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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Great-great-grandmother Lily Powell holds baby Jack Farrugia. With them, from left, grandmother Karen Butler, great-grandmother Carol Lambert and mother Hannah.

And Jack makes it five generations

By Daphne Chamberlain
When Jack John Farrugia made his dramatic entry into the world on 17 November, weighing six and a half pounds and delivered by his grandmother, he became the fifth living generation of an East Finchley family.

His great-great-grandmother Lily Powell, 91, has lived in St Pancras Court since 1964, when she moved there from Kentish Town with her late husband, Jack. They were joined in 1967 by their daughter, Carol Lambert (who still lives with Lily) and three-year-old granddaughter Karen.

Karen, who attended Martin Primary School and Finchley Manorhill (now Compton) School, was one of the first girl members of Finchley Sea Cadets. It was there she met her husband Peter Butler, and they now live at Woodside Park.

Speedy Jack

Their 20-year-old daughter Hannah gave birth to baby Jack after a frantic dash to Barnet General Hospital's midwife-led unit. Karen told *THE ARCHER*: "Hannah asked if she could use the toilet. I went with her, and she suddenly gripped the side of the sink, saying that something was coming out. I bent down, saw the head, and then had to drop to my knees to support him as he shot out like a little pea from its pod. It was an amazing experience to be involved

in the birth of your grandchild, and I hope he and I will always have a special bond."

Jack's father Jonathan "Weazel" Farrugia was at the hospital, and his own father John Clark also has a special link with Jack, who was born on his birthday. "He's the best birthday present I've ever had," he said.

The baby's other grandfather Peter Butler, and his 18-year-old uncle Sam arrived at the hospital within 10 minutes. "He's pure magic," said Peter as he cradled the baby.

Jack John was named for his great-great-grandfather Jack Powell, his grandfather John Clark, and his late great-grandfather, Jack Butler.

Neighbours protest: 'Five into one won't go'

By David Melsome

A proposal to build a block of flats has provoked fierce opposition from residents who say the plan will destroy the character of their area and threaten their privacy and safety.

More than 170 people signed a petition against a proposal to build five flats on the site of 16 Aylmer Road, currently occupied by a single house. The land backs on to Bancroft Avenue and is close to The Bishops Avenue.

Councils disagree

The area concerned straddles the boundary between Barnet and Haringey Councils. Haringey has objected to Barnet on behalf of neighbouring residents, saying the scale of the new building would be intrusive.

Residents in Bancroft Avenue fear that their back gardens will be overlooked by the three-storey block of flats. Others say the flow of cars entering and leaving the access road of the flats will threaten the safety of all concerned along this extremely busy stretch of the A1.

Barnet planners back scheme

On 8 January, the opponents of the scheme suffered a setback when Barnet's planning sub-committee passed the plan by just one vote. However, they say they will not give up their fight to stop the development.

Khalid Mushtaq, whose home is next door to the site, said residents were not opposed to a new building on the site but did not want one that was so out of keeping with existing properties.

"I was dumbfounded at the decision to pass the scheme. It seems so unjust," he said. "This plan will be detrimental to people living here in many different ways. Personally, I will have a driveway running alongside my garden. People in Bancroft

Avenue will have flats overlooking their gardens."

Objectors to fight on

The residents are hastily drawing up ideas to carry on their fight. They hope to enlist the help of MPs Lynne Featherstone and Rudi Vis, along with further support from Haringey Council.

Mr Mushtaq said: "We won't give up. We must explore all possibilities. We don't mind a development happening here if

it's in keeping with the area and takes into account the interests of everyone concerned."

A Barnet Council spokesman said: "The planning application for Aylmer Road was approved by councillors at the planning committee in January in accordance with planning guidance. Careful consideration was given to the views expressed by residents throughout the decision making process."



Five flats are to be built on the land in Aylmer Road where one house currently stands. Photograph by John Lawrence

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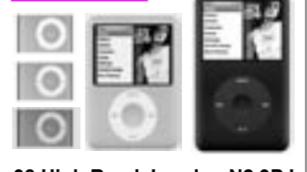
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Your contributions

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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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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

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East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
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Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
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Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
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Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
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Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014

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

Illegal flower sellers targeted in Barnet

Barnet Council is taking steps to combat the increasing number of illegal flower sellers who ply their trade in the borough.

The council says it has had complaints from residents and motorists about flower selling at junctions along the A406, A1, at Apex Corner and around Brent Cross. The council warns it will confiscate flowers from illegal vendors.

Councillor Brian Coleman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Community Engagement, said: "Illegal flower sellers are a hazard not only to motorists but to themselves too. Most of the produce they sell is likely to be flown in from overseas and is not as fresh as flowers found in a florist. "There is no place in this borough for illegal flower sellers and the council's Trading Standards officers will continue to target the gangmasters behind this illegal activity and drive them out of Barnet."

If you have specific concerns about illegal flower sellers, you

can call the council's Trading Standards team on 020 8359 4600.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

34 The Bishops Avenue, N2
Proposed underground pool hall to existing garden at rear of existing house.

5 Gurney Drive, N2
First floor rear extension. Enlarge existing dormer window. New rear roof light. External alterations including relaying simulated York stone paving to front side and rear, additional patio space to rear, change existing garage door and replacement of existing front door.

1-27 Prospect Place, N2
Replacement of existing windows.

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Beware the bogus callers

By John Dearing

Two men pretending to be builders conned their way into a home in Church Crescent and threatened the occupants. Police are investigating the incident, which took place on 9 January at around 8.30am, and are asking anyone with information to contact Barnet Police Burglary squad on 020 8733 4525 or to phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The incident has sparked a warning for all Barnet residents, especially the elderly or vulnerable, to be on their guard against bogus callers.

By pretending to be workmen or representatives of one of the utility companies, burglars are frequently given access to homes, where they search for and steal valuable items and cash.

Check credentials

The utility companies go to great lengths to ensure that their genuine representatives wear some kind of uniform or logo and carry identity cards. Genuine representatives will never be offended if residents do not open the door to them or keep them waiting while they check their identity.

Other bogus callers pretend to be police officers. Again, genuine officers will always wait for a householder to check their identity. Usually, when officers not in uniform need to speak to a resident, they will try to arrange an appointment over the phone. If

you have any doubts, ring Barnet Police on 020 8200 1212 and check the caller's credentials.

Crime Manager for Barnet Police, Detective Chief Inspector Murray Duffin, said: "We have to try to persuade these vulnerable people to be tougher and refuse entry to anyone who has not made an appointment to call on them. If we can get this across, we hope the bogus callers will get the message that there is no business for them in Barnet."

Guidelines are:

- Never let someone into your home unless you are sure who it is.
- Never give out personal details or your bank details to strangers.
- If you are suspicious or in doubt, don't let them in, don't tell them anything and call 999.

If they go away, try to see where they go and write down as detailed a description as possible. Try to write down car or van registration numbers, but keep yourself safe first.

Historic images online

If you've ever passed an interesting building or memorial in Barnet that has made you wonder about its origin, the Local Studies Centre at 80 Daws Lane in Mill Hill is the place to start. If, however, you prefer to research while in the comfort of your own home, it is now possible to view more than 500 images from the centre online.

The centre, which has a range of information, images and archives available for viewing, now offers people the choice of viewing images of the borough, dating back to the 19th century, by logging onto www.barnet.gov.uk/archives.

The free resource includes rare and often under-used resourced images from Barnet Council's Local Studies Collection; some of the paintings and photographs confirm historical facts about the borough.

These include works by artists such as Agnes Holgate

(1850s), Childe Pockock (1930s), Herbert Norman (1980s) and some beautiful landscapes painted when the borough was still agricultural. It is also excellent for school projects and family historians.

Collections include the census, council minutes, directories, the electoral register, local newspapers, maps, photographs and illustrations, rate books and World War Two records.

Contact the centre on 020 8359 3960 or library.archives@barnet.gov.uk.



Gone to pot

By John Dearing

Everyone who has the misfortune to have to drive up Oak Lane from the High Road will tell you that the road surface has been breaking up for months. Recently, one of the potholes has grown to a size big enough and deep enough to cause damage to car wheels and suspension.

If you know of another pothole in East Finchley that warrants attention, take a picture of it, with something alongside to show its size (a tape measure, your shoe, even your head) and email it to us at the-archer@lineone.net.

