



Battle for The Bothy

By Daphne Chamberlain

The crisis continues at The Bothy, the castle-like building in the grounds of Avenue House. Helped by Community Service workers and lottery funding, The Finchley Arts Centre Trust (FACT) has been renovating it for the past 10 years but in January it was evicted by the Avenue House Estate Trust.

Local MP Rudi Vis, who had visited the site to see the restoration in action, has called the eviction "madness", and praised the "magnificent work" being done by FACT to provide an arts and community centre. The project has also been praised by the Home Office and Probation Service.

Along with restoring the ruined building and its walled garden, FACT has presented a summer season of entertainment for the past seven years in the surrounding grounds. Following the eviction notice, this summer's entertainment has been cancelled.

FACT was originally given a building licence and a contingent promise of a lease from Barnet Council, but when the Avenue House Trust (AHET) was set up, it took over the "landlord" role.

Public health and safety

FACT say that they were given six hours notice by AHET to vacate the building. They were told that their building agreement had expired, but FACT say that they have solicitors' letters from AHET, confirming that a licence would be granted until November 2007, with an additional year for the side buildings.

AHET say that the building was put into public use without complying with Health and Safety and Fire regulations, but FACT maintain they have complied with

all directions and requirements, have put in place Health and Safety documentation, and have public liability insurance.

Sorting it out

FACT also deny that they have carried out events without informing AHET. FACT have asked Barnet, the Avenue House Estate freeholder, to negotiate a settlement, which Council Leader Mike Freer has attempted to do. However, AHET has allegedly refused to attend meetings.

A solution proposed by FACT is for Barnet to lease The Bothy directly to them. At the time of writing, no comment has been received from AHET.

Young photographer developing well

By Diana Cormack

Although he is only 14 years old, Guy Welch is already building up a reputation as a photographer. Guy, of Durham Road, used to enjoy using his father's Canon film camera and his interest grew when his older sister Amie was studying photography at Fortismere School.

Last year she took her digital camera on the family holiday to Majorca, where Guy spent a lot of time taking photos with it. Now he is working through the first year of a fast-track art course at the same school, studying photography under the same teacher, Zek Hoeben.

Guy told *THE ARCHER* that most of his photographs are taken outside school, where he can indulge in his own interests and experimentation. When he was only six months into the course his photo of a water droplet was published in the photography magazine *DSLR*.

He has also had a full-page picture in *The Guardian's* G2 section. This was of a man



Guy's photo published as a full page spread in the Guardian - detailing the open expression of religion. Shot, processed and developed himself. Photograph by Guy Welch.

carrying a cross on his shoulder down Oxford Street on its traffic-free day. Guy followed him in the hope that he would look round. Luckily he did and Guy managed to catch the moment using an old Pentax

film camera.

With his skill and enthusiasm, it looks like Guy is well on the way to achieving his ultimate ambition of becoming a travel photographer.

Teacher skydives for children in Kenya

By Helen Drake

Martin Junior School teacher Clare Lewis didn't know what to expect when she volunteered to take part in her first skydive to raise money for the children's education charity Kenya Kids.

Clare arrived at the Hinton Skydiving Centre in Oxfordshire on a windy day in late February.

"There were nine of us, four tandems and the camera man. It was very cosy because you do up the harnesses in the plane so you are virtually sitting on top of each other!

"There was no going back once the doors were shut and the plane was moving. I could see the altimeter changing at each 1,000 feet we climbed. At 13,000 feet the plane doors opened and the light went from red to orange, then green.

"It was too frantic to register panic at this stage. People seemed to drop over the edge in succession and I was shuffling down the plane (or being hoisted down more likely) towards the exit.

"Then it just seemed to

happen. It was fast and utterly overwhelming: 120mph falling through the sky and into a bed of clouds. At 5,000 feet my tandem instructor pulled the cord and we slowed to a gradual pace.

"We could then talk and appreciate the view as we passed through the thick cloud. It was the most exhilarating experience I've ever had and definitely a once in a lifetime thing!"

A non-uniform day was held at Martin Junior School to raise money for Kenya Kids and pupils learnt all about skydiving, altitude and parachutes in a special assembly given by Clare, who commented: "They also learnt how important education is all over the world."

To find out more about the work of Kenya Kids go to the Hinton Skydiving Centre website www.skydive.co.uk.

Lazooli
Vintage, Retro and New Fashion
46 High Road
East Finchley
London • N2 9PJ
020 8883 1117

Midhurst Butchers
Certified organic meat at reasonable prices
Free-range poultry
Home-made sausages (including Boerwors)
2 Midhurst Parade,
Fortis Green, London N10
Tel. 020 8883 5303

Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors
Commissioners for Oaths
Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.
email: admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk
28 High Road, London N2 9PJ
Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 / 0989
www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk

Sports Therapy
Sports Therapy is not just for Athletes! It is often the non-exercisers who experience the most profound improvements.
DO YOU SUFFER FROM
• Muscular aches and pains?
• Injuries?
• Anxiety?
• Depression?
• Bad Circulation?
• Repetitive strain injuries?
• Muscle spasm, Tension and Stiffness?
• Joint flexibility and range of motion restriction?
For appointments contact:
UTOPIA
1 Leicester Mews,
East Finchley, N2 9EJ
Donna Hughes
MOB: 07983629721
TEL: 02084442123
EMAIL: donnaughes85@msn.com

INTRODUCING THE WORLD'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC
Skin, body, hair, cosmetic, oral and nutritional products. Certified to the highest international organic food standards. Created with certified organic, cold pressed, unrefined oils and therapeutic grade herb and flower extracts.
100% beneficial ingredients / over 80 organic products no synthetic chemicals / unrivalled potency.
For further information on starting your own business, or to buy online visit:
(Independent Representative website)
www.preferorganics.mionegroup.com

Klages Plumbing & Heating Agency LTD.
CONTACT TELEPHONE No: 020 8346 7218 / 8636
KLAGE
A NAME IN PLUMBING FOR OVER 40 YEARS

the cherry tree
Elegant and inspired gifts for all occasions
172, High Road, East Finchley N2 9AS Tel: 020 8883 4369
info@thecherrytreeuk.co.uk www.thecherrytreeuk.co.uk

Lisa Stickley
Designers Guild
True Grace
VVP bags
Hope and Greenwood confectionary
Tatiri
and many more