned by a recycling company who have their own uses for these unwanted items".**

The company, Edmonton-based Lontex Exports, says that when the bin collections are sorted, any items in good condition are sent for resale. Other usable clothing goes to the third world and unusable things are sent for recycling to be made into other products. They are sold by weight and a donation is made to the hospice.

The North London Hospice would like to encourage people to keep sending unwanted good quality clothes and shoes to one of their ten charity shops and to put only those items that have seen better days into the blue bins.

### Read the small print

In the past couple of years *THE ARCHER* has published

articles advising readers that clothing collection notices put through their doors may not be all that they seem. Careful reading often shows that the unwanted articles given freely here have to be paid for in the countries they are sent to. This is revealed by statements about people in need in the third world and Eastern Europe receiving "clothes for their families which they can afford". Despite claims that this provides business for UK exports and transport as well as jobs here and in the recipient countries, media reports have detailed the large profits made by the firms involved. No wonder those leaflets keep fluttering onto our doormats!



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## Sylvia steps down after six years

For the past six years East Finchley resident Sylvia Duthie has worked tirelessly as Chair of Governors at Holy Trinity school.

What makes her unusual is that she only became a governor after her two children, Alex, now 21 and Isobel, now 18, had left.

Sylvia, who lives in Leicester Road and teaches adults recovering from mental health problems at Barnet College, said: "I'm passionate about education, and everyone who knows me, knows that. While my children were at Holy Trinity I was very involved in the parents' association. After they'd left the school the London Diocesan Board for Education asked if I'd represent them on the governing body. It has been an amazing and rewarding experience."

But now Sylvia has decided to stand down as Chair, although she will remain a governor until next summer. Her next challenge is to help set up the proposed Finchley Academy, continuing her voluntary involvement in education.

She said: "I'm moving on to a project that's going to improve the prospects of all pupils in East Finchley, a new academy, and I want to be instrumental in bringing that into being."

### Labour of love

School governors are the largest volunteer force in the country and for Sylvia, who being a governor has been a labour of love. Parent governor Chris Hampson said: "There is no doubt that Holy Trinity School would not be in the position it is today without the fantastic effort and guidance of Sylvia Duthie."

When she took over as Chair in 2000, the school had just "squeaked" through an Ofsted inspection. By the time the inspectors returned in 2002 she had helped turn around Holy Trinity's fortunes dramatically; it was declared "a good school with some outstanding features", one of which was the governing body. She was also instrumental in raising much-needed cash to build a new extension at the school housing, among other things, a purpose-built library.

Head teacher Timothy Bowden said: "I will miss Sylvia's support, wisdom and guidance and I thank her for everything she has done for the past and present pupils, staff and parents of this school."



Police and Jewish Leaders discuss the campaign. Picture courtesy Met. Police.

## Anti-semitic crime campaign

A new campaign to encourage members of the Jewish community to report anti-semitic crime was launched at Edgware United Synagogue on Sunday 17 September.

Entitled *Stop Anti-semitic Crime, Report Anti-semitic Crime*, the campaign is the initiative of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, Barnet Police and the Community Security Trust, and has been developed in consultation with the members of the Jewish community.

This campaign aims to remind the community of the importance of reporting all anti-semitic attacks, whether verbal or physical, to the police and the CST. If the police are made aware of the attacks, they will be able not only to target offenders, but also to structure local patrols more effectively and provide reassurance for the community as a whole.

Rabbi Benjamin Rabinowitz from Edgware United Synagogue, Rabbi Zalman Sudak from Edgware Lubavitch, local councillor Brian Gordon and PS Dan Reid from the Edgware Safer Neighbourhood Team launched the new campaign, which will include the display of posters and leaflets in local synagogues, communal buildings, shops and restaurants.

Mark Gardner, Director of Communications for the CST, said: "We urge anybody who experiences or witnesses an anti-semitic attack to report it immediately to the police and the CST. The more information we have about the crimes, the better our policing and communal security response will be."

Chief Superintendent

Stephen Kavanagh, Borough Police Commander, said: "Both my senior management team and I are committed to working more closely with the Jewish Community to reduce these vile incidents and increase our support to victims. If we are to understand better what is going on and how to combat it, reporting to the police is vital."

## Hidden sign

A few months ago the street sign on the corner of East End Road and Hamilton Road was vandalised and bent to face the wrong way. It then fell down the pole, to be relocated resting on the pavement against a nearby brick wall. Then it vanished completely.

Despite Barnet Council being informed of the missing street sign (Hamilton Road, leading to Cecilia Close, Benedict Way and Manor Park Road), there is still no replace-

ment on the pole but if you look very closely amongst the overgrown ivy on the wall opposite, you will see the old street sign peeping through, just about visible in daylight.