Barnet Council says it inspects all public highways at least four times a year and arranges repairs to both footways and carriageways where defects are identified as dangerous or urgent. Where the general condition of a road is poor, it may be put on the planned maintenance programme.

You can report potholes directly to the council by phoning the Customer Care Unit on 020 8359 4600 or



One of the offending holes in Oak Lane. Photo by John Dearing

going to the Transport and Streets section of the council website www.barnet.gov.uk.

Is your road scheduled for resurfacing?

Barnet Council plans to resurface some local roads before the end of April 2008.

This may include closing some footpaths and adjacent side roads where appropriate, though access for residents and essential services will be maintained as far as is practicable. The following roads in N2 will be affected:

Brighton Road, Canons

Close, Central Avenue, Church Lane, Deansway, Elmfield Road, Hamilton Road, Leslie Road, Oak Lane, Ossulton Way, Tarling Road, The Walks, Alley between Brim Hill and Abbots Gardens.

Please phone Brian Francis on 8359 7514 or Kugan Sabanayagam on 8359 7344 for further information.

In addition, to facilitate the installation of a new trunk main scheme, temporary waiting and loading restriction orders will affect Central Avenue, King Street, Leopold Road and The Walks. These were expected to commence on 2 January and to last for eight weeks.

For further information please phone Colin Reeder on 8359 3039

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Speed fears after car crashes in Church Lane

By John Lawrence

A car travelling down Church Lane - a major route between East End Road and the High Road - went out of control and crashed into the walls and gardens of three houses.

Residents heard an enormous crash like an explosion at 8.30pm on Wednesday 9 January. They rushed outside to see the uninjured driver attempting unsuccessfully to manoeuvre his Mini Cooper out of the mess.

The force of the crash sent bricks hurtling against the front door of 27 Church Lane and wrecked walls, gates and shrubs in the gardens of two neighbouring houses.

Downhill speed

People living in Church Lane and parents at nearby Martin Primary School say the incident raises serious concerns about the safety of the road. They are calling on Barnet Council to introduce traffic calming measures urgently.

They claim it is too easy for drivers to pick up speed coming down the hill from the bridge over the railway line, and then to lose control at a point where the road narrows and bends at the junction with King Street, immediately prior to the scene of this latest crash.



Photograph courtesy Jane Higginson

Risk to pedestrians

Jane Higginson, who lives at no 27, said: "I was sitting in the front room at the time. There was a huge bang and bricks came flying against my front door. That time of the evening is still busy for pedestrians along here but if anyone had been walking on the pavement at the time, they wouldn't have stood a chance."

Ruth Brown, a parent and former governor at Martin Primary School, said many families walk along this stretch of road to get to and from school. The school's first Travel Plan asked for Church Lane to be made a 20mph zone with road humps but, in response, the council only widened some of the pavements to give pedestrians more room. Ruth said this failed to tackle the real issue which she believes is speed, although this has not been proved to be a factor in this incident.

Councillor Matthew Offord, cabinet member for transport and environment, said the council was looking into the causes of the crash. He said: "Once we know the facts behind this incident, we will be able to make a judgment and carry out any changes that may be necessary to the road. The council takes road traffic safety extremely seriously."

Lights, litter and leisure

Coming up for its first birthday in April, the REEF group plans to take more action to improve life and business in East Finchley.

The group, whose name stands for Regeneration and Enhancement of East Finchley, started the 'I Love N2' campaign and has supported initiatives like the campaign to make N2 a plastic bag-free zone and events like the Oktoberfest at the East Finchley Constitutional Club.

In the coming year, the group wants to launch a litter-free campaign to improve the local environment. They also plan to raise awareness of the parking facilities in the area, to encourage more people to pay short and long visits.

REEF believes the High

Road's Christmas lights are an embarrassment and will push Barnet Council to provide better ones in 2008.

The group is also promising to work with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to improve the condition of the park, one of the area's key leisure facilities.

REEF is looking for volunteers who would like to support some of these initiatives. For more information, go to www.east-finchley.com or call Paul Homer on 020 8442 0442, or Michael Hughes at MJH Design on 020 8343 1763.

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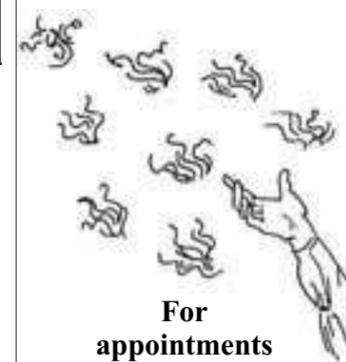
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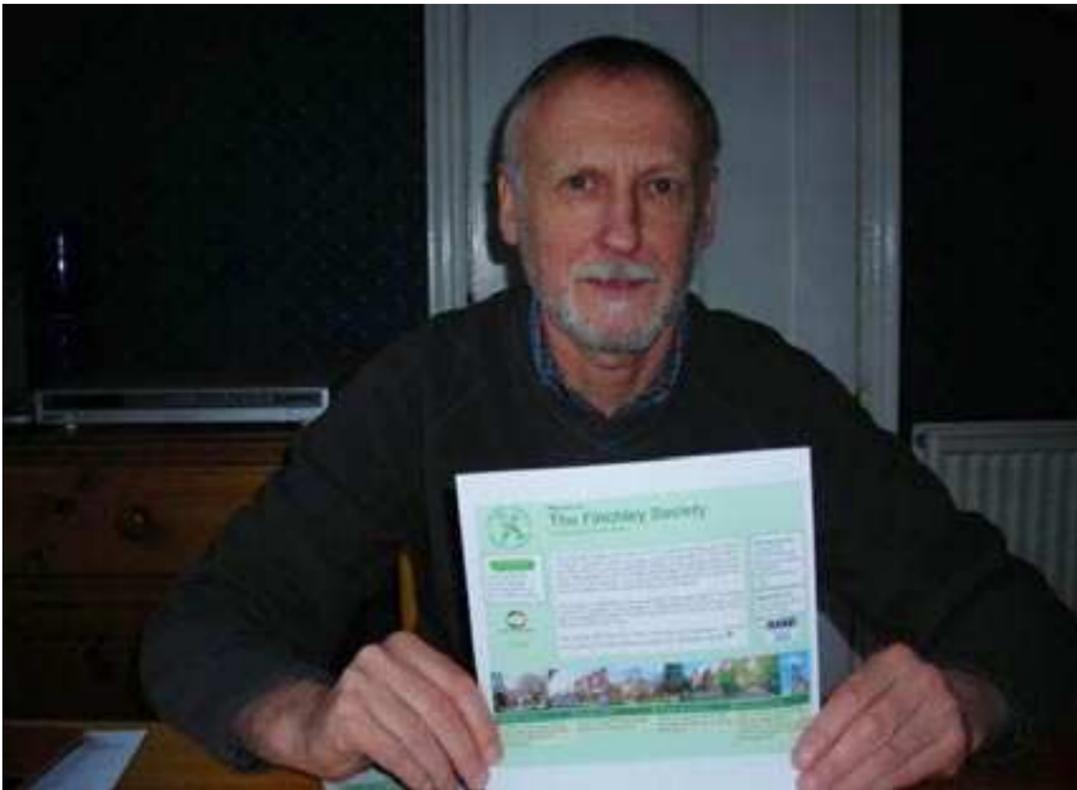
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Tony Roberts with printouts from The Finchley Society website. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

The electronic notice board

By Daphne Chamberlain

For a useful, accessible website revealing the history of Finchley and modern day planning and environmental issues, try www.finchleysociety.org.uk.

The Finchley Society site was commended at the London Forum's Walter Bor Media Awards Ceremony in November. These awards cover newsletters, one-off publications, websites and media campaigns. The judges look for presentation, content, readability, layout and design.

The Finchley Society website's chief designer and maintainer is East Finchley's Tony Roberts, society trustee and Membership Secretary and former copy editor of *THE ARCHER*.

Tony believes passionately that the society has to use 21st century technology to communicate effectively. Barnet Mayor Councillor Maureen Braun and MP Rudi Vis were among the audience at a meeting in December, when he set out the advantages of what he called an electronic newsletter and notice board.

Electronic advantages

Compared to a traditional newsletter, Tony said, a website is cheaper to produce, can be in "glorious technicolour" with better quality photos and even moving images, is accessible anywhere in the world at the same time, is quicker and easier to update, and can be used by the blind and partially sighted.

