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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Too darn hot: a firewalker braves the hot embers at the Five Bells.
Photo by John Lawrence

Ouch! Brave firewalkers bare their soles at 500°C

Thirty-five volunteers put their courage on the line and tested the limits of human endurance when they strode out over hot embers in bare feet. Temperatures up to 500 C tortured their tootsies when they walked across four metres of white-hot wood outside the Five Bells Pub in East End Road.

Walking on fire has been a test of faith and courage in many cultures for thousands of years. In this case, the firewalkers were baring their soles to raise thousands of pounds for the vital work of the North London Hospice in Whetstone, which provides end-of-life care for patients and their families across Barnet, Haringey and Enfield.

The evening started with an intense training session behind closed doors where the firewalkers were told how to

harness positive thoughts to get them through their ordeal. There may have been a little Dutch courage involved too but they certainly looked deep in concentration when each stepped up to the burning embers for their turn.

Six or seven steps got them to the other side, cheered on by a crowd of friends and relatives. All the walkers made it across and headed straight for the buckets of cold water and a garden hose that were on standby to restore their cool.

Get ready for Festival 2010

By Rob Robertson

This year's East Finchley Festival takes place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 20 June. It will run from 12 noon to 6pm and, as always, will be a celebration of what is great about living and working in East Finchley.

The festival will be preceded by a parade of local schoolchildren along the High Road. With the FIFA World Cup and the London 2012 Olympics in mind, the themes of this year's parade will be sport, recreation and the preservation of green, open spaces. The children will be accompanied by a band from 393 (Finchley) Squadron, Air Training Corps. Come and cheer them on to Cherry Tree Wood.

At the festival, there will be the usual opportunity to support local businesses and charities by visiting the various stalls. There will also be a chance to talk to

representatives of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Finchley Fire Station and St John Ambulance.

Top local bands will be doing their thing on the two stages. This year's acts include Spring Park Motel, Sound of the Suburbs and Sofa Sonic Sound. There will also be a taekwondo display.

Support from Budgens

The organising committee would like to thank Budgens for their generous support as the festival generally receives no direct funding and is largely dependent on revenue from

advertising, the stalls, the food and beer tents and the raffle.

So please come along, have a fun day, buy some raffle tickets and refreshments and support your local community. If you feel able 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.

Armed robbery at Iceland

Two men armed with what is believed to have been a gun threatened staff and stole cash from the Iceland store in the High Road.

Police are appealing for anyone who was in the car park at the rear of the shop between 7.30pm and 7.45pm on Monday 24 May to come forward. The suspects, two white men wearing balaclavas and hooded tops, entered the premises from the car park and threatened staff. Police say they made off with 'a quantity of cash'.

DC Neil Webb from the the Met Flying Squad said: "I am sure with the heat wave we were having on that day they would have stood out as being over dressed for the weather. I would like anyone who saw these men to contact the incident room on 020 8358 1751 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

New farmers' market

City and Country Farmers' Market, who run the Alexandra and Campsbourne School markets in Muswell Hill, are branching out in Finchley. They will be setting up in the stable block and courtyard area of Avenue House, East End Road, N3.

The market will be launched on Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 June, between 10am and 3pm. From then on, it will take place on the second and fourth Sun-

days of every month.

Producers who would like to apply for a stall should contact CCFM direct. Their website is www.weareccfm.co.uk.

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ARCHER 200

Welcome to the 200th edition of *THE ARCHER*. We've been going strong since January 1993 and we hope to keep going for another 200 issues at least. Thanks once again to all our volunteers and advertisers for making it possible.