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April 2007 No. 163
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Homes struck by burglary epidemic

By David Melsome

Since the start of the year, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of residential burglaries occurring in East Finchley. Most have occurred in the streets around Cherry Tree Wood and in the county roads that run eastwards from East Finchley High Road.

The number of burglaries and attempted burglaries in January alone was 13 with February witnessing a further 11. To date, there have been six burglaries reported since the beginning of March. It is hoped that, with increased police patrols in the main areas, a corner has been turned and burglaries will now decline.

In most cases entry is being gained from the rear, by forcing either a rear door or window. On occasions entry has been gained when these have been left closed but unlocked. In a smaller number of instances, entry is being gained by forcing the front door or windows. The peak times for this to occur are between 1-3pm and 6-8pm.

Most commonly, the items

being stolen are laptop computers, digital cameras, jewellery and sometimes car keys.

The East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, with the support of local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, is asking residents to stay on guard and to dismiss any stereotypical ideas of what a burglar may look like.

As Sergeant Alex Kay points out: "There is no such thing as a typical burglar; they can be any age up to 70 years and from a diverse range of backgrounds. Many have access to cars and some will even carry out surveillance on a target address. We would urge all residents to review their home security and report anything suspicious to the police."

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Martin School teacher Clare Lewis skydiving for charity. See page 5.

Clare Lewis and her tandem instructor high above the clouds in Oxfordshire. Picture by Matt Abram from the Hinton Skydiving Centre.

Ironing out The Kinks

By Diana Cormack

Since the sudden closure of The Clissold Arms on Fortis Green, speculation has been rife about the fate of the hostelry where Ray and Dave Davies, founders of The Kinks, gave their first public performance. More to the point, fans of a certain age are wondering what is to become of the memorabilia displayed there in what has been described as a shrine to the sixties pop group.

Within the collection are various signed records, record sleeves and photos donated by fans over the years, including *THE ARCHER*'s Sippy Azizollah. It is feared that these could be sold off.

The new tenants want to turn the premises into a gastro pub, which rather goes against the grain, since it was only last year that the Campaign for Real Ale gave the Clissold one of its first 'Pubs in Time' awards.



Now it looks as though "time" will be called on this historic pub which Kinks fans from all over the world visit to pay homage to their Muswell Hill musical heroes.

The Clissold is due to reopen in the summer. Only time will tell if the memory of The Kinks will be allowed to linger on there or if it will fade slowly away into the Waterloo Sunset.

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Eastway Offset Ltd

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

Copy deadlines

May issue: 13 April
June issue: 11 May
July issue: 15 June

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Barnet

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

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East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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

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

Health Advice

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

OAP's Advice

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Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
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Hospitals

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

Crime

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

Robbery outside front door

A 53-year-old woman was robbed outside her front door in Norrice Lea, N2, on Wednesday 7 March. She had returned home at about 3.50pm and parked on the driveway. As she opened her front door two men grabbed her from behind. They stole items from her handbag and then removed from her finger her wedding ring.

The suspects are described as a white male with a London accent, wearing a light grey hoodie, and a black male about 5ft 11ins tall.

Police are urging anyone with any information regarding this robbery to contact Detective Sergeant Gornall at Barnet Police on 020 8200 1212 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Bus gang attacks passenger

A man was robbed and viciously beaten after being taunted by a group of youths as he travelled on the 263 bus in the Whetstone area.

The 39-year-old man was on the bus at 9.30pm on Wednesday 7 March when three boys and three girls, all approximately 15 years old, got on and sat near him.

As the bus neared the High Road in Whetstone, he spoke to the group and asked them to stop flicking things at him.

He got off the bus near Swan Lane and the youths followed him. He walked for a short distance before they attacked and robbed him of his jacket, mobile phone and wallet. He was subjected to a vicious attack

and was kicked and punched repeatedly.

The suspects are described as white and wearing dark hoodie tops. This area is a busy street and it is highly likely that a number of people will have witnessed this attack or seen this group of suspects.

Police are asking for any witnesses or any persons with information about this robbery to please contact them on 020 8200 1212, asking for the robbery squad, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Two years of recycling successes

Barnet's compulsory recycling scheme - the first in the UK - has celebrated its second anniversary with a string of successes to its name.

Since the innovative scheme

was introduced across Barnet in March 2005, more than 35,000 tonnes of waste have been recycled through residents' black boxes.

It is compulsory in Barnet for households to recycle paper, cans and glass, with the possibility of a £1,000 fine for persistent failure to do so. The council will only take this action as a last resort.

Residents of many flats do not yet have a waste collection service but the recycling scheme has been rated good or excellent by three-quarters of users. In its first year of operation almost a third more tonnage than the previous year was collected through the black boxes.

This success has been maintained and the recycling rate in Barnet has soared from 16.7% in 2003/4 to over 30% now. The council aims to be recycling and composting 40% of household waste by 2009/10.

As well as paper, glass and cans, the following items can also be recycled in the black boxes: aerosols, car and household batteries, foil, mobile phones, shoes, textiles, engine oil and Yellow Pages.

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Community Services

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

Planning Applications

Barnet

Former Lonsdale Care Home,
Tarlton Road, N2

New 1.8 railings and planting to
part of front boundary, along Tar-
lton Road.

68 Brim Hill, N2

Loft conversion with side and rear
dormer roof extensions

5 Chamberlain Road, N2

Loft conversion involving raised roof
and rear dormer

9 Church Lane, N2

Single storey rear extension

48 Church Lane, N2

First floor rear extension.

53 Deansway, N2

Conversion of garage into habitable
room. Installation of French doors
to rear and side window.

81 - 85 East End Road, N2

Construction of first and second floors
over existing warehouse to provide
four self-contained flats. Provision of
car parking spaces accessed from
Brackenbury Road.

90 - 92 High Road, N2

Installation of internally illuminated
shop fascia and one projecting sign.

124 High Road, N2

Conversion of upper floors to form
three self-contained flats.

129 High Road, N2

Change of use of ground floor
from retail to financial and business
services (A2). Installation of
new shop front.

385 - 401 High Road, N2

Installation of three advertising
hoardings.

66 Ossulton Way, N2

Loft conversion with addition of
conservation style roof lights to
side and rear.

68 Ossulton Way, N2

Single storey side extension with
dummy garage door to front follow-
ing demolition of existing garage.

28A Park Hall Road, N2

Roof extension including hip to gable
and rear dormer window.

Haringey

4 - 5 Cheapside, Fortis Green, N2

Change of use from offices to first
floor 3 bedroom flat. Change of use
from DIY retail to restaurant & retail
(A3 + A1) use.