Tony offers a change of font on the Finchley Society site for

partially sighted visitors, and is careful with colour combinations to benefit the colour-blind. He told *THE ARCHER* that even the totally blind can use an appropriately designed site with the help of an audio reader, which converts text to the human voice.

Accessibility

As an experienced website and database designer, he told us that his philosophy is to keep it simple, attractive, easy to navigate, and accessible to everyone.

The Finchley Society site includes information about news and events, membership details and application form, pages on its current projects in planning, environment and transport, local history and archives, and links to other websites, enquiry contact numbers, and local photos.

Tony updates the site about every two weeks, but can make amendments in half an hour.

He paid tribute to Peter Pickering, a member of the watchdog committee which "kept him on his toes" throughout the design, and to former Society President Bill Tyler, who entered the website for the Walter Bor award.

On the presentation night itself, Tony couldn't be there, but the award was received by Stephen Yeo, who set up the original site.

Find time to fit in fitness

By Diana Cormack

Former East Finchley resident Bridgit Napleton is a qualified personal trainer specialising in outdoor fitness.

She is also a mother of three, so runs her classes during term time and appreciates the problems mothers might have in keeping fit.

To this end she has designed unique outdoor fitness sessions specifically for mum and baby, with the energising workouts held in Highgate Wood, giving mothers and babies the chance to meet. She also holds group fitness power walking sessions there. These combine a fun cardiovascular walking workout with resistance training exercises for toning, while her group running sessions combine running skills with strength and endurance development.

Should you prefer to exercise away from the public gaze, Bridgit can provide tailored exercise programmes in her one-to-one fitness studio in Highgate. She belongs to the Register of Exercise Professionals, which aims to ensure that their members are qualified to safeguard the health and promote the interests of the people who use their services. For more information phone 07779 591 101 or visit napleton@yahoo.com

Organiser needed

Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association are looking for a new meetings organiser. If you have events organising skills, please contact John Hajdu on 020 8883 8114 or hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

Planning permission: better safe than sorry

By John Dearing

In the UK, building development is controlled and managed by the local authority through the planning application process. Development companies and individuals who want to erect new structures or enhance existing ones are obliged, usually, to apply for planning permission.

Most people are aware of this process, often as a result of being notified by the planning department of a planning application that might affect them, and are grateful for the opportunity to be consulted.

When, however, the boot is on the other foot, a surprisingly large number of people behave as though it doesn't involve them or they were ignorant of the consequences. They build extensions or new outbuildings such as garages, fell or pollard trees, or carry out external work on buildings, without first applying for permission.

Late application could be too late

Sometimes neighbours alert councillors and the planning department to perceived infringements, and a Planning Enforcement Officer calls. Other times, homeowners decide to seek approval after work has been completed.

In 2006/7 there were 131

retrospective planning applications in the borough of Barnet, and by no means all of them received retrospective permission. Occasionally the work has to be reversed.

"The costs can be considerable," commented Councillor Kate Salinger. "It is such a shame when people make costly alterations to their homes without seeking planning permission first. Having made a retrospective application, the case will be examined and the outcome may not always be as wished. It cannot be assumed that permission will be given merely because building works have been done."

"The message is clear. If you wish to alter or extend your property, speak to Barnet's Planning Office first. They will tell you what is necessary for you to do. Not all improvements or alterations need planning permission but it is much better to find out first than be sorry later."

A short break for Lazy Sally

By Diana Cormack

Since the kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood re-opened last summer under the name of the Lazy Sally, it has built up a reputation for good, wholesome food and drink.

Regulars will know that the emphasis at the café, run by Sally-Anne Wigfield of Beresford Road, is on natural and organic produce. Wet weather put paid to Sally's plans for a Christmas Day opening, but plenty of people turned up on New Year's Day, when mulled berry wine and healthy smoothies were on offer along with the usual fare. The Lazy Sally is now closed, but should be open again in March.

A new approach to autism

Children under five who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) are benefiting from a new home-based service, which provides a specialist personalised programme responding to the particular needs of the individual child.

The Barnet Early Autism Model launched by Barnet Council works in partnership with families at home and offers a tailored package giving up to 20 hours educational input every week.

It has been proved that early intensive intervention for children with ASCs will improve their chances of communicating in a social setting and going on to have a happy childhood and school life.

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Farmers' market is back

By Daphne Chamberlain
East Finchley Farmers' Market is starting up again on the first Sunday in March.

Organiser Wayne Atkinson wants to thank everyone who supported the market last year, and apologises for not updating his information banner outside Martin Primary School.

He told us: "I know some people turned up in January, expecting that we would follow straight on from the advertised autumn markets. I should have put up another notice to prevent this, and I'm really sorry that

those people were disappointed and inconvenienced."

Wayne is changing his schedule from the second Sunday in the month to the first. So the next market will be on Sunday 2 March, in the Martin School playground. The programmed time is from 10am to 2pm, but the earlier you arrive the better the choice.

Wayne can be contacted on 07757 980 848 or at info@green-artisan.org.uk.

Not a pretty sight

By Diana Cormack

"What a welcome to East Finchley!" commented Eugenia von Piccardio when she brought *THE ARCHER's* attention to the state of the newspaper stands outside the tube station.

Over the years these have increased in number to 15 on the pavement by the High Road pedestrian controlled crossing. Their contents offer a range of subject matter that varies in popularity, leading to some stands being emptier than others. Many of these partially empty stands are being used by people who seemingly ignore the litter bin at the end of the row of stands as well as two others nearby on the station's concourse.

Discarded bottles, cigarette packets, food containers and their contents, in fact anything which belongs in a litter bin can end up either in one of the stands or on the surrounding pavement.

This is the footway used by bus and tube passengers who may have come to East Finchley to visit the Phoenix or the Noble Sage Art Gallery, to eat in one of our restaurants or shop in one of our speciality shops.

"It is not very nice for visitors or locals to look at,"



What a loada rubbish! Photograph by Diana Cormack

Eugenia said. At the time of writing a phone call was made to Barnet Customer Services, which said they would try to

clear up the problem. It is hoped that this will discourage people from putting their litter in the wrong place.

On your marks

Sales shopping and Christmas gifts may mean you have new and possibly expensive items in your home. How can you make your property safe?

Property marking deters thieves and helps the police return stolen property. Valuable items carrying an indelible identification are harder to sell on and, if found, police can trace them straight back to you.

First identify those items that can be safely marked and are of value to you; include any treasured possessions regardless of their cost.

Then, using a permanent etching tool or an Ultra Violet (UV) pen, write your postcode and house or flat number, or the first two letters of the house name. UV pens are preferable if etching would reduce the value of the item, but when exposed to sunlight for a long time the UV mark will fade and can also be washed off certain items.

Ceramic marking pens will work on glass, china or any glazed surface. They do not cut or scratch the surface but leave a permanent mark.

UV pens, ceramic markers and etching equipment can be found in the home security sections of most DIY stores.

In addition, note the serial numbers of all TVs, videos, audio systems, computer and camera equipment and keep the numbers in a safe place together with make and model numbers.

Security snaps

Marking jewellery and antiques is difficult and could reduce their value; instead, take photographs. Use a non-reflective background and put

a ruler next to the item to indicate size. Make sure the light is good and the item is in focus. You don't have to give a name and address when getting the photos developed in a shop.

Keep the photographs in a safe place or ask a close friend or relative to look after them for you. Do not send them to the police unless any of your items has been stolen.

Finally, remember to mark property in your shed or garage using these methods.

Into the woods

Ray Poole, Manager of Highgate Wood for the past 15 years, retired last month.

Under his stewardship, Highgate Wood won the prestigious Green Flag award. The Highgate Wood Events Diary for 2008 is now on display at the park gates, and on the website. Type 'Highgate Wood' into a search engine, or visit the Living Environment and Open Spaces section at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk.

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Where does your recycling go?

Ever wondered exactly what happens to your newspapers, glass and cans when you put them out for recycling? Here we track your household waste on its journey from your black box and back again.

Newspapers and magazines

1. After collection, newspapers and magazines are stored at a depot belonging to ECT Recycling. They are collected midweek and whizzed around the M25 to the re-processor Aylesford Newsprint, in Kent. This is a large 60-acre site, which takes in about 90 lorry-loads of paper a day and produces more than 400,000 tonnes of newsprint a year.

