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THE ARCHER




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June 2009 No. 189 **20p**
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

East Finchley Festival coming soon

By Rob Robertson

This year's East Finchley Festival takes place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 21 June. It will run from 12 noon to 6 pm and, as usual, will be a celebration of what is great about living and working in East Finchley.

The festival will be preceded this year by a parade along East Finchley High Road of children from local primary schools, starting from Martin Primary School. The theme of the parade will be characters from books. We are also hoping to have a police helicopter fly-past. Come and cheer the kids on to Cherry Tree Wood.

At the festival there will, as usual, be an opportunity to support local businesses and charities by visiting the various stalls and to talk to representatives of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team and the local fire service. Children will have the chance to inspect a real fire engine.

Top local bands will be doing their stuff on the two stages. This year's acts include Sound of the Suburbs, Sofa Sonic Sound, The Idles and everyone's favourite, the

Applelips Brothers. As ever, Antigua Joe will be presiding on the main stage.

Backers and helpers

The organisers would like to thank Budgens for their kind support because, in general, the festival receives no direct funding and is almost entirely dependent on revenue from advertising, the stalls, the food and beer tents and the raffle to keep running each year.

So please come along, enjoy the day, buy some refreshments and raffle tickets and support your local community.

If you would like to help in other ways, such as volunteering to be a steward on the day, please contact me at the Finchley Community Development Trust on 020 8883 4916.

One more thing: the weather forecasters are predicting a scorching summer. Keep your fingers crossed!



Blue Peter presenters Joel, Helen and Andy face young film goes at the Phoenix Cinema. Photo by Jodi Warren.

Hands up for Blue Peter trio

Young members of the Phoenix Cinema's Kids Club were treated to a very special screening on 3 May when the presenters from TV's *Blue Peter* turned up to show off their first big screen outing.

Helen, Joel and Andy shot a film as part of the show's *Me and My Movie* competition. They were called to the Phoenix the day before and were set the challenge of getting the film together for the screening the next day. The Phoenix event was due to be broadcast on Blue Peter on 2 June.

Me and My Movie is a joint venture with Bafta, BBC Learn-

ing and Blue Peter. Children aged between 6 -14 can enter the competition by submitting a two-minute movie. A team of Bafta judges will choose

five finalists to attend the Children's Baftas where one winner wins a Bafta award. For details visit www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/meandmymovie/

See your photo in THE ARCHER Calendar 2010

THE ARCHER this month launches the search for 12 brilliant new photos to be in our calendar for 2010.

This year's calendar was a sell-out success and raised more than £2,000 for local neighbourhood charity Contact. We hope to raise cash for another good cause in 2010.

If you have a photo of someone or somewhere in East Finchley, we'd love to see it. Picturesque, striking or maybe plain bizarre, all photos are welcome, as long as they show some aspect of life in N2.

Our judging panel will pick the 12 best photos and the calendar will be on sale from October.

Please email your photos to the-archer@lineone.net, clearly marking the email Archer Calendar and giving a few details about where or why they were taken. We're accepting photos now but the closing date is not until September so there's plenty of time to get snapping.

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to deliver the paper for us.*

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.

Copy deadlines

July issue: 12 June

August issue: 10 July

September issue: 14 August

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Barnet Council:
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
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

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
MIND 020 8343 5700
NHS Direct 0845 4647

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014

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E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector 08705 555 999
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

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

Developers plan to build on Budgens car park

By Richard Cranum

For the eighth time in as many years, a developer has made a planning application to build a block of flats behind Budgens, taking up most of the car park.

There are concerns that the new block of flats would leave little room for shoppers to park, which could severely affect the financial viability of Budgens and Iceland. Furthermore, the building footprint will severely impede deliveries.

Opponents of the plan say that, if the supermarkets cease to trade, commerce in the High Road would be affected badly, and East Finchley could be reduced to a Muswell Hill dormitory area, a devastating outcome for the whole community.

Annual "harassment"

This latest planning application is hardly different to the previous seven, all of which were either refused or withdrawn. Planners do not take previous objections into account, however, so residents and businesses directly affected will have to repeat their objections.

One resident said: "It seems like this company is going to continue making applications until by attrition they finally succeed in getting their way. There should be a limit on the number

of planning applications that can be made for a given proposal. It is not fair that we should be subject to this never-ending harassment, year after year."

Property blight concerns

If this application succeeds, residents of Viceroy Close will suffer from noise, dirt and dust created by the building site. Following this, the multi-storey block directly in front of them will obscure their light and view. Furthermore, access to residents' parking spaces and garages will inevitably be compromised, because of the restricted parking available for shoppers. Worse still is the possibility that, in the current economic climate, the building work may not start for several years, reducing the value of their properties.

Advertising in

THE ARCHER

Please note that all advertising requests and instructions for our August issue need to reach us by 6 July. We regret that we will not be able to accept any August requests later than that date.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

38a Church Lane, N2
Creation of first floor roof terrace and installation of privacy screening.

146 High Road, N2
Change of use from Estate Agent (Class A2) to a Mini Cab office.

152 High Road, N2
Installation of an awning blind fitted under shop fascia.

Land Adjacent to 373 High Road, N2

Replacement of existing hoarding with new 96 sheet hoarding.

72 Leicester Road, N2
Conversion of existing dwelling into two self-contained flats.

Viceroy Close, N2
Erection of a four storey block containing nine self-contained

units and 6 associated car parking spaces.

Haringey Council

44 Beech Drive, N2
Erection of double-leaf automatic vehicle gates to existing driveway entrances onto Beech Drive and Creighton Avenue, N2.

Fortismere School North Wing, Creighton Avenue, N10
Demolition of existing music teaching rooms and two temporary buildings and erection of new music teaching faculty.

32 Western Road, N2
Certificate of Lawfulness for ground floor rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable space. Erection of rear and side dormer windows and insertion of rooflights to front and rear roof slopes.

Drug dealer sentenced

By Janet Maitland

A drug dealer has been sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted of two counts of possession with intent to supply cocaine and heroin. Takan Omer, 46, pleaded not guilty but on 2 April he was found guilty by the jury's unanimous verdict.

Officers from Barnet Police had mounted an intelligence-led operation to capture Omer. On 17 July last year he was seen selling drugs to a woman in Long Lane. The following day he was seen again dealing drugs in Tally Ho, North Finchley, and made off in his car.

During the pursuit, Omer

threw 11 wraps of crack cocaine out of the car, which were later recovered by police. When stopped, two packs of heroin were found in his car.

"This was an excellent intelligence driven operation that has removed these deadly drugs from the streets of the borough," said DI Caer Taylor of Barnet Police.

Timing is everything

How do you ensure that THE ARCHER hears about a local occasion in time to cover it or publicise it? How can you get your passionate letter into the very next issue?

The answer lies just inside the front cover, at the bottom of page two. 'Copy deadline' means the final date for THE ARCHER to receive what you have written.

For example, a What's On announcement for an event in early August should reach THE ARCHER by 12 June, nearly two months in advance, if it's to give

readers plenty of notice by being included in the July issue.

Ideally, though, written material needs to arrive some days before the deadline, to allow enough time for any changes to be made or queries settled. So, please think ahead, and you might find yourself in print with perfect timing.

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Parking permit system in chaos

By Diana Cormack

Technical problems with Barnet Council's changes in the system for acquiring parking permits have caused consternation and confusion to some residents living within Controlled Parking Zones.

The idea was that those with access to the internet would "have the option to renew, apply, amend and print their own parking permits from the comfort of their own home". Alternatively, people could telephone a new, automated permit line to have permits sent by post.

Long delays

This was to start on 1 April, with the previous two-week grace period being cancelled as residents would be expected to renew on time. For many that proved to be impossible. With both the website and the automated telephone line not working properly, the borough's parking team was inundated with calls, with consequent delays to phones being answered.

