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# THE ARCHER




**CAR SERVICE**  
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January 2008 No. 172  
ISSN 1361-3952

20p  
where sold

*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



Mackenzie Crook turned tube driver at East Finchley station for his new film. Photograph courtesy of Rovinge Picture Company

## Pirates actor minds the gap

By John Lawrence

**Actor Mackenzie Crook got behind the controls of a tube train in East Finchley to shoot scenes for his latest film. The star of *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Office* plays a tube driver in British comedy *3 and Out*, due to reach our cinema screens later this year.**

Crook was spotted in early December at the tube station where he filmed scenes in the cab of a tube train and with other actors along the platform.

Then later, during a break at the Windsor Castle pub, off Church Lane, he chatted outside with a group of Holy Trinity School pupils on their way home and signed autographs for them. One of his messages read: "Never trust a pirate!"

## Free Dial-a-Ride service

**From January 2008, disabled and elderly residents who cannot use public transport and who are registered users of the Dial-a-Ride service will be able to travel free of charge.**

Dial-a-Ride is a subsidised Transport for London programme and Barnet has the second highest number of registered users. It enables people with mobility problems to visit local amenities and shops. For further details of this service telephone 0845 999 1999.

Spending the day working in East Finchley was agreeably close to home for Crook, who lives in Muswell Hill with his wife Lindsay and their four-year-old son.

In this latest film, he plays tube driver Paul Callow alongside co-stars Imelda Staunton, Mark Benton and Sir Anthony Sher. According to early publicity, it's a comedy about ordinary people with unique dilemmas caught up in a cocktail of desperation, friendship, loneliness and love. Sequences are also being shot in Liverpool and the Lake District.

## Bag campaign steps up a gear

By David Melsome

**Dozens of shoppers and traders supported the start of the campaign to turn East Finchley into a plastic bag free zone but organisers admit there is still a long way to go.**

The message that there are alternatives to using a plastic bag every time you make a purchase is starting to catch on, thanks to campaigner and Holy Trinity School mother Sally Swann.

On the official launch day, Saturday 1 December, Sally and her friend Miho sold 90 reusable cloth bags to High Road shoppers. Shops across N2 are starting to sign up to the plastic bag ban and Sally has the backing of REEF, the group set up to promote business and leisure in East Finchley.

However, some of the largest local traders like Budgens, Iceland and the Post Office have yet to lend their support, making it difficult for campaigners to make any real impact on people's shopping habits.

### Any volunteers out there?

Sally now hopes to step up a gear by talking to more retailers about the alternatives to plastic - paper and cornstarch, for example - and by getting the big stores involved. She's also looking for volunteers to lend her a hand.

Sally said: "Clearly, REEF and I have not yet achieved our goal of making East Finchley a plastic bag free zone but we are not going to give up. We plan to continue promoting the campaign, talk to retailers who have not yet joined in and persuade



Sally Swann and her friend Miho sell reusable shopping bags to High Road shoppers

them to stop offering plastic bags. If anyone would like to help with the campaign by donating some time, we would be most appreciative." Volunteers can contact Sally by email via [info@east-finchley.com](mailto:info@east-finchley.com).

A fair trade, reusable bag, sponsored by Prickett and Ellis, is on sale at a number of outlets, including the Phoenix Cinema, priced at £2.50 for a small bag and £5 for a large shopping bag.

Sally's campaign was inspired by her own environmental concerns and by the success of a similar drive in Modbury, Devon, where residents and traders pulled together to make it Britain's first plastic bag free town.

About 1.6bn bags are used in London every year and only one in 200 of these is recycled, according to London Councils, which represents 33 boroughs.

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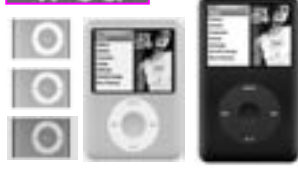
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