



# Pavement culture 'at risk'

By Daphne Chamberlain

At a Council meeting last month, East Finchley councillor Colin Rogers asked the Cabinet to "do all it can to support the vibrancy of our town centres" and raised the issue of the so-called pavement tax.

He warned that small traders felt seriously threatened by the need to pay for display space outside their premises, criticised the Council for not talking about the effect the tax would have on local centres, and said that consultation was "minimal".

The Labour Group have requested a written review of the new policy, which does not differentiate between the size of business premises or the amount of litter and anti-social behaviour which they could attract. Labour also want to know how the policy will be used against traders who put up permanent display structures or use too much of the pavement, and how many additional officers would be needed to make

it work.

## Curb on town centres

At the meeting, the pavement tax issue was part of a general debate about town centres, and Opposition councillors were accused of "making a big fuss about it".

Council policy is to develop four key centres: North Finchley, Edgware, Chipping Barnet and New Barnet.

However, Barnet Cllr Macdonald said that Chipping Barnet still saw itself as a market town, not a city suburb, and that New Barnet traders were threatened by Tesco and Asda being allowed to build close by Sainsbury's.

Cllr Kath McGuirk maintained that what people wanted were smarter, cleaner, safer

local centres, with different shops and a café culture.

## Seen and heard Clean up after yourself

One Monday in June, a reader observed a refuse collector smoking while collecting refuse in East Finchley and then flicking the cigarette onto the ground while he continued emptying the wheelie bins into the Council's vehicle. On the side were the words: "Keeping Barnet Cleaner".



Antigua Joe performing at The East Finchley Festival in June. Photo by Alison Roberts

# ARCHER Calendar 2009

## - send us your photos!

THE ARCHER is launching its own 2009 calendar and every penny raised will support the work of East Finchley's 'good neighbour' charity, Contact.

We need you to send us your photos. There are no rules about what you can submit but we're looking for images of places or people: anything that shows something unusual or beautiful about East Finchley.

THE ARCHER Calendar 2009 will be on sale at local outlets and online, thanks to the support of Photobox.co.uk. Look out for more details in our next issue.

We're accepting photos now and the final closing date for entries is Wednesday 17 September, after which our judges will choose the 12 images to make it into the calendar.

If you have a suitable image, please email it to the-

archer@lineone.net. Digital photographs only, please, as we cannot accept prints. Feel free to send us low resolution versions, but we will need a high resolution version if your picture is selected. Mark your message 'Archer calendar' and tell us where and why you took the photo.

### Why we're supporting Contact

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact was set up in 1985 to improve life for the community's most vulnerable members. Most of its clients are elderly or disabled and live in N2.

Volunteers help the house-

bound at home by visiting for a chat, reading to them, translating, filling in forms, tidying up the house or garden, caring for pets or doing a bit of shopping. Some elderly or disabled people just need a friend to keep them company on a short walk or accompany them to a hospital appointment.

Contact organises all this, as well as a weekly lunch club at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, and a free shopping bus to Tesco in Colney Hatch Lane on Thursdays and Fridays.

Contact provides many other services and can be a vital source of human contact for people who live alone or far away from family members.

The charity, based in Church Lane, needs to raise funds constantly to keep its services going. We hope your support for THE ARCHER Calendar 2009 will help them in their much-needed work.

## Antigua Joe severely

## injured in street attack

East Finchley Festival favourite Antigua Joe was badly injured in a street attack just one week after performing on stage at this year's event.

The singer - real name Conrad Joseph - had performed at a gig in Torquay, Devon, and was returning to his car when he was allegedly set upon by four men. One of them is also thought to have poured a liquid over his car.

Conrad, 56, suffered head and facial injuries in the attack, including a broken jaw, and was taken to hospital.

Sadly, his injuries prevented him from singing at his stepdaughter's wedding in early July and may also put his summer professional engagements at risk.

Conrad is recovering at home in Wiltshire but friends and family say he doesn't know when he will be able to perform in public again. Four men have been arrested and charged in connection with the attack.

Antigua Joe's Jamaican music has been a crowd-pleaser at the annual East Finchley Community Festival for seven years or more. He was on and off stage for more than six hours in the sunshine at this year's event.

Well-wishers can send emails or cards to THE ARCHER and we'll pass them on. Email the-archer@lineone.net or write to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

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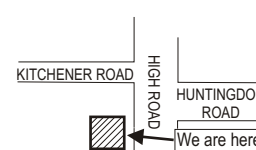


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