37 Fordington Road, N6

Erection of single storey rear
extension and loft conversion with
rear and side dormer windows.
Conversion of garage to habitable
room with garage doors changes to
sash windows.

67 Fordington Road, N6

Erection of rear conservatory and
reconstruction of utility room.



No park keeper for Cherry Tree Wood

Cherry Tree Wood will be losing its park keeper because of budget cuts by Barnet Council.

In the autumn Chris Ward, park keeper for nine years in Cherry Tree Wood, was moved to one of the parks that the council is putting up for Green Flag status. He was replaced by another park keeper but now she has been relocated as well.

Barnet Council has issued a statement saying that "park keepers are only allocated to a specific park if the park requires a full-time maintenance presence. Cherry Tree Wood is one which does not require a full-time presence, but a park keeper will still regularly be on site to carry out necessary work along with other grounds

maintenance staff. There will be no reduction in the level of maintenance to the park."

Local councillors have voted against the cuts. Councillor Alison Moore says: "I'm deeply concerned that the park will not get the attention it deserves and will deteriorate. It's just not good enough."

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood would like your views before they attend the next Barnet Council meeting.

Emails can be sent to info@cherrytreewood.co.uk. Letters to The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, 88 Summerlee Avenue, N2 9QH.



Previous park keeper Chris Ward preparing to plant spring bulbs with Luisa and Rafael Attwood. Picture by Diana Cormack.

New playground for Oak Lodge

Barnet Council has approved plans to provide an Astro-turf playground to replace the field at Oak Lodge School, Heath View, East Finchley. This will be of great benefit to pupils there who are often unable to play on the present school field as it gets water logged.

Oak Lodge caters for 11 to 18-year-olds with learning difficulties and includes youngsters with autism and cerebral palsy. It is of great importance that they all have the opportunity to benefit from playing in an open area, rather than be confined to a small playground along with more

than 150 other youngsters.

The original plans had to be modified because some local residents objected to the proposals for floodlights and for the playground to be made available for use at weekends. They had concerns about security as well as an increase in traffic and noise in the vicinity.



Lauren Chapple and Alice Pearson. Photo by Bev Studdard

Making a splash

By Daphne Chamberlain

Two local 14 year-olds were hoping to make a big splash at the British Long Course Swimming Championships last month. Alice Pearson, a former Martin School pupil from Hertford Road, was contesting the 100m and 200m backstroke, while Fortismere student Lauren Chapple, from Alexandra Park, was entered for the 200m backstroke, 100m and 200m butterfly, and 200m and 400m individual medley.

Alice and Lauren represent Copthall Swimming Club, which they both joined five years ago, at the age of nine.

Veterans of national competitions for three years, Alice has already made backstroke finals, while Lauren has been national butterfly champion each year.

The girls train eight to ten times a week, with each session lasting for two to three hours, backed up by several land training sessions each week. The worst part for both of them is getting up at 4.30am to be at the pool just after 5am on the

days when they train before school.

They say the social life makes up for it, though. They enjoy travelling round the country for competitions, and especially like the annual training camp in Barcelona.

Copthall has three more swimmers, Charlotte Creager, Chris Eddon and Karolina Siwiec, in the British Championships, while at the same time Joao Matias was due to represent Angola in two World Championship events in Melbourne.

We will report on how

things went for all of them in our next edition.

Meanwhile, you don't have to be a potential champion to join Copthall Swimming Club. Currently it has about 300 members of all abilities, with ages ranging from seven to 70 plus. To join them, contact 020 8457 9900.

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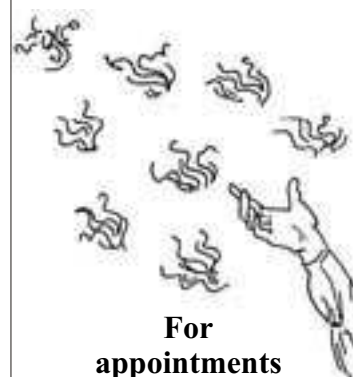
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Dressmaker cuts out new career for herself

By John Lawrence

After almost 30 years working for some of the biggest names in the world of fashion design, couturière Rashmi Makwana is going it alone.

Working from her home in Deanery Close, Rashmi has started her own service that has already won the attention of Oscar-winner Emma Thompson.

The actress has asked her to design and make a jacket, and other commissions are coming in thick and fast.

Rashmi started in the London fashion design business in 1979 after developing a love for dressmaking during her childhood in Kenya.

She said: "My mother ran sewing and clothes-making classes and when I was young I used to sit and watch. Then I'd cut shapes out of newspaper. My father bought me a toy machine and I used to make dresses for my dolls."

Rashmi has worked for famous bridal designers Phillippa Lepley and Neil Cunningham in London as well as spending 12 years at Liberty in Regent Street.

Now she offers a fully bespoke service for all ladies' fashions, including bridal gowns. "As a couturière, I design and make outfits for one



Rashmi with the toy sewing machine bought for her by her father that got her started in the fashion business. Picture by John Lawrence

person and their body shape. That is what I enjoy and these days it is becoming increasingly rare," she said.

Rashmi can be contacted on 07956 918865 or by email on couture.rashmi@talk21.com.

It's busy in the wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Coldfall Wood has changed dramatically in recent months. Trees have been felled or coppiced, new vistas revealed, bridges and benches installed. Now the next stage is under way.

At the western gate on Creighton Avenue a new hand-rail is being erected, followed by the replacement of other railings and the renewal of the tarmac path. During the work, that gate will be closed.

Further into the wood, construction of the much-discussed

reed bed has begun. The aim is to improve the stream's flow and to help control pollution.

Most people who use the wood have heard about the regeneration scheme and have watched its slow progress with interest. Some, however, have seen the piles of logs as an open invitation to help themselves, even filling car boots in broad daylight. As ever, information notices are no substitute for real live park keepers.

How clean is your wood?

Real live locals will be a

visible presence on Saturday 28 April for a grand spring-clean. Previous clean-ups, led by the Friends of Coldfall Wood and aided by Haringey Council, have cleared everything from plastic bottles to rusty bikes. The meeting point is at the northern edge of the wood, where it joins the field, at 11am.

And having tidied up the wood, why not enjoy a free guided tour the following day? Meet David Bevan at the main gate at 2pm on Sunday 29 April. On previous walks David has shared his expert knowledge and his passion for Coldfall Wood (*THE ARCHER*, June 2006). It will be interesting to hear his views about the regeneration scheme now it is taking shape.

Put a building on the list

Haringey Council is updating its register of listed local buildings.

