



Kenwood concerts fall silent

There will be no concerts at Kenwood House in Hampstead this summer for the first time in 55 years. English Heritage says the summer entertainment season is no longer financially viable.

More than 60,000 people came to Kenwood every year for the weekend concerts which were once a way of hearing classical music in an open air setting but in recent years have more often showcased popular music stars.

Last year, Camden Council ordered the number of concerts to be cut from 10 to eight, in response to complaints from some local residents about noise levels, parking, litter and traffic congestion.

English Heritage said that meant the season no longer made enough money and it was forced to take the decision to cancel the series altogether.

Rebecca Kane, Visitor Operations Director, said crucial income for the upkeep of



Kenwood and the estate would be lost.

She said: "The Kenwood concerts have been running for 55 years and have given huge pleasure to hundreds of thousands of people, so this is a very sad day for those who enjoy coming to a beautiful setting to enjoy music on a summer's evening. Unless Camden can be persuaded to reverse their decision, concerts may never

return to Kenwood."

A group of residents living near Kenwood, among them actor Warren Mitchell, led a vocal campaign to end the concerts, saying the area suffered badly from the sheer number of visitors every time a concert was staged.

English Heritage has set up an online petition for those who support the concerts and would like to see them return. It can be found at www.petitiononline.com/Kenwood.



Inside the new extension at The Old Barn. Picture by John Dearing

Connexions open at Old Barn Centre

By John Dearing

The new multi-agency centre at the Old Barn was officially opened on Tuesday 13 February. Connexions is a government-backed organisation that grew out of the Careers Service. They got together with the Old Barn Community Centre and a number of other local agencies, including Barnet Council and the Police, to build the new extension last year.

There is a full programme of activities using the centre, in particular, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3-7 pm when the Youth and Connexions drop-in provides young people between the ages of 13 and 19 access to services on one site, for advice on education, employment and training, health issues, counselling, housing and benefits, or just the company of other young people.

The Rolling Base bus, which will be at the centre every Thursday afternoon, provides young people with an opportunity to become involved with multimedia projects such as computer-based music and animation.

Those present at the event to celebrate the opening included

Barry Rawlings, Manager of the Community Centre, Councillor Alison Moore and other members of the Old Barn Management Committee, Flo Armstrong, Head of LBBC Youth & Connexion service, Lenny Kinnear, Chief Executive of North London Connexions and DCI Stephen Kavanagh, Borough Commander of Police, plus a full house of parents and young people from the locality. Outside, the Rolling Base bus provided a noisy but happy distraction from events inside the centre.

Barry Rawlings told *THE ARCHER*: "The involvement of Connexions with the Old Barn Community Centre is a natural progression of the work we are already doing."

Farewell, Charlie, at the Meze Bar

By Sue Holliday

Yes, it is true, Charlie and his wife are selling the Meze Bar. Sadly for us but happily for them they are retiring and going back to Cyprus after a six-week holiday visiting many exotic places, finally ending up in Australia.

As some of you may know, their daughter has already returned to Cyprus and is enjoying her life there. Their son has also told them that when he finishes university he would prefer to go home, so then the whole family will be together in the sun. Lucky them.

Charlie told me that the new owner, also from Cyprus, will keep all the staff, so hopefully not a lot will change at the High Road restaurant.

Charlie's last day will be 1 April. After that the Meze Bar will close for about two weeks so the new owner can get organised and maybe put his own stamp on the place.

As I chatted to him Charlie asked me to say that he will not miss the hard work of running a busy restaurant, but will sincerely miss all of his customers. He wishes to say a big thank you to all of them.

Well, Charlie we will miss you. After quite a short time in East Finchley you have certainly made yourself known in the best of ways. I am sure everybody would agree that you have brought a ray of sunshine to the High Road. We wish you and your family the best of luck in your new life.

Fit for the future

Barnet Council has announced a review of all the borough's sports facilities. The Best Value Review: Making Barnet Fit For the Future will seek to match resources to what residents want from sport and recreation. Barnet's leisure centres are currently run in partnership with the not-for-profit company Greenwich Leisure.

Easter Services

East Finchley Baptist Church

Good Friday 10.30am-11.30am; Easter Sunday 11.00am-12.15pm.

All Saints' Church

Palm Sunday 1 April, Solemn Mass with Blessing of Palms, Procession and Sung Passion 10am; Maundy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 8pm; Good Friday, Sung Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm; Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil, 8pm; Easter Sunday, Parish Mass of Easter Day, 10am.

St Mary's Catholic Church

Friday 30 March, 8pm, Parish Hall, A Celebration of the Feast of Passover: All welcome.

Passion (Palm) Sunday, Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6.30 pm; Sunday 1 April, Masses 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, Morning Prayer and Mass, 9.50 am; Wednesday 4 April, The Sacrament of Reconciliation, 7.30pm; Holy Thursday, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, 10am, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 8pm and watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight; Good Friday, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, 10am, Children's Stations of the Cross, 11.30am, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion, 3pm, Stations of the Cross, 7.30pm; Holy Saturday, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, 10am, The Easter Vigil Mass, 8pm; Easter Sunday, Masses 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon; Easter Monday and throughout Easter Week, Daily Morning Prayer and Mass, 9.50am.

East Finchley Methodist Church

Palm Sunday, 10.30am, Family Service; Good Friday, 10.30am, Service of Reflection; Easter Sunday, 10.30am, Family Service.

Holy Trinity Church

Palm Sunday, 10am, Parish Communion and Blessing of Palms; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week, Holy Eucharist, 7pm, Maundy Thursday, 8pm, Eucharist of The Last Supper and Vigil until 10pm; Good Friday, 10pm, The Liturgy of Good Friday; Easter Sunday, 10am, First Eucharist of Easter and the lighting of the Paschal Candle.

Improving anti social behaviour

The headteacher of Bishop Douglass School has highlighted a major increase in youth-on-youth crime, particularly connected to the theft of mobile phones and iPods.

In a recent meeting with *THE ARCHER*, Angela Murphy said the amount of crime committed by young people on other youngsters was on the rise and approximately 25% of such crimes were muggings for phones and other electronic gadgets.

Barnet Police have identified "hot spot" places, particularly after school hours, in Tally Ho, North Finchley, and Archway. The need to provide children with mobile phones for security purposes has raised levels of fear

and created more incidents.

By contrast, school-related crime is down. Angela Murphy said that since mobile phones were banned in schools six months ago, police have reported a 20% drop in school-related incidents.

A police presence in schools is also a contributory factor to this improvement. A uniformed police officer is at Bishop Douglass two days a week, working in areas of shared concerns.

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