



# That was the year that was

It was the year of guerrilla gardening, swine flu, fundraising for the Phoenix and controversy over street lights, parking and plans for the pavilion. Read all about it in our review of 2009.

## January

The Phoenix Cinema begins its £1 million fundraising drive in earnest after gaining planning consent to add a glass-fronted café and terrace bar to the front of the building. They hope to

be granted money from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project, which will also see the 100-year-old cinema auditorium renovated to its 1930s art deco glory.

Residents in Summerlee Gardens clear up after being left with bulging recycling boxes for nearly three weeks because no one bothered to collect their rubbish. Surrounding roads were cleared but Summerlee Gardens suffered without collections following the introduction of the new blue recycling boxes for plastics, cardboard and tins.

Vandals spray paint graffiti on tree trunks and the Lazy Sally Café in Cherry Tree Wood. The damage on the trees ran from the entrance opposite East Finchley station all the way up the main pathway to Highgate Woods. Barnet Council is quick to clean up the damage.



January: Year 6 pupils at Martin Primary School produce their own newspaper called *The Martin*. Photo by Helen Drake.

Actors Dame Judi Dench and Daniel Day Lewis spend five days at the Phoenix Cinema filming scenes for the movie *Nine*, which tells the story of film director Guido Contini.

*THE ARCHER* launches its brand new website. You can read the latest issue online and explore our archive of stories going as far back as 1997 at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk).

## February

The 263 bus route from High Barnet through East Finchley to Archway is given a longer route down part of Holloway Road. The East Finchley Bus Watch group claims the added congestion at the southern end of the route may make frequency and reliability worse than it is already. They continue to campaign for increased frequency or for the 17 route to be extended beyond Archway to run through

East Finchley and terminate at North Finchley.

Two days of heavy snow sweep across the country and leave the capital at a virtual standstill. The Northern line stops working for East Finchley commuters and the buses are put out of action. Cherry Tree Wood is full of snowmen and the streets are full of snowball fights.

Daniela Antoinette, of Prospect Ring, becomes the youngest-ever winner of a Barnet Community Volunteer Award for her unpaid work helping at the Monday Youth Club in East Finchley. Five other volunteers at the club are also rewarded with certificates.

Residents in the Church Lane area gear up again to fight plans to place three mobile phone masts in the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church. The plan reappeared after being withdrawn in 2007.

## March

Barnet Council announces that it plans to withdraw resident wardens from sheltered accommodation. This is seen as a body blow by many senior citizens, who say replacement 'floating' wardens are no substitute for someone based permanently on site.

Hundreds of people break fundraising records when they take part in the annual Big Fun Walk, stepping out from East Finchley station through London's parks to Westminster, just under eight miles away.

Barnet Council announces that Cherry Tree Wood is to be included in a bid to the Civic Trust for Green Flag status.

Princess Anne visits the Phoenix Cinema for a special screening of a film showing the work of disability charity Sense. She is the patron of the charity, which works with deafblind people.

Marathon runners from East Finchley include Victoria Davenport, of Durham Road, running her fourth marathon and raising funds for Kids Company, and Julia Law-

rence, of Richmond Road, running her first and raising funds for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

## April

North London Hospice puts out a call for donations and financial help to see it through the recession.

The hospice in Woodside Avenue, N12, serves patients and their families from across Barnet, Enfield and Haringey and needs to raise most of its £5 million annual running costs through voluntary donations.

Film director Tom Hooper, who was raised in Finchley, releases his movie *The Damned United* to critical acclaim. The film stars Michael Sheen and gives a fictional account of Brian Clough's doomed 44-day reign as manager of Leeds United.

Barnet Council promises to send out the results of its survey on the East Finchley controlled parking zones. They say all residents and commercial premises affected should know the outcome some time in May. The results are actually released three months later in August.

Members of the North London Chorus combine singing with slimming when they go on a collective weight-loss drive. Cutting out biscuits at rehearsal tea breaks helps them lose spare inches and raises money for Diabetes UK.

## May

A major street light replacement programme gets under way in East Finchley. Many residents complain that lights are relocated too close to driveways or bedroom windows.

Seven-year-old Jack Brown loses his four-year battle with neuroblastoma. Hundreds of

people had raised money for the Barnet youngster to have pioneering treatment in America. Jack passes away in hospital with his parents Yvonne and Richard, brother Connor and sister Rhian at his bedside.

Helen, Joel and Andy from *Blue Peter* take over the Phoenix Cinema to screen a movie they made in just 24 hours. The *Me*



May: Members of the Phoenix Cinema's Kids Club are treated to a special screening of a film put together by the presenters of *Blue Peter* as part of a challenge to make a movie in 24 hours. Photo by Jodi Warren.



February: Six inches of snow overnight meant a day off work and a day off school for many. Photo by Andrew Louth.

and *My Movie* challenge is a joint venture with Bafta and BBC Learning. Young critics from the cinema's Kids Club vote it a hit.

Technical problems with Barnet Council's parking permit systems drive residents to distraction. Applicants are left hanging on phone lines for hours and the automated online system fails to work. The council's parking call centre goes into meltdown as a backlog of thousands of permit requests builds up.

The knocking of wooden poles and the sound of bells is heard around East Finchley when the Westminster Morris Men tour N2, stopping off at several of our pubs to perform their traditional dances.



June: Master of ceremonies Antigua Joe and young fan Fin from Martin Primary School enjoyed the music and entertainment at the hugely-successful East Finchley Festival. Photo by Sylvie Clarke.

## June

The team at the Phoenix Cinema celebrate when their ambitious project to restore the glory of the 100-year-old building wins more than £600,000 in lottery cash. The award kicks off a push to find the final £200,000 needed for the restoration work to begin.

Swine flu cases are reported in the area. Two schools in Hampstead Garden Suburb are forced to close temporarily and cases are reported at Holy Trinity Primary School in East Finchley.

Barnet Council confirms it will go ahead with its controversial proposal to axe residential wardens in sheltered accommodation. They will be replaced with a 24-hour alarm system and a team of 'floating' wardens. The decision causes dismay for many elderly residents.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist athlete Kristian Thomas, 20, performs a forward roll over six pupils and one teacher when he visits Tudor Primary School, N3, as part of a scheme to encourage children to get active.

Long Lane Pasture enters a new era when campaigners succeed in leasing the land from Barnet Council on a 25-year peppercorn rent. The pasture opens to the public on weekend days and continues to develop as a major conservation project.



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