If you would like to put forward a building for possible inclusion, contact Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association members John Crompton on 020 8883 7286 or Pat Bloomfield on 020 8883 1998.

Party time for 2

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sunday 15 April could be a party day for East Finchley. At 12 noon, Mayor Eva Greenspan will relaunch Tu Destino as 2 Destino, and in turn will receive cheques from local people and traders for her designated charity, the Variety Club for Children. Tu Destino's Rosario Castro-Garcia hopes that the occasion will be a community event for all the family.

"Watch out for our special balloons", she told *THE ARCHER*. "They will mark the places where there will be something going on, maybe some special offers or an entertainment. Come along and find out."

Tu Destino, the florist at 128 High Road, is well known for its balloons and its array of beautiful gifts. Now it will be

extending its range, opening up wedding and christening areas, to include items such as christening clothes.

Rosario is looking forward to other shops and restaurants joining in the fun on relaunch day. "We're such a good community in East Finchley", she says, "and it's really important for us all to work together."

School parking time changes

Anyone dropping off or collecting children from Holy Trinity School will have fewer places to park in the near future under a plan being put forward by Barnet Council.

The council wants to impose extra restrictions on parking spots in Kitchener Road, Market Place, Prospect Ring and Park Road. The aim is to prevent obstructive parking and generally improve road safety close to the school in Eagans Close.

The proposed parking changes are designed to tie in with Holy Trinity's School Travel Plan which seeks to boost children's fitness and ease local traffic congestion by encouraging more pupils and their guardians to leave the car at home.

Earlier this year, the council introduced a number of new dropped kerbs at key road junctions around the school to make safer crossings for junior cyclists and people pushing prams.

New 'no waiting' rules

The extra parking restric-

tions being proposed would prohibit waiting at any time around the junctions of Market Place and Kitchener Road, Market Place and Prospect Ring, Market Place and Chapel Close. Currently, non-residents are only prohibited from parking in these spots between 2-3pm Monday to Friday.

Additionally, drivers would be prohibited from parking at any time around the junction of Park Road and Park Gate. Non-residents are currently prohibited from these spots either between 2-3pm Monday to Friday or 8am-6.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Barnet Council first publicised the proposed changes on 1 March and anyone wishing to object was required to submit their comments by 21 March. A date for the implementation of the parking changes will be confirmed if they are approved.

Bus stops and parking bays to be moved

By John Dearing

Barnet Council has issued a Traffic Order as part of the London Buses Priority Network scheme to improve bus accessibility along the 263 bus route, and to reduce traffic delay and congestion. Notices have been posted near the affected areas in the High Road.

The general effect will be the relocation of existing bus stop clearways to more suitable locations, and the relocation of short stay pay-and-display parking places, motorcycle parking places and doctor parking places.

In detail:

- a) The bus stop clearway outside Nos. 101-107 High Road will be relocated outside Nos. 87 to 93 High Road.
- b) Short stay pay-and-display parking spaces will be provided outside Nos. 101-107 High Road.
- c) The motorcycle parking place outside Nos. 87 and 89 High Road will be relocated as

a solo motorcycle parking place outside No. 95 High Road.

d) The doctor parking place outside No. 91 High Road will be relocated outside No. 97 High Road.

e) The bus stop clearway outside Nos. 60-66 High Road N2 will be relocated outside Nos. 66-80 High Road.

f) The short stay pay-and-display parking place outside Nos. 66-74 High Road will be relocated outside Nos. 60-66 High Road.

It is also proposed to convert the existing motorcycle parking place outside Mulberry Court, near Bedford Road, to a solo motorcycle parking place.

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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 Hoebe.

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.

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Ain't no mountain high enough

Imagine the exhaustion of climbing the world's highest free-standing mountain: Mount Kilimanjaro, rising 6,000m above the African plains. Now imagine climbing it while suffering from crippling back pain and you have a measure of the achievement of Dr Roxana Curtis.

Roxana, who lives in Long Lane, fought against the agony of a slipped disc to conquer the mountain and raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

A fellow doctor on the trek was convinced she would only make it as far as base camp at 2,000ft but Roxana was determined to press on to the summit in memory of a friend she lost a few months ago and the many patients she has seen succumb to cancer during her 25 years in the medical profession.

"I cried and screamed in pain, especially coming down the mountain," said Roxana, "but I told myself I had to carry on. I may have pushed myself too far but it was worth it. I'd do it again. Now I've done it I feel exhausted but also very proud and lucky and blessed to have had the opportunity



of doing the trek for such an amazing cause."

Physical and emotional extremes

The climb and descent of Mount Kilimanjaro took five days. Roxana was among a group of 40 who between them raised £135,000 for the charity.

Despite having had two operations earlier this year for her back condition, she completed some gruelling training in the Brecon Beacons in Wales and closer to home on Hampstead Heath.

The African adventure was doubly hard because the group had to cope with the blistering heat of the plains followed by the freezing conditions of the mountain-top and the constant threat of altitude sickness.

"We were like one big family and became very close," said Roxana. "Everyone knew everyone else's reason for being there and each time I conquered a stage the group would cheer and applaud. It was a very emotional experience."

It is not too late to sponsor Roxana's amazing achievement. Go online and visit www.justgiving.com/roxana.



Hundreds of walkers snaked their way through Highgate Woods as they left East Finchley at the start of the annual Big Fun Walk on 25 February. Walkers were blessed with fine weather for the eight-mile yomp through north London's parks finishing at Westminster. Thousands of pounds is expected to be raised for the North London Hospice.

Hospital consults public

By Ann Bronkhorst

The Royal Free Hospital is trying to gather the views about its proposal to become a foundation trust. Leaflets outlining the scheme and asking for opinions and involvement have been distributed door-to-door, but may not have reached everyone.

The hospital would remain within the NHS but would differ in several ways from other NHS trusts. It is claimed that benefits would include more democracy, flexibility and autonomy.

For full details the consultation document can be seen online at www.royalfree.nhs.uk/foundation or obtained by post: contact 020 7830 2017 or email foundation@royalfree.nhs.uk.

The consultation period ends on 13 April, but on Wednesday 18 April, at Temple Fortune Health Centre, NW11, there is to be a public meeting: information from 020 8458 4431.

Phoenix film fans

By Kim Peat

The Phoenix Film Group has been active for just over a year now; we get together to see the early evening film screening at The Phoenix on the first Tuesday of each month, and then head up the road to a local bar to talk.

We are an informal group. People turn up on their own or with friends, all with film as the common interest. Afterwards, in the bar, there's invariably a range of views expressed ("Are you sure we both went to see the same film?" was one overheard comment in relation to French film *The Page Turner*) and the talk also broadens out into film more generally and what's going on locally. It's a great way of meeting friendly locals and sharing thoughts about films.