## Fortis Green's lofty heights

By Daphne Chamberlain

**It's true! Fortis Green, at the boundary near Twyford Avenue, is the highest point in the old borough of Finchley.**

That's if you don't count Spaniards Inn in Hampstead Lane which, at 431 feet above sea level, towers over the opposition: six feet higher than the top of Barnet Hill. In the garden of the Spaniards you can still see a boundary stone marked FP (Finchley Parish) 1799.

To return to Fortis Green: at 318 feet above sea level, our local high point tops Oakleigh Road North (317 feet), the High Road near B&Q (311 feet), Ballards Lane near the police station (300 feet) and the Tally Ho pub at North Finchley (287 feet).

On the downward slide, the old Friern Barnet Town Hall checks in at 216 feet, while the North Circular plummets to 120 feet.

There's ammunition here for the Bus Watch Group. Pedestrians living down in the Strawberry Vale area and trudging off to the shops or the station, have to climb from the lowest to the highest point in Finchley, with just one bus to help them out.

Footnote: Thanks to Derek Warren from The Finchley Society for supplying the statistics.

## The sweet smell of success

By Ann Bronkhorst

**For years, people using Coldfall Wood have known that the stream trickling through it, grey and often smelly, was polluted. For years, locals muttered about "cowboy plumbing" but were told by Thames Water either that the problem had been resolved or, alternatively, that nothing could be done.**

Suddenly, thanks to the persistence of the Friends of Coldfall Wood and extra leverage from Lynne Featherstone MP, it now appears that something can be done after all. Thames Water has confirmed that seven houses nearby have got "misconnections" resulting in what they call "grey water" entering the stream.

The householders have

been asked to rectify the faulty plumbing and, if necessary, this could be enforced by the Environment Agency. Thames Water is continuing to investigate local drainage.

The Friends are delighted: progress at last, after years of frustration. They are particularly grateful to Lynne Featherstone for tackling Thames Water so effectively.

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## YOUNG ARCHER

### Martin School at Marchants Hill

October's Young Archer was a letter written by Martin School's Year 6 group who learned about London while their classmates were on a school journey in Surrey. On their return from Marchants Hill PGL Centre, the children made booklets about the amazing experiences they'd had. Everyone agreed that Amber Albani's was outstanding: full of detailed drawings and expressive writing, but too long to reproduce here. However, this much-shortened version provides a taste of what went on:

We did loads of great activities. On the first day, the best one was "The Giant Swing". Sound scary? It was actually, but it was really, really fun.

Abseiling was very scary, although it was great fun. I jumped a lot as I was going down.

Archery was OK. Know why? Cause I slipped and landed on my bum and got covered with mud. Oh yeah, that was great fun. NOT!

Next was rock climbing. It was wicked. I actually got right to the top. When we got to the top we had to knock three times and then shout, "Bogies!" It was really funny. Ha!

After that it was the worst ever, and I mean ever, activity (and the worst thing I ever did in my entire life). It was the "Mud Challenge". GROSS!

We did "Jacob's Ladder".

It was really scary, although I got to the fourth ladder thing. I wanted to get to at least the fifth thing only there wasn't enough time. Right after that we did "Low Ropes". That was hard, especially when we had to hold a cup in one of our hands.

In the night time activities we had a campfire. We sat around it and sang songs, we listened to stories and we did this psychic thing.

We had hiking and it was like so tiring. As we were walking we suddenly got lost so we had to go through the Drop Bear Forest. We actually had to put leaves and sticks in our hair to look like bushes; otherwise they would grab our hair to use as nests. We looked ridiculous. Everyone was scared because it was dark. Anyway, we finally arrived safely back to PGL and had lovely hot, hot chocolate.



*Mission Accomplished: four young readers show off their achievements. Picture by Lucy Chamberlin*

## Book lovers pick up their prizes

By Lucy Chamberlin

**Around 50 young Barnet bookworms and their families gathered at East Finchley library on Tuesday 10 October for a very well deserved prize-giving event.**

Children had been challenged to read six books over

the summer to become "Super Sleuths", or, for the more ambitious, 12 in order to be "Ultra Super Sleuths".

Certificates and medals were awarded on stage by children's librarian Rachel Reilly to an excited audience of successful

(some very small) Sleuths and their proud parents.

One of the children's favourite authors was Michael Morpurgo, a grandfather and prolific writer who recently led the BBC's "focus on childhood" programmes.