2. Aylesford Newsprint 'cleans' the newspaper ready for re-use. The old paper is mixed with hot water, the ink is removed with a special soap and the paper is 'tumbled' into separate fibres. It is then put through pressers which turn it into recycled paper ready for newsprint.

3. The recycled newsprint is sold to news companies including News International, which publishes The Times and The Sun. This whole process, from old paper to recycled paper, can take as little as a week. So your Sunday or daily paper could be back on your doorstep again one week later, in recycled form, ready for you to read.

Did you know? Paper can be recycled several times over, with any one fibre going around the "loop" up to six or seven times before it finally breaks.

Bottles and jars

1. Brown, green and white glass is reprocessed by O-I Manufacturing (UK) Ltd (formerly known as British Glass) in a factory in Harlow, Essex. If coloured glass is sorted before being delivered to O-I, as is the case in Barnet, this results in much higher quality output.

2. Air separation and magnets remove labels and other debris before the glass is crushed to fragments of 1.5cm. Then it is melted at temperatures of about 1,500°C, mixed with raw materials and put through moulds to create new glass bottles for beer or wine.

3. The new glass bottles are sold to drinks manufacturers such as T Anheuser Busch, which makes Budweiser beer;

Diageo, which makes drinks including Smirnoff Ice and Gordon's Gin; and Inbev, makers of Stella Artois and Labatts. Creating new glass bottles for manufacture from old bottles is an almost infinite process.

Did you know? The energy saved from recycling one bottle will power a 100 watt light bulb for almost an hour, a computer for 20 minutes, a colour TV for 15 minutes or a washing machine for 10 minutes.

Cans and foil

1. Drinks cans, foil and aerosols are taken to ECT's recycling depot at Mill Hill and then to a plant in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, run by reprocessor AMG.

2. AMG separates the metals; the steel with a magnet and the aluminium by a process "like a magnet in reverse," and they are shredded and baled.

3. The aluminium goes to Novelis in Warrington, Cheshire, where it is turned into coil and sold to can makers in the UK or abroad. One such firm is Ball Packaging in Wrexham, which turns reprocessed aluminium into cans for drinks such as Coca-Cola or Guinness.

4. With aerosols and foil, the steel and aluminium are separated and cleaned to remove impurities. The end product is then sent to steel and aluminium manufacturers to become aerosols including hairspray cans and tin foil again.

Did you know? One of the best things you can do for the environment is to get into the habit of recycling aluminium cans and foil. This is because recycling aluminium requires only five per cent of the energy it takes to make new aluminium.



A member of the ETC recycling team at work. Photo courtesy London Borough of Barnet

Tins

1. Metal tins are taken to ECT's recycling depot at Mill Hill before going on to AMG's reprocessing plant in Llanelli.

2. Most tins are made from either aluminium or steel, with the steel often having a tin lining. Once at the plant, reprocessor AMG separates the metals.

3. AMG sends most of the steel and the tin to steel firms in the UK or abroad, where it is put to different uses.

Did you know? Metals can be recycled indefinitely without losing any of their properties. Each household uses approximately 600 steel cans per year.

"There could be no other verdict"

In November's ARCHER, Ann Bronkhorst told the first part of the story of the so-called Finchley baby farmers, who abandoned or killed unwanted babies after they were born at a private lying-in home in Hertford Road. Here she concludes the grisly real-life tale.

When Amelia Sach and Annie Walters faced Mr Justice Darling at the Old Bailey in January 1903, two local London newspapers made sure to cover the case. For the *Islington Daily Gazette* and *North London Tribune* it was 'the Islington child murder case' because of Walters's address, while for the *Hendon and Finchley Times*, Mrs Sach, of East Finchley was the main focus of interest.

'Unwomanly callousness'

According to *The Times*, the prisoners 'remained unmoved throughout... Sach said: "I am innocent." Walters said, "I never killed the baby."' The judge, however, told Mrs Sach: "You have been the instigator of the other woman in the actual taking away of life as part of the business you carried on." After 40 minutes' deliberation the jury returned their verdict: guilty. *The Gazette* thundered: 'Although an illogical jury found some reason for mercy on the ground that they were women, we question if their right to the title will be admitted.'

Sach and Walters did not receive mercy on that or any other ground, and Sach's plea for clemency because she had been charged merely as an accessory was rejected. They were returned to Holloway Prison to await execution on 3 February.

Fortitude

The detailed account in *The Times* of Amelia Sach's

last days, spent mostly in the prison infirmary, and of her final moments, is subheaded 'Fortitude of Mrs Sach'. It reports her last breakfast, lists the visits from relatives, including her husband, and describes how the women 'offered no resistance to the pinioning process' and how 'caps were drawn down over their faces.'

Readers learned more grim facts: 'Mrs Walters... was given a drop of 5ft 10 ins; of lighter build, Mrs Sach had one of 6ft 1 in.' Henry Pierrepont, one of the two hangmen, recorded in his diary that "they had to be literally carried to the scaffold and protested to the end against their sentences." They were buried within the prison grounds.

The Gazette put this case into a wider context. The law, it wrote, was 'outraged by women who as mothers or baby-farmers annually abandon hundreds of newly born children.' There had been several notorious cases in the 19th century: Mrs. Dyer, who drowned babies in the Thames; Margaret Walters (no relation to Annie) and her sister, the Brixton baby-farmers; Ada Chard Williams who tied her little bundles so distinctively. Through the 20th century infanticide would become less common as childbirth became a choice, not an accident of fate, for most women, and 'baby farming' became less profitable to their predators.

Doh! How hard can bridge be?

East Finchley resident Matt Betts is the communications officer of the English Bridge Union. Here he tells the story of how he got to grips with the game.

Marge Simpson: "Which part of the morning paper are you reading, Homer?"

Homer Simpson: "The bridge column... [laughing] Oh, that South - you never know what he'll do next".

As the new communications officer at the English Bridge Union, the national membership body for bridge, I knew less than Homer Simpson about the game, but had every intention to learn as soon as possible.

How hard was it and would I ever understand even the basics? Luckily, help was at hand. Ned Paul, a member of the English Bridge Union Teachers, emailed me in my first week in the job with the simple words: "I see you want to learn about bridge... have you thought about learning it in just a weekend?"

Intrigued, I signed up for his *Learn Bridge in a Weekend* course, held at the Young Chelsea Club, along with 13 other students.

Ned is an interesting figure in the classroom. He has an air of knowledge about him, a bit of eccentricity and humour, and is charming and engaging. The whole course was fast paced but also very durable.

Visualisation

Ned has extremely useful techniques of picturing bridge, such as imagining landing a helicopter or using the concept of a fairy tale cottage surrounded by a flowery meadow when thinking about reverses.

Ned has seen the benefits of learning bridge quickly as several of his students have gone on to be club players. The weekend was physically and mentally stimulating, but I felt challenged and ready to keep learning about bridge. Ned Paul's course is not unique and anyone can find a course near them.

I agreed with Ned when he told me: "Bridge is about playing the game, not learning it. Learning is never finished, and no-one has learnt it all." That's the beauty

of bridge: the constant challenge. Perhaps Homer should try to learn bridge properly too!

To find a bridge teacher in your area, contact the EBU on ebuta@ebu.co.uk or 01296 317217. For more information on the EBU and bridge contact: Matt@ebu.co.uk or 01296 317215.

Do you have Martin memories?

As part of the official opening of the newly amalgamated Martin Primary School, and thinking forward to the school's centenary in 2013, a call has gone out to former pupils and teachers.

The school is looking for anyone with memories of the school in days gone by. Do you recall Miss Piggott, the first headteacher, who remained at the school until her death in 1941? Were you there when Mrs Ellen retired in 1967?

Were you at the school during World War II? What

memories do you have of your school days? Is there anyone out there who was around when the school first opened in 1913?

You can help celebrate Martin School's history by sending your memories to the school office or phoning 020 8883 1455 and arranging to speak to John Pickering.

Bus route backed

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is supporting the Highgate Society's campaign to extend the 271 bus service from Highgate Village to East Finchley.

East Finchley Bus Watch have already stated that they would want the route extended to North Finchley, to cover the long stretch of the High Road currently served only by the 263.