The group is continuing to evolve and is actively supported by The Phoenix. Whilst we don't have formal lectures, we do have links to the cinema management,

and are beginning to talk about the possibility of having some input to the programme.

If you enjoy film and want to come along to meet others in a relaxed, informal, way, we'd love to see you. Just turn up (on 2 May we're seeing the Julie Christie film *Away from Her* at 6.30pm), look out for Kim and a sociable bunch of people in the foyer, buy your ticket, tell the café you're here for the Film Group in order to get your free tea or coffee to take in with you (or 50p off a glass of wine) and that's it. Make sure that we get your e-mail address so that we can keep you up-to-date on future activities. Hope to see you there.

Imagine - East Finchley

By Adam Justice-Mills
East Finchley Open, the association of 50 local artists, is planning its next event, which is a first for East Finchley.

Following on from The Archer's campaign to celebrate in words what's great about East Finchley, we're hosting a local community photo competition, 'Imagine - East Finchley', for pictures which best evoke East Finchley for you. There will be winners in two age categories and, thanks to generous sponsorship from local businesses Gemini Photographic and Phone City Direct, prizes will include a digital camera and camera phone. Anyone will be able to enter for free, just by sending in a postcard-sized (7 x 5 max) printed photo, taken in the last 12 months on a camera or camera-phone (one entry per person). All suitable entries will be exhibited at the Phoenix Cinema and artsdepot later in the year. Winning images will be sold as a set of postcards, with the proceeds going to local charity Contact.

Look out for entry forms in local shops and community venues now. Closing date is 1 May. Details of the competition are on www.eastfinchleyopen.org or enquiries@eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

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FINCHLEY FORUM

By Daphne Chamberlain

The latest Finchley Forum was held last month at the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale. At Area Forums anyone can raise issues concerning their neighbourhood with councillors and council officers.

Cherry Tree Wood

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood asked why the wood no longer had a permanent park keeper. They wanted confirmation that maintenance would not be reduced, and also asked how many times a week an official will be on site.

The Barnet Greenspaces officer said that Cherry Tree Wood doesn't have enough flowerbeds or cultivated shrubs to justify a permanent keeper, but someone will visit every day to carry out urgent tasks, such as clearing up broken glass. There will also be someone in attendance for special events.

As a result of restructuring, the park keeper service has been merged into a grounds maintenance unit, which will visit the borough's 30 or so formal open spaces on a cyclical basis. There are 10 park keepers working in partnership with about 70 grounds maintenance team members.

Telecommunications masts

An East Finchley resident protested about the number of telecommunications masts in this area, including one on East End Road which had gone up against an original Council recommendation.

She was told that masts usually come within the range of permitted development, due to Central Government legislation. However, in this case she was referred to Councillor Andrew McNeil, who will pursue the matter.

Artsdepot car park

A North Finchley resident disputed the Council's assertion that the exit from the Artsdepot underground car park into Ballards Lane is not dangerous. He insisted that there should be a barrier across the exit, as there is at the exit from the bus station. He was told that this was the responsibility of the landlord, but Councillor Kath McGuirk undertook to "get the ball rolling" to re-open discussion.



Baby, it's time to shape up

By Miranda Levy

You're pregnant, and you want to stay in shape for your labour. Or, you've had the baby, and now it's time to lose those postpartum pounds. Do you need a kick start? Then look no further than personal trainer, Nicola Ballinger.

East Finchley born and bred, Nicola, 33, has been working as a YMCA-accredited trainer for over three years, working at gyms in Muswell Hill and Hampstead, as well as in people's own homes. Now she's offering a specially tailored programme to pregnant and post-natal women.

"People have only recently started talking about how important it is to stay fit during pregnancy," says Nicola. "You only have to look at Paula Radcliffe, who was running 10k races when she was six months pregnant.

"Obviously, she is unique. But there are so many advantages to staying active when you are carrying a baby: the endorphins make you feel great and there's less chance of back pain and gaining excessive weight. It might even speed up your labour."

Exercise during and after pregnancy needs to be closely monitored, so why not let an expert take the strain?

Nicola started her career in human resources and gained a psychology degree before



retraining. She's recently taken a special course in pre- and postnatal exercise.

"I love motivating people, meeting different personalities and adapting my approach accordingly," she says. "It's fascinating to meet new and expectant mothers. Everywhere you look in East Finchley and Muswell Hill there are women with bumps, women with buggies. It felt like the perfect place to start."

You can contact Nicola on her mobile 07932 678014 or her email nicola@nballinger.com.

Next chapter in café saga

By Diana Cormack

The saga of the café in the Cherry Tree Wood continues. Readers may remember that, three years after the original kiosk was destroyed by fire, a new vandal-proof building opened in spring 2006 with Eileen Cannon back to run it. But Eileen left and new tenants took over until the autumn, when Barnet advertised the kiosk in the borough's free weekly newspapers.

Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER*: "A tendering exercise has taken place which finished at the end of January and we are now in the process of negotiating the terms of a new lease. A formal decision on the new tenant is yet to be taken by the council, so we are unable to name them at this stage. However, pending the decision, we are hoping the new tenant can be in place by the beginning of June."

That's what friends are for...
Having won £25 in *THE*

ARCHER's competition "What's so great about living in East Finchley", Harriet Copperman showed her community spirit by donating the prize money to The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

Though she does not particularly mind what it is used for, Harriet thought that providing nesting boxes for owls might be a good thing as they have often been heard in the area.

Four Civic Award winners for East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

Barnet's Civic Awards recognise people in the borough who have made a significant contribution to the local community. Mayor Councillor Eva Greenspan describes them as: "The unsung heroes who give so generously of their time".

There were 43 nominees gathered at the Town Hall in Hendon at the end of February for the presentation of certificates and six framed vellum awards for outstanding individuals.



David Smith.

One of the six was David Smith, of Abbots Gardens, East Finchley, who was commended "in recognition of his 30 years' work as a governor of Holy Trinity Primary School and his contribution to community life".

East Finchley born and bred, David attended the school as a child, as did his children and now his grandchildren. His commitment to it is outstanding, just as it is to the Finchley Society, which he helped to found in 1971; he has been at the forefront of the move to erect a memorial statue to fellow-founder, the late Spike Milligan.

David told *THE ARCHER* he felt humbled to have been singled out amongst so many others, as did award winner Sylvia Duthie, of Leicester

Road, who has served on the governing body of Holy Trinity for ten years, six of those as Chair, working hard for the



Sylvia Duthie.

success of the school.