Many studies have proved reading to be key to learning and development, and in these days of cyber space and moving images such enthusiasm about the lowly tome is surely a very positive sign, marking the enduring appeal of the book.

## Kids Club is back!

After the huge success of the Phoenix Cinema's free summer screenings for kids the cinema staff have brought back the Saturday Kids Club with the help of Barnet Children's Fund.

From 11am you can come along and take part in the weekly activities followed by a screening at midday. They'll have art and craft, face paints, games, quizzes, something different every week AND a fantastic film. What more

could you want on a Saturday morning?

The line-up of films for November is as follows:

Saturday 4 November - ICE AGE 2 (U) 1h30: It's meltdown on prehistoric earth. Everyone's favourite arctic bundles

of fur are back. But the wonderland the ice is revealing is threatened and the animals have to warn everyone in the valley before they are all swept off in a deluge of melted ice. Fantastic script writing as we've come to expect, and hilarious from start to finish.

Saturday 11 November - OVER THE HEDGE (U) 1h23: Imagine waking up after your long hibernation to find some pesky humans have moved in all around you. Verne the Turtle, RJ the Raccoon and a host of other brilliantly animated characters find that cohabiting with humans has its advantages and have plenty of adventures in their new, snack-filled suburban surroundings. Sure to be a family favourite.

Saturday 18 November - The London Children's Film Festival THE JUNGLE BOOK (U) 1h18: Singalong with Mowgli, Baloo and Bagheera. This must-see classic is a real treat for parents and kids alike. Come one come all, this is going to be such fun.

If you have anything you'd like to ask about the club or any feedback to give then see Laura every Saturday morning at the cinema or email her at [kidsclub@phoenixcinema.co.uk](mailto:kidsclub@phoenixcinema.co.uk). It's your club so your views are vital.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

After many years of unstinting service as Chair of Governors, Sylvia Duthie of Leicester Road has handed over the role to Rebecca Kellaway. Sylvia will continue to work on the London Diocesan Board, part of which involves the planning of a new secondary school for Finchley children. Harvest Festival was celebrated with a church service and a collection of tinned foods donated to Homeless Action in Barnet. Operation Christmas Child is underway, with small presents appropriate to one of three age groups being collected in shoeboxes to be sent to children in poor parts of the world. The children enjoyed an assembly presented by Apollo London on the theme of Health and Safety. Some of them entered a colouring competition with the hope of winning a prize.

The Globe Players performed The Tudors for Years 2 - 6. The school held its annual Book Fair from which the commission raised is used to purchase books for the library. The HTSA Christmas Fair is planned for Saturday 9 December.

### Martin Schools

The junior school held a successful European Day of Languages, which was a great experience for all the children. Parents read them traditional stories in French, Greek, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Turkish. Year 6 were given taster language sessions by secondary teachers from Fortismere School.

Latin and French Clubs as well as a Somali homework club are available at the school.

The annual Scholastic Book Fair raised more than £600 from the sale of books and cakes, provided by the PTA. The money will be used to buy more books for the school.

Lunches in both the Martin schools are now being supplied by Team Barnet.

In the infant school, parents and carers are being invited to come and eat with their children to sample the school meals which the youngsters are already enjoying.

Elderly people from the Ann Owen Day Care Centre came to join in the Harvest Celebration. The children made cakes and donated suitable seasonal gifts for their guests.

To mark Ramadan, nursery children made 3-D moons in various phases, prayer mats and a display of Henna decorated hands.

Year 1 learned and made displays about Harvest and Sukkot.

Year 2 learned about Diwali. Representatives elected by Year 1 and 2 classes have been taking part in School Council meetings.

The PTA is busy organising the Christmas Bazaar, to be held on Saturday 2 December.

### East Finchley Baptist Church

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<http://www.all saints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



# Honouring those who make a difference to life in Barnet

By John Dearing

**Barnet Council urges residents to nominate for a Civic Award those who make an outstanding contribution to borough life. These unsung heroes, who often do not expect to receive praise or recognition for the tireless work they do, will be honoured at Barnet Council's Annual Civic Awards at Hendon Town Hall in February 2007. This is the seventh year of the awards. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan, who will present the awards, said: "This prestigious annual ceremony enables the borough and its residents to say 'thank you' to the dedicated people who make such an impact on so many lives in this community."**

Recent winners have included: care worker Yvonne Johnson of East Finchley for her work with the elderly and in the mental health field; former Holy Trinity head Sonia Singham for her work with East Finchley Neighbourhood CONTACT; Margaret Burrows from Chipping Barnet, who has worked for more than 20 years with the Good Neighbour Scheme; David Howard from New Barnet, for his involvement in numerous community initiatives, including Homeless Action in Barnet; Seymour Jones, from Barnet, for his contribution to developing the Barnet African Caribbean Association and his valuable community service; Taraben Bharadia from North

Finchley for her commitment and dedication to the Barnet Asian Women's Association; James Williams MBE for more than 23 years of work with Barnet Music Education Service.