Sponsor announced for Wren Academy

A new sponsor has been announced for the Church of England Wren Academy that is due to open in North Finchley in September.

Berkhamsted Collegiate School, an independent co-educational school for more than 1,500 day and boarding pupils aged 3-18, will be a co-sponsor. The lead sponsor for Wren is the Diocese of London.

Berkhamsted joins a growing number of independent schools that are sponsoring academies and developing partnerships with state schools. Although it is a mixed school, boys and girls are taught separately between the ages of 11-16. This is similar to the proposed model for Wren Academy where a high proportion of lessons will be taught in single-sex classes.

Being a sponsor will allow Berkhamsted to nominate governors to the governing body of Wren. As the academy grows it is intended that students will also link for shared learning activities and extra-curricular opportunities.

Partners in learning

Announcing this move the Chair of Governors, Peter Williamson said: "We are delighted to participate in this initiative which we expect to be mutually beneficial for both schools. Berkhamsted Collegiate is a highly successful, forward-

looking school and we are confident we can play a part in making Wren Academy a great success."

Michael Whitworth, the first Principal of Wren Academy, said: "I am looking forward to developing some innovative links and partnership with Berkhamsted. I am sure we will both learn much from each other which can only benefit all our students."

Academies increasing nationally

Academies are publicly funded independent schools but no fees are payable by parents. The Government has a target of opening 400 academies by the middle of the next decade. Well over a hundred are currently open or in the process of development.

The Wren Academy will open in September with 162 pupils aged 11, growing year on year until eventually it will have nearly 1000 students between the ages of 11 and 18. Its specialism is Design and the Built Environment.

Over 500 pupils and their parents have included Wren as one of their school choices for next year's 162 places.

Inspiring a child to read

By Ruth Hudson

The 2008 National Year of Reading was launched on 8 January. It aims to build a greater national passion for reading with a focus on reluctant readers, those with low confidence and lack of self-esteem.

Volunteer Reading Help is a national charity and has been training and placing volunteers in schools for more than 30 years. Volunteers are recruited from the local community to help children who find reading a challenge.

Each volunteer works with the same three children for an hour and a half twice a week during term time in a local primary school. The aim is to increase the child's confidence and self-esteem in a relaxed environment, so that reading becomes enjoyable and achievable.

Survey proves VRH effective

In a recent pupil survey completed by teachers of the children helped by VRH, 98% showed improved confidence in reading and 97% showed an improved attitude to reading and an improvement in reading performance.

Schools Secretary Ed Balls said at the launch: "I welcome Volunteer Reading Help's commitment to be involved with this initiative. I have no doubt that they will make a significant contribution to what I hope will be a major success. We need children to be reading because they love it and appreciate

the opportunities that reading brings - not because people like me say it's important."

The London North West Branch covers the areas of Barnet and Brent. If you have an enthusiasm for reading, enjoy being with children and would like to volunteer, please contact Harriet Watson on 020 7372 7523 or email londonnorthwest@vrh.org.uk for more information. We welcome volunteers from all cultures and backgrounds from 18 years upwards.

Fred and Charlie's tube challenge

By John Lawrence

Two 14-year-old schoolboys took on one of the world's hardest transport challenges by attempting to visit every station on the London Underground network in one day.

Fred Isaac, who lives in Huntingdon Road, and Charlie Gould, from Hampstead Garden Suburb, started at 5.10am at Cockfosters tube station and finished a bottom-numbing 18 hours and 35 minutes later at Edgware.

They were trying to beat the record set by two Swedes in 2006 who visited 275 stops in 18 hours and 25 minutes. Unfortunately, Fred and Charlie just missed that total but did manage an amazing 251 stops out of an available 268.

Fund-raising and fun

The boys' attempt was to raise money for charity as part of the community action programme at University College School in Hampstead. Their history teacher Andrew Wilkes bravely accompanied them on their mammoth journey.

Aweary Charlie said: "It was completely exhausting but was actually great fun and a fantastic way to raise money. We had a few delays on the day and they really counted against us."



Fred Isaac gets 'tube face' in the middle of his attempt on the tube travelling world record. Photograph by John Lawrence

Fred said: "It was fascinating to be part of both the morning and evening rush hour and all the hours in between. We'll have to have another go at breaking the record, now that we've picked up some useful hints."

They spent the day chatting to each other, doing crosswords and Sudokus, reading, dozing and eating. To qualify for the

record, the boys' trains had to stop at each station although they didn't need to get out.

So far, Charlie and Fred have raised over £2,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Umbrella Mental Health charity, The Meningitis Trust, The National Hospital for Neurology, the male cancer charity Everyman and a school in Uganda.

Chiropractor chooses city life

By Lucy Chamberlin

Back pain, anyone? Aching shoulders, stiff knees or sore elbows? New chiropractor Dr Mark Warren has taken up residence at 98 High Road and hopes to treat all your structural ailments.

Originally from Devon, he came to London last year to find business openings, and found East Finchley. "I love the fact that it has a busy high street as well as a fantastic community feel here," he says.

Mark wanted to diversify and extend his practice from its rural roots, and the vibrancy of the city, not to mention prospects of 2012 Olympic opportunities, determined his destination.

He sees a wide range of complaints, from sport injuries to babies' and children's issues, posture-related matters, and problems that come with age.

In the next month or so he will have a colleague joining him; she will practise massage

in the second treatment room, and they are also hoping to start up yoga classes for anyone who fancies coming along. These will take place in the special rehabilitation room upstairs, complete with foam mats and period fireplace, a room which is otherwise used for patients'

personal exercise and treatment regimes.

With state-of-the-art x-ray and other equipment, the practice is clean, bright and friendly, and should prosper. Fifty per cent of new patients, at any rate, first found it through an advert in *THE ARCHER*!

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YOUNG ARCHER



Fred and friends at the charity sale. Photo courtesy of St Theresa's RC School

Year Five go fundraising

By Diana Cormack

When children in Year 5 at St Theresa's RC School, East End Road, decided to hold a charity sale, no one could have imagined how successful it was going to be. Aply assisted by their class teacher Paul Silverstone, the nine and ten-year-olds chose to support a charity very close to his heart. Here is how one of his pupils, Katie Huet, described what happened.

"Each class was told that they had to choose a charity. Loads of people got information about the charity they wanted to support. We ended up with the NSPCC, RSPCA and Home Counties Boxer Welfare. Everyone voted and the most popular was Home Counties Boxer Welfare. Soon after, our teacher had the idea of having a sale for our charity, so then people started bringing in things like soft toys, games, PS2 games, books, jewellery and homemade cakes.

"We needed something else to raise money and the answer was doing sponsored things. So we went home and did things we would not usually do and we

got money for that. Everyone brought things in and we had a big pile to sell. It was a success and we sold a lot of the things we had and all of the money went to dogs in need."

The children advertised and promoted the event themselves. The sale was held after school in their classroom, where they had displayed and priced the goods. All their hard worked paid off because Year 5 raised the magnificent total of £800.

Paul Silverstone's family own a dog called Fred who was rescued by the charity, which is run entirely by volunteers. For further information visit www.hcbw.org.uk

Wow, what a response

Holy Trinity School has had an amazing response to its Walk Once a Week scheme. WOW encourages children to walk, scoot or cycle to school at least once a week.

Pupils get rewarded with badges if they follow the scheme. They also get points for parking and striding, which involves parking the car earlier in their journey and then walking the rest of the way.

WOW is being used by many

schools across Barnet to reduce car usage and improve the environment. Transport for London announced in December that Barnet has reduced car use on journeys to and from school by 12%, the third highest reduction in London.

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Visitors always welcome

Is your pet too fat?

By Caroline Broome

Did you know that about 30% of Britain's pets are overweight? Those extra pounds are usually the result of over eating and can drastically affect your pet's comfort and health.

Most pet owners are guilty of slipping their pets tit-bits but fat pets have shorter lives. Their bodies are less able to cope with operations, and being overweight or obese reduces their ability to fight off diseases and worsens medical conditions such as skin disease, diabetes, arthritis and heart problems.

The best way to bring about gradual weight loss is through increased exercise and fewer calories. Before putting your dog or cat on a diet, have it checked by the vet to eliminate any underlying medical problem or medication that may have caused weight gain.