John Plummer, a newsagent in the High Road, waited for well over an hour. "My phone was literally hot," he told *THE ARCHER*.

Callers were advised that the Civil Enforcement Officers (traffic wardens) had been informed of the situation and

that a note should be put in vehicles to the effect that the relevant permit had been applied for. Some were also told to apply by posting a cheque and, if they did get a Penalty Charge Notice, it would be revoked.

The parking call centre was receiving over a thousand calls a day, so a backlog of requests for permits has to be dealt with. If Barnet had installed a recorded message about the system failure presumably a great waste of time and money could have been avoided. Those manning the phones would also have been saved a lot of unproductive time and trouble. Perhaps Barnet should reimburse the cost of customers' phone calls with a free book of Visitor Vouchers?

July 2008 questionnaire results

Nothing yet. At the time of writing, Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER*: "a letter should be going out to residents regarding the East Finchley Controlled Parking Zones before the end of the month".

Supermarket plan shelved for good

By Janet Maitland

The Planning Inspectorate has dismissed an appeal against Barnet Council's decision not to give planning permission for a supermarket at Stag Court, opposite the library.

"It's been a lot of work and it's cost me a lot of money, but that's business," said the applicant, who asked not to be named. He has decided not to challenge the decision.

When the application was first submitted last June, many local people petitioned against it, fearing that a supermarket would threaten other shops. Those who supported the supermarket, mainly older residents, felt that it would save them a long walk to the centre.

Barnet refused the application because it was thought to be detrimental to the vitality and viability of the rest of the High Road and would cause traffic problems. They also could find no evidence that the site had been marketed for its current use as offices. An appeal was lodged with the Planning Inspectorate last November.

Inspector's assessment

"I have no doubt that a supermarket would be a convenience, especially for older people, but no cogent evidence of unmet need has been provided," said Robin Brooks, the inspector, who visited the site earlier this year and noted

the number of convenience food stores nearby.

"I share this view with my colleagues who dismissed appeals relating to a retail sales building at the nearby Leopold Service Station." The applications referred to were submitted by Tesco in 2002 and 2004.

Parking problems

Mr Brooks also thought that the High Road looked "fairly fragile" and considered that a supermarket would make this worse by diverting trade away from established shops. He acknowledged that offices would employ more local people than a supermarket, but could not find any evidence of active marketing for this use.

He also thought that customers trying to park in residential streets already subject to severe parking pressures could result in a "potentially dangerous" situation.

"A supermarket would just lead to a spiral of decline," said Mr CP Shah of Church Lane, who had opposed the application.

The site is currently boarded up from the inside.

Westminster Morris Men come to East Finchley

By John Dearing

The Westminster Morris Men toured East Finchley on the evening of 20 May, visiting some of its pubs. They performed a selection of their dance repertoire for the entertainment of pub regulars and passers-by.

The tradition of Morris Dancing goes back to the Middle Ages, when folk took part in morris dances, especially at Whitsun. The Westminster Morris was formed in 1953, and first danced out on Coronation Day.

The team has made a tour of Highgate for a number of years, but decided this year that it was time to move on. Highgate's loss became East Finchley's gain.

Pub crawl with a difference

Starting at The Windsor Castle in The Walks, they danced in the street outside the pub, to the sound of their two melodeon players. They dance in the style of *Cotswold Morris*, which involves the use of handkerchiefs and sticks. Much merry banter was exchanged with onlookers, who were also urged to make a contribution to the team's funds.

Next stop was The Five Bells in East End Road. One of the highlights here was a dance called The Rose where a young woman celebrating her birthday joins them for the dance, but to find out what happens next,



Photo by John Dearing

readers will have to attend next time.

For the final visit of the evening, the team trooped round to The Old White Lion. Dancing outside the front of the pub soon attracted quite a crowd, some of whom joined in, to everybody's amusement.

Then, lo and behold, a mythical beast emerged from the shadows: a Unicorn, who proceeded to accost young women onlookers, demanding a kiss.

Overall, the tour was a great success and we hope they will return to East Finchley around this time next year.

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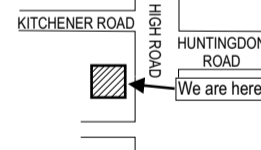
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Shop owner injured tackling thief

By Janet Maitland and John Dearing
The owner of KF Computing and Imaging in the High Road ended up in hospital after he took on a man who was stealing from his shop on 29 April.

"He just walked into the shop in the middle of the afternoon and asked me if I had anything expensive to sell because he wanted to take it to sell himself," said Syed Zaidi. "Then he tried to get into the till. When he couldn't reach it, he snatched a camera lying on the shop counter and then demanded the battery charger for the shop laptop.

"He said he'd kill me if I didn't give it to him, but I pressed the shop panic button and pushed him away. He fell on the laptop and smashed it. Then I began to shove him out of the shop as I could see people outside who would help. He bit me on my nose and lower lip - there was a lot of blood."

No support

Although Mr Zaidi managed to get the man out of the shop, no one came to help him. "I shouted that he was stealing from me, but



Syed Zaidi. Photo by John Lawrence
 no one did anything," said Mr Zaidi, who was badly bruised when the thief threw him onto the pavement.

The thief fell over and hurt his leg, but managed to stagger with the camera to a silver Audi A3. He was driven away by another man. The police arrived shortly afterwards. Mr Zaidi was treated for his injuries at Whittington Hospital.

The thief is described as dark-skinned and wearing a grey hooded top, black jeans and white trainers. He was roughly 25, 5ft 10ins tall with short black hair. The camera is a Canon SLR worth an estimated £1,500.

Anyone with any information should call PC Chris Skeggs on 020 8733 4534 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Two girls arrested on suspicion of fraud

By Janet Maitland
On Wednesday 6 May police were called to Lanchester Road, N6, by a woman who had become suspicious of two girls who called at her house claiming to be collecting money for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' but had no charity ID.

The suspects' descriptions were circulated by police radio. Fortis Green Safer Neighbourhoods' PCSOs patrolling the ward spotted two girls matching the descriptions in Lauradale Road, N2, and chased them. They were joined by police officers who detained the girls in Twyford Avenue, N2. The officers seized £100 cash and charity forms recording details of further donations.

The girls, a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old, were arrested on suspicion of fraud by false representation and taken to a north London police station. Both were bailed to return to the station later in the month.

"It is very important to Breakthrough that our genu-

ine fundraisers in the community are easy for the public to identify," said Chris Askew, Director of Fundraising at Breakthrough Breast Cancer. "Our official fund raisers wear a Breakthrough Breast Cancer T-shirt or jacket and have identification badges with their photo and name. Our logo and registered charity number will also be on any forms you are asked to fill in."

To donate to Breakthrough Breast Cancer visit www.breakthrough.org.uk/ donate or call 020 7025 2428

If you are concerned about the legitimacy of someone fundraising for any charity you should contact the charity directly for confirmation.

Support for victims of crime

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

Our local Victim Support team in East End Road has asked us to let local people know about the service they provide to victims of crime.



Victim Support is a national charity that provides confidential emotional support, practical help, information and advocacy to all victims of crime, whether or not the crime has been reported to the police. The service is free and is available to everyone over the age of 12.

Whether you've been the victim of burglary, theft, robbery, assault, harassment, domestic violence, sex crimes or hate crime, Victim Support can help you. They also offer support to the family and friends of those who have died as a result of crime.

The needs of victims are not always a priority for those in the criminal justice system, despite significant progress in recent years. But Victim Support listens to what victims have to say, talks to other agencies on their behalf, and gives them the information they need to make decisions.

Local involvement

Victim Support is always looking for part time volunteers. They provide free training and pay travel expenses for attending training and visiting victims.

Although Victim Support receives some funding from the Home Office and Barnet Council, the service still depends on raising money from local residents. They are always immensely grateful for any donation, however small.

To find out more about volunteering, to make a donation or to use the services, contact Victim Support at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE or telephone 020 8343 4435 (lines are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm).