Barnet Council's Civic Awards programme is open to all men and women who live or work in the London Borough of Barnet. Previous award winners or serving councillors are not eligible for nomination. The closing date for nominations is 30 November 2006. A nomination form is available from Jane Bamber, Events Officer, on 020 8359 2493 or email [jane.bamber@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:jane.bamber@barnet.gov.uk) or it may be downloaded from the council's website at [www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards).

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Et tu Brutus?

In this mean and vicious world where life is a constant struggle against the slings and arrows of adversity and London Underground it's great to get away from it all and enter the fantasy world of comedy politics. Toni Won Konobi's long goodbye has all the makings of a farce as Big Gordie struggles to prise Toni's hands from the reins of power.

It's not the first time. Only three of the 20th century's 20 Prime Ministers weren't dragged screaming from the job. Back in 1902, Robert Cecil got it so right that he was able to hand the job on to his nephew and get himself into the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, literally, in the phrase "Bob's your uncle".

Steady Stanley Baldwin sorted out the abdication and quit in 1937, feeling that Neville Chamberlain could handle the rest. Obviously he forgot about Hitler. Harold Wilson decided that 60 was a good time to retire and did, leaving a nasty smell thanks to the crooks and cowboys he handed out gongs to as he went. The rest got pitch-forked out of No 10, usually by a delighted electorate but some by their own party, and that kind of backstabbing is always fun.

The Liberals started it in 1915 and did it with unbeatable style. In replacing Asquith with Lloyd George, they split the party and, within 10 years, had turned a once great party of government into a music hall joke.

But when it comes to inserting the stiletto no one does it like the Tories. They started with Chamberlain in 1940 when 33 MPs put their country before good manners and got shot of him. This gave them the taste for it and almost every Tory PM since then either got knifed or left when he spotted the assassins gathering.

Eden got it for the farce that was Suez, Macmillan was discredited, old and leading a scandal-ridden rump and not even Churchill was exempt. By the time he finally doddered off in 1955 the vultures were circling. With a track record like that it's not surprising that the knifemen formed a disorderly line to stab Thatcher the moment she'd outlived her usefulness. She didn't go quietly, she hung around like a jilted lover jinxing all those who followed.

Now it's Labour's turn to discover the mad art of treachery, time for Big Gordie to see if he can wreck all Toni Won's dreams. As they say, "May the Farce be with you", so come on in, the blood's lovely.

## Lunch club volunteer shortages

By Rob Briggs

**A local lunch club that provides a freshly-cooked meal and company for the elderly for just £3.50 is desperately short of volunteers to help it continue.**

With all the controversy about the quality of school dinners, an equally important issue remains to be discussed. Many elderly people find it difficult to afford or prepare regular nutritious meals, with obvious implications for health.

The most recent statistics from Age Concern indicate that around 14 per cent of over-65s are malnourished. Poor diet leads to poor health, with further consequences such as fatigue and depression.

Lunch clubs are one solution: simple but good quality food at a relatively low price. However, threats to council funding and volunteer shortages have led to scores of closures across the UK in recent years.

### Recipe for success

Since it was set up 16 years ago, the lunch club hosted by East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, a local charity working with elderly people, has steadily built up attendance, and now caters for up to 30 people per week. At the club the elderly can feel part of the community and find out about other services enabling them to live independently with a good quality of life.

Mrs Howkins, a regular attendee at the lunch club at the Green Man Community Centre, said, "It's lovely to get out of the house once a week and meet people. I wouldn't bother to shop and cook a meal like this just for myself."

I spent a month volunteer-



*Lunch clubs are a valued place to meet friends and have fun for elderly people who may live alone.*

ing at Neighbourhood Contact before returning to university, and saw for myself the reasons for its popularity. Cooking for so many people is different from what I'm used to, but the clients' enjoyment made it a truly satisfying experience.

Sian Jones, who runs the lunch club and is the co-ordinator of East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, said: "We desperately need volunteers who can help set up and wash up. We also need to recruit a

paid cook for 6-7 hours. I know there are people out there with spare time, who enjoy cooking and who would find the work very rewarding, but we haven't found them yet."

It would be sad to see the lunch club disappear at a time when society seems so concerned with what's on our plates. Volunteers would need to work on Tuesdays at least once a month from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. Sian can be contacted on 020 8444 1162.