Sylvia is also on the London Diocesan Board for Education and is involved in the development of the Wren Academy in



Alnoor Thobani.

North Finchley.

Alnoor Thobani, pharmacist at Cootes, 134 High Road for 22 years, does not regard his award as personal. He feels it pays tribute to all the borough's pharmacists who, like him, strive to provide their patients with the best possible service. However, it could be significant that many local schools and charities have benefited from Alnoor's generosity.

Like his mother before him, *THE ARCHER*'s writer and photographer Craig Johnson received



Craig Johnson. All photos by Diana Cormack

an award. It was for his victim support work as a police officer and in recognition of his role in helping members of the public during the bombings in London on 7 July 2005.

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YOUNG ARCHER Collecting for Comic Relief

By Diana Cormack

Two enterprising friends, Lara Rosenthal, of Baronsmere Road, and Ariella Taub, of Eastern Road, had the idea of setting up a stall in the street to sell things in support of Red Nose Day. Typically, their younger sibling and friends wanted to do the same thing! Here they are pictured near the junction with Summerlee Avenue trying to encourage passers by to give generously.

Jonas Rosenthal aged 6 and nine-year-olds Ruby Rosenthal and Rachel Newman were most impressed by two Community

Support Officers who emptied their pockets and put all their change into the collecting bowl.



Jonas, Ruby and Rachel raising money. Photo by Diana Cormack

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

Pupils bring out their bookish side

By Lisa Omar

A book is the keyhole into your imagination and literally opens up the world for us so let's all enjoy the fun of reading books. This year World Book Day is delighted to be celebrating its 10th birthday in the UK. Over this relatively short period World Book Day has become firmly established as the biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading.

As a special contribution to World Book Day, £1 book tokens have been given out to children in schools all over the UK. These will be accepted in bookshops throughout the country from the smallest local independent to the largest chain. There are ten specially created £1 books for children to choose from.

To celebrate this year's World Book Day, St Theresa's RC Primary School in East End Road joined in the fun by dressing up as their favourite book characters. There was a wonderful turnout with every child making a magnificent effort. The whole school came alive with Thomas the Tank Engine, The Ugly Sisters, Peter Pan, Captain Hook and the pirates, Snow White, Willie Wonka and many more well thought-out characters appearing. During the day, a special assembly was held where all the children proudly showed off their costumes.

The headmaster and teachers also took part and made just as much effort. Their characters included Sherlock Holmes, Little Red Riding Hood, Zoro, Robin Hood and a scary little old lady!



L-r: Kieran Omar, Roberto and Marco Solari. Picture by Lisa Omar.

Spiderama
by Ashley

Magic spider



Finchley Youth Theatre strikes again

By Francis Atkinson

I have just seen an incredible performance of the controversial play *A Clockwork Orange* at Finchley Youth Theatre. This is the story of a young person who causes trouble and is arrested. She ends up in prison and is used as a guinea pig for a strange experiment to make her unable to do anything bad.

Although it was a dress rehearsal and there were some hiccups, it was very enjoyable. Every character was well developed and portrayed and the cast put in a lot of effort. Performances like this often go on at FYT so I recommend finding out if there are any plays being shown for the public as they are always of excellent quality.

And of course if you want to take part in a play or just do some drama, dance or technical skills come along to the theatre. There is a waiting list for places and commitment is required.

Finchley Youth Theatre is at 142 High Road, N2. Contact 020 8883 9957 or email theatre@FYTheatre.org.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

All our local schools celebrated World Book Day, holding special events such as book fairs and related competitions. They also enjoyed a variety of fund raising activities for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day.

Holy Trinity

Reception children are delighted to have seen chicks hatching from the eggs inside their classroom incubator and are keenly following their development.

Years 1-6 worked on a range of traditional stories from around the world with local story teller Neil Ruckman. They shared ideas and interpreted the stories through drama and paintings.

The school's weekly Toddler Group is seeking unwanted toy musical instruments.

The Herbert Wilmot site is to be used by Three Valleys Water for offices and storage during their water main replacement project, scheduled to last for 50 weeks. Hopefully it will cause minimal disruption to the school.

Martin Schools

The AGM of Martin

Schools' PTA was preceded by a free Indian food tasting session.

The junior school is taking part in the "Fitter Schools UK 2007 Challenge", a national initiative designed to improve children's health and fitness.

The netball team did brilliantly to come second in a tournament held at Copthall School. The cricket team played extremely well to come second in their tournament finals. The girls' football team has reached the final in their league.

Important new skills are being learned in First Aid Lessons.

Martin Infants had a Problem Solving Week aimed at motivating the children and raising their achievement through challenging maths activities and fun events.

Traffic calming measures, a new pavement and an improved surface are being put in place on Plane Tree Walk, the road alongside both schools.

During multi-cultural week at the end of March, Martin Schools will have various events and activities during the school day and there will be a joint International Evening.



16 year olds Aya Kagami and Miho Ogawa reading to Year1. Photo by Diana Cormack

Japanese students visit local school

By Diana Cormack

Children and staff at Holy Trinity School had a delightfully different day on 13 March when they were visited by 16 Japanese students and their two teachers. The Japanese youngsters were on an exchange visit to Hendon School. A teacher from Hendon who gives German lessons at Holy Trinity made the initial arrangements.

The visitors spent as much time as they could getting to know the children, joining them in the playground at playtime and having lunch with them in the dining hall. They also involved the pupils in a well-planned series of classroom activities, with one pair of students being assigned to each

class, including the nursery, for the whole day.

Activities included teaching a Japanese song and simple Japanese greetings, experiencing Japanese writing through games, colouring in a Japanese kimono girl, Japanese map work, origami and telling traditional Japanese stories in English.

Hospice Hollywood

By Betti Blatman

The BBC Elstree Concert Band is giving a concert in St James's Church, Muswell Hill, on Saturday 12 May at 7.30pm. This terrific 40-piece band raised money for the North London Hospice last autumn, in the same venue, and is now returning by popular demand.

The programme this time will bring together Hollywood and Broadway favourites: Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and Sousa, as well as jazz from Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller. It promises to be a great evening.

"St James's is a venue where the audience can be blown out of their seats by the sound," says flautist Ian Marshall, "so we'll try not to be too loud!" Mr Marshall, who lives in Fortis Green, founded the Band in 1986. At the time, the BBC had just

taken over the Elstree studios where he worked - hence the Band's title. It rehearses every week and gives eight to nine concerts a year.