If your pet is diagnosed by a vet as overweight, try the following tips:

- Don't give your pet any treats or table snacks.
- Divide its daily food allowance into two to four small meals.
- Weigh your pet once a week and keep a record.
- Stop pets eating each others' leftovers.
- Feed pets before you eat and keep them in another room during your mealtimes.
- Don't let your dog scavenge on walks.
- Exercise your dog regularly and ensure your cat spends time outdoors.

The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic is in Park Road, N2. It is open on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm, with consultations from 6pm-7.30pm. In emergency, ring the RSPCA's Harmsworth Hospital on 020 7272 6214.

Bishop Douglass Awards

By Pamela Kent

Around 400 pupils, staff and parents gathered in the main hall of Bishop Douglass School on 11 January to see awards presented by Martin Baker, Deputy Director, Children's Service Schools and Learning to students for outstanding achievements.



Head girl Amy-Jo Griffin and Head boy William Glennon-Gilmore with Head teacher Angela Murphy. Photo: Michael Worobec

After an excellent opening of the occasion by the school choir, students were awarded for their educational ability, exemplary behaviour, loyalty, school spirit and endeavour.

Headteacher, Miss Angela

Murphy, explained how the school examination results have improved and thanked her staff, pupils and behind-the-scene helpers who have all given their time, support and loyalty in order for this to happen.

The Fifty Word challenge

Can you write a short story in 50 words or less? Impossible, you say. Not necessarily, we say. But it's not easy. THE ARCHER's Diana Cormack wrote this mini-mystery, bang on the word limit.

Forgive me, Father

"You can burn this," ordered Maud, thrusting their daughter's letter towards her husband. Derek continued poking the fire.

"But she wrote it to me and I want to see her," he replied.

"Over my dead body!" Maud snapped.

"That can be arranged," whispered Derek, raising the poker above his head.

Email your 50-word masterpieces to us at the-archer@lineone.net or post them to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA, and we'll print the best.

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PUBLIC HEARING

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2008 at 10.30am

The Vicar and congregation of Holy Trinity, Church Lane, N2 want to install mobile

phone masts in the bell tower of the church to raise money. This is opposed

by the vast majority of local residents. The plan has twice been refused planning

permission by Barnet councillors, but despite this approval is being sought now

from the Church of England. Because of the strength of local opposition the

Diocesan Chancellor has decided to hold a public hearing of the case at Holy

Trinity church on Saturday 23 February at 10.30 am. Local people will be up against

a professional legal team hired by the church. If you can offer any advice or help,

please contact members of the Stop the Holy Trinity Mast Campaign:

David & Caroline Broome: 020 8444 2329 david.m.broome@btinternet.com

Michela and Ian Marsh 020 8444 5305 ian.vecchi@ntlworld.com

Bob & Patti Owens: 020 8365 4621; contact@pattiowens.co.uk

IF YOU VALUE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND OBJECT TO PHONE

MASTS IN A CHURCH, PLEASE ATTEND THIS HEARING



Adventurous design for assault course

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

Last year, when *THE ARCHER* asked what people would like to change in East Finchley, one suggestion was to put an assault course in Cherry Tree Wood. I thought this was a great idea and have drawn up a plan for how it could look.

Jake's assault course plan:

- 1 High and low hurdles
- 2 Spring pads
- 3 Rope ladder
- 4 Tree platform
- 5 Zip line
- 6 Safety net
- 7 Spider web climber
- 8 Net to crawl under
- 9 Log stepping-stones
- 10 Balancing logs
- 11 Monkey bars
- 12 Rope bridge
- 13 Jump platform
- 14 Tarzan rope
- 15 Sand pit



Having searched the park for a suitable site, I feel a course could be installed in the dip of land by the border of the woods and the playing field. Facilities like this for youths and teens are sorely lacking in Barnet. It would need to be safe to use so I

have included shock absorbers, nets and tyres.

Arson or vandalism might also be a concern but if we can get a park keeper back for Cherry Tree Wood this should be less of a risk. Young people might be less bored and less tempted

to make fires if they have a new assault course to try out.

Do you agree with my design? If you have any comments, or perhaps your own design, please contact me through *THE ARCHER*. Contact details are on page 2.

'Finchley Remembered' once again

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley has always been an interesting place to live, as the reprinting of the fascinating book *Finchley Remembered* shows.

Only a hundred years ago, a woman opened her front door to find herself face-face with a giraffe. She lived in the Brackenbury Road/Sedgemere Avenue area, opposite Park Farm, where elephants, bears, lions and tigers spent the winter. These animals performed in Lord George Sanger's Circus, held every year on land now occupied by Martin Primary School and Chandos Road.

Around the same time, open-topped horse-drawn buses made the journey between the Bald Faced Stag and Archway Tavern, with most of their drivers wearing black bowler hats. Children liked to sit on top, beside the driver, who often chatted to them about places they passed.

70 years ago, before electrification and the extension of the Underground, trains from East Finchley travelled to the City via Highgate, Stroud Green and Finsbury Park. There were huge stacks of coal beside the station, and little boys dared each other to stand to attention on the bridges between East Finchley and Finchley Central, not flinching when they were enveloped in clouds of steam from the trains.

Maps and memories

These are just some of the many memories of Finchley residents, collected by The Finchley Society over the years and first published in book form in 2002. The illustrated recollections cover childhood, schools, entertainment, war, transport, shops, events and famous people, and include maps of East Finchley, Church End and North Finchley in 1938.

In response to continuing demand, the Society has reprinted *Finchley Remembered*. The book, costing £10.95, can be obtained from Derek and Barbara Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, N3 1YN. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Finchley Society'. For further information, please contact Derek or Barbara on 020 8346 5258.

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CONTACT David Moldon 020 8361 1696

I'm a volunteer tutor

By Betti Blatman

After completing a ten-week course in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) last summer at Barnet College, I am now a volunteer tutor. Since October, I have been assisting a tutor in the pre-entry level class where students are at mixed literacy levels.

It's quite challenging to have students from various countries including Bangladesh, India, Turkey and Yemen, all wanting to learn English despite their different proficiency levels. I have now enjoyed a few months in the classroom assisting the students in their quest to master our language. I really try to convey my enthusiasm and motivation to the students and I've been delighted to be congratulated for my efforts.

Obviously some students require more assistance than others. On one occasion when

helping a student on a one-to-one basis, he finally grasped how to write certain letters of the alphabet and it was so rewarding to see his face light up with a smile at his achievement.

There are many challenges in this role. Having a flexible approach, being patient and reinforcing repetitive instructions prove to be necessary tools in helping students grasp the complexity of learning English. It's great that there is also humour when the students accidentally misinterpret what's being taught and we have a laugh at nobody's expense. I've enjoyed my experiences and I'd encourage anybody who enjoys helping others progress in life to become a volunteer.

Did you know?

- A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.
- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
- A male emperor moth can smell a female emperor moth up to 7 miles away.
- Some insects can live up to a year without their heads.
- A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue!
- A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.



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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Not so pretty in pink

Just when you've recovered from Christmas here comes another excuse for conspicuous expenditure as everything goes heart-shaped and florists celebrate their biggest day of the year. Yes, it's St Valentine's Day, time to spend the equivalent of the gross national product of a small country on pink roses, pink champagne, pink cakes and 'Marmite with a Hint of Champagne' in a frantic effort to prove how much you care.

I blame Chaucer for introducing the idea of love birds, but that was when courtly love was the big deal, men were men and they wore armour. It was an American called Esther Howland who came up with the idea of sending cards in the 1840s. The first mass produced ones came out in 1847 and things have not been the same since. Maybe that's why Al Capone found a new way of marking February 14th, but snuffing out your business rivals isn't necessarily the most appropriate way of celebrating love.

I'm not sure what St Valentine would have thought of it anyway. He was martyred in 269AD, canonised shortly afterwards and removed from the Catholic Church's general list of saints in 1969 along with St Christopher, which must have been a double blow for car lovers.

In Sweden they didn't even have St Valentine's day until the 1960s. Then the flower industry realised they were missing out and your average Swede hasn't dared look back since.

In the wild and weird world of the 21st century no one can claim to be in love unless they buy flowers or chocolates or jewellery or send a tacky message saying 'Sugar Plum loves Huggy Bunny'. But if you're single you're stuffed as every pub, bar, restaurant, takeaway pizza parlour and shop goes loved up. You can't even buy Marmite because that's gone all pink and frilly now that they've launched their champagne-flavoured Valentine's special. All you can do is stay home, shut the doors and avoid the whole thing. But, if you are in love, you could go back to your Anglo-Saxon roots. February is Kale-monath in Anglo-Saxon, so this year, celebrate the humble kale and say it with cabbages.