## A really inconvenient truth

By Andrew Shirlaw

**The documentary film *An Inconvenient Truth*, directed by Emmy Award winner Davis Guggenheim and presented by Al Gore, former Vice President of the US, is possibly one of the most important films to be shown at the Phoenix Cinema.**

The Sundance Film Festival hit film persuasively puts the moral case for cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions radically in a bid to reduce the catastrophic damage witnessed in the Caribbean, the Antarctic, Greenland and the Arctic.

The production team filmed melting glaciers and huge dried-up lakes. Most glaciers, according to climatologists, will disappear in the next ten years, leaving millions of people a bleak future of severe water shortages and unproductive agricultural lands. Vast expanses of the earth are turning to desert, including parts of Spain and China. Developers are felling huge areas of rainforest in the Amazon, depriving the earth of its own living lungs.

**Ice meltdown**  
Ice sheets miles deep are shown in the documentary breaking away from the Antarctic and Greenland and disappearing into the surrounding seas. Islands in the Pacific are being submerged by rising sea levels, forcing the inhabitants to emigrate to New Zealand.

Al Gore uses computer simulations to demonstrate how, on current CO<sub>2</sub> emission trends, cities such as New York, San Francisco, Shanghai

and Beijing will be overcome by floodwaters within two generations, as will Bangladesh and Holland.

Another threat is from continued melting of Greenland's ice sheets. This may halt or divert the Gulf Stream, which prevents Britain from freezing over.

### Ice evidence

Analysing ice cores from the Arctic, scientists inform us that the Earth has witnessed seven ice ages during 650,000 years, yet CO<sub>2</sub> levels have never reached those seen today. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are accelerating faster due to economic expansion in China, India, Russia and Brazil and the increasing world population which has trebled to 6.5 billion in 50 years.

There is a risk that small, incremental changes may be too little, too late, as politicians in Europe and the US dither over what policies to adopt to tackle global warming and global melting.

This is a challenging yet entertaining film for anyone concerned about the future of the planet. It is still screening in the West End and available on DVD from 21 November. Further details at [www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net).



## 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 - 13 & 27 Nov at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ Line dancing Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ Memory Lane Singing Club - a communal singing club. Call Ildit 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.

# Images of family life make National Portrait Gallery

By Daphne Chamberlain

Eti Wade's image of her six year-old son, Yonatan, has won a place in the Photography Portrait Awards exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery.



Eti Wade's portrait of Yonatan. Photo courtesy of Eti Wade

For several years, Eti, founder member of East Finchley Open Artists, has been attempting to reflect the whole experience of motherhood through her photography. Though conventionally happy, smiling pictures have their place, she believes that if these were the only images of families we saw, they would reflect an impossible ideal. Real family life she sees as "an intense emotional rollercoaster, that I sometimes tire and despair of, but wouldn't swap for anything else in the world".

Reflecting this in her work means having a camera constantly loaded and at hand. Eti believes that, far from detracting from the spontaneity of family life, this actually enhances it. She told *THE ARCHER*, "I'm really bad at taking pictures at traditional times, like birthday parties", preferring to seize "moments

## Noble Sage exhibition

The Noble Sage's winter exhibition features drawings and paintings by S. Dhanapal, considered by many to be a pioneer of the Dravidian Modern Art movement of South India. Many of the works come from his family's private collection. The exhibition opened on 25 October and runs until mid-January.

The Noble Sage gallery, the first in the UK to specialise in contemporary South Indian art, is at 2A Fortis Green. For further information, please call 020 8883 7303 or e-mail info@thenoblesage.com.

with strong visual possibilities" to record and make permanent.

The NPG portrait of Yonatan was taken in his bath, after football practice. He came home so muddy that she put him in the bath early, just as the setting sun filled the room with golden light. When Eti tried to shoot the picture again, it was impossible to recreate it.

Though Yonatan has been Eti's main model so far, her elder son, 13 year-old Mikha'el, has agreed to work with her on a project about growing up. Both boys often point the camera at their mother, though so far the results have remained within the family.

Eti, who is half Finnish, half

Polish/Jewish, was born in the UK, but grew up in Israel. She and her husband have lived in East Finchley since 1998, and its parks and High Road play an important part in her work. Her *Frozen Playground* images of Cherry Tree Wood are her best-selling works to date.

Martin School, attended by both Eti's sons, will again be the venue for the East Finchley Open annual fair on 19 November.

The Photography Portrait Awards exhibition at the NPG runs from 6 November until February. To find out more about Eti's work, visit [www.etiwade.com](http://www.etiwade.com).