Locals petition to keep PC

By Janet Maitland
Many of our readers will have enjoyed a chat with PC Chris Sullivan, who has been patrolling the streets of East Finchley for the last two years, but he is being moved from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Local residents signed a petition against the move, concerned that they were losing a well-liked and valued police officer. There were also worries that the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) would be a much-needed officer short as a result.

'We'd like to reassure local residents that we're not cutting the team strength,' said Sergeant Andy Matthews at the SNT. 'Chris is moving back to the Response Unit after a good two years here and he will definitely be replaced.'

How to contact us:
 The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or

07887 632767, email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.



At your convenience: Richard King shows off the new allotment facilities.

The call of nature

Allotment holders planning to put in a long day digging the soil no longer need to worry about getting caught short. Two state-of-the-art toilets have been installed at East Finchley Allotments off Plane Tree Walk.

The convenient conveniences are positioned at either end of the site. They are completely self-contained units, not requiring any water supply, drainage or soak-away. A clever air circulation system ensures they are never less than fresh.

The allotment association's Richard King said the South African design was becoming increasingly popular at locations where water supply and drainage was a problem, particularly beaches.



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Visitors always welcome



Bus reliability: the concerns continue

By Daphne Chamberlain

Transport for London have said that they recognise concerns over reliability on bus route 263, and have looked at whether increasing the frequency of service was possible. However, scheduling is remaining at one bus every 10 minutes.

In a letter to East Finchley Bus Watch, they acknowledge that the buses are often overcrowded, but blame this on the effect of below-standard reliability. They maintain that by improving reliability and ensuring buses operate to the scheduled times, overcrowding should decrease.

They do not consider that extending route 17 from Archway to North Finchley would be financially viable. Meanwhile, overcrowding on routes along Holloway Road is being relieved partly by extending the 263 to the Nag's Head.

Consultation Manager

Stephen O'Connor apologised for not consulting Bus Watch about this recent extension. The group are registered as stakeholders who should be consulted about changes and extensions to routes. This was not done, but Mr O'Connor said that their comments made in 2007 were taken into account.

He said, "We will continue to closely monitor route 263 to ensure the reliability is maintained, so that buses are not overcrowded".

THE ARCHER will print the response from Bus Watch in our next edition. Please let us know your views, too. Our contact details are on page 2.

Review: *The Hide* (15)

By John Lawrence

For anyone who thinks they don't make films like they used to, *The Hide* (see director's profile, right) is a cinematic treat. Suspense, comedy and terror mix together powerfully in a story that twists and turns like a startled bird in flight.

Alex MacQueen plays a birdwatcher who must share his creaking wooden hide on the mudflats of the Thames Estuary with an unexpected and mysterious guest, played by Phil Campbell. Poles apart in character, both men harbour secrets and neither can walk away.



Alex MacQueen, left, and Phil Campbell in a scene from *The Hide*.

Director Marek Losey paces the film beautifully. The mannerisms and obsessions of each man are gradually exposed as the camera watches their conversation unfold.

The tension of the plot, the smart script and the precision of the acting make this a British movie to savour in all its intricate detail. They do still make 'em.

A filmmaker to watch

Marek Losey has spent 14 years making some of our most memorable commercials. He's directed 30-second slots giving us comedian Matt Lucas craving Crème Eggs and the Honey Monster body popping for sugar puffs.

Now Marek, who lives with his family in Lankaster Gardens, is moving into the world of full-length films, but making a breakthrough is not easy.

Best of British

His first feature *The Hide* (see review, left), a tense encounter between two men in a bird-watching hide on the Thames Estuary, has picked up a clutch of awards from film festivals. However, what it doesn't have is a distribution deal to get it into UK cinemas.

"It's getting good reviews but it has just two characters and a plot where you can't give too much away so it's not an easy film for a company to market," said Marek.

Nevertheless, *The Hide* is getting a high profile. It has been shown on Film4 as part of the British Connection series and will be the opening film at the Best of British season at the ICA in London. You can catch it there for two weeks from 5 June.

"The aim is to get as many critics, journalists and members of the public to have a look at the film and get behind it," said Marek. "It would be great if we could get it out to film lovers and shown at somewhere like the Phoenix Cinema."

Shot over 10 days at Pine-wood Studios and on location on the Isle of Sheppey, *The Hide* cost just £100,000.



Director Marek Losey is trying to get a distribution deal for his debut film to get it into cinemas like the Phoenix. Photo by John Lawrence

Film in the family

Marek comes from a family of filmmakers. His grandfather was the celebrated director Joseph Losey, who made *The Boy With Green Hair* starring Dean Stockwell in 1948 and *The Servant* starring Dirk Bogarde in 1963. Marek's father Gavrik Losey produced *The Great Tycoon* starring Anthony Quinn.

"I've enjoyed 14 years in advertising and feature films are

something I've always wanted to do but given the family history I've been a little reluctant to make that step because it takes a great deal of intellectual maturity. It's taken me this long to feel I might be able to do it," said Marek.

His next project is based on the dramatic life story of Phyllis Pearsall, the inventor of the London A-Z. His hope is that a big-name female star will come on board to play the lead.

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Many hands make light work

Many readers will have noticed some disruption on their pavements in recent weeks as Barnet Council carries out a multi-million pound programme to install new street lamps.

New lighting columns are being placed around N2 and the old ones removed. In many instances, the columns themselves are being moved back from the pavement edge and positioned closer to homes and front gardens.

The new versions are designed to be longer-lasting, safer and more energy-efficient. They are also easier to repair as the old model is coming to the end of its working life.

A letter sent to residents from the council and contractors David Webster Limited said the benefits of the new lamps



would be a safer environment and less street clutter.

Barnet's street light replacement project is costing £60 million and is being funded by a national government grant through the Private Finance Initiative.

Residents' group gets results

By Caroline Broome

The fourth meeting of EFVRA, the East Finchley Village Residents Association, was held at The Five Bells pub on 30 March, and was well attended by our regulars, as well as several new members. We now have more than 80 members, and that figure is rising, in response to our articles in THE ARCHER as well as our extensive leaflet drops within a large radius of N2.

EFVRA continues to promote a positive focus on current local issues and events, as well as fighting campaigns when we feel that circumstances dictate such actions. One such campaign is the strong local opposition to the reapplication for mobile phone masts to be installed within the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church.

Our EFVRA letter to Barnet Council, concerned with traffic conditions in Church Lane, has received a response from the Director of Environment & Transport's office giving details of a forthcoming scheme to improve road safety, due to commence soon.

After local concerns regarding the proposal for a supermarket to be opened on the corner of Leslie Road and 222 High Road N2, the Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal application for Change of Use at Stag Court.

Future plans

Other local issues are being raised all the time. Keeping our Green Spaces in perpetuity; the provision of youth activity in the N2 area, as well as local secondary school place allocations, are all on the agenda for future meetings. EFVRA is also keen to start making links with other local initiatives and charities. Within EFVRA all roles are shared out, such as volunteering for leaflet distribution, petitions, and organising social events, with members taking responsibility for coordinating their pet subjects.

EFVRA will have a stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 21 June, so come along and meet us; take the opportunity to get involved, or simply be kept updated about local issues. For further information contact Caroline Broome or Patti Owens on EFVRA@btinternet.com

Fun walk brings in funds for hospice

The hundreds of walkers who took part in the Big Fun Walk are helping to bring in a massive total for the North London Hospice. More than £114,000 has already been raised from the event in early March, putting sponsorship 10% ahead of this time last year, and much more is expected once all pledges have been collected.

Big Fun Walk organiser Vivienne Bentley urged all walkers to send in their sponsorship forms and cash as soon as possible. She said: "We would like to thank everyone who took part and everyone who gave money. It is wonderful that the community is still willing to support us even in these hard times."