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- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call 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 8883 7723.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk

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- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: All Stars Special** 4 & 18 Feb 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** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages. Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
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- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
- ❖ **Traditional Music** in the Alexandra pub, Church Lane from 8.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Joanna 8883 0941 or joanna-brunt@cybergal.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 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.

February at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly is a remarkable film about a remarkable man. Jean-Dominique Bauby was a successful, fast-living fashion journalist when he suffered a stroke in his early 40s. He went from a man who had it all to someone who was paralysed and only able to blink his left eye.

He was not defeated by this condition. He developed a code for each letter of the alphabet and, by doing so, managed to communicate with the world, writing his autobiography. Julian Schnabel has directed the film with style and grace and it plays at the Phoenix from 8 February.

The other main feature at the Phoenix in February is Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood*, a sprawling epic of a family finding oil and fortune in California at the turn of the 20th century. Daniel Day-Lewis takes the lead as the patriarch. Day-Lewis is an extremely selective actor; famously he gave up the screen entirely in the 1990s to be a cobbler. This is only his third film since returning to acting and his involve-

ment suggests a film of a high class. The film opens at the Phoenix on 15 February.

As ever, there is an exciting selection of Sunday rep screenings this month, including a rare screening of two of Wim Wender's early films, *Alice in the Cities* and *Lightning over Water* on 10 February. We have an art double on 17 February with Ed Harris's *Pollock* and the documentary *My Kid Could Paint That* about a four-year-old girl whose pictures have been selling for £25,000. We're asking our Kids Club to come up with their own masterpieces the day before, which we plan to sell for huge, undeserved profits.

Call our box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

The man behind the diary

If you want to know more about Samuel Pepys than just his diary, Brenda Cole is giving a talk to the Finchley Society on the man and his character.

Brenda is a popular speaker who will reveal Pepys's humble beginnings and how he rose to administer and to reform the Royal Navy as well as holding other high offices.

She will examine his character and quote passages from his diary, which is still an important

historical source. It includes descriptions of London in the 1660s during the time of the plague and the Great Fire.

The talk takes place in Avenue House, East End Road, on 28 February at 2.30pm. All are welcome, and entry for non-members is £2.

Phoenix on film

If you're a fan of Jonathan Ross's film review programme, watch out for the Phoenix Cinema taking a starring role in the title sequence to *Film 2008*.

The cinema was used as a location back in November to capture people reacting to what they were seeing on the screen. The whole opening sequence is based around the idea of emotions.

Director Victor Martinez

said: "I wanted to use the East Finchley cinema because it encapsulated the very essence of cinema, something that modern multiplexes lack."

The first show of the new series will be aired on BBC One on Friday 15 February.

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Choral concert

The popular series of Buffet Supper Concerts organised by the East Finchley Arts Festival committee continues this month with a recital given by Serenata, an octet of versatile singers who will perform a programme of choral music with a winter theme.

There will be music by Debussy (*Trois Chansons*) and Poulenc (*Soir de Neige*) as well as arrangements of folk songs and classic popular songs. Young jazz pianist Christopher Eldred will play solos and join the group for arrangements of *In the Mood* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

The concert is on Saturday 23 February at All Saint's Church, Durham Road, at 7.30pm. Catering will be provided by Amici Delicatessen. Tickets are £15 for the supper and concert and should be booked on 020 8444 9214. Tickets for the concert only are £10 on the door.



Into the Light rockers in action. Photograph by Kirsty Middlemist

Into the light

An inaugural Christian youth event took place on 8 December at St Mary's Church in Finchley Central. Into The Light was a rock concert featuring Christian rock bands Dweeb and Brother John, similar in style to Green Day. Both bands rocked the venue and it was clear from the bouncing that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Organiser Kirsty Middlemist, a youth worker for Barnet and Queensbury Methodist Circuit, said that she wanted to create an event that provided an opportunity for young Christians in Barnet to meet each other and enjoy themselves. Attendees came from churches across the

borough, some travelling from as far afield as St Albans. It is hoped that further events will be organised on the back of Into The Light. If you would like to be kept informed of future events please contact Kirsty Middlemist at youthworker@barnetandqueensburyyouth.org.uk.

What's On...

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

Sunday 10 February

Red Baroque sextet presents *Spring Serenade* at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm: A programme of melodious and stimulating pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Max Bruch and Johann Strauss. Free admission with collection in aid of the North London Hospice. Disabled access.

Saturday 23 February

Buffet Supper Concert at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 7.30pm; Serenata (vocal octet) in a programme of Debussy and Poulenc; folksongs and classic popular songs with jazz pianist **Christopher Eldred**. Tickets: supper & concert pre booked only (8444 9214): £15. Concert only: £10 at door.

Wednesday 27 February

Talk on THE ARCHER, the community newspaper for East Finchley, by Daphne Chamberlain and Diana Cormack, Muswell Hill United Reform Church Friendship Club, Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10, 2.15pm. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 28 February

Brenda Cole talks to **The Finchley Society** about *Mr Pepys and his Diary*; Avenue House, East End Road, N3, 2.30 pm. Everyone welcome. Entry for non-members: £2.

Friday 7 March

Friends of Barnet Libraries host a talk on *Barnet's Home Library Service* by Claire Finnett, Head of the Service; 11am - 12 noon at East Finchley Library. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 15 March

North London Chorus concert at St. James's Church, Muswell Hill, 7.30pm; Haydn's *The Seven Last Words*: seven beautiful meditations on the last words of Jesus Christ on the Cross. This spiritual, contemplative work is contrasted with Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, a spirited and dramatic interpretation of Christ's mother's grief at the foot of the Cross. Ticketline: 8883 8123 or from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98, Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill.

February 2008 at artsdepot, North Finchley

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Thursday 7 February, 7.30pm; **A Guest for Dinner**, Central School of Acting, Thursday 14 and Friday 15 February at 6pm and 8.30pm, Saturday 16 February at 3pm, 5pm and 8pm; **Shy Pigs With Wigs**, **Hidden In The Twigs**, Jason Byrne, Thursday 21 February; **Depot untapped**: regional theatre companies, Wednesday 27 February; **Barb Jungr sings Nina Simone**, Thursday 28 February, 8pm; **The Great Rock 'n' Roll Circus**, Friday 29 February, 7pm; **Barnet Schools Dance Festival**, Monday 3 March to Friday 7 March, 7pm except Wednesday, 2pm.



Letters

Book yourself a trip to the library

Dear Editor,

To my shame, I have not visited East Finchley Library for some while now. This is not because I have given up reading books, I hasten to add. Just before the New Year, I decided that I should rectify this, and took the opportunity to visit the library and choose a book.

Armed with my library card (and the book) I presented myself at the desk, only to be told that my card had been 'C-Listed' or something like that. This is the sort of thing that happens to those awful hangers-on from cheap commercial television programmes who try to gatecrash 'A-List' celebrity bashes, not me.

I was told I would have to apply from scratch for a new one, and needed to present several utility bills and my passport! Under the weight of my protests, they agreed to accept my driving licence as proof of identity, and, eventually, the transaction was done.

The librarian told me that they have recently been going through their records, removing accounts that have lapsed. He didn't explain why, but that may be because I was a bit short with him. With hindsight, it is not his fault (sorry, Mr. Librarian). It is obviously how the 'system' works.

However, if the end result is that the number of accounts at the East Finchley Library is reduced below a certain level, it will serve as useful ammunition for those who would seek to close the Library.

There is only one solution: everybody in East Finchley needs to get on their proverbial bikes and head for the Library, before there isn't one to head for. Make sure you have always got at least one book on current (not overdue) loan.

Yours faithfully,

John Dearing

Address supplied.

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

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

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Anna's recipe for desperate housewives

There can't be many gaps left in the over-crowded cookery market but Anna Angeli thinks she has found one. Anna is seeking to spread her love of the traditional Greek Cypriot recipes passed down to her through generations of her family.

A new website, www.desperategreekhousewives.co.uk, and a recipe book out later this year will keep her Greek recipes alive in an age when many kitchen traditions are losing the battle against fast food.