## A concert pianist for the future

By Sonia Singham

An audience at the East Finchley Arts Festival was treated to an outstanding recital by an amazing pianist, Ramintas Vingras, which included music by JS Bach, Schubert and Scriabin.

Ramintas Vingras came to England a year ago, to join his wife and son who had been living in East Finchley for the past two years. Prior to arriving in this country, Ramintas and family had lived and worked in Cincinnati, where he taught music to University students as well as pursuing his studies.

Ramintas was introduced to the piano from an early age by his mother. As a teenager he attended a boarding school for music students. He gained a scholarship to study piano at the Moscow Conservatoire, which he did for four years.

After completing his studies he returned to Lithuania where he taught at the University for

three years. An opportunity arose for him to work and continue his career in the USA, where he has been living for the past six years.

Ramintas has given concerts throughout Russia, Germany, Switzerland and the USA as a soloist chamber music player and accompanist. He believes in his own internal motivation, and enjoys the interaction with the audience, especially when the performance is well received.

As well as hoping to complete his doctorate, Ramintas finds time to play for a church in Enfield, teach piano, accompany at a ballet school in Richmond and work part-time in Amy's, the East Finchley hardware store.

## What's On...

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

**Saturday 4 November:**

**Art Show and Sale** in aid of the Barbara Bus Fund in Homefield Gardens Community Hall (off Stanley Road) 12-3 pm.

**From Tuesday 7 November:**

**Come out to live, come in to play** : a celebration of suburbia featuring pre-war posters from London Transport Museum. Open Tuesday to Saturday and Sunday afternoons. MoDA, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet. Telephone 020 8411 5244 for details.

**Sunday 12 November:**

**Jacquin Ensemble concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm; programme to include works by Beethoven and Francaix. Jill Anderson, clarinet; Michael Blee, viola; Elisabeth Nevrkla, cello; Daniel L'Homme, piano. Free admission, with collection for the charity Concern. Further information from 020 8346 7325.

**Sunday 12 - Saturday 18 November:**

**Incognito Theatre Group** presents the classic First World War drama *Journey's End* by RC Sheriff. Royal British Legion charity night on Sunday 12 at 6pm, then performances at 8pm Monday to Saturday. Tickets £7 (students £5 and group discounts available). Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet. Box Office: 020 8886 3274.

**Saturday 18 November:**

**The Manor Light Opera** presents "**Remembered Glories**", a celebration of early 20th Century songs and musicals. St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3, 7.30pm. Tickets, which include light refreshments, available on 020 7328 7846.

**Sunday 19 November:**

**East Finchley Open Artists' Winter Fair**. 10.30am-4pm, Martin School, High Road. Come and find unusual Christmas presents.

**Saturday 25 November:**

St Theresa's Catholic Primary School Christmas Fair - 12 pm to 3 pm at East End Road, Finchley, N3. Great prizes - Everyone welcome, Come along and join in the fun.

**Thursday 30 November:**

A representative from the **Pentland Group** will talk about the impact of a company on communities near and far. Non-members welcome; Avenue House, East End Road, N3, 2.30pm.

**Thursday 30 November - Sunday 3 December:**

**The Great Art Christmas Fair** at Alexandra Palace. Thursday and Friday, 11am-6pm, Saturday 10.30am-6pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm. Advance tickets £5, £4, or four adults £18. On the door: £7.50, £5, four adults for £25. Children free. Details at [info@thegreatartfair.com](mailto:info@thegreatartfair.com)

**Saturday 2 December:**

The North London Chorus presents Mendelssohn's St Paul at St James Church Muswell Hill at 7.30pm. For tickets call 020 8883 8123 .

**Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:**

Thursday 9 - Friday 10 November, 8pm: **Tiempo de Tango: Romance en Carnaval arte**, Latino Cultural Project; Friday 10 November, 8:30pm: **Many Ways To Play Your Lover!**, Rebecca Carrington; Tuesday 14 - Saturday 18 November, 8pm & Saturday 2pm: **Sing Your Heart Out for the Lads**, Pilot Theatre; Thursday 16 November, 8:30pm: **Los Desterrados**; Friday 17 November, 8:30pm: **Barnet Folk Club**; Tuesday 28 November - Sunday 7 January: **Roald Dahl's The Twits**, Pilot Theatre; Thursday 30 November, 8pm: **Martin Simpson**; Friday 1- Saturday 2 December, 8pm, Sunday 3 December 2pm & 6pm: **Meri Christmas**, Rifco Arts.



## Letters to the editor

### Blinkered bus managers

Dear Editor

The ongoing complaints about route 263, highlighted in your letters column, and the seeming lack of interest by London Buses to do anything positive to improve the service, is another example of a huge organisation taking the blinkered approach.

