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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.



10-year-old Daisy Moore holding her Best All-Rounder Award from Middlesex County Cricket Girls under-11s. Full story on page 8. .  
Photo by Bob Moore

## What's happening about Stanley Field?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Many of you have been asking about the state of play (or otherwise) around Stanley Road Field. The expected Council decision at the beginning of the year did not materialise, and Barnet has requested another meeting with the East Finchley Community Development Trust. Roger Chapman, Development Trust Chair, reports encouraging interest from outside organisations in saving the field and developing it as a community recreation centre.

Now the Stanley Field Committee is asking the people of East Finchley to show once more how important its future is to us. As officially one of the most deprived areas in the borough, what sort of development do we need most: recreational space or more buildings?

There will be opportunities to demonstrate your belief and involvement in the next few months. Watch for details in the next edition of *THE ARCHER*.

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## Your festival needs you!

By John Lawrence

The biggest date in East Finchley's community calendar is fast approaching - and this year there's a louder call than ever for new volunteers.

Sunday 24 June is the date to put in your diaries for the 2007 East Finchley Community Festival to be held in Cherry Tree Wood.

Details of this year's programme are still being confirmed but it promises to be a fantastic mix of top bands and local acts on the two main stages, along with fun and activities on more than 60 stalls.

Organisers say they are urgently on the look out for volunteers with new ideas to make the festival bigger and better than ever. People with finance, legal and business skills are sought, as is anyone who can help with sign writing, artistic activities, health and safety, administration and web design.

There are vacancies on the festival committee and it is also vitally important that enough volunteer stewards are on duty on the day. Without their help, the organisers would be forced to employ professional stewards at huge expense.

Don't forget: the festival is run entirely by local people for the benefit of the local community, so do get involved if you can.

The event is part of the East Finchley Community Development Trust and has been running since 1974, making it the longest-standing free festival in the borough. It receives no funding from Barnet Council but costs £14,000 to stage each year.

Money is raised through selling advertising space on

the programme, sponsorship, the raffle, stalls and refreshment tents. All profits are ploughed back into the next year's event.

The 2007 festival will run from 12 noon to 6pm but as usual the day will start at 11am with a carnival parade from the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, along the High Road to Cherry Tree Wood.

Full details of the programme will be updated as they become available at [www.eastfinchley.co.uk/festival](http://www.eastfinchley.co.uk/festival).

If you can lend your skills, or if you'd like to join the festival committee or be a steward on the day, give Nick a ring on 020 8883 4916 or drop an e-mail to [info@eastfinchley.co.uk](mailto:info@eastfinchley.co.uk).

## The Kinks rock on

By Diana Cormack

Dedicated followers of The Kinks will be relieved to hear that the new owners of the Clissold Arms are not going to get rid of the memorabilia displayed in the Fortis Green pub where the group gave their first public performance. Reportedly, the Clissold will reopen in the summer after a major refurbishment but there is no intention of removing the collection of signed photos, record sleeves and discs donated by admirers.

So fans from all over the world will still be able to visit the site, which has become a shrine to the 1960s band, originally from Muswell Hill.

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to deliver the paper for us.*

### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

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

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June issue: 11 May  
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August issue 13 July

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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**Barnet**  
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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

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789  
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

### Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950  
City Airport 020 7646 0088  
London Transport 020 7222 1234  
National Express 08705 808080  
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

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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

AIDSline 020 8363 2141  
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

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Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162  
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Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792  
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

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

## Safer neighbourhood

The first Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting covering the entire East Finchley ward took place at the Constitutional Club last month.

Organised by Police Sergeant Alex Kaye, the panel's purpose is "to be representative of the local community in managing partnership activity with a view

to improving the quality of life to those who live, work in or visit the ward." Regular public meetings are planned to keep people informed of activities and new initiatives.

Local representatives were given an update on previous priorities set which included an overview of the work of the SNT in dealing with theft from motor

vehicles, patrolling in Cherry Tree Wood and youth anti-social behaviour in the East End Road area. A comparison was made of the main crime statistic figures over the last three months between East Finchley and other wards.

A discussion on current problems followed, with priorities being set for the next four months. These were to focus in specific areas on anti-social behaviour by congregating youths and on uninsured vehicles being used by residents. Progress on these will be given at the next meeting on 1 August.

## Lock up your bikes

In the year to March, there were 237 bicycles stolen in Barnet, which is a 38% decrease compared to 381 bikes for the previous policing year.

Good news, but remember it is important to security mark your bike. Ideally this should be clearly visible and allow police to identify the owner.

To make your bike more secure, see the national advice published on the Crime Reduction website at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/vehiclecrime/vehiclecrime063.htm](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/vehiclecrime/vehiclecrime063.htm).

Always secure your bike when it is left in a public place or at home in the garage or shed. Always use a strong U lock or padlock and chain to fix your bike's frame and wheels to an immovable object,

even if you're only leaving your bike for a few minutes.

Barnet police highlight an example from 25 March when a resident in Childs Hill witnessed a young boy, who had been going door to door on the pretence of raising money, steal a bike from a garden. He contacted the police and chased the boy. The quick thinking and observation of this 59-year-old man helped to arrest a 14-year-old boy and recover a bike that the owner was not even aware had been stolen. Chief Inspector Halsey said: "Remember: Lock it or lose it."

## Affordable home buying scheme

**Council tenants are being given the opportunity to own part of their home, as a scheme to encourage people on to the property ladder is launched in Barnet this month.**

Social Homebuy is a government initiative being piloted in Barnet, which gives tenants the opportunity to buy equity shares of between 25% and 75% in their home while continuing to pay rent on the rest.

The scheme is being managed by Barnet Homes on behalf of the council and will allow people unable to get a foothold on the property ladder to become property owners. The minimum share is 25% but more can be bought and, for those able to afford it, the Right to Buy scheme is still available.

Councillor Lynne Hillan, cabinet member for community services, said: "As property prices have increased, council tenants have found it increasingly difficult to exercise the right to buy their property but surveys continue to show that most people want to own their own home".

Applicants must have been secure tenants for at least two years and have a good rent record. Not all properties are eligible, such as regeneration estates and redevelopment areas.

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## Planning Applications

### Barnet

**Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Road, N2**  
Change three windows to folding doors on to the existing front terrace. New level decked area off the main bar into the front terrace. Construct a glazed canopy over the new doors off the front bar area. New trellis screening and decorative pergola frame to divide up the front terrace.

**25 Abbots Gardens, N2**  
Loft conversion incorporating roof extensions

**54 Brendon Grove, N2**  
Single storey extension and conversion of garage into habitable room.

**30 Brim Hill, N2**  
Formation of basement with pavement glazed light to lightwell, side door and new side window, loft conversion and roof extension to include dormer window.

**7 Cherry Tree Road, N2**  
Rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion.

**104 Church Lane, N2**  
Loft conversion and roof extension to include hip to gable end and rear dormer window.

**93 East End Road, N2**  
Conversion of property into two flats following loft conversion and roof extension to include rear dormer window.

**90-92 High Road, N2**  
New shop front to existing building.

**32 King Street, N2**  
Single storey rear extension. Creation of a new side entrance to ground floor flat.

**50 Kitchener Road, N2**  
Single storey conservatory

**1-169 Old Farm Road, N2**  
Security works to replace existing door entry phone system and enclosed glazed screens to nine entrance lobby staircase towers with new entry phone system comprising metal gates and railings.