Participants in the Big Fun Walk set out each year from East Finchley Station to cover a seven and a half mile route through north London's parks to Westminster.

All the cash raised from the event is used to fund the work of the North London Hospice in Whetstone, which provides care and support for patients and families in Barnet, Haringey and Enfield.

THE ARCHER reported last month that the hospice had issued a plea for extra support during the recession after noticing the volume of donations to its fundraising shops was dropping.



Jack, pictured in 2008. Photo by Yvonne Brown

Brave Jack loses his battle with cancer

By Betti Blatman

After a courageous four-year battle with neuroblastoma, seven-year-old Jack Brown sadly passed away on 3 May in hospital in America with his parents Yvonne and Richard, brother Connor and sister Rhian at his bedside.

"Richard and I still continue to wonder at why so many people have been so captured by Jack," said Yvonne. "We know why we loved and continue to love Jack deeply, but it is difficult to understand exactly how he caught the hearts of strangers and those who see him in a professional capacity irregularly in such a profound way. But he has, and we are deeply grateful for all the love shown that has made Jack's short life such a special and happy one."

In a message on their website, Yvonne and Richard wrote: "From a father to a son, thank you for teaching me what is

important. We carry your hope forwards. From a mother to a brave son, thank you for teaching me the true meaning of love. You will never leave me, nor I you."

After the family's return home to Barnet, a memorial service took place for Jack in Devon.

If you choose, in lieu of flowers, please contribute to the JACK research fund to help provide hope for other relapsed children who are battling this disease. Cheques should be made out to "2Simple Trust /Joining Against Cancer in Kids" and sent to: The 2Simple Trust, 3-4 Sentinel Square, Brent Street, Hendon, London NW4 2EL Tel: 020 8203 0100.

Donors, please indicate that your gift is in memory of Jack. You can also donate directly on-line via this link: www.justgiving.com/policerun4jack2009

Bench back where it belongs

By Diana Cormack

After the workmen sprucing up Cherry Tree Wood for proposed Green Flag status had left, locals began to spot the odd discrepancy. For instance, on last month's letters page Joyce Arram pointed out that the new seats she described as a "major improvement" failed to carry some of the dedications which were on the old benches they had replaced.

But an even bigger bone of contention was the disappearance of a bench that had been bought by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Spearheaded by Anne Lalaguna, who worked closely with Barnet Council to ensure it met the borough's criteria, the Friends had purchased the bench at a cost of £600 to mark the new millennium.

Positioned beside the footpath at the Northern Line end of the field, it gave those who rested on it a wonderful view of the park. Nobody had thought to



Photo by Diana Cormack

consult or liaise with the Friends about its removal.

THE ARCHER was alerted to the situation by Fenella Reed, of Eastern Road, a firm fan of the sturdy seat. She found out that Barnet had put the bench into storage and wanted to know what they proposed to do with it, given that the borough prides

itself on reuse and recycling. Return seemed to her to be the better option. Maybe Fenella's previous contact with Barnet councillors and the parks department had already started things moving, but within two days of THE ARCHER getting involved, the millennium bench was back in its place.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

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<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



Long Lane Pastures breakthrough

By Linda Dolata

Long Lane Pastures is a tract of ancient hay meadow which survives opposite the Fire Station on Long Lane. Those who have visited in the past will be glad to hear that the long-awaited signing of a long-term lease is imminent, so this beautiful place will continue to be a reservoir of diverse and increasingly rare organisms.

Careful management over the past few years means that there is something to see on every visit. A wide range of indigenous flowering plants, and a good mix of shrubs and trees, has led to creatures of many kinds becoming established.

It's wild in the water

For example, in May the large pond had marsh marigolds and yellow flags in bright colour to match the buttercups. The water was brimming with oxygenating weeds, with silent newts slinking their way to the surface, and water boatmen, back swimmers, water beetles, and other surface breathers powering to the depths, where lurk rapidly growing dragonfly nymphs and other predators. No wonder the thousands of tadpoles that hatched from this year's frogspawn have dispersed so readily.

The butterfly border welcomes speckled wood, brimstone, tortoiseshell,

comma and various white butterflies, with all the grass meadow types to come. The honeybee, bumblebee, mason bee, and hoverfly numbers are building up in anticipation of the nectar, which the numerous flower buds promise.

Thriving foxes

The trees, which so many people turned up to plant in November, have virtually all taken. The resident fox is now a proud father of five cubs, and near their earth the grass is completely flattened by their romping games.

Long Lane Pastures is open every Saturday from 10am until noon, and all are welcome. If you wish to do a bit of conservation work then all the better. The entrance is on the path opposite the Fire Station.

Add these dates to your diaries: 27 June, Wild Flower Day; 25 July, Butterfly Day; 15 August, Wildlife Day when the blackberry picking season begins.



John Scott controls the fictional city of Barchester. Photo by Lois Lawrence.

Golden age of steam lives on

By David Melsome

As boss of cars and courier firm GLH, John Scott has a day job that is all about roads. But when he gets home, he can transport himself back to the golden age of steam railways.

John has designed a model railway that recreates the railway he remembers from his childhood in the West Country in the 1950s.

The 16ft x 8ft layout has lines from the Great Western and Southern Railway compa-

nies and is set in the fictional cathedral city of Barchester, complete with shops, cinema and John's original Dinky cars and vans.

"I was born in Exeter a week before the war," says John, "and as a child there were two things of great interest: the cathedral and the railway. I wanted to invent a small town for myself with both the Great Western and Southern lines in it."

Barchester tracks

John's father was a doctor and built a railway layout for him on an examination couch

that could be wheeled out of sight. John's new railway is rather more permanent with a double mainline track, a branch line, 17 engines and more than 20 carriages.

John designed the layout and bought all the rolling stock. The construction was carried out by Brian Taylor, of Old Barn Model Craftsmen, based in West Sussex.

John is officially retired but still works at GLH. He's delighted with his new toy but adds: "I just wish I wasn't working so hard so that I could play with it more often."

Extended hours for nursery children

By Charlie Ashley

Holy Trinity has been chosen as a Pathfinder school as part of a new government scheme which will see it increase its free nursery provision for children from 12.5 to 15 hours a week. The change will take place from September 2009 when the doors will be open for three hours a day to each pupil.

The nursery hours will be from 8.50am to 11.50am and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Nursery children can also attend breakfast club and after-school club for a fee. For example, afternoon nursery combined with after-school club will provide parents with 25 hours of childcare a week from 12.30pm to 5.30pm for £37.50.

Holy Trinity is a church school with a Christian ethos but warmly welcomes children from all faiths and those who have none. Nursery children are included in daily assembly on Thursday and Friday mornings, perform their own class assembly and join in all the school concerts and festivals.

If you would like a place for your child, the closing date for admissions for children turning three between 1 Sept 2009 and 31 August 2010 is Monday 15 June, 2009. A waiting list operates for older years in the nursery and throughout the

school.

To apply, pick up an application form from the school office or look at the school website at www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk. The website also includes a prospectus and full details of the admissions policy. If you missed the Open Day on 3 June, head teacher Tim Bowden runs regular tours of the school and would be happy to talk to you. Please call the school office to arrange a time on 020 8883 1824.

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YOUNG ARCHER



The cast of *Honk!* from the Create Theatre School for children. Photo by Jane Begamie.

A honking good show

Create Theatre School have scored a hit with their latest show *Honk!* at the Finchley Youth Theatre, raising £300 for The Bobath Centre.

Based on the story of The Ugly Duckling, the show's young cast impressed everyone with their professional performances.

YOUNG ARCHER sent Alice (11), Isobel (9) and Grace (7), to review the show on its opening night on 15 May.

Grace said: "I thought the Cat (Kiera Ellerker) was the best actor because she didn't forget any of her lines, and I really liked the Frog (Eden Cronin) because she made me laugh when she said things like "Who'd want to snog a frog!"

