



Farmers' market blooms again

By Daphne Chamberlain

A new farmers' market has set up in Whetstone, run by Barnet and Enfield Friends of the Earth. It runs on the first Sunday of every month, at the Sacred Heart School, Oakleigh Park South, from 10am-2.30pm.

Organiser Phil Fletcher told *THE ARCHER* that the stallholders were mostly from Hertfordshire or Buckinghamshire, with one from Cambridgeshire and a buffalo cheese supplier from Somerset.

Emphasising that the main function of a farmers' market is to supply locally-produced food, Phil also wants to make the Friends of the Earth environmental campaigns better known. So this could be a place to visit for solar panels, alternative medicine, natural cosmetics, green burial sites or ecological nappies.

Already involved are the London Wildlife Trust and Barnet Cycling Association, which has run free maintenance

checks on bikes. Wearing the green at the May market will be a local Irish music group.

Phil has chosen organic food wherever possible, but says: "The subject is rather complicated.

"To be classed as organic you have to be a member of the Soil Association or a similar certification body. This is rather expensive. For example, I have a smallholding in Arkley and am a member of the Wholesome Food Association. They cannot afford a vigilation system like the Soil Association. You make a pledge not to use pesticides or artificial fertilisers, but I cannot call myself organic.

"We have prioritised locally-



Phil Fletcher (Whetstone Farmers' Market).

produced food to reduce the food miles. In manufactured foods there may be problem in sourcing organic ingredients. The brewery stallholder told me he would love to produce organic beer, but the only organic barley he can source comes from Scotland and New Zealand."

For more information about the market, contact philfletcherx@yahoo.es or 020 8449 4981.

Artists up for awards

Three artists from Barnet who took part in the Barnet Open 2006 exhibition have been named as finalists in the Ben Uri Third International Jewish Artists of the Year Awards 2007 (IJAYA). They are photographer Marion Davies, wire and ceramic artist Sue Goldschmidt and oil painter Jennifer Martin.



submit a maximum of three works and there is a handling fee of £15 per work. The deadline for submitting work is 31 May and submission forms are available from www.artsdepot.co.uk, the Aphorp Gallery, or *artsdepot's* box office on 020 8369 5454.



Pictures from the Barnet Open 2006 exhibition.

The Barnet Open is an annual event organised by North Finchley's *artsdepot*, which offers an opportunity for talented visual artists in north London to exhibit their work. The exhibition is the product of an open submissions process, with local residents, artists and community groups having the opportunity to put their work forward for selection. Ranging from ceramics to photography and installation art to oil painting, the Barnet Open aims to showcase a broad range of styles and media in a contemporary gallery setting.

Submissions for Barnet Open 2007 are now being accepted. Work submitted should have been made in the 12 months between June 2006 and June 2007, and the artist must be based in north London.

An artist is entitled to

Grow up with Italian

The Pavilion Children's Centre Playgroup in East Finchley, established since 1983, is opening an Italian session for children up to five years old or older and their parents and carers.

Organisers say they want to give Italian / English children the opportunity to grow in harmony with two languages by providing fun learning and social activities.

The sessions start on Thursday 3 May from 1.30-3.30pm in The Cricket Pavilion at Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2. For more information go to www.123stella.co.uk or email 123stella@yahoo.co.uk.

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By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

A god awful small affair

Hi there, groovers. Welcome to nostalgia central. Come and join me on a trip down memory lane and embrace the decade that time forgot. Welcome to the Technicolor world of the early '70s.

When TV detective Sam Tyler, had an accident and woke up in the past it had to be that land of flares and platform boots, it had to be 1973; and not just anytime in 1973, it had to be bang smack in the middle of the summer. Why? Because that was when the dream ended and optimism died a slow and painful death.

In that long, hot summer no one worried about droughts or global warning, you just worried about flares and cheesecloth and headed for Camden or Kenny Market in search of crushed velvet, satin and tat. Purple was in, grey was out and Tony Blair was just an ugly rumour. Cars were cool and Gene Hunt's gold Cortina with its black vinyl roof was just about as cool as you could get without buying a purple Capri. Yes it was good to be alive as you listened to Bowie or Bolan or Mott the Hoople on your eight-track tape machine. Yes, there was life on Mars. And then it all went wrong.

As summer drifted into autumn there was another war in the Middle East and OPEC turned off the oil. Welcome to a whole new world of energy crises, and that was just the start. Progress stopped and went backwards. Child poverty stopped falling, unemployment started climbing and the good times stopped rolling.

By the summer of '74 the dream was not merely dead, it had started to smell funny. Bowie was shoving coke up his nose, everyone knew the President of the USA was a crook and peace, love and understanding were starting to look as weird as a purple Mini. We were only three years away from punk, anarchy and raising two fingers at the Jubilee.

It may have been a god awful small affair, but in 1973 you really could believe in life on Mars. No wonder Sam Tyler wanted to go back there.

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