**40 Ossulton Way, N2.**  
Single storey rear extension. New window in side elevation facing 42 Ossulton Way. Removal of chimney stack.

**14 Park Hall Road, N2**  
Conversion of property into three self-contained flats.

**42 The Bishops Avenue, N2**  
Demolition of part of side of the building. Two-storey extension to both sides of the house and extension to the lower ground floor.

**Haringey**  
Land between 27-29 Aylmer Road, N2

Provision of three outdoor lawn tennis courts with a pavilion and six car parking spaces.



Would this bin be so full if it were in one of Barnet Council's 'Green Flag' parks? Picture by David Atfield.

## Missing you already

The lack of a permanent on-site park keeper is already being noticed in Cherry Tree Wood. Most obvious is the amount of litter strewn about.

This is not always due to careless visitors. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood's request to Barnet Council for more suitable litterbins has fallen on deaf ears over the years. To prevent scavengers such as foxes and squirrels (not to mention rats) looting the litterbins and dragging their contents all over the place they suggested providing bins with lids. They also requested bins with a larger

capacity, which would make sense as the present ones fill up quickly and need emptying often.

Another worrying feature commented on by locals is an increase in aggressive dogs and in anti-social behaviour. Cherry Tree Wood is a popular, well-used park. Whether it remains so could depend on the council listening to the people who know it best.

## Opera at Manorside

By Jackie Walker

This month, children from Year 5 at Manorside School in Squires Lane will star in an opera they have written and directed. *Dropped*, a story of football and fairness, was voted the most popular of several ideas thought up by the children. Three experts from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, have helped get the show on the road, as part of their "Write an Opera" scheme.

Benefiting enormously from this advice, the children have been involved in every aspect of the production, including writing, directing, composing music, public relations, set design, costume, make-up and lighting.

Having set up Manorside Opera Company, each pupil had to apply for the job they wanted, writing applications and attending interviews run by their teachers.

Elaine Wilson, Deputy Head and Hannah Malhotra, Music Teacher both attended the Write an Opera course run by the Royal Opera House. Ms Wilson said: "It is the process leading up to this that is the most

valuable; the performance will be the icing on the cake."

Mark William, musical director (and Year 5 pupil) said: "It has been really hard work, but we've done well," while Veesha Patel, company manager, added: "It's going to be absolutely fantastic!"

Miss Walker, the Year 5 teacher, is very excited about the opera and the effect it has had on her class: "The creativity that this project has brought out of the children is amazing!"

Performances take place on 8, 9 and 10 May and there are some tickets available to the public. Contact the school on 020 8346 4847.

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## Time to shut the bonnet

By David Melsome

When a customer of Baker's Autos moved away from East Finchley to Spain, he saw no reason to change his garage. Every time he returned to the UK he'd contact the family firm in Lewis Gardens and bring his car with him for a service.

There can be no greater tribute to the trust and loyalty that Dick and Jean Baker, and their son Tony, have built up with their customers over 26 years.

But time catches up with everyone and now Dick, aged 83, and Jean, aged 75, have decided to retire. For almost three decades they have left their home in Redbourn, Hertfordshire, at 7am each morning and not returned until after 7pm so it is time for a change of pace.

"I love my job and I'll really miss the customers we've had," says Jean. "In the time we've been in East Finchley, I've seen customers bring in their babies and now those babies are grown up and are bringing in their cars."

Dick began working as a mechanic at the long-gone Leaver, Hembling and Perry in the High Road in 1958. In 1980, he, Jean and Tony opened their family business on the site between Bedford Road and Hertford Road that is now Mulberry Court. Ten years later, they moved the business to its current home in Lewis Gardens.



Tony, Jean and Dick Baker are saying farewell to their family firm after 26 years.

## Strange tales

A little-known temple to a fertility goddess and the strange tale of a woman who encouraged her husband to shoot the servants will be uncovered in a talk to the Finchley Society.

Mike Watts will reveal the stories as part of a talk on the 13 National Trust properties in London. It takes place in Avenue House, East End Road, on Thursday 31 May at 8pm. All are welcome.

Dick says: "One thing I know is that in all those years working and living together, Jean and Tony and I have never had a squabble. I enjoy working but the time has come to retire. I've got a garden and a greenhouse to keep me busy at home."

Tony, who's been with the family firm since leaving school, will move on to a new job in the auto trade. Baker's Autos is expected to be taken on

by new management and may even keep its name.

He says: "Between them, Mum and Dad have served four generations in East Finchley. It won't be easy for them to leave that behind."

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## Enclosure of Finchley Common

By Tony Roberts

Barnet's Heritage Officer Hugh Petrie began the second of two talks about Finchley Common by admitting that a subject so large warranted at least one extra talk to do it justice. Equally, this account of his talk to the Finchley Society on 22 February has room for only some of the interesting facts and figures he related.

It was John Bacon, standing to benefit as a landowner and resident of Friern Barnet, who pushed for 'inclosure' of common land from 1805 onwards. But only when the threat of invasion by France had waned was Parliament willing to countenance enclosing land of strategic military importance.

In 1811, it passed the Act appointing three London solicitors as commissioners to draw up and manage the process of enclosure. The book of the Award was published in 1816 but some matters were still being sorted out as late as 1825 and 1828.

As well as Finchley Common itself, wastes of the Manor were included; wide roads were to be redefined with a width of 33 feet without exception, freeing strips and triangular areas at road junctions for enclosure. One such wedge on East End Road, known variously as Bells Green or Hunters Green, stretched from the present day junction of East End Road and Stanley Road to Church Lane (Bull Lane) near where Holy Trinity church is today.

The Act also included fixing the boundaries between Finchley, Friern Barnet and Hornsey, until now hidden within adjacent commons.

Finchley Parish was instructed to build new roads. Although the land was free, the Parish had to pay for construction, which they were reluctant to do. The Parish was awarded a gravel pit for materials, land that subsequently became Finchley sewage works.

Of the 900 acres of common, 139 acres were sold to defray the costs of enclosure, 120 going to the Regents Canal Company for

a reservoir at Strawberry Vale, subsequently abandoned in favour of the Welsh Harp site.

A large tract of land north of the reservoir was allocated to the Rector in lieu of tithes, and a glebe land (sometimes called the rough lots) to the north of the land currently called the glebe lands.

Obligations to the poor were tiny: an acre and a rod to be rented out to provide funds to compensate loss of rights and 15 acres to be rented out to buy fuel for the 'deserving poor'. The land, now allotments near Martin Schools, was governed by a trust called The Finchley Charity, a dubious, self-seeking organisation not to be confused with The Finchley Charities.

A full 476 acres, or 64% of the land remaining, went to just eight people, including John Bacon himself, the Marquess of Buckingham, and Alexander Murray.

For information about The Finchley Society visit [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk)

## A walk through the history of Fortis Green

Hornsey Historical Society hosted a guided walk around Fortis Green on 1 April led by David Frith and Keith Fawkes Underwood. Joy Nichol reports.

Fortis Green has a very long history. It became a popular route due to the fact that it was on a ridge left at the end of the Ice Age which drained well and, compared with the lower, very muddy roads, made travel much easier.