Isobel said: "I was inspired by Ida (Alice Rooney) and Drake (Helen Males) because they were like a real mum and dad."

Alice said: "I liked the Goose airline because it was very creative and I thought the costumes were imaginative. They used yellow caps for the baby ducks and a white suit for Ugly when he turned into a swan."

And backstage...

During the interval our reviewers interviewed Alice, Helen, Katherine Conlon (Ugly) and Caroline Dunne (Grace, the finest Duck on the lake):

Q: "Is it hard to remember all your lines?"

A: "You practise and you think you know them but it is hard when you are on stage on your own. If we get stuck we look at Kate (Kate Roscoe, Musical Director and prompt)".

Q: "Lots of what you have to say is very funny. How do you stop yourself laughing on stage?"

A: "You get to say your lines so many times that you get used to it."

Q to Ugly: "You play a sad character. What does it feel like to be the one left out on stage?"

A: "It is easy to relate the part to people in my class or things that happen at school".

Find out more about future productions at www.createtheatreschool.co.uk

Festival of Music, Drama and Dance

By Betti Blatman

The North London Festival was in full swing with a wide range of musical and dramatic talent of all ages from 17 April to 22 May at the United Reformed Church, Tetherdown, N10.

At the Instrumental/Strings Recital section on 5 May the Adjudicator, John Crawford, was so impressed with the competitors' outstanding performances that he selected three finalists: Balint Kiss (who flew over from Hungary to compete) on guitar, Makoto Nakata on violin and Indira Grier on cello, who was finally selected to win

the prize.

The Prizewinners' Concert on 21 May was a celebration of all that had gone on during the course of the Festival.

The President's Prize Competition on 22 May featured top musicians from the Festival who were invited to compete for a cup and cash prize donated by our President, the renowned conductor Sir Colin Davis CH CBE. For further information about the Festival visit www.northlondonfestival.org.uk or contact Rachel Douglas, Chair of Executive Committee on rachel.douglas@mac.com or 020 7485 1467.

Father's Day

By Diana Cormack

Father's Day is on 21 June, which makes sense because it is a Sunday when, with luck, he won't be going to work. Mother's Day in this country is always on a Sunday. This is because it comes from a very old British tradition connected with the church and its correct name is Mothering Sunday. Father's Day also has a connection with the church, but it is not as old as Mothering Sunday and it did not start in this country.

Like many of our newer special days, it began in the United States of America. A woman called Sonora Louise Smart was the eldest of six children. When their mother died, their father took on the task of bringing them up. One Mother's Day (which they have in mid-May) Sonora was listening to a church sermon and decided that there should also be a day to honour fathers. After all, her father had been wonderful to his children. She began to talk to local people about it and, just one year later, her hometown of Spokane in the state of Washington celebrated the very first Father's Day.

That was in 1910 and Sonora chose 19 June because it was her father's birthday. In 1924 the US president, Calvin Coolidge, proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Over the years it grew more and more popular in the USA and became a permanent national day six years before Sonora died in 1978. By then this day devoted to good fathers had spread to many other countries, including Great Britain. Now, ninety-nine years since it began, it has become a tradition.

So, on June 21 this year, remember that we are able to celebrate this special day because one woman was so grateful for all that her father had done.

Triple triumph for Christ's College

Christ's College Finchley, the only Specialist Mathematics and Computing comprehensive boys' school located in Barnet, has won three awards for academic achievement in the last two months.

Two of the awards are from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) and the third is the secondary KS3 Geography Quality Mark Award Spring Award 2009.

The first SSAT award is for being one of the top 20 nationally highest performing Specialist Schools in the UK. The school was presented with a plaque to commemorate this award at a presentation dinner and ceremony at the Royal College of Physicians on 10 March.

The second SSAT award is for being the eighth most improved Specialist School in the UK with

very high levels of achievement in KS4, including English and Maths. This award was presented on 2 April, once again at the Royal College of Physicians.

The third award is the Secondary KS3 Geography Quality Mark Award Spring Award 2009, awarded in recognition of excellence in teaching and learning in geography. Head Teacher of Christ's College Finchley, Gary Tucker, commented: "These outcomes are testimony to the blend of hard work and commitment shown by students and staff as well as the effectiveness of our improvement strategies."



Rachel working at the tiny table. Photo by Diana Cormack

Welcome to the Teen Room

By Rachel Geral

The recent revamp of East Finchley Library has seen the installation of a teenage room kitted out for 12-18 year olds. Rachel Geral, of Strawberry Vale, gives her views on this new resource. Rachel, 17, a former pupil of Martin Primary School, is studying A level biology, psychology, PE and drama at Woodhouse College and hopes to become an occupational therapist.

East Finchley Library has just opened a study room dedicated to teenagers like myself, and I only have three words to say: "I LOVE IT!"

I used to have to travel all the way to Hendon Library in order to find a space that allowed me to relax, feel comfortable, and revise all at the same time.

Now that I have a library that does this for me locally, with easy access to revision guides and books related to my age range, it's so much more convenient. But it's for all of us teens to share, so why not come down and check it out?

You'll feel way more comfortable in the teen room, and not so worried about interrupting an older person; for once we'll be out of their way. And you can concentrate in a room isolated from children crying or playing noisily and from the constant tapping of computers, an offer hard to refuse.

As it's new there are still some improvements needed, for example longer or more tables. If we are going to be away from the world we may as well be evenly distributed. Also more revision

guides for A level students as we need more material. And a brighter colour-scheme because studies show that colour affects our learning.

Apart from that I know that East Finchley made a rewarding investment in us youngsters, by creating this teen room.

New name, same game

East Finchley's local tennis club has cut its ties with the Muswell Hill United Reform Church and is going it alone as Fortis Green Tennis Club.

With four shale courts in a tranquil garden setting, the club accommodates all levels of player, with a coach on hand to get the best out of returners and children, as well as the seriously competitive player.

The club is currently accepting new members. For more information, visit the website at FortisGreenTennis.co.uk or phone the membership secretary on 020 8883 7723.

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Learning about the wood. Volunteers work for Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by Ian Cormack

Volunteers work for Cherry Tree Wood

By Ian Cormack

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood recently held two successful birdbox making days organised by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

With Gillian the BTCV manager guiding them, eight or nine volunteers also worked on the fenced off section in the south Wood near the tennis courts. The intention was to extend this protected area and embrace more ground to encourage regeneration.

It was quite hard but satisfying work, making the holes then driving in the posts to the required depth to minimise rotting. They also learned how to tension the palings as best they could to make it look like a professional job.

Unfortunately, the men due from Barnet Council did not show up to give access to the new fencing stored in the old park keeper's hut. So, after cannibalising the existing fencing as far as possible, the volunteers had to leave the task unfinished with the partly extended area left open.

Sue, from the Friends' committee, helped rescue the day by giving a tour of the Wood to the volunteers in the early afternoon.

The Friends paid for the services of BTCV through a National Lottery grant and feel the small assistance required from Barnet was not much to ask for.

Can you spare 30 minutes to help preserve the park?

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are looking for volunteers who can spare 30 minutes to help remove small balsam, a plant which is invading the wood and crowding out native species such as bluebells. It is fortunately easy to spot and very easy to remove so the activity is suitable for all ages. Turn up to help from 11am to 12.30pm on Sunday 7 June.

Building funds

The Apollo building site compound in Eagans Close will host a fundraising coffee morning, with a raffle and refreshments, in aid of the North London Hospice on 3 July from 9am to 12 noon. The event is supported by Barnet Homes, Holy Trinity Primary School, the Met Police and the London Fire Brigade.

Funding shortfall for field plan

By Ann Bronkhorst

THE ARCHER reported in October 2008 on Haringey's proposals for a master plan for Muswell Hill Playing Fields and on the council's consultation process. At last Haringey Cabinet have reached a decision for the future of this huge open space, listed as a site of local importance for nature conservation.