Since the withdrawal of bus 17 and bus 104, East Finchley residents have been denied the option of travelling further south than Archway without needing to change bus. Why do so many bus routes terminate at Archway? Is Archway an important shopping or commercial area? This is about London Buses suiting their own operational needs, as they have a huge garage round the corner from Archway in Pemerton Gardens.

London Buses are less reluctant to provide a service that suits the travelling public's needs if their own operational needs are satisfied first. Extending buses to East/North Finchley does not fit these criteria.

And wouldn't it have made life a lot easier with the weekend Tube closures if we had a bus route that ran further south than Archway.

There are a number of options available to London Buses if they really want to demonstrate they are tuned in to local needs:

- Extend bus 390 from Archway (my preferred choice, as it links East Finchley with the West End via King's Cross and Euston).
- Extend bus 17 from Archway.

*Several readers have asked what has happened to Simone Baroke, the local nutritionist who wrote our popular series on nutrition for seniors. Simone is now concentrating on researching, writing and editing articles about the food industry. We wish her well and welcome Judy Watson as our new food expert.*

## How diet can make a difference

**Breast cancer is common in Europe but less so in China. Judy Watson, Nutritional Therapist at Utopia in East Finchley, explains why diet may make a difference.**

One in nine women now get breast cancer. Why can this be? Well, present research links it to high oestrogen levels in the body, which is not helped by modern contraception and hormone replacement therapy. Excess fat in the diet is also known to encourage more production of oestrogen.

Our busier and stressful lifestyles have left us all more reliant on processed food and snacks – chocolate, cakes, biscuits – which are high in saturated fat and may contain a deadlier fat called hydrogenated vegetable oil (which becomes hardened vegetable fat). Dairy products are also high in fat.

In China, soya is the staple part of the diet and cases of breast cancer are less common. It contains natural

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

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

- Extend bus 214 from Highgate Village.
- Extend bus 271 from Highgate Village.

Here are two other suggestions to improve local links. Many people would benefit from a direct link from East Finchley to Kenwood, Hampstead Heath, Hampstead Village and the Royal Free Hospital, which could be achieved by diverting bus 234 at East Finchley Station to run via The Bishop's Avenue, Spaniards Road and Heath Street to South End Green.

Have you tried getting from East Finchley to Hampstead Garden Suburb direct? If London Buses really wanted to focus on what local people need, Bus H2 could be diverted at Market Place to run via Ossulton Way, Brim Hill, Deansway, East End Road and High Road to East Finchley Station, which would enable a really useful direct link via the Garden Suburb to Golders Green.

Good luck to East Finchley Bus Watch! You have my support.

**Yours sincerely,  
Peter Longmire  
Albany Row  
The Causeway, N2**



artsdepot by Night. photo by Craig Johnson

## Top of the class

By Craig Johnson and Alex Nunes

**East Finchley film student Rachel Coletta was presented with a media award from Barnet College for her excellent work this year, which includes a horror trailer filmed in Manor Park Road and several music videos screened at the college.**

Artsdepot at Tally Ho Corner was the location for the Celebrating Success Evening for Barnet's best performers. The lucky students represented all areas of the learning spectrum from those making their way to higher education to those returning to study.

Presenting the awards was guest speaker Mishal Husain, well known to audiences as a presenter of 'Breakfast' on BBC1. She is also a former BBC Washington Correspondent and hosts 'Hardtalk Extra' on BBC News 24.

"The college's ability to

provide opportunities for such a diverse learning community is proof of its importance to our society today," said Principal Marilyn Hawkins.

The event was sponsored by Alan Young and family, and prizes were donated by Field Design Consultancy and Acculith 76 Printers.

## OBITUARY

### Dorothy Fox

**1918 - 2006**

**The Finchley Society has told us of the death of Dorothy Fox, former Chair of its Planning Committee, on 13 October.**

Dorothy was also Chair of the Finchley and District Peace Campaign, which she was instrumental in setting up, and a committee member of the Finchley United Nations Association Group.

A lifelong communist, pacifist and humanist, and supporter of The Morning Star, she had taught at Moss Hall School, and was "a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who loved to tell stories".

The Finchley Society described Dorothy Fox as "a one-off", and remembered her sparkling personality, sense of humour, courage, tenacity and commitment.

## Life through a lens

By Mike Cairns

**Local photographer Craig Johnson will be selling his photographs, hand made calendars, Christmas cards and magnets at Martins Primary School, High Road N2, 10-4pm on 19 November alongside other local artists at the East Finchley Open Winter Fair.**

Many of Craig's photographs feature stunning UK landscapes such as the Lake District and Brecon Beacons taken in the most extreme weather conditions.