As before, all proceeds will go to the North London Hospice. Admission is £15 for adults and £5 for under-16s. Tickets are available from North London Hospice Fundraising Department, 47 Woodside Avenue, N12 8TF (020 8446 2288) or 2 Lauradale Road, N2 9LU (020 8883 4736). Tickets will also be on sale at the door.

Getting kids to go for greens

By our nutrition expert Judy Watson

The busy life styles we lead leave many of us little time for cooking which means our children also miss out. The younger a child is introduced to healthier eating the more likely they will enjoy healthier food as they get older.

So getting your toddler to eat a wide variety of good food before they start school is vital. Quick healthy foods could be finger foods such as carrot and celery sticks to dip into yoghurt, and smoothies. You can hide spinach in pasta sauces with cheese and tomatoes and mash salmon with potatoes and egg to make delicious fishcakes.

For drinks give them diluted fruit juices, as a lot of squashes and fizzy drinks have aspartame and caffeine which can affect mood and sleep patterns.

Watch that salt

Salt does not need to be added to foods during cooking. Salt intake can become addictive and affects taste buds for natural foods. The recommended daily limit on salt for children aged 1-3yrs is 2g, for 4-6 year olds it's 3g and for 7-10yrs it's 5g. Be wary of takeaway meals and pizzas which can contain that daily amount in one meal.

To make cooking easier if you are eating later there is no need for you to cook separately. Kids can eat the same foods but just be more cautious with salt.

Good diet, along with exercise, will keep your children healthy with fewer colds and better concentration, making them feel more confident in the classroom.

I am now involved in "The Fitter Schools Project". To raise awareness, I am providing nutrition support for elite athlete Jim Rees who is cycling 3,000 miles in The Race Across America in June 2007. Find out more at www.teaminspiration.co.uk.

If you would like a group talk or workshop on getting your children to eat healthily, please contact me on 07904 335763.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Going green

When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro and this time turning pro means going green to save the planet, stop polar bears drowning and prevent Essex becoming a lake. I don't have a problem with sinking Essex, but we've got to do something for the polar bears.

So it's goodbye to electric lights and hello to homemade candles produced by your co-operative beehive at the bottom of the garden. It's goodbye to iPods, mobile phones and Chelsea tractors the size of a small house and hello to shivering at the bus stop. But this won't be enough and that's where the trouble starts.

Even with solar panels and wind turbines on every house, shed and hedgehog we will still use as much energy as a Victorian pauper and that will still be too much for Essex and the polar bears.

The only solution is to ration breathing. If you breathe less then you will produce less CO2 and polar bears will survive and Holland won't slip beneath the waves. So half the population will be allowed to breathe on even numbered days, the other half on odd numbered days. On the days that you aren't allowed to breathe you'll either have to hold your breath or, in a bizarre form of carbon offsetting, buy surplus air from someone who doesn't need it. If all else fails and you expire then you will have significantly reduced your carbon footprint and done your bit to save the planet.

There is an alternative, it's called subtropical Britain. What could be worse than lazy summers on the Costa del Finchley, lounging under palm trees whilst sipping rum cocktails as dolphins cavort offshore? We could ruin Spanish farmers by becoming self sufficient in lemons and break the hearts of Greek smallholders as Sussex starts exporting olives. Meanwhile polar bears will buy sunglasses and retire to Florida and Seaworld Holland will be the only country sized aquarium. Meanwhile, don't hold your breath.

Encourage your child to read

Take your under fives to East Finchley library (or any other Barnet library) five times before the end of this month and they can take part in the Bookstart Book Crawl. The children need to be library members, but membership is free. To join you need to take along ID showing your name, address and signature.

Children will be given a sticker card and can collect a sticker on each of their visits. When their sticker collection

reaches five, they will receive a beautiful certificate designed by a top children's book illustrator.

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- ❖ **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** - 16 & 30 April at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events feature a different band each month. See www.swamprock.org.uk or call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, contact Phoebe Oldrey on 8349 0388.
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.** Visit info@cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 020 8883 7544.
- ❖ **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.

April at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix manager
Ever get the feeling that you're being watched, that someone knows your every move, your every word? The idea that Big Brother is watching us is ever more resonant in this country as more CCTV cameras come into operation.

Whatever your views on this, at least we *know* we're being watched. Many citizens of the former East Germany suspected they were under surveillance but could not be sure. In Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's film *The Lives of Others* this subject is explored to stunning effect.

A theatre director and his actress girlfriend are under surveillance by the Stasi, though one can never be sure quite why. Entangled in the web are the Minister of Culture and a highly skilled surveillance officer. The film shows the extent to which the German Democratic Republic had become a police state in the latter half of the 20th Century. Only after the fall of the Berlin Wall were the Stasi's records opened, revealing that many people had spied on their loved

ones for fear of the power of the Stasi. Winner of the best foreign language Oscar, it's a great piece of film-making and opens at the Phoenix on 13 April.

Alongside, we're playing other films about the cold war and surveillance. Sunday 15 April sees the political conspiracy film *The Manchurian Candidate* in a double bill with Stanley Kubrick's biting satire *Dr Strangelove* which includes the wonderful line "You can't fight in here, this is the war room".

On Sunday 22 April, we're screening *Goodbye Lenin* in which a son tries to hide the fall of communism from his mother who has recently awoken from a coma. For more details, contact the box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.



New seats at The Phoenix. Picture by Paul Homer

Supper concerts on the menu

By Geoffrey Hanson
Last year's East Finchley Arts Festival raised over £5,000 for the North London Hospice mainly by the sale of pictures at the art exhibition and the bucket collections at other events. Plans are on the drawing board for the 2007 Festival and the organisers hope to top that amount this year.

Meanwhile, a series of Buffet Supper Concerts has been arranged for the winter and spring months. The third of these will be on Saturday 28 April at 7.30pm at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, given by the Lithuanian pianist Rimantas Vingras, who lives in East Finchley. Moscow Conservatoire-trained, he has recently been playing in the USA and his native Lithuania and this recital follows on from

the hugely successful one he gave in the Festival last year. His face might seem familiar since he works part time at Amy's on the High Road. The programme will include music by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Rachmaninoff. Catering will be by Amici Delicatessen.

Tickets for recital and supper are priced £15 if pre-booked (020 8444 9214). Tickets for the recital only will be £10 on the door.

A cabaret convert

By Daphne Chamberlain
Excuse me, music buffs. I knew absolutely nothing about Marlene Ver Planck. I only went along to see her jazz cabaret last month because a) one of my friends is a devoted fan, and b) I like Lauderdale House.

All I can say now is that my friend knows a thing or two. So does The New York Times, which said Marlene "may be the most accomplished interpreter of American popular song performing today".

