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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Help restore the glory of the Phoenix

By John Lawrence

A £1 million project has been launched to restore the Phoenix to its art deco glory in time for its centenary celebrations and to make the cinema fit for another century of serving film-lovers.

The Grade II-listed cinema's ageing 1910 auditorium will be completely renovated and the exterior façade upgraded to give the building a smart new face. Interior and exterior art deco features installed in the 1930s will be extensively refurbished.

A new café and terrace bar with large glass windows overlooking the High Road will be one of the most striking features of the project, and one designed to keep cinema-goers coming to East Finchley from across north London.

Centenary target

The total cost of the project is £1,050,000 and the Phoenix is asking local people to support its fundraising campaign so that the restoration work can be carried out in time for the cinema's centenary celebrations in 2010.

A successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has raised 56% of the money and the Phoenix has been able to raise another large

slice through donations from organisations and individuals. This leaves £280,000 to find.

Chief Executive Paul Homer said: "The project will enhance the facilities available and make certain we are able to continue delivering thoughtful film programming on behalf of the people of north London. We urgently call on the generosity of our customers and supporters to help preserve this jewel in East Finchley's cultural crown."

The Phoenix is the oldest purpose-built cinema in constant operation in the country and is owned and run by a charitable trust. Among its patrons are film directors Ken Loach and Mike Leigh, actors Maureen Lipman, Michael Palin and Bill Paterson, and comedienne and writer Victoria Wood.

Continued on page 4 with details of how the Phoenix Cinema will be transformed.



Comedian and drummer Rowland Rivron (right) gives Roger Chapman something to smile about. Find out what on page 3.

Supermarket plan goes to appeal

By Janet Maitland

Controversial plans for a new supermarket at Stag Court, opposite the library, are back on the table. A planning application was turned down by the council in July but the applicant has decided to appeal.

This issue has divided local opinion. Those against the supermarket are concerned about the livelihood of existing shops, traffic congestion and parking problems. Those supporting the plan want a shop that is more convenient for people living at the northern end of the High Road.

Barnet Council rejected the plan earlier this year because it thought that the scale and site of the supermarket would have a detrimental effect on the vitality and viability of the centre of East Finchley. It was also worried about the impact of increased traffic and parking demands on already over-

stretched residential streets.

Anyone who wrote to the council or signed a petition during the summer should have been notified of the appeal.

If you want to express your views to the appeal committee you

have until 19 December to do so. Write to Dave Shortland, Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/19, Eagle Wing, House 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN, quoting reference number APP/N5090/A/08/2089653/NWF.



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A message

from the team

THE ARCHER team wishes all our readers, distributors and advertisers a very happy festive season and a peaceful and prosperous 2009.

Thank you once again for all your support over the last 12 months, and we look forward to continuing to serve the East Finchley community through the year ahead.