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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Balls up: not for this juggler. Photo by John Lawrence

Feel-good festival

By David Melsome

Congratulations to all the festival organisers, all the volunteers, all the stall holders and all the performers who made this year's East Finchley Community Festival one of the best ever.

The feel-good factor in Cherry Tree Wood was sky high all day on Sunday 24 June as hundreds of people flooded in to enjoy live music, superb food and drink, and an amazing array of attractions.

The Archer team was there to capture the fun. See our pick of the best pictures from the day on page 6.

"There's nothing like this festival anywhere else," "Everyone I know is here" and "Everyone's smiling" were some of the comments from visitors that summed up the atmosphere of the event.

Soaking up the sun wasn't really an option on the day so instead festival goers soaked up some excellent performances from truly talented local bands on the main stage, impeccably hosted as always by Antigua Joe, and from some brilliant musicians, singers and dancers on the community stage.

Must-have purchases of the day were the new 'I♥N2' shirts and badges, and a fantastic new addition to the festival was the Phoenix Cinema film tent showing an intriguing range

of short films and features in carpeted comfort.

London's deputy mayor Nicky Gavron, who lives in Highgate, opened the festival by saying it was the kind of community event that made London a great place to live. Her remarks were echoed by East Finchley's Councillor Alison Moore who said it was an example of everyone in the community coming together to stage something unique.

Alongside the entertainment and refreshment, there were stalls giving visitors a chance to learn more about local organisations and the wealth of charities and services that exist in East Finchley to make life better for those in need.

Tell us what you thought of the festival. Email the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Strawberry Vale man wins award

A crusade to clean up the Strawberry Vale estate has won plaudits and an award for one young man.

Vidura Cetrulo was given a Community Recognition Award as part of the Barnet Voluntary Service Council Environment Competition.

The judges said that it was always heartening when an individual emerged with a practical idea and the determination to see it through.

Vidura, who is autistic and needs the support of a carer, decided to launch the Strawberry Vale Clean Up Project and went around clearing up the litter that was accumulating on the estate.

Although he and his mother have recently moved to East Barnet, the judges hoped he would want to continue his good work.

Bus robbers arrested

Two young men were attacked by a gang on a route 102 bus in The Bishops Avenue. The incident happened on Saturday 2 June at around 8:30pm.

The men demanded the victims' phones and other property, claiming they had weapons.

When the gang transferred to another bus bound for Golders Green bus station, police intercepted it and arrested eight suspects. Phones, drugs and property directly linked to the robbery were recovered.

This was the first occasion where the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary worked directly with Barnet's Safer

Transport Team on joint patrol at weekends.

All the suspects have been bailed to return to police. Any witnesses are asked to contact the Robbery Squad at Colindale Police station on 020 8200 1212.

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