At the end of April they announced a three-phase plan, but with funding available for the first phase only.

Youth facilities first

In Phase One, to be completed by 31 March 2010, young people's needs have been prioritised, perhaps because some contributory funding will come from the Government's Play-builder scheme.

The proposed layout shows a variety of play and sports facilities clustered along the western side of the former cricket pitch, adjoining Islington Cemetery. Separate play areas for three age groups are envisaged, as well as outdoor fitness equipment, a multi-use games area for basketball and five-a-side football, and a skate park. Linking paths and CCTV are included in this phase.

The idea of a skate park was popular with the young people consulted though less so with older residents. If it does proceed, the skate park may be partly built into the existing grass bank and railed off for safety.

Funding gap for further plans

Phases Two and Three would create a sport/community

building with toilets, a café and changing facilities; pitch improvements such as better drainage; picnic tables, seats, bins and fencing; and tree planting. Council officers will have to "pursue funding" for these phases, however, and no time-frame is suggested.

Pitch hirers will be disappointed that one of the present pitches will be lost, in the overall scheme, with no funding available for its replacement. As Councillor Martin Hall has pointed out, this would not comply with the results of the earlier consultation. A cricket wicket, however, will be placed between two of the football pitches.

To see the master plan or for further information visit www.haringey.gov.uk or call 020 8489 1000 or 020 8489 5873 (Cllr Martin Hall).

Cut the fuss, take a bus

By Daphne Chamberlain

Anne Lewis from Manor Park Road believes in making a good thing even better. Since picking up a leaflet about outings run by Sullivan Buses, she has enjoyed many day trips with them, but at first there was just one fly in the ointment. It would have been so much easier if passengers could have boarded their bus in East Finchley.

She mentioned this to the company's managing director, Dean Sullivan, who sometimes drives the excursion buses himself. He readily agreed, and from this year East Finchley people can start their day out by catching their tour bus from the Underground station or from any N20 stop along East End Road.

It's their days out programme, including the seaside, stately homes, pageants, air shows, motor museums, steam trains, safaris and markets, which has hooked Anne. She says: "I can drive, but I hate it. This way I've been to places I wouldn't normally go to, and got to know the other "regulars". Everyone is very friendly, and I like the very useful maps they hand out of the places we visit."

The buses are double-decker, fitted with coach-style



Hail the bus for your days outing at any N20 bus stop from East Finchley station along East End Road. Anne Lewis leads the way. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

seats and full three-point seatbelts. They carry wheelchairs, but advise wheelchair users to book their space a day or two ahead. Otherwise, there is no need to book, and the company can usually arrange discounted entry fees for places visited. For further information, visit www.sullivanbuses.co.uk, or call 07982 234 698.



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- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **WoodWalk**, 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 07956 375607.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and Improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-18 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops.** Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz** on Mon 8 & 22 June at 8.15pm, 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.
- ❖ **Salsa lessons** Mondays, EF Methodist Church. Call Ronnie Raul 07958 605 773 [e:ronnieraul@rocketmail.com](mailto:ronnieraul@rocketmail.com)
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact Carole 8810 7454 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Monday each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

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** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tuesdays 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita Shaw 8886 6140.
- ❖ **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.

June at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer
By the time you read this we should know the result of our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the cinema. We asked for £606,000 to make this cinema beautiful again. If we're hanging out the bunting we've been successful; if we're hanging our heads, we've not.

It's been a massive amount of work for an organisation the size of The Phoenix, but just going through the process has been immensely beneficial.

We now know exactly what we want to do to this 99-year-old cinema and we have a strong business plan for the next four years.

Either way, we're a much stronger organisation than we were when we started this process and either way we'll be making significant improvements to the building. And we're grateful to everyone who has donated, we've already raised £260,000 but we need a further £200,000 to do the job properly. We'll make sure you can read about the outcome in *THE ARCHER*.

Film-wise June is full as

always. Look out for an advance screening of Ken Loach's new film *Looking for Eric*, hot from Cannes, and we hope to have Ken in person to talk about it.

Our special events continue with a live-by-satellite performance of *Phedre* with Helen Mirren from the National Theatre on 25 June.

Sunday afternoons are a festival of early Bond films with *Dr. No*, *From Russia with Love*, *Goldfinger* and *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* playing on consecutive weeks. It's a chance to remember how great Bond used to be prior to descending into car chases and guns.

Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 and our website is www.phoenixcinema.co.uk



Art lovers admiring the works on display at last year's East Finchley Open weekends. Photo by Adam Justice-Mills.

Open House weekends

By Dina Katz
Nineteen East Finchley Open artists will welcome visitors into their houses and studios in and around East Finchley on two weekends in July. You have the chance to relax, browse and meet the artists, and also to buy their work.

Fifty exhibitors will be displaying their work in painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, calligraphy, photography, prints and glassmaking.

This year the EFO is expanding its horizons. The 2009 Open event will be complemented by a group exhibition, THE EFO@KOUKAN. New and cutting-edge, the Koukan Gallery is located at 106A Alexandra Park Road, Muswell Hill, N10 2AE. The exhibition will be open daily Saturday from 4-12 July.

The EFO weekends in East Finchley are on 4-5 July and 11-12 July from 11am to 5pm. Look out for more information locally or get full details on www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Club shows its hand

By Stella Burnett
Many people enjoy playing bridge but are hesitant to do so at a high-powered bridge club.

Highgate Bridge Club is holding a free open afternoon on Wednesday 24 June, starting at 1.30pm in the Scout hut in Sheldon Avenue, N6. It's on the 263 bus route and there is plenty of on-street parking.

If you don't have a partner, we'll try to match you up with someone if you contact us. For details, contact Stella Burnett on 020 8444 7860 or email sjburnett2@aol.com.

Review: Damien,

St Mary's Catholic Church

By Linda Dolata

This play was a monologue in the storytelling tradition by Father Edward, who had that very day flown in from Canada. He is a priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The story he told was of Belgian Father Damien de Veuster, who from 1873 until his death in 1889 was the first priest for the leprosy colony on the Kalaupapa peninsula, on a Hawaiian island. Until his arrival, the lepers had been abandoned in a barren harsh environment, without even shelter, for seven years.

The tale was told as if from the grave, as during his ministry Damien begged and cajoled anything and everything to give these desperate people back some human dignity. Eventually the man who shared so much with his lepers also came to share their fate. Fifty years

after his death, his body was disinterred and taken back to Belgium, where the slow process of canonisation began. He is to be made a saint by the Pope on 11 October this year.

The story was a good one but words cannot convey the presence of Father Edward himself. The beauty of his speaking voice and the wonderful, echoing, shadowy chamber of St Mary's as dusk fell was spell-binding. The piece ended with a translated Ukrainian folk tune, and as the haunting last tenor notes died away the 'pindrop' silence was at last broken by applause. I feel very privileged to have been there.

What's On...