"I once camped out in the Lakes in minus six degrees," he recalls. "I awoke to find the whole area lightly covered in snowfall and a robin hopping around my tent for a photo shoot. I also remember once seeing animal bones half-way up on a ledge and really wanting to photograph them, but one slip on the ice and I would have headed straight down a 3,000ft drop!"

"I've been travelling with a high altitude walking and extreme sports group. It's great because I get to take wicked photos, meet loads of people and take part in caving and canyoning. I've abseiled down a waterfall just for the hell of it!"

### From the mountains to the Met

Craig's favourite subjects are wildlife and winter scenes at the tops of mountains but he also enjoys photographing close-ups of plants in spring and summer. In contrast, he

likes taking group shots for the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood teams in Enfield to use for their newsletters and flyers.

This winter show will be Craig's first since his Night of Fire exhibition at the Tally Ho gallery last year, of shutter speed experimental shots of cars at night in Haringey and Barnet.

On 10 November he will be photographing at the Cambridge Catwalk, a fashion show raising funds for a teenage cancer trust. Celebrity guests will include Craig Revel Horwood, one of the judges of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. For more information see their website [www.cambridgecatwalk.co.uk](http://cambridgecatwalk.co.uk)

For more of Craig's photographs check out [www.britphoto.net](http://www.britphoto.net).

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# THE ARCHER

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## A poem for Jack

By Andrew Shirlaw

**Actress Maureen Lipman and friends presented a special event at the Phoenix Cinema on 8 October in celebration of the life and work of her husband Jack Rosenthal.**

Ms Lipman, together with her daughter Amy Rosenthal and fellow writers and actors Colin Shindler, George Layton and Caroline Bernstein, read passages from Jack Rosenthal's autobiography.

The acclaimed dramatist and three times BAFTA award-winning author lived for many years in Muswell Hill. He wrote

his autobiography, which was completed posthumously by Ms Lipman, as a screenplay.

The Phoenix screened *Jack The Lad* and also *Eskimo Days* starring Ms Lipman and Tom Wilkinson as part of the special event.

Maureen composed the following poem, which she read to the audience:

*Here's to the legendary Phoenix,  
The primary venue to see flicks.  
In Little Miss Sunshine you'll hear every punchline,  
For Al Gore you'll need man-sized Kleenex.*

*We've raised cash for the disabled ramps,  
We've a foyer with spotlit lamps,  
We've got a cake in the foyer and shots of Charles Boyer  
But the seating's still giving us cramps.*

*The interior's packed full of feeling  
But the place and the paint are a-peeling.  
While the staff are professional and some seats concessional,  
The bulbs still poke out through the ceiling.*

*The Odeon's got ten screens per block  
Showing acres and acres of schlock  
But I say with temerity for cinema vérité  
We do have the cream of film stock.*

*Well, that's quite enough of the vocals  
But thanks for supporting your locals.  
We know you old groovers really care about movies  
So sit back and find your bi-focals.*

*If Eskimo Days dots all your dashes  
And Jack the Lad moistens your lashes  
Let's look lovingly back and, remembering our Jack,  
Raise the Phoenix back up from the ashes.*



Maureen Lipman on a previous visit to The Phoenix. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Get your home ready for Christmas

By Helen Drake

**Have you ever wondered how to get that perfect 'look' for your Christmas dinner table, or agonised about how to arrange that beautiful bunch of flowers given by a guest? Well, help is at hand. Come along to an Open Day on Thursday 30 November, 9am-9pm at Jennie Mann Flowers, 63a Church Lane.**

As part of their new Flower School, which is offering courses throughout December, the staff at Jennie Mann will be running flower-arranging demonstrations throughout the day and will be on hand to offer tips on arranging all sorts of house flowers with an emphasis on the Christmas season.

Jennie Mann will also be displaying their Christmas gift range including unique Christmas decorations and bespoke flower arrangements, china,

glassware vases, jewellery and other gifts and cards exclusively sourced from European suppliers. There will be a 15 per cent discount on any purchases made on the day.

Beautician Mandana, who is based at Jennie Mann, will also be on hand as she launches skin-care specialists Sothys' special Christmas offers on their range of products. There will be a 15 per cent discount on all book-

ings made, and gift vouchers bought, on the day.

Refreshments will be available to warm the body and soul.

For more information, phone Kathy at Jennie Mann on 020 8365 2284 or e-mail kathy@jenniemann.com. The flower arranging demonstrations will run at the following times: 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.

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