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THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURTIERS

September 2010 No. 203
ISSN 1361-3952 **20p** where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Road safety measures called for at accident black spot

By Diana Cormack

Another accident at the Summerlee Avenue/Southern Road crossroads (see June ARCHER) left an East Finchley couple badly shocked and shaken.

Robina and Stan Spinks were driving up Summerlee Avenue after helping at the community festival site on Saturday morning, 19 June. When they reached the intersection, a vehicle travelling from Southern Road on their right smashed into their car.

without slowing down. This junction is on a through route to Cherry Tree Wood which many children and families use on their way to the park. Locals fear a serious accident could occur if nothing is done about the situation soon.