It was once adjoined by Coldfall Woods which came right down to the north side of Fortis Green until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. There was common land on both sides of the road until the enclosures of 1815.

From the traffic lights at Tetherdown, we looked at the neo-Georgian flats by William Collins, and imagined the run of St James' School, the fire station and the council depot where Spring House Retirement Home and the clinic now stand. We saw photos of these vanished buildings from the historical society's archives, to help us. Society member Hugh Garnsworthy was deputy headteacher at St James, so we had first-hand memories of his days there.

We looked across the road from the clinic to see the firemen's helmets on Leaside mansions, and tried to visualise the lake to Fortismere House, which was 160 yards long, and had rowing boats on it in the summer and skating parties in



Hornsey Historical Society take an historical walk round Fortis Green. Picture by Joy Nichol.

the winter.

We walked past the Manor Health Club, originally an electricity showroom, and the police station built in 1903. Opposite, behind the Alexandra Pub, are Hornsey's back-to-back cottages; only four of them, so we don't really rival the North in these!

About 50 people came on

the walk, and I think we all learned a lot and found interesting new bits of East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

Hornsey Historical Society will be leading more walks this spring and summer. For more details or to join the society, telephone 020 8348 8429 or visit the website [www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk).

## Show you care about animals

By Caroline Broome

**If you care about the welfare of animals and want to help them, why not consider becoming a branch trustee for your local Finchley Hendon & Golders Green RSPCA?**

The mainstay of the branch is the RSPCA Small Animal Clinic, which has been in Park Road, East Finchley, for more than 50 years and offers its services to local pets and wildlife alike.

The RSPCA has more than 170 branches throughout England and Wales. Each is a

separately registered charity responsible for the management and financial control of branch affairs and is advised and supported by the national society.

Becoming a branch trustee is a great way to meet like-minded people, gain new skills or develop existing ones, while making a real difference to animals. Although some trustee positions may require specific skills in finance or fundraising, many just need commitment, common sense and impartiality.

If you are over 18 and would like to find out more, visit [www.rspca.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.rspca.org.uk/volunteer) or telephone 020 8444 2329 or 020 8444 6096 for details of your local RSPCA branch.

In the case of an animal emergency ring RSPCA Harmsworth Hospital on 020 7272 6214.

### Did you know?

Children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle has sold one copy every minute since it was printed in 1969.

## Suburb celebrates centenary

TV and radio presenter Jonathan Ross, actor Sir Donald Sinden and politician Peter Mandelson are just a few of the present and former residents preparing to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hampstead Garden Suburb this summer.

The Centenary Celebrations are being co-ordinated by the Residents Association which, together with 25 other Suburb organisations, has put together an ambitious programme.

"I am happy to report that the Centenary Appeal has raised over £40,000 from residents and local organisations to fund these events and to pay for some permanent improvements to the infrastructure of the area. The generosity of residents has been most heartening," said Residents Association Chairman David Lewis.

### Grand opening

The Celebrations kick off with a Grand Opening Ceremony on 2 May, starting in what is now Hampstead Way at the same location where Henrietta Barnett "cut the first sod". She was accompanied by the Lord Mayor of London and Bishop Winnington-Ingram, still remembered in the names of Ingram Avenue and Winnington Road. This will be followed by the unveiling of a Centenary Floral Display on Willifield Green and Maypole Dancing, which also featured in 1907.

Dozens of special events will take place including a Pag-

eant and Procession on 6-9 June and an Historic Exhibition at the Church Farm Museum from May to September.

The Big Birthday Party and Picnic will be an open air extravaganza in Central Square on Sunday 17 June. In the evening the Proms at St Judes will be performing Handel's Messiah.

### Community spirit

Founded by social reformer Henrietta Barnett in 1907 as an experiment in providing housing for people of different social classes and incomes within one community, the Suburb retains a unique community spirit.

"The key to its character is the beauty of its gardens, hedges and public open spaces. The architecture, especially in the earlier parts of the Suburb, evokes a style of a much earlier era," added David Lewis. This was the intention of the founding supervising architect Sir Raymond Unwin.

Full details of events are available at [www.hgs.org.uk/centenary](http://www.hgs.org.uk/centenary). The main sponsors of the Centenary Celebrations are the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and Glentree Estates.

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Gaynor Spry and Angela Patterson. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Of mothers and men

By Sheila Armstrong

**They say a girl's best friend is her mother and this is surely the case for Gaynor Spry, owner of East Finchley's vintage clothes shop Lazooli. Angela Patterson, Gaynor's mother, often works in the shop and shares her daughter's passion for stylish vintage clothes.**

A successful Mothers and Daughters evening was held in the shop on Thursday 15 March. It was a chance for local fashionistas of all ages to browse through the vintage clothes and find a new spring outfit while quaffing a

glass of Champagne.

### Lazooli blue

The shop, always colourful and elegant, was looking absolutely fabulous that evening. It is decorated in shades of what must now be called Lazooli blue, not quite lapis. Clothes are colour organised with a special rail for a wonderful selection of evening dresses, naturally all in immaculate condition.

Designer labels are to be found as well as others and prices are reasonable. Shoes, scarves, belts, jewellery and porcelain are also on sale. If not vintage then the items for sale go with that vintage feel.

Lazooli has a Male Rail, clothes for men selected by Andy Nice: a hand-picked selection of tweed jackets, unworn vintage jeans and leathers. The clothes have been well received by the more suave males in the locality, *THE ARCHER* was told.

## CCTV switch-on for East Finchley

By John Dearing

**In an event to mark East Finchley's CCTV cameras going live and the launch of Barnet Council's new Community Protection Group, Councillors Brian Coleman (Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety) and Andreas Tambourides (representing the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan) cut the tape around one of the CCTV poles on the High Road, opposite East Finchley Tube Station.**

Also present were Cllr Mike Freer, Leader of the Council, Cllr Joanna Tambourides, East Finchley councillors Alison Moore and Andrew McNeill, Jeff Lustig, Director Corporate Governance, John Brealey LBBC CCTV Manager, and Gary Davies, Community Protection Group Manager.

After cutting the tape with Cllr Tambourides, Cllr Coleman spoke about the new Community Protection Group, which brings together the teams involved with licensing, trading standards, fly tipping, street enforcement, graffiti and community safety officers, allowing more effective sharing of information between officers and providing a dynamic and rapid response to anti-social behaviour in partnership with the police.

### On duty 24/7

The new cameras, funded by Barnet Council, will be monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by a team of fully trained council staff, and add to the 104 cameras already monitoring the streets and parks of the borough.

Cllr Coleman said: "This exciting and pioneering move will have a significant impact on crime in the borough and shows that Barnet is prepared to take bold and inventive decisions to tackle anti-social behaviour effectively.

"In addition, the roll-out of



Councillor Andreas Tambourides cuts the tape to open East Finchley's CCTV system, watched by Councillors Brian Coleman, Alison Moore, Mike Freer and Joanna Tambourides. Picture by Toni Morgan.

another batch of CCTV cameras will send out a clear message to those engaged in anti-social behaviour and street crime. If you break the law in Barnet you will be caught on camera. CCTV in East Finchley is a tool to provide reassurance for local residents that they can go about their everyday business in safety."

Councillor Alison Moore said that CCTV for East Finchley had been scheduled four years ago and might have stopped much crime in the intervening period. She praised the role of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, who had worked hard with the council to get the cameras into the best positions, particularly in Church Lane.

## The Finchley Society and The Bothy

**The Finchley Society has clarified its position regarding the dispute between the Avenue House Estate Trust and the Finchley Arts Centre Trust:-**

"Our Trustees view with the greatest regret the dispute between AHET and FACT, which has led to FACT being evicted from the Bothy, which stands in the grounds of the

Estate.

However, they agree that the Society has no role to play; it has members on both sides, and will do nothing to support one side or the other".

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Mayor Eva Greenspan prepares to cut the ribbon as Androulla and Rosario look on. Photo: Diana Cormack

## New start for 2

### Destino

By Sue Holliday

**Were you in the High Road on that lovely Sunday 15 April and did you wonder what all the balloons were for? Well, it was to celebrate the re-launch of 2 Destino.**

The shop at first had three partners; then one decided to go her separate way leaving two, hence the name change. Rosario Castro and Androulla Costi decided it was also time to diversify. The shop now has a large selection of wedding and christening items alongside its beautiful flowers, candles and general gifts.

Barnet's Mayor Eva Greenspan arrived at 12 noon and after greeting people she cut the red ribbon and entered the re-vamped

shop. Then champagne and canapés were served to guests and friends who were also encouraged to buy raffle tickets in aid of the Variety Club Sunshine Coach charity, the Mayor's chosen charity.

She was also presented with two cheques for The Variety Club, one from the BNI group and the other from the owner of High Road café Casa Pepe. After about 40 minutes the Mayor left after giving a short speech wishing the owners well.

## Vision on

By Betti Blatman

**I recently tried to find a local optician to repair or replace the arm that had broken off a pair of spectacles. Of the ones I visited, some were unable to help and one offered to attempt the repair for £60.**

In desperation, I went to Brent Cross where, at Vision Express, optician Kiran Chauhan assured me that he would do his best to repair the spectacles. When I returned to collect them and enquired about the cost, I was simply asked to make a donation to the Vision Aid Overseas fund. I gladly obliged.

Most of the spectacles provided by VAO project teams are recycled from spectacles donated secondhand by members of the public in the UK via their local optician.

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Crawley sort them and remove any that are broken or in a bad condition. VAO is grateful for the assistance of six prisons, where prisoners help clean, assess the lenses and pack them ready for transportation overseas.

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## Mike the flower man

By John Dearing

**There has been a florist's shop at 60 High Road for at least 50 years. Josephine's Flowers is now run by Mike Doukaki, who took over from Tricia and Jim in June 2004.**

Mike has a degree in business studies, and worked for Viacom Outdoor for six years, managing the advertising rights for London Underground and Buses. Subsequently, he spent nine months travelling the world, visiting numerous countries including India and Australia.

On his return, he joined GWR (which includes Classic FM). However, after the freedom of world travel, he found it a difficult environment to work in. When the opportunity arose of taking over the business with Tricia's brother Michael, he decided to leave GWR and become a florist.

The move from working in the centre of London to spending his time in East Finchley has led him to realise that it is a real community; he speaks of the 'power of localness', how involved local people and businesses are with each other, and how well they know each other. With this in mind he feels it is important to engage with local institutions such as the Phoenix Cinema and local schools, for example by providing bouquets as raffle prizes.

Mike's background in marketing led him to decide to make Josephine's Flowers fashion-led and focused more on gifts: exotic potted plants and flowers, items of furniture, sculpture, paintings and small unusual gifts which are sourced from places far afield such as Asia.



Mike Doukaki at Josephines Flowers. Picture by John Dearing

Josephine's has an alcohol licence and sells champagne, wine and chocolates. They have supplied sculptures for the set of the TV programme Emmerdale and do contract

work for retailers and restaurants. Services offered include weekly deliveries to private customers and bespoke floral arrangements in the customer's own vases.

## Eco cars for hire

By Diana Cormack

**Did you know that you can now book a cab in East Finchley and ask for an "Eco" car? Greater London Hire Ltd, based opposite the tube station, was London's first private hire and courier organisation to become carbon acknowledged and now owns the largest Eco fleet in the country. With over 50 Prius energy saving cars at present, the company intend to add more and to include people carriers and courier transport in the scheme.**

GLH is working with The C-Change Trust, a UK charity dedicated to climate change. They give both businesses and individuals the opportunity to acknowledge their carbon emissions through charitable donations (visit www.thechange.org for more information). They guarantee that 75% of all donations will fund projects to reduce emissions, educate the young on climate change and create new woodlands in the UK.

To this end, GLH managing director John Scott and some of his colleagues recently travelled by Eco car to Pendine, Carmarthenshire, where they took

part in the first planting of trees with local school children.

### Paper and power too

The company is committed, through continual improvement, to reducing the environmental impact of their operations wherever possible. Customer Services and Environmental Manager Zoë Powers said that this commitment involves not only cars and transport but includes cutting down on paper usage by emailing, invoicing, marketing and dealing with wage slips and the

like electronically. They intend to switch the power supply to renewable energy supplies during 2007-8

"It's terribly exciting," John Scott told *THE ARCHER*. "People are continually looking for ways of saving energy."

In reducing its carbon footprint, GLH recognises that environmental issues are of fundamental importance to a successful and responsible business and believes that taking a responsible lead will encourage others to do the same.

## Sparks in the classroom

By John Dearing

**Chris Loizou, who used to run the East Finchley Electrical shop and still works there part-time, visited the Tudor School in Finchley recently to give a talk on electricity and on the shop.**

One of the teachers at the school is a regular customer at the shop. While shopping there one day at the end of last year, Chris and the teacher were chatting about the school, and Chris was asked if he could do a talk for one of the classes.

Chris gave a general talk on electricity to the Year 4 class, then gave them an exercise to make up circuits with batteries and bulbs that would work as torches. Year 4 were most

grateful for the talk, and sent him a thank you letter, signed by all of them.

Chris said that any other schools that are interested in a similar talk should contact Dino Loizou at East Finchley Electrical on 020 8444 5630.

**Did you know?**  
Each successive monarch faces in a different direction on British coins.



## Race night for rare disorder

By Daphne Chamberlain  
A "race night", hosted by Paul and Julie at the Constitutional Club earlier this spring, raised £1,000 for the battle against a rare neurological disorder. Organiser Sally Rodohan, who lives on The Grange estate, was herself struck down by transverse myelitis at the age of 12.



Sally Rodohan. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

At first paralysed from the neck down, it was months before she began to recover. The illness was virtually unknown in Ireland, where she then lived, and it was initially thought she had polio. Eventually diagnosed by a visiting American doctor, she was told: "The good news is we know what it is. The bad news is we don't know how to treat it."

Nowadays, if diagnosed within 10 days, the usual treatment is by steroids, followed by physiotherapy. The therapy that worked for Sally was alternate hot and cold baths, suggested by a student. While most people eventually improve significantly, about one-third are left with some permanent disability, and some sadly do not progress.

Sally told *THE ARCHER* that every sufferer is affected differently. The many symptoms include muscle weakness, nerve sensations, fatigue, depression, and paralysis. TM can strike people ranging in age from five months to 80.

The condition resembles multiple sclerosis, but usually there is only one attack, with lesions on the spinal cord, whereas with MS there are repeated attacks, with lesions on the brain.

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## Traffic calmed by speed tables

By Gill Steiner  
It is a fact of life for some drivers: straight wide road, go fast. So, despite 20mph signs on Woodside Avenue, we were used to cars, vans and motorbikes flashing by at top speed. Now, it's different because speed tables have been installed, forcing drivers to curb their speed.

It has taken years to get speed calming measures in our road. However, demand from the local community, including Councillor Martin Newton, sparked the changes to make Woodside Avenue a safer place, particularly for the schoolchildren.

### Residents had their say

The existence of an active residents' association has resulted in the selection of speed tables, a mini-roundabout, a raised junction table and a zebra crossing. It was far from easy to obtain an agreement when hundreds of people were involved. Nobody really wanted obstacles in the road, particularly when you consider the physical impact of lorries or vans on a speed table, but we had to find ways of slowing down vehicles yet permitting traffic to flow.

There is always a drawback with speed-calming measures: the noise that is generated by some lorries bouncing off the speed tables can be truly terrible. But residents must be relieved that at long last our road commands the respect from drivers that it deserves.

### Support for sufferers

Because TM is rare (officially about 300 cases a year) someone could go all their life without meeting another sufferer. This is why the Transverse Myelitis Society was set up in 1994. It offers support and information to sufferers, their families and carers.

Sally, as the Chair and one of the founders, has noted that TM sometimes occurs in clusters. She says: "There is a cluster around Telford, and three in one road in the Bournemouth area. It's classed as a disorder of the immune system, but could environment have something to do with it as well? We need much more research."

For further information, ring Sally Rodohan on 020 8883 2721 or visit [www.myelitis.org](http://www.myelitis.org).



Do not pass "Go"; do not collect £200. Picture by Guy Welch.

## Monopoly motor

To launch their latest TV advert promoting a campaign based on the traditional Monopoly game, an open-topped bus load of Monopoly men made its way through London from the Old Kent Road (where the board game starts) to the McDonald's head office on the High Road. Fifteen foot-high Monopoly game pieces such as the old boot and a Scotty dog were made for the commercials, as well as a giant old-fashioned car seen parked in the car park adjacent to East Finchley station.

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## YOUNG ARCHER

### Daisy's bowling for

### success

By Diana Cormack

Young cricketer Daisy Moore, of Cromwell Close, has fulfilled the promise she showed last season by being judged the Middlesex County Cricket Girls under-11s best all-rounder 2006. She was also awarded a trophy by her club, Underhill Ladies, for best bowler under-11s 2006 and has recently received the Middlesex Girls' training excellence award.

As reported in *THE ARCHER* last October, 10-year-old Daisy shows a mature and intelligent attitude to the game both on and off the pitch. Throughout the winter she has continued to make good progress, training at Lord's Cricket Ground every week and also at the Middlesex Academy on East End Road every Saturday lunchtime (Lord's sessions allowing), where she was the only girl among 30 boys. On Sunday evenings Daisy has been bowling in the nets at the Finchley ground to the men who play for East Finchley's own cricket club N2CC, of which her father Bob is player/secretary.

In January this year she played at the indoor schools' facility at Lord's for Middlesex Girls under-11s against Surrey Girls under-11s in a 30 over match. Daisy was top scorer for her side with an impressive 22 before being rather unluckily run out. The Surrey girls named her as Middlesex player of the match for which Daisy received a trophy of a miniature



bat signed by the England Women's Cricket Team.

Daisy will be attending the Monday evening colts' sessions at Finchley Cricket Club's ground on East End Road, where her dad is helping with the coaching.

All juniors (boys and girls aged five to 13) are welcome, but the club is particularly keen to build up the number of girls training, joining and playing for them. For more details of the East Finchley Cricket Club visit [www.n2cc.co.uk](http://www.n2cc.co.uk) or email [bmooor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bmooor@hotmail.co.uk).



As a special Mother's Day competition, The Cherry Tree gift shop in High Road invited young customers to draw or paint a picture of their mother. Pictured with joint owner Haylee are the winner Yasmin, aged seven, with her picture of her mother Iwona, and runners up Lawri, seven, with her picture of her mother Catrin, and Isobelle, seven, with her picture of her mother Helen.

## Girl cricketers wanted

**Finchley Cricket Club in East End Road has had a very successful colts section for many years, run by Tim Selwood. It is now hoping to have a girls' section for the first time, run by Dee McLean.**

Until recently just two girls have played at Finchley, Sara and Victoria Begg. They now play for Gunnersbury Women's Cricket Club (Women's Premier division), and for Middlesex Women (county cricket), as well as Finchley CC, and both coach the colts at Finchley.

Last year, eight girls joined and they all enjoyed it very much. The club is keen to encourage more girls to play cricket. Youngsters of any ability or experience are welcome, even complete beginners.

For girls aged five to 13, colts nights are Mondays from 16 April to 16 July, from 6pm - 8pm. For more details, visit [www.n2cc.co.uk](http://www.n2cc.co.uk) or email [bmooor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bmooor@hotmail.co.uk)

This year Finchley are linking with Gunnersbury Women's Cricket Club who run two teams and play in the Premier division and the Women's Southern Cricket League.

They will bring with them their wealth of experience in women's and girls' cricket, and it is hoped that this partnership will continue. This gives girls a senior club to move on to when their time with the colts is over.

## Jumbled up

Re-arrange the letters in these phrases to find three well-known local landmarks:

ORDER YE ETCH ROW  
SNUB GED  
DO CHILLY FINE  
Answers on right.

## A little exercise does you good

By Peter Kraushar, Chairman of North London Hospice

**A year ago my doctor advised me to slim and suggested that walking was a good way of doing so. Just half an hour's walk each day was enough, so long as it was done regularly. So I found myself walking 4-5 times a week and discovered so many interesting places, especially Highgate Wood.**

I began to think that the North London Hospice could benefit too. If we want to maintain this jewel in our community, we must realise that unfortunately annual costs are now well over £5 million and the Government only provides about a quarter.

I had the idea, therefore, that so many others who would benefit from regular walking might be glad to raise money for the hospice through sponsorship. Walking or running for 50 miles is too much for most of us, but not if done within, say, three months and whenever convenient.

So A Little Exercise Does You Good was born and many people are beginning to take part (including me!) and, of course, when one finishes the 50

miles, one can go on to another lot, with more sponsorship.

As we say in the hospice publicity: "Help your health and ours". You can start at any time. Details from Peter Kraushar on 020 8883 4736 or [peterkrau@aol.com](mailto:peterkrau@aol.com).

• North London Hospice is calling all night owls to join the new Midnight Walk to help raise £3,000 for its care services. The walk is a women's only event but men are encouraged to join in by being marshals. The half marathon circular route will start at St Michael's Hospital in Enfield and takes place on 30 June underneath the moon and stars. There is a £15 registration fee. Please call 020 8446 2288 for a registration form or to find out about being a marshal.

## Exciting time for our swimmers

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Last month we told you that two local 14 year-olds had qualified for the British Long Course swimming championships, held at the end of March. This is the first year that Lauren Chapple and Alice Pearson have got to this event, something which not many swimmers of their age achieve.**

Race winners at these championships qualify to swim at the European Games. Lauren, of Hertford Road, and Alice, who lives in Alexandra Park and attends Fortismere, were competing against much older and stronger girls so how did they get on?

Lauren did very well in coming fourth for the 100 metres butterfly for the under

16s, and Alice returned a personal best in both her backstroke events.

Both girls swim for Copthall, which has members of all abilities, aged from seven to over 70. For more information, contact 020 8457 9900.

Jumbled up Answers:  
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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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



# 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](http://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](http://www.123stella.co.uk) or email [123stella@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:123stella@yahoo.co.uk).

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# KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

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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## Regular Events

### SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.

### DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesdays. Beginners 7.30pm, Improvers 8.30pm. St Mary's Church Hall, Finchley. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 14 & 28 May at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **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 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

### CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Bingo Club**, Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Community Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust** contact Phoebe on 8349 0388.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group** Creative writing 6.30pm every Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lillian 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.

## Art students do their own thing

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Does learning orthodox techniques stifle creativity? Personally, I don't think so. Strolling round last month's art exhibition at The Institute, which featured work from the Prefoundation and Portfolio Art Course, I was struck by the different ways each student had depicted the same image or interpreted the same theme.**

Some displays looked challenging, some sophisticated, others cosier, while some refused to be typecast. (What was that gunman doing among the elves and teddybears?) Full marks to the exhibition organisers, who had arranged each student's work in individual alcoves, with accompanying notes and sketches. Tucked into one corner was a computer, where you could look up portfolios online.

The exhibition was in the new purpose-built Arts Centre in Beaumont Close, off The Bishops Avenue and overlooking the Causeway entrance

to East Finchley station. The Institute, which offers national qualifications through the NOCN (National Open College Network), accepts both school-leavers and mature students.

The teaching emphasis is on small groups, tutorial support, and the importance of learning core skills. Reflecting their coursework, the exhibition showed ceramics, drawing and life drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, conceptual studies and digital art. New printmaking courses are starting too.

For more information, contact 020 8829 4141/4137 or arts.centre@hgsi.ac.uk.

## May at the Phoenix

By Phoenix Cinema manager Paul Homer

**May opens with a strong, brave film about ageing. *Away From Her*, by Sarah Polley and starring Julie Christie, which looks at how a couple who have been together for 50 years cope with the onset of the wife's dementia. What could have been a cloying, sentimental film manages carefully to walk a line and remains an intelligent and moving piece of work.**

The new film by Patrice Leconte, *My Best Friend*, is at the Phoenix from Friday 11 May. Daniel Auteuil plays a dislikeable businessman who is challenged to produce his best friend when nobody believes that he has one. It's a wonderful comedy, which shows just how much we need friends.

Our final main feature in May is the sizzling *Jindabyne*. Ray Lawrence's follow-up to *Lantana*, it tells the story of a group of men who go fishing, find a body in the water and decide to keep on fishing. The consequences of this decision are artfully explored through each character as we learn about their history as well as their future. With lead performances by Gabriel Byrne and Laura

Linney, this is a tremendous character-led thriller.

Also in May we have the next season in our film class in collaboration with Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. The theme for this season is sound on film, explored through films such as Almodovar's *The Flower of My Secret*, Woody Allen's *Manhattan* and Marcel Camus' *Black Orpheus*.

Each film is followed by an in-depth session exploring the themes at the Institute building opposite the Phoenix. Places for the course can be booked through the Institute on 020 8829 4141 or you can buy tickets for each film on the day of performance. Our box office can be reached on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

## The Imaginary Invalid

Review by Betti Blatman

**Incognito Theatre's Barnet Arts Festival entry was just what the doctor ordered: a hilarious production of *The Imaginary Invalid* by Molière, adapted by Miles Malleon, superbly directed by Sonja Taylor and performed by an excellent cast.**

This satirical comedy of manners lampoons the French bourgeoisie and the medical profession. Monsieur Argan, the imaginary invalid, is obsessed with being ill and has agreed to a marriage between his elder daughter and his doctor's nephew, believing that this will give him unlimited access to remedies for his ailments. His brilliant characterisation by Brian Davies was extremely entertaining and greatly appreciated by the audience.

However, his daughter (Tede-cia Wint) is in love with a chivalrous and handsome young man. Argan's second wife (Alison Wade, whose coquettish char-

acter was perfectly performed) is in cahoots with an unscrupulous lawyer to rob Argan of all his money.

At the same time, the doctor is trying to make as much money as he can from his patient's imaginary illnesses. Mingled in all this madness, Argan's nurse and maid (Megan McClimont) endeavours to control the mayhem and ensure that true love wins the day.

Incognito's next production from 13-19 May is *Death On The Ocean Wave*, a new comedy written and directed by Tony Billow and Mike Fentiman. For further information contact the box office on 020 8886 3274 or visit www.incognitotheatre.com.



Mari I'Anson with one of her Mexican scenes. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

## East and West

By Daphne Chamberlain

**East Finchley Open artist Mari I'Anson has called her new exhibition at the artsdepot *East and West*. It could also be called "Mexico and the rest".**

After spending two months earlier this year in San Miguel de Allende, Ms I'Anson has produced six paintings in a different style from her other work on display. She has chosen some of her favourite oils, reflecting her travels in India, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Canada. The first impression is the strength of colour: hard-edged in the Mexican ones, warm, rich and soft in the rest.

These "bring it all back", according to someone I spoke to who had visited there 20 years ago. Mari says the architectural lines and shadows form patterns, so that turning a painting upside down would

still produce a picture.

The exception is *Lady with crochet*, which shows Gauguin's influence. See if you can spot the beaver in *Beaver Dam, Canada*, and count how many birds you can find in *Bird Sanctuary, Singapore Zoo*. This one is truly a bird's eye view of the sanctuary, with the emphasis on the sheltering trees.

Ms I'Anson's work is on display in the artsdepot at North Finchley, near the staircase on the first floor foyer, until 2 June. For opening times, and to arrange sales, contact the box office on 020 8369 5954. She can be contacted on 020 8346 7011, or visit her website at www.mari-artist.co.uk.

## What's On...

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

### Sunday 13 May

**Music for a May Evening** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm. Jane Rosenberg (mezzo soprano), Tim Gillott (baritone), John Dawswell (bass), Jean Middlemiss (piano) perform.

### Thursday 17 - Saturday 19 May

**The Guild Players** present *Tons Of Money* at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3 at 7.45pm. Tickets £7. Box Office 020 8346 6337. www.guildplayers.org.uk.

### Wednesday 23 May

**Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association AGM**, 8pm at Muswell Hill Bowling Club, King's Avenue, N10. Followed by a presentation from Maison Blanc, the Muswell Hill patisserie. Refreshments provided.

### Thursday 31 May

**The Finchley Society** presents "*London Properties of the National Trust*", a talk by Mike Watts, 8pm, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Everyone welcome. Entry for non-members £2.

### Until Sunday 3 June

**"Drawn from India:** Pen and Ink Drawings by Ravi Shankar and M. Natesh", The Noble Sage Art Gallery, 2A Fortis Green, www.thenoblesage.com.

### Wednesday 6 June

**Haringey Recorded Music Society, "Great Cities":** a selection by Anthony Cutbush at 7.15pm For details of venue, call 020 8361 1696.