I loved her voice, and her range of songs. A few of them everybody knew, but a lot I had never heard before. As a word person, I just sat there lapping up the lyrics, but the music was superb too.

Lauderdale House, up in Highgate Village at the edge of Waterlow Park, is a great setting, with paintings on the walls and

glasses of wine in the interval, when we could stand around and chat with Marlene. (Excuse the name-dropping. There's nothing like a convert.)

Marlene Ver Planck tours Europe frequently, so if you get the chance to see her, do grab it.

Lauderdale House has a very varied programme of music, poetry and art exhibitions, as well as a range of workshops and activities for both adults and children. To find out more, contact 020 8348 8716, kives@lauderdale.org.uk, or www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk.

What's On...

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

Friday 13 April

Friends of Barnet Libraries host a talk on 'Monumental Brasses' by Susette Palmer, East Finchley Library 11am-12noon. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome. Information from Ian Harvey, 020 8444 9406.

Saturday 14 April

Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show, St Peter le Poer Church Hall, Colney Hatch Lane. Doors open 3pm. Exhibit display, plant stall and auction of produce. Teas available.

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April

Bi-lingual musical production *Changing Fortunes*, the story of a Chinese Spice Girls band struggling to find stardom, presented by the Chinese Energetic Youth Enthusiasts, of Islington Chinese Association. Saturday 7pm and Sunday 3pm, artsdepot, North Finchley. Tickets £8 (concessions £5). Box office 020 8369 5454.

Tuesday 17 April

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society gardening quiz evening, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 7.30pm. Entry £5.

Thursday 26 April

What goes on "Behind the Scenes at The Finchley Society", an illustrated talk by the society's secretary Robert Winton, Avenue House, East End Road, N3, 8pm. Come along to find out about the Society, and also about Ana the Duck. Everyone welcome, entry for non-members £2.

Saturday 28 April

Coldfall Wood Clean-up. Meet 11.0 am at edge of field. Materials provided.

Saturday 28 April

Buffet Supper Concert at All Saint's Church, Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm. Pianist Rimantas Vingras plays Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Rachmaninoff. Tickets for recital and supper are £15 (pre-booked only on 020 8444 9214). Recital only: £10 at door.

Sunday 29 April

Free guided walk through Coldfall Wood with David Bevan. Meet 2.0 pm at main gate, Creighton Avenue.

Sunday 29 April

A variety of birds of prey will be displayed in Highgate Wood from 11am-3pm.

Sunday 29 April

Open garden afternoon, 2-7pm at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10. Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde, National Gardens Scheme assistant county organisers, show their own garden, featuring a gothic wall with stained glass from the porch of the demolished Colney Hatch Lane Methodist Church. Plant sale and home-made teas. Admission £2.50. Children free.

Wednesday 2 May

A walk to places of historical interest in Highgate Wood, 6-8pm. Meet at Highgate Wood information hut.

Friday 4 May

Friends of Barnet Libraries host a talk on 'Fire Safety in the Home' at 11am. Officers of the London Fire Brigade will give a 15-minute presentation followed by a question and answer session. Information from Ian Harvey, 020 8444 9406.

Saturday 12 May

BBC Elstree Concert Band concert in St James's Church, Muswell Hill, 7.30pm. Hollywood and Broadway favourites - Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and Sousa - and jazz from Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller. All proceeds to North London Hospice. Admission £15 for adults, £5 for under-16s. Tickets available from North London Hospice Fundraising Department, 47 Woodside Avenue, N12 8TF (020 8446 2288) or 2 Lauradale Road, N2 9LU (020 8883 4736).

Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:

Sunday 12 April, 8pm, She'Koyokh Klezmer Ensemble; Friday 13 April-Sunday 29 April, 12pm-4pm, Spread; Sunday 21 April, 5.30pm, A Fistful of Folk; Thursday 26 April-Saturday 28 April, 'depot untapped': contemporary performance; Friday 27 April, Folk in the Foyer; Sunday 29 April, 8pm, Barbarito Torres; Thursday 3 May, 8pm, Tony Robinson's Cunning Night Out.

Every Wednesday

East Finchley Writers Group meets at the Old White Lion pub, next to the tube station, at 6.30pm. Writers of varying levels of experience discuss each other's work in a friendly, informal group. New writers very welcome. More information from Carola Groom, 020 8883 5808 or Lilian Chavert, 020 8444 1793.



OBITUARIES

Dietrich Kessler: 1929-2006

By Geoffrey Hanson

East Finchley resident Dietrich Kessler, who died on 12 December, came to England in 1950 aged 20.

Swiss by birth, he had studied the art of violin making and repair in Brienz at the Swiss Violin Making School (Schweizerische Geigenbauschule) and had early gained a reputation as a skilled craftsman.

He worked with Arnold Dolmetsch at Haslemere making

viols and it was this instrument which was to become the overriding interest of his creative life. He made more than 250 and collected and restored a great number of historic viols made by English luthiers, forming a very valuable collection. It is hoped that these will find a home in the historic instrument collection of the Royal Academy of Music.

From 1969 he was in charge

of Withers, the 200-year-old violin firm in Soho. After selling the business in 1987 he worked from his studio at the top of his house in East Finchley, to which he had moved in 1976.

His reputation in the profession and amongst string players was enormous. Those who came to him, as so many did, knew that they would receive the very best of care for their instruments and the highest standard of craftsmanship. To the end of his life his skills were much in demand.

He was married to Jane Ryan, the distinguished viol player and teacher of the instrument. For both of them it was a second marriage and between them they shared eight children and numerous grandchildren.

All Saints' Church, of which he and Jane were long standing members, was filled to capacity for his Requiem in the week before Christmas. He was both treasurer and a generous patron of the East Finchley Arts Festival, and became a familiar figure at festival events.

This skilled, warm hearted and gentle man will be greatly missed both in the community of East Finchley and amongst string players.



Clive Smith: 1938 - 2007

By Hugh Petrie

In 1974 my father came home from work one day with a book called *Finchley As It Was*. It was a collection of photographs, mostly dating from the 1900s, accompanied by interesting snippets of history. I found the book fascinating and would spend hours examining the pictures, an experience that has led me to my present vocation as Barnet's Heritage Officer.

Clive Smith, the writer and compiler of *Finchley As It Was*, died on 24 January this year, aged 69. He was brought up in Hendon, and for many years was a collector and vendor of local view postcards and photographs, becoming the most important collector and dealer in London.

In 1981 he opened Memories Picture Library in Bell Lane, Hendon, which moved to its present location in Brent Street in 1991. In later years he ran the monthly Bloomsbury Postcard Fair where collectors and sellers of postcards and ephemera meet. It is thought his son David will keep both businesses going.

