



## Donkey madness at the Muswell Hill Festival

The donkey derby and dog show were the highlights of the Muswell Hill Festival in aid of the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

Sun shone on Cherry Tree Wood for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual festivities on Sunday 12 September. Karate displays, live bands and dozens of colourful and fascinating stalls made it a fun day out.

The centre, based in Muswell Hill, provides therapy and education to around 50 children across London and the Home Counties, all with neurological damage resulting in cerebral palsy.

The charity needs £250,000 a year to keep running, so events like the festival are vital for its fundraising efforts. Around one in 400 children born each year in the UK has cerebral palsy. Find out more at [www.cplondon.org.uk](http://www.cplondon.org.uk) or telephone 020 8444 7242.



Novelty cake specialist Adam Cox working on an edible mini-Ferrari. Adam can make a cake to any design you want. Visit [www.topmycake.com](http://www.topmycake.com)  
Photo by John Lawrence

Right: Donkey derby riders cling on for dear life.  
Photo by Lois Lawrence



Above: Bread and pastries piled high at the Sable D'Or stall.

Right: Dozens of stalls to browse and a chance to relax for the festival crowds  
Photos by John Lawrence.



A friendly welcome awaits you

### EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

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## There's no business like shoe business

By Marian Bunzl

Members of North London Chorus have dipped their collective toes into show business. Richard Thomas, composer of *Jerry Springer the Opera*, has created *Shoes*, a song and dance revue celebrating the love of exotic footwear, on a stage dominated by a giant stiletto. There are four singers, 12 dancers, and the recorded voices of North London Chorus accompany many of the numbers.

The recording session was an interesting experience. Microphones hung menacingly over us, and we had to wear huge headphones that played electronic chords to keep us in time and tune. After each "take" the musical director had a weird one-sided conversation with the sound-proofed recording team. We had to repeat each section until they were satisfied, and then "once more for luck". We were booked for a four-hour session, but in the event we did well enough to be let out half an hour early.

### Foot-tapping

The show is inventive, imaginative and great fun. The score includes elements of pop, rock, jazz, gospel and opera, and the lyrics are irreverent and witty ("time wounds all heels"). Highlights include a chorus of nuns intoning Jimmy Choo, Manolo Blahnik, Christian Louboutin (etc), a lively tarantella to the rhythm of Salvatore Ferragamo, a Jesus figure singing a hymn to his Birkenstocks, and Imelda

Marcos arguing with the nation to a background video of her shoes as police exhibits. Other special moments don't belong in a family newspaper!

*Shoes* played at Sadler's Wells for a short season in September, and will transfer to The Peacock Theatre in February 2011.

## Do you remember the British Restaurant?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Does anyone remember the British Restaurant in East Finchley? Apparently it was organised in the Methodist Church during the Second World War.

British Restaurants were set up all over the country by the Ministry of Food, and run by local committees. Meals cost a set maximum price of 9d (equivalent to about £1 today) and consisted of no more than one serving of meat, game, poultry, fish, eggs, or cheese. Minced beef with carrots and parsnips was said to be a favourite.

It seems they were mostly used by office and factory workers, or in emergencies by people who had been bombed out of their homes or run out of

ration coupons.

Their original name was Community Feeding Centres, but you can see why this didn't catch on.

The Finchley Society Archives have been given a painting of one in Gainsborough Road, North Finchley, which was used by the Minister of Food himself. Now The Archer is wondering whether you have any photos or stories to tell about the East Finchley version. Write to us at THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8LA, or email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

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