A living tradition

Anna, who lives in Bedford Road and whose day job is manager of the NatWest bank in East Finchley, says thousands of people have already shown an interest.

She said: "In book shops, I found that Greek cuisine is not promoted very much. There is definitely a niche in the market. 3,000 people have registered on the website and I'm hoping for 5,000 very soon."

"Many of them may be travellers who have been on holiday to Cyprus and want to know how to make the food they tasted. These days, younger Greek Cypriot people don't know a lot of the traditional dishes because fast food is everywhere. I want to keep those dishes alive."

Stuffed vine leaves, Greek meatballs and the mouthwatering dessert Baklava - a rich, sweet pastry made with nuts and syrup or honey - will be just some of Anna's recommendations.

She plans to write her recipe book and photograph the dishes on location in the sunshine of Cyprus this summer, as well as adding recipes and filmed demonstrations to her website throughout the year.

As a taster, here's Anna's recipe for Cracked Olives, known as Elyes tsakistes. It is one of the most traditional starters of the Mediterranean and full of flavour and goodness.



Anna Angeli

Cracked Olives

A large pebble or thick jar to crack the fresh green olives
Large glass jars for storage
Plastic apron
The amount of fresh green olives you wish to make and store

Water
Salt
Dry oregano
1 lemon
A few cloves of garlic
Drizzle of olive oil

To make the olives, you first need to smash them with a large pebble so they crack, but not too hard or they will go flying round the room. Apply enough pressure, so they split. This allows all the flavours to be absorbed. Wear your plastic apron, as the resin may spurt out and stain your clothing. Place them in a large glass storage jar and pour in water, measuring how many cups it takes to cover them. Add 1 teaspoon of salt per cup of water, seal and shake.

(Top tip: To check if your brine is perfect, an old wives' tale is to place a fresh egg on the surface of the water. If it floats it's just right; if not, add more salt). Leave them for one week to one month to marinade and preserve in your home-made brine. When ready they change colour to the olive colour we are familiar with.

To serve, take the required amount of olives and rinse under cold water. Add a drizzle of olive oil, a sprinkling of dry oregano, a clove of garlic cut into slices and mix together to give a truly flavoursome and very traditional appetiser. Cut a few slices of lemon to decorate and to add colour. They are then ready to eat. *Bon appetit.*

Pumpkins are not just for Halloween

By Laura Toniato

I like this time of year because it offers plenty of winter vegetables and in particular pumpkins. They have a deep orange colour and a soft velvety texture and can be used for either sweet or savoury dishes. I have found that the "Crown Prince" variety, available in most supermarkets, is excellent in both.

My mother always maintains that the best pumpkins are the ones that have caught a touch of frost; apparently it makes them even sweeter. Here is an easy recipe that I make regularly at this time of year that remind me of my early days back home in Italy.

Pumpkin Cake

This cake is really yummy and goes nicely with a cup of tea.

1kg of pumpkin (weighed with skin on)
100g Amaretti biscuits (crushed, not too finely)
2 tablespoons of cocoa powder
2 tablespoons of caster sugar
50g of unsalted butter
2 egg yolks
1 or 2 tablespoons of brandy or whisky
50g raisins or sultanas

Remove skin from pumpkin and boil or steam until tender. Mash with a fork and add the butter, sugar and cocoa powder. Allow to cool a little. Add the crushed Amaretti biscuits. Meanwhile soak the dried fruit in the brandy or whisky.

When the pumpkin mixture is cool, add the egg yolks one at a time and finally the soaked fruit. You should have a mixture that is not too wet or sloppy. Turn into a greased and floured cake tin (8/9ins or 20/22cm diameter). Sprinkle a few breadcrumbs on top and bake in a moderate oven (175° Celsius) for a good 40 minutes.

The cake is done when it has shrunk away from the side of the tin. Be careful when turning it out as it is a fairly gooey cake and don't expect it to rise as no baking powder is used.

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A choir is born

By Marian Bunzl

The North London Chorus recently went back to school. Angelina Barlow, Head of Music at The Compton School, decided to introduce her students to the glories and complexities of major choral works, and so recruited singers from local choral societies to help start the children off.

One Tuesday evening back in September, a handful of singers from North London Chorus, Barnet Choral Society and Finchley Choral Society joined a classroom full of boys and girls from Year 7 through to Year 10. It was an ambitious programme, including works by Rutter, Berlioz and excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*.

Scores were distributed, the baton was raised, a chord from the pianist...and only adult voices were heard for about three weeks.

Finding their voices

Finally, Ms Barlow issued an edict. Arctic Monkeys et al were banned from iPods and MP3 players, only Berlioz and Handel were allowed and gradually the children began to sing. Beautifully! Three girls with angelic voices were chosen to sing the recitatives.

Although rehearsals were held after school, the children attended regularly, without complaints or excuses. Indeed "Hurrah, it's choir night!" was a frequent comment on Tues-

days and, as the day of the concert approached, I began to feel we weren't really needed anymore.

Hard work pays off

The concert, held in December at Trinity Church, North Finchley, was a major musical event. There were several numbers from the Compton School Orchestra, including Winter from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, played with great concentration and precision by children of all ages, from tiny to teenager.

There was a carol group, soloists on the piano and saxophone, and an amazing riff on drums. In the Compton Community Choir, the girls were elegant in black, and the boys were smart in bow ties (adults, ditto).

Everyone's spirited and disciplined performance repaid all Ms Barlow's enthusiasm and all their hard work. The last 'Good Will Towards Men' raised the roof. Next term the students will tackle Faure's *Requiem*. The CCC is here to stay!

Sherlock Holmes illustrator commemorated

An exhibition showing work by the Sherlock Holmes illustrator Sidney Paget is on now until 5 May to coincide with the 100th anniversary of his death on 28 January.

The Case of the Influential Illustrator, at the Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, traces Sidney Paget's view of the master detective.

It is to Paget's black and white drawings that we owe the now-iconic image of Holmes: the hawk-like features, the deerstalker cap and Inverness cape. Paget lived for a time in Finchley and he is buried in St Marylebone Cemetery (now called East Finchley Cemetery) in East End Road.

Paget was born in Pentonville Road, London, on 4 October 1860, the son of a vestry clerk. In 1881 he entered the Royal Academy Schools, following in the footsteps of his brothers Henry and Walter, both noted artists.

In his short life, he produced numerous portraits in oils, including one of Holmes's creator Arthur Conan Doyle, and other paintings and hundreds of drawings for magazines such as the *Graphic*, the *Sphere* and the *Illustrated London News*.

However, he is now best remembered for the 350 or so illustrations he produced to accompany the publication of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories in *Strand* magazine.

To add excitement, the exhibition contains its very own mystery. A number of clues are given to visitors who have to try to guess which Holmes story they represent.



A classic illustration of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson by Sidney Paget, courtesy Barnet Council

A lovin' spoonful

By Diana Cormack

A token of affection on St Valentine's Day can be an expensive business, with so many retailers finding ways of parting fond partners from their money. Despite this, it isn't always easy to find the card or present that expresses exactly what you want to say. Yet hundreds of years ago that problem was overcome by even the poorest of people.

All over Europe, but particularly in Wales and other Celtic countries, it was the custom for young men to spend hours after a long day's work carving a single piece of wood into the shape of a spoon. This was not just any old spoon, but one intended for the woman of his choice. The hard work put into it was also intended to impress her father, as were the symbolic carvings worked into the wood. For instance, an anchor meant security and a desire to settle down; a ring meant together forever; a wheel meant supporting a loved one.

This special love token would be presented at a suitable time and, should the girl accept it, she was showing an interest in her suitor which would mark the beginning of their relationship. It is said that this is the origin of the word "spooning". Today Welsh love spoons are created to commemorate a range of special occasions, with both old and new symbols being used to express some aspect of love.

Barnet swimmers are winners

Barnet swimmers have won the most prestigious gala for London swimmers for the third year in a row.

Athletes from across the capital took part in the 2007 London Inter-boroughs final but once again it was Barnet swimmers who scooped the top prize. The gala, which has been running in London since 1972, was devised to promote

the benefits of swimming in all age groups. It has attracted in excess of 32,000 swimmers, including notable champions Mark Foster, Mike Fibbens and Sarah Price, who have all represented Barnet down the years.

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