In all Clive published 15 local histories, including another on Finchley where contemporary photographs were directly placed next to their present views, called *Finchley Past*

and Present. Clive's particular passion was Hendon Aerodrome, and in recent years he furnished most of the material for the exhibition at Church Farmhouse Museum celebrating 100 years of flight.

Clive Smith's work is popular and timeless. His importance to local history was not just as a collector. He avoided using the publications to show off his local knowledge, and opted to allow the pictures to speak for themselves using minimal captions. It is now a common approach, but 30 years ago it was innovative, and for me personally inspiring.

His local knowledge, especially about Hendon, was exceptional. His death is a loss to the local history community both in Barnet and London. He leaves two sons, Phil and David, and wife Valerie.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.



Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

The Pest of Pigeon Corner

By John Dearing

Over the years, we've all noticed the mess from the pigeons all around Pigeon Corner, outside Budgens. The birds were attracted there by the mounds of bread left for them by misguided souls.

There was an attempt at a clean-up in recent years. However, the sign saying 'Do not feed the pigeons' is not well-positioned. It's about 10ft above eye level and written in tiny print.

Recently, large mounds of carefully cut cubes of bread have started appearing next to the salt bin by Budgens's wall several times a week. There is so much bread there that even the pigeons don't seem to be able to eat it all. Consequently, it becomes an attraction for our local rat population and, after a period of rain, turns into a foul slurry.

So who's putting it there? The other day, I was walking along East End Road towards the corner when I noticed (from a distance) a car draw up just short of the traffic lights. A woman (middle-aged, with grey or blue-rinse hair, I think) got out of the passenger side with a large bag and proceeded to deposit the latest offering on the preferred spot, then get back into the car, which drove off. It was too far to get the number plate, but it was a Ford Escort of 10 or 15 years vintage.

What this woman is doing is really anti-social. She is creating an unpleasant and unnecessary nuisance for residents nearby and for the thousands of shoppers and commuters who pass by. The same problem exists at the other end of the High Road in East Finchley. Piles of cubed bread have been appearing on the green close to St Pancras Court, opposite Oak Lane.

Our urban rat population is a growing problem. The last thing we need is piles of food being left out to keep them fed.

Letters to the editor

Lost in time

Dear Editor,

In December 2006, I was getting into my car at the end of Brackenbury Road, near Manor Park Road, when I noticed something in the road. I looked closer and saw it was a broken watch which was in a few pieces.

It must have been run over but the face was still in working order. With this watch in my hand I had no idea what to do with it. I couldn't throw it away or place it on the nearest wall. It may have some sentimental value to someone so I took it home and it's been living in my kitchen ever since.

I'm hoping one of your many readers may know who this watch belongs to.

Name and address supplied

If you know who owns the watch, please contact THE ARCHER and we will put you in touch with the finder. Contact us on 08717 334465 or by email: the-archer@lineone.net

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Sculptor plants Tree of Life

By Sheila Armstrong

Everybody needs good neighbours, or so the song goes. Kevin McKellar, headteacher at Hendon School, has a good neighbour in prize-winning construction designer and East Finchley resident Melvyn Friend. Melvyn has recently collaborated with the school and other art professionals to create a focal point for the school.

Pupils asked the head if they could have something to improve "the climate for learning and the environment", pointing out that all great places for learning are beautiful places to be.

One lucky deputy head was dispatched to Finland, known for its striking architecture and contemplative spaces - think Alvar Aalto - to look at schools there. The Finns place great importance on the positive contribution of the environment to learning and most pupils there stay on for A levels.

Team work

At about the same time Melvyn Friend and his son Kit, artist-in-residence at Hendon, came on board, fusing ideas about improving the school courtyard, incorporating research done in Finland and the pupils' requests.

They suggested using the work of sculptor Mehrdad Tafreshi, using a piece from his Tree of Life series. Over the winter months this was installed in the school courtyard, and has transformed it.

Lit at night, the copper sculpture of a tree has water cascading down its leaves. Benches surround it, making it a focal point for the school and a place to meet at lunch times. Melvyn's work in putting together this project has been received positively by all. The area is well used and appreciated.

For further details, or enquiries about other creative projects, contact Melvyn Friend on 07973 719986 or melvyn_friend@hotmail.com. Mehrdad Tafreshi can be contacted on 08703 215038 or enquiries@quist.co.uk, or www.quist.co.uk.

Picnic in the park?

By Diana Cormack

People living near Cherry Tree Wood have received a questionnaire from Barnet Council regarding a proposed "early evening family concert" to be held on Sunday 16 September.

Although the letter does not make it clear, the concert would follow on from the annual Muswell Hill Festival and be organised by The Hornsey Trust, who raise funds for children with cerebral palsy. They already run a successful event at the festival, where they benefit from the Hornsey Round Table organising a Donkey Derby.

Local celebrities connected with the area, such as Amy Winehouse, Maureen Lipman and Lesley Garrett, will be invited to perform. The Trust would employ a security firm to stay in the park overnight.

Effects on neighbourhood

Several residents pointed out to *THE ARCHER* that no mention is made of security and litter problems outside the park, or of parking or traffic control. They also wonder why a Haringey park could not have been used.

In the consultation Barnet Council says "your views are extremely important to us". However, some recipients doubt the level of importance because no returning envelope was provided, which may discourage people from replying.

Whilst some residents object, others feel that it is a good thing

to make more use of the park. Let *THE ARCHER* know what you think and, if you agree, tell us what sort of events you would like to be held there. Contact details are on page 2.



More help needed

Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association may be becoming a victim of its own success. Chair John Hajdu is asking for more active help from the association's 600 members. As MHFGA gets more involved in many issues, ranging from transport and planning to the environment, the committee is finding itself overburdened.

If you think you could spare a few hours to help, please contact John on 020 8883 8114 or hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

I lava The Archer

There are times when you've just got to catch up with events in East Finchley, even if you're sitting on the slopes of New Zealand's most active volcano.

Ken Behan took time out to read *The Archer* during a visit to Mount Tongariro on New Zealand's North Island. His partner Anita Rai took the photo.

The volcano behind him is Mount Ngauruhoe, which erupted 45 times in the 20th century. Thankfully, it last blew its top in 1975 so Ken's reading was undisturbed.

Fans of *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy will recognise the volcano as the backdrop for the scenes on the slopes of Mount Doom.

The Archer needs a volunteer distributor for Fairlawn Ave, Deansway, Bancroft Ave & The Bishops Ave

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or distribution@the-archer.co.uk

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