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

- Saturday 6 June**
 - **Summer Fair** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road. 11am-2pm.
- Sunday 7 June**
 - **Sponsored Bike Ride** in aid of the North London Hospice. Join a 20 - 40 mile circular ride through country lanes from Queenswood School, Brookman's Park. Adults £15, children £5 including refreshments. Contact Evelyn on 8446 2288 or elydon@northlondonhospice.co.uk
 - **JCC HummusFest**; 3:30 - 5pm, Hampstead Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill, NW3. Price: £6 in advance, £8 on the door. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866. www.jcclondon.org.uk
 - **Guided walk: Battle of Barnet**. Meet at junction of Great North Rd and Hadley Green Rd at 2pm. Contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.
- Monday 8 June**
 - **Barnet and District Local History Society** hosts "Foul deeds and suspicious deaths in Barnet, Finchley and Hendon", a talk by Nick Papadimitriou. 3pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet (opposite Barnet Museum).
- Tuesday 9 June**
 - The 48th Annual General Meeting of the **Hendon and District Archaeological Society**, 8pm, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Members will present an overview of the society's activities and field work during the year. For further information, visit www.hadas.org.uk
- Sunday 14 June**
 - **Greenacre Bicycle Rally**. Three and a half mile circuit of Finchley, with escort of trained stewards and police cyclists. Suitable for all ages, including children. Free juice and muesli bar for every cyclist. Fancy dress and entertainment. Starting at 11 am outside artsdepot, North Finchley. Details from Mike Gee on 020 8346 5503.
- Wednesday 17 June**
 - **Friern Barnet coffee morning**. "Amy Johnson", a talk by David Keen from the RAF Museum. 10.30 am in Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road.
- Sunday 21 June**
 - Several gardens open in **HG Suburb** 1-6pm in aid of the North London Hospice. Tickets £6 in advance, children free (with SAE and cheques payable to **HGS Horticultural Society**) from Open Gardens, 48 Erskine Hill, NW1 6HG. Start and map from 4 Asmuns Hill NW11. Further details from Marjorie Harries, 8445 6507, or www.hortsoc.co.uk
- Thursday 25 June**
 - **The Finchley Society** hosts a talk by Tony Roberts, "East Finchley's History through Maps", 8.30pm. This follows the Society's Annual General meeting at 7.30pm. Avenue House, East End Road, N3 (tel. 020 8346 7812). Non-members welcome. Admission fee £2.
- Saturday 27 June**
 - **Buffet supper concert. Summer Serenade, by Serenata**: a programme of vocal music by Purcell, Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Delius and Gershwin, 7.30pm, All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2. Tickets: Combined Supper & Concert ticket: £15 (pre-booked only), concert only: £10 (at the door). Bookings: 020 8444 9214. Catering by Amici Delicatessen.
- **North London Chorus Concert** at St James Church, Muswell Hill, 7.30 pm, Haydn, Handel and Purcell. Ticketline: 020 8444 2142 (£16, £12, £8) also from Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3 HN or at the door.
- Sunday 28 June**
 - **Fabulous Finchley!** A guided walk through 1,000 years of Finchley history. Meet at Finchley Central tube (Ballards Lane entrance), at 2pm. Walk finishes at East Finchley. Contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.
- Saturday 4 July**
 - **Coffee morning** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road in aid of The Children's Society. 10am - 12 noon.
 - **Rock and Stroll! Women's 6 mile sponsored circular walk** from Woodside Lane N12 at 6pm. Registration fee £20. Party after the walk with family and friends: BBQ and live band. Tickets: Adults £15, children £6, walkers free. Contact Azey on 020 8446 2288 or fundraising@northlondonhospice.co.uk
- What's On at artsdepot**
 - Sunday 7 June**, 12 noon and 3pm, **The Little Mermaid**: music, live theatre and puppetry for children aged four and over.
 - Tuesday 9 June**, 7pm, **The Art of Abstraction**.
 - Friday 12 June**, 8pm, **Pappy's Fun Club**.
 - Sunday 14 June**, 12 noon and 3pm, **Journey of a Turtle**: traditional story plus puppets for five years plus.
 - Wednesday 17 June**, 8pm, **The Glass Mountain**.
 - Thursday 18 June**, 7pm, **An Evening of International Big Bands**.
 - Sunday 21 June**, 2.30pm and 7pm, **Encore: 10th anniversary celebration of Centre Stage**, song and dance from local talent.
 - Sunday 21 June**, 12 noon and 3pm, **Terry Jones' Fairy Tales** for children aged four to 11 years.
 - Monday 22 June to Wednesday 1 July**, 7pm, **Barnet Schools Music Festival**.
 - Saturday 27 June**, 8pm, **Cuban Groove**.
 - Sunday 28 June**, 3pm, **Room on a Broom**: adventures of a witch and her cat, songs, laughs and scary fun for children aged three years and over.
 - Sunday 28 June**, 8pm, **Josh Howie, Chosen**.
 - Thursday 2 July**, 7.30pm, **Piccadilly Dance Orchestra**.

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

Letters

Happy ending for bench

Dear Editor,
How sad I was to notice that, in between all the good work being done in Cherry Tree Wood at the moment, the Millennium Bench donated by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood had been replaced by one of the standard Barnet Council benches. Although the plaque was still on the shiny new bench it seemed inappropriate in these days of recycling that a sturdy oak bench should be discarded. Having contacted Barnet Parks, THE ARCHER and Barnet councilors, imagine my joy this morning to see our old bench reinstated, looking a bit shabby but very comfortable basking in the sun! So, thank you THE ARCHER for your help, and thank you Barnet Council for listening.

Yours faithfully,
Fenella Reed,
Eastern Road, N2

Ask and you will receive

Dear Editor,
A few issues ago it was reported that in February 2009 Barnet Council would provide plastic and card recycling for flats. Well our estate (The Grange) was still waiting till just now. I contacted the recycling dept at Barnet and was told that individual residents should contact them to request such facilities. This I did, and very quickly they came to install the new recycling bins. The contact is: Paul Woodward on Paul.Woodward@Barnet.gov.uk

Yours faithfully
David Alexander,
Address supplied

Flight of fancy

Dear Editor,
Would it be a flight of fancy to preen pigeon disease denial from Meg Mattinson (Letters, THE ARCHER, May 2009) homing in on a citation of ailments spread by avian vermin, fed by those who might scoff at health concern? I wouldn't relish hovering in wait for someone to die before seeds of doubt disperse.

However, catering for Ms Mattinson's apparent appetite for the fluttering intonations emanating from her laurel tree, I agree such cooing to be lower in the pecking order of aural pollution than the common or garden hedge trimmer, the lesser-spotted builder and occasional nest of road-diggers.

Yours faithfully,
Malcolm Griffiths,
Midhurst Avenue, N10.

Pigeon post

Dear Editor
Congratulations to Diana Boyd for her article about the pigeon post at Pigeon Corner (THE ARCHER, April 2009). It was obviously a wind-up but it made a pleasant change from some letters which have appeared recently in THE ARCHER condemning the pigeons as public enemy number one. Dare I suggest that there was just a hint of sympathy for the pigeons in that piece? Perhaps not. Nevertheless it was most amusing.

Yours faithfully,
Thomas McCann,
Hobbs Green, N2

Cyclists invited to break out

By Nick Bloom
Keen cyclists are invited to join the annual 'Suburban Breakout' from East Finchley on Sunday 12 July at 9am. This is a 100k (that's 66 miles) ride starting at The Big Chef on the High Road, via Potters Bar into the rolling Hertfordshire countryside and back.

Sixty riders took part last year, with a wide range of age and ability, from sporting riders to commuters, and inevitably a few 'fixies'. I run the ride on behalf of the Cyclists' Touring Club and Audax UK, the long distance cycling organization, to show

local riders how quickly they can get out of London by bike.

Challenge yourself

It's not a race, and it's not a charity ride: more a personal challenge. Ride with others or on your own, flat out or steady. Anyone can take part on any bike, tricycle, tandem or recumbent, though under 18s need parental consent. If you finish within time you can buy a medal or badge. Although most of the route is on quiet country roads, there are a few nasty 'A' roads to cross, and there will be busy traffic on the way back through Barnet and Finchley. There aren't any mountains around here, but that doesn't mean it's flat.

You can take a break on the way at one of the many pubs along the route, so long as you are back within the time limit of 7.5 hours. That's only 13.5 kph (under 9mph) including any stops. You do have to look after yourself and follow the route sheet, and there's no pick-up if you break down or get tired.

Entry in advance is £4, CTC & AUK members £3. All on the line entries will be £5. Contact me for more information on 07768 354010 or nick@centrallondonctc.org.uk or ask at Bike and Run on the High Road. You can also find entry forms, maps and routesheets at www.centrallondonctc.org.uk/audax.php.

