



Royal audience for youth films

The Princess Royal introduced a special event at the Phoenix Cinema on 25 September showcasing the work of 40 students from eight schools in Barnet and Enfield.

Students had worked on the short films with the help of Barnet Action 4 Youth, a branch of national crime prevention charity Crime Concern, of which Princess Anne is president of patrons.

Many of the films had messages about the situations young

people can fall into when they lack love or a sense of belonging in their lives.

Princess Anne told the audience that work like this by Crime Concern had a significant impact in reducing exclusion, improving behaviour and raising attendance at school.

Library looks to the future

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library Users Group and Barnet staff are attempting to salvage something from the wreck of the library's lottery hopes.

Failure to gain lottery funds has meant the end of plans to install a lift to the upper floor, but EFLUG told us they are hoping to press on with some community schemes involving voluntary work.

EFLUG members Polly Napper and Leslie Gilbert had a meeting with Tricia Little, head of Barnet's Libraries Department, and her Area Manager, Veronica Padwick, at the end of September. A follow-up meeting was planned for the end of October.

Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER*: "East Finchley community representatives are discussing what opportunities there could be for services from East Finchley in the future."

The Users Group is also developing a publicity programme, saying: "There is so much good stuff in the library that's worth promoting, and the notice board outside is rather minimal."

The lottery bid was built around establishing a borough-wide dyslexia centre, and *THE ARCHER* understands that Barnet are still looking at enhancing materials about dyslexia from the existing budget.

Dyslexia talk

There will be a talk on dyslexia at the Friends of Barnet Libraries Coffee Morning, in the East Finchley library hall between 11am and 12 noon on Friday 7 December.

Space trekkers raise funds for Bobath Centre

By Kirsty Middlemist

It was a beautiful sunny day, on 22 September, when members of the Space Youth Café embarked on their seven-mile sponsored walk in aid of the Bobath Centre for children with Cerebral Palsy.

Seven young people and four adults took part in the trek, which began at Space in East Finchley and ended at Barnet Brookside Methodist Church. On the way, the group called in at Finchley and Manor Drive Methodist Churches. The day ended with a sleepover at East Finchley Methodist Church.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As well as the satisfaction of helping others, members got the opportunity to get to know each other. There

was also time to rest sore feet and eat ice cream during leisurely pauses in local parks.

The walkers' efforts raised about £600 for the Bobath Centre on East End Road.

If you are aged between 11 and 16, you are very welcome to join us at Space on a Friday evening between 6.30pm and 8pm. Please contact Kirsty Middlemist on 020 8951 4112, 07879 840817 or write to youthfandh@aol.com for more details.

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Where the Art is

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Institute's Arts Centre, on the other side of The Causeway behind East Finchley station, was opened officially last month. Institute Principal Fay Naylor and Chairman Malcolm Davis said that moving into the £6 million purpose-built centre was like coming out of a dark tunnel, but they warned of a continuing struggle ahead to repay their financial loan.

Although the building, designed by Rivington Street Studios, has already become one of the Open House sites opened to the public every year, it still needs sponsors to complete its furnishing and equipment.

The move to East Finchley from the Suburb has attracted 2,000 new students, and MP Rudi Vis praised what The Institute has already achieved. He loved the mix of British and foreign students of all ages (up to 96), abilities and incomes, saying it was in the original tradition of the Open University.

Fleur Adcock, winner of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, who has lived in East Finchley for 44 years, told *THE ARCHER* she was delighted to open the Centre. "It's wonderful to have it in the area, and an honour for me to open it. I've never opened anything before - except jars of marmalade or suitcases at the airport." She looked forward to "the hum and buzz of creativity in this building".

Sponsors welcome

With opportunities for income-producing partnerships, The Institute hope to achieve a balanced business plan in the next three years, but there is still a lengthy list of items needed for the new building.

A former student of sculpture, Mrs Meenal Mehta, and her husband, Madhoo, have donated very generously to the Centre, sponsoring ground-floor rooms, and a plaque was unveiled in their honour. The Institute will welcome all offers of help, from £14 for a dustbin to £18,000 for accessible toilets. Please contact Andree Koval on 020 8829 4139 for further details.



Madhoo and Meenal Mehta by the plaque commemorating their sponsorship of the Arts Centre. With them is the designer of the plaque, Geoff Stocker, who teaches digital art and computer studies at The Institute. Photograph by Andree Kaval

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