### Sunday 10 June

**Janacek's Children's Rhymes** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm, performed by Catherine Morphet (clarinet), Bryan Fairfax (viola), Caroline Soresby (piano) and Christopher Leutchford (singer/actor).

### Until 9 September

**Hampstead Garden Suburb: 100 Years, Church Farmhouse Museum**, Greyhound Hill, NW4. Admission free. Contact 020 8359 3942 or see www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk

### Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:

**Wednesday 9 May**, 8pm, *deGeneration*; **Sunday 13 May**, 7.45pm, *Chiligrarian Quartet*; **Wednesday 16 May**, 8pm, *Dances Then and Now*; **Thursday 17 May - Sat 19 May**, 8pm (Thurs 3pm), *Pete and Dud, Come Again*; **Friday 18 May**, 8pm, *An Evening with Heart 'n' Soul*; **Tuesday 22 May - Saturday 2 June**, 8pm (Sat 4pm), *The Trouble with Asian Men*; **Friday 25 May**, 8.30pm, *Barnet Folk Club Folk in the Foyer*; **Thursday 7 June - Saturday 9 June**, 7.30pm, *Mistaken... Annie Besant in India*.



Letters to the editor

**Cherry Tree Wood should be cherished**

Dear Editor,  
Might it be worth THE ARCHER sending a copy of its survey of what people like so much about East Finchley to Barnet Council? So many of the adults and children you had in your paper had something positive to say about the wonderful Cherry Tree Wood.

As everyone who lives in East Finchley knows, Cherry Tree Wood is a lovely amenity to have on our doorstep. It is pretty to walk through in all seasons, a great place to sunbathe and picnic and a safe place for families to play.

So why does the council seem bent on letting it go to rack and ruin? The decision to take away its park keeper makes no sense to me. A beautiful park like Cherry Tree needs looking after on a regular basis. The reason that it is in such a good state must surely be because it has had a park keeper up until now.

Unfortunately, the signs that our park needs some TLC are becoming clearer by the month. The café is still closed. The tennis courts and toilets are in a poor state of repair and the pavilion continues to be an eyesore.

Barnet Council, please bring back the park keeper and spend a bit of time and money looking after Cherry Tree Wood. East Finchley will thank you for it.

Yours faithfully,  
**Claire Stanford,**  
Leicester Road, N2

**Disgraceful Bishops**

Dear Editor,  
I frequently drive or cycle up and down The Bishops Avenue to get into town and find the road an absolute disgrace. It is constantly blocked by building work and riddled with rubble and pot holes, so it's a danger to drivers and cyclists alike.

One weekend last month, the road was closed completely in the middle but the warning signs were almost unnoticeable and I witnessed dozens of cars - and a coach! - trying to do three point turns after being caught out.

I realise the ridiculous size of the houses on the avenue and the sheer wealth of their owners means there is always likely to be construction work going on somewhere but the builders who are doing the work really should be more accountable for the state in which they leave the road surface.

Can Barnet Council and Camden Council not patrol the avenue and ensure it is fit for us humble council tax payers to use? I suspect that as it is a road that is right on the boundaries of each local authority, neither of them is particularly interested.

Yours faithfully,  
**Rob Filistad**  
Kitchener Road, N2

**Black cab hazard**

Dear Editor,  
In addition to parking bollards being installed in the forecourt at East Finchley tube station, which has restricted space for drivers to drop off or collect friends and family, there are now black cabs waiting in the forecourt. When several are parked next to each other, and monopolise the forecourt, it becomes difficult and sometimes quite dangerous for other drivers to manoeuvre around them.

Yours faithfully,  
**Name and address supplied**

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

**Betting shops are no bad thing**

Dear Editor,  
Whilst reading your letters (THE ARCHER, March 2007) and enjoying what people are saying regarding the district, I read the letter from Richard Devey saying betting shops are a blemish on East Finchley's landscape, which made me see red.

I am wondering if Mr Devey has ever been into one of the three betting shops in question to qualify him saying they are disgusting?

Let me please tell him that the staff in these so-called disgusting places are most friendly and helpful and the shops are very clean. The comradeship inside these shops, together with the nice type of people, is very good. You won't get mugged or robbed there, as you may do in other parts of East Finchley.

Will you please inform Mr Devey that his opinion is not welcomed by all who live in the district.

Yours faithfully,  
**Mr M James Sadgrove**  
Address supplied

**We made the Top 20!**

By Anita Rai  
Last year I wrote an article for THE ARCHER about a business I set up as a result of an allergy I developed to an adorable little puppy. Three years ago, www.drivensnow.co.uk was born to sell products that help allergies and are free from harsh chemicals.



Anita Rai. Photo by Diana Cormack

The webshop has grown organically since then but we still operate from an office in my house in Ingram Road, East Finchley. It's a great feeling when I sell a product to alleviate a cat or dog allergy and find out that the family pet can stay put.

Last October, the Evening Standard asked for entries to the O2 Small Inspirational Business Award. I felt I had an inspirational story so I decided to enter DrivenSnow. The prize was £100k worth of advertising in the newspaper. It was definitely a long shot.

Then in December I got a call from the paper. They told me I'd been shortlisted out of thousands to the last 50. I couldn't believe it. It was amazing to be recognised by such a high-calibre panel of judges, including Karen Darby,

the founder of Simple Switch, and Adam Balon, one of the founders of drinks company Innocent.

I forgot about the whole thing over Christmas until I received another call telling me we'd reached the last 20 and would get a profile in the paper. This was just too good to be true. And then the day came for the winners to be announced, and there I was in the newspaper! Unfortunately we didn't win, but it was such a fantastic feeling to be recognised by the judges, and hugely motivating. I felt my business idea had been validated and the whole experience has given me the impetus to really push my company forward.

**Clear the clutter**

Are you tempted to have a spring clear-out but don't know where to start? Local businesswoman Phoebe Oldrey has set up an interior design company and here offers her tips on cutting out the clutter.

The designer William Morris said: "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." Of course sentimentality and guilt about the money spent get in the way of a thorough clear out.

So find ways to use sentimental items. I use my silver christening mug as a make-up brush holder - this way I enjoy looking at it and it's not filling up a drawer. As for the worry of what something cost, think about how much it costs to keep. Are you about to buy a chest of drawers to keep stuff you don't like? Try selling it instead and the money you make could go towards your new piece of furniture. If it is hard to sell, try www.freecycle.com.

Think beyond your storage preconceptions. A chest of drawers for CDs is frequently easier to use and less unsightly than open shelves. Things you don't need regularly could live in a trunk doubling as a coffee table. Always leave space to grow; after all, Christmas is only a few months away.

When it's time to shop, don't just look, try it out. Check the internal space; some furniture can look big but is built in such a way that it's small on the inside.

Keeping things organised makes life easier. A simple, cheap solution inside drawers is to use the free gift boxes from shops for separating items. The top of a chest is a great place for displaying a few of your sentimental treasures. Now sit

back and enjoy your new clutter-free room.

Phoebe can be contacted at her company Smartstyle Interiors on 020 8343 0003 or via her website www.smartstyleinteriors.com.

**In memory of Dietrich**

On Saturday 16 June the internationally famous *Endellion String Quartet* will be visiting All Saints' Church, Durham Road, to give a concert to the memory of local musical instrument maker Dietrich Kessler who died last December.