Safeguard our wardens, safeguard us

Dear Editor,
As a former tenant of Paul Byrne House, I knew many of the residents, in particular the very frail and vulnerable occupants. Should the site manager be removed (THE ARCHER, May 2009), the more severely impaired and frail will not find themselves the cover which currently provides for their needs, including those of a clinical nature.

The proposed mobile or "floating" support would be totally inadequate for those people classed as highly dependent. Further, there would be nobody to monitor the cameras put up at residents' expense.

One may ask why we are the most deprived sector of the public. Costs are being picked on, when there are other areas to be looked at. For example, able-bodied people who are well able to fend for themselves. Yet we seem to provide succour to those dysfunctional elements, who are a permanent drain on the public's fiscal resources.

The powers that be ought to be approaching this in a more positive and equitable way.

Further, the current culture does not give a benchmark to those who, in their life, have contributed to post-war prosperity. Right now, the two elements of greed and fear are negating any hope for confidence to be restored to Barnet's most deprived residents.

The current culture has to change in the public domain, if our elected representatives are to regain respect from the people of our generation.

Yours faithfully,
George Shaw,
St Mary's Green, N2.

Save our stroke unit

Dear Editor,
Five years ago I had a fairly severe stroke and was lucky enough to be taken to Barnet Hospital, and be given a bed for some weeks in their specialist stroke unit, where the careful care that I received was instrumental in my making a slow but full recovery.

It is therefore with strong misgivings, and some fear for many of us, that I await the outcome of the proposal to close the Barnet unit and transfer Specialist Stroke Care to central London.

Not only would the time to reach hospital in the first place be compromised, but also this would lead to visits by family and friends lessening (it is so VITAL for a disorientated stroke patient to reconnect with what is familiar).

Very little has been publicised about all this, so that few are aware of the NHS plans. In effect we are being disenfranchised by stealth. I can only hope that the unit remains in Barnet, where it is accessible to local residents
Yours faithfully,
Linda Dolata,
Leopold Road, N2.

Life after a stroke

At a time when proposed changes to the system of dealing with strokes in London are being fiercely debated, a book about after-care for stroke victims written by an East Finchley resident has been published.

Dr Mareni Raymond is a GP in East London with an interest in elderly psychiatry, including strokes and dementia. Coping With Life After a Stroke was published in April by Sheldon Press and costs £7.99.

Linda Dolata, who suffered a stroke herself five years ago, has read the book and gives her thoughts.

This small book is an easy read, and the layout is extremely clear. It is quite possible to find just the sections that are relevant to the individual reader, without having to read the entire book.

Dr Raymond takes the reader through the causes of strokes and the preventative measures (such as good diet, and daily exercise). What is especially helpful is the clear explanation of what to expect in the aftermath of a stroke, and what measures to take to optimise the chances of recovery.

Most people are aware of the physical effects of a stroke, but I don't think many are as aware of the emotional and cognitive effects (poor memory and concentration) which are probably (certainly in my case) far more debilitating.

The book addresses all of these, and offers tips and strategies for coping, stressing the need for goals, and for recognising the achievements as time passes. I would strongly recommend it to anyone who has experienced a stroke and to their family.

My only quibble is with the endorsement of the use of statins for high cholesterol, as I think the side effects, which can be horrendous in some cases, are underrated.

OBITUARY

Ann Young

The death occurred on 27 March of Ann Young, formerly of 2a Sedgemere Avenue, N2. She lived at that address for almost 40 years with her husband, Brian, who died four years ago. Ann leaves three sons: Barry, Stephen, and Matthew, and four grandchildren.



Ann lived in East Finchley nearly all her life. She was born at 54 Park Hall Road as one of twins to Sam and Lilian King, and she spent most of her childhood in the same house.

Most of her married life was spent at Sedgemere Avenue. She passed away peacefully at the North London Hospice in North Finchley and is sadly missed.



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Round the world on the high seas

Lauren Mead grew up sailing patched-up dinghies at her local sailing club. Now, at just 21 years old, she's taking to the oceans of the world as the youngest woman in the 2009-2010 Clipper Challenge.

Lauren, from Leslie Road, will depart from Hull on 13 September in a 10-boat fleet that will race to France, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, Singapore, China, Canada, the USA and Jamaica before returning to the UK. The 35,000 nautical mile challenge is the only amateur global yacht race in existence.

Lauren comes from a family of professional sailors. From her local sailing club in Kent, she managed to qualify to be part of the GBR Yacht Racing Academy in 2006 as the only girl in a 30-strong team. She moved on to crewing on boats in the Southampton area, driving down from East Finchley every Friday night to

race at the weekend, coming back exhausted but happy on a Sunday evening.

For the round the world race Lauren will be one of 18 crew on board a 68-foot yacht owned by Clipper Ventures. The boat is built for speed and not comfort. Conditions are cramped and team work is vital to ensure that the boat runs smoothly and there is no bickering.

Sponsoring Lauren

To be able to compete in the race Lauren needs to raise £15,000 with any excess raised being donated to the Philip Green Memorial Trust,



Lauren Mead is aiming to sail around the globe.

a London-based charity that works to improve the lives of sick and disabled children.

Lauren said: "I wanted to have an adventure, and doing it on behalf of the Philip Green Memorial Trust makes it that much more worth while." To

contribute to this campaign, visit www.justgiving.com/laurenmead2009. Lauren is also looking for corporate sponsorship to help fund her trip and has a range of benefits that local businesses would gain by sponsoring her.



Lauren will be part of the crew on a Clipper boat.

Radio 4 visits Bobath Centre

By Ann Bronkhorst

There are three Bobath Centres in the UK providing specialised treatment for people with cerebral palsy and one is here in East Finchley. Our Bobath Centre, at 250 East End Road, is a popular cause for local fundraisers, but its national profile was raised recently when BBC Radio 4 covered its work.

The half-hour programme, in the regular medical series *Case Notes*, was packed with information about cerebral palsy and the various treatments possible. About one in 400 births are affected by the condition, which is usually but not always detected soon after birth. Early brain damage, from a variety of causes, leads to difficulties with movement and a range of other impairments.

Catherine uncurls

A remarkably assured and engaging 11-year-old, Catherine, was interviewed for the programme. She described how her own feelings about the demanding physiotherapy she has received have changed over time, from thinking of it as just play to sometimes wanting to refuse it. But, she said: "My body gets tight" and so it's

"Mum, can you do my physio, please?"

At Bobath, parents sit in on every session and continue the work at home, so Catherine's mother has always been involved. She described the extraordinary "uncurling" she witnessed in her child after their first Bobath session, when Catherine actually grew one inch in 10 days.

The programme dealt with the causes of cerebral palsy and the range of symptoms and associated problems; it also mentioned some of the other treatments available, such as Botox injections and surgery to lengthen muscles.

For more information there is a Radio 4 Actionline phone number, 0800 044044. The Bobath Centre itself can be contacted on 020 8444 3355

Anniversary bonanza for choir

By Marian Bunzl

The North London Chorus's June concert will be a celebration of three composers' anniversaries: Haydn's 200th, Handel's 250th and Purcell's 350th.

The choir will sing Haydn's *Mass for Troubled Times* (Angustis), so full of upbeat music that it became associated with the victory at Trafalgar, hence its usual title *Nelson Mass*. Handel's *Coronation Anthems*, including *Zadok the Priest*, need no introduction and there will be a short joyful piece by Purcell.

Unlike our composers, our soloists are young and at the start of what we are sure will be great careers. Sarah Jane Brandon, Tyler Clarke and Samuel Evans have all won important awards and sponsorship; in particular, Sarah Jane has just won the prestigious Kathleen Ferrier Prize.

Come and hear a preview at our stall at the East Finchley Festival on 21 June. The concert takes place on Saturday 27 June at St James Church, Muswell Hill, at 7.30 pm. Ticketline: 0208 444 2142 (£16, £12, £8) also from Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3 HN or at the door.

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