The concert will include Quartets by Mozart and Webern and the String Quintet by Schubert. Proceeds will be given towards a trust fund founded for the preservation of the unique collection of instruments which Dietrich assembled during his lifetime. Tickets at £15, to include wine, may be booked on 020 8444 6630. The concert begins at 7.30pm.

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# THE ARCHER

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## The long curve

A short story by Carola Groom, who chairs the East Finchley Writers Group. The group meets at The Old White Lion pub, next to the tube station, at 6.30pm every Wednesday.

Cats' eyes and grey snowflakes bore down on him. He squinted at an oncoming car; its lights bled into star shapes. His exit would be soon. Home. Tiptoe into a house already dark, cold, asleep.

The long left-hand curve and here it was: the blue sign. Junction seven, one mile.

Hadn't he passed that a while back? Never mind. One minute to the turn off. Less. Swines today, wasting his time. "A real joy to meet you too." Joke. A game to them, getting him up there for nothing.

Smoky saxophone sounds. He had his top set of speakers, his leather seats. Still the long curve. The next sign appeared at last. Junction seven, one mile.

Couldn't be. His tired brain was playing tricks. He gripped the wheel, strained forward. The exit must be now, this was crazy. Another oncoming car, pair of halogen stars exploding then gone.

He had never stopped on the hard shoulder before. It felt like going down in a fight, the queasiness of defeat. Grey snowflakes made a slow falling pattern. Watching them, it was hard to think. Everything was

muffled. He tried his mobile. No signal. He snatched the door open and scurried, teeth chattering, to the emergency phone. It was silent, dead. He slammed the receiver on its cradle. Damn. Tyres spinning in the greasy slush, he pulled back onto the carriageway. Idiot: what would he have said?

The music paused; the announcer oozed a few words. Then it started again. Drifting in: the smoky saxophone. He pressed his foot on the gas. Still the long curve. The snow firing at him. His mouth so dry it hurt. God, here it came. The blue sign. No. No way. Always the same.

Junction seven, one mile.  
*If you have written a short story of 400 words or less, we would be happy to consider it for publication in THE ARCHER. Send your work to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email the-archer@lineone.net. Original stories only, please.*

## I swear it's for a good cause

By Dawn Powell

No one is perfect and one of my (many) faults is that I swear too much. So when I was thinking about how to raise some much-needed cash for the Prostate Cancer Charity, I thought an excellent way would be to give up cursing for a week. To be on the safe side, I decided to fine myself £1 every time I slipped up. Really, how hard could it be?

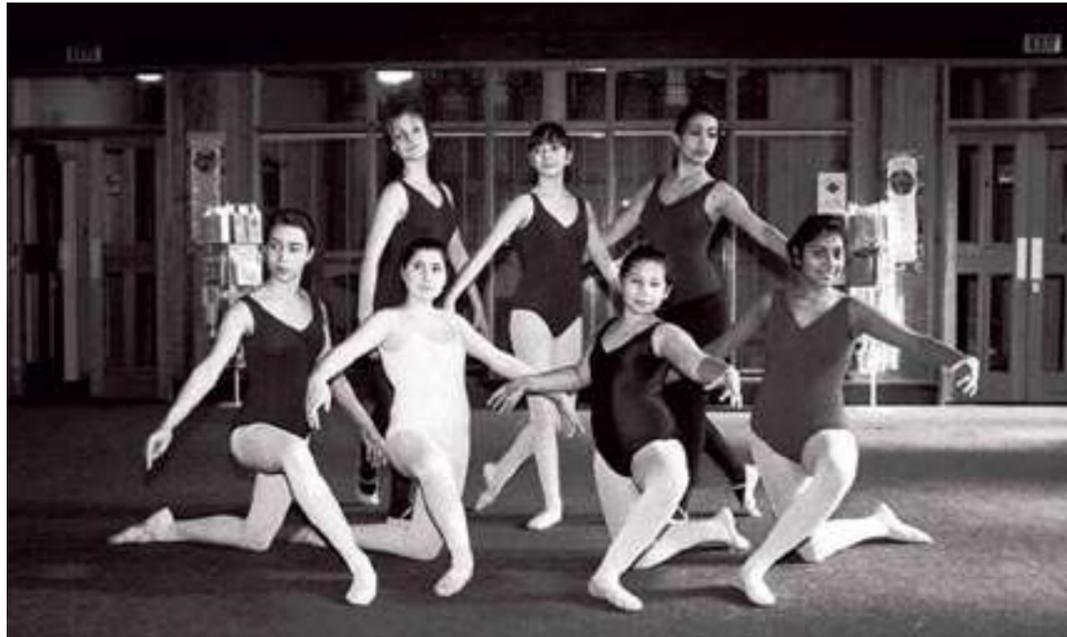
On the first day, I was doing well until I started talking to my flatmate. I swore twice in the space of five minutes. The worse thing was that I wasn't even annoyed, I was just using the words as adjectives, which is more than a little shameful considering I work in the media and make a living from correcting other people's English.

The next day, I did much better and didn't swear for the entire day. But, then the real challenge came: I went back to work after two days' holiday. The workplace, let's face it, isn't renowned for being a stress-free environment.

I thought it would be faulty printers that would be my downfall (they always jam when they see me coming), but for once they were well behaved. It turned out the real test was my own clumsiness. By the end of the week, I was £8 poorer after dropping cups, files and knocking papers onto the floor. Another £2 went into the box after I managed to get lost while meeting a friend.

I may not have completed my mission to give up swearing, but at least I raised money

for a great charity (£288 in total including sponsoring fees), so I don't feel too much of a failure.



Strike a pose: young dancers from the Marjorie Millons School of Dancing.

## Fleet of foot for 50 years

By Felicity Drown

The Marjorie Millons School of Dancing celebrates 50 years in East Finchley this year. Generations of dancers have passed through the school and classes are as popular as ever.

The school began in the YWCA hall in Finchley Central in 1956. After entertaining East Finchley's Holy Trinity Sunday School at Christmas that year, classes moved into Holy Trinity church hall in 1957. Twenty-one years later the school moved into the Methodist Church Hall, High Road, where it remains to this day.

Principal Marjorie Millons, who was born in Mill Hill, originally taught only Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) ballet classes, entering pupils for these examinations with great success. Demand then called for the addition of "tap

for fun", which is enjoyed by children over the age of six.

In the last 20 years, the school has also incorporated classes for adults. Parents have taken the opportunity to learn and enjoy ballet and tap in popular Saturday morning classes.

### Young at heart

Marjorie is still teaching herself, encouraging all ages to discover that the love of dance keeps you fit and healthy. She is living proof that dance can keep you young at heart.

She said: "Many families have passed through the school, some pupils going on to teach or dance professionally themselves; it is wonderful that so many former pupils have kept in contact."

Current pupil Katy

McLeary, aged 10, said: "I've been going for five years. I enjoy ballet because I get to make new friends and it is good exercise. My favourite time is at the end of term when we put on a demonstration for our parents. They enjoy watching us perform what we have learnt that term. Ballet is a fun way to become healthy."

Caroline, a new recruit in the adult class, is already an enthusiast. She said: "It's so much more interesting than going to the gym." Louise, 58, said: "It's physically demanding, mentally stimulating, ultimately relaxing and above all it's fun!"

Further details on the dance school can be obtained from Marjorie Millons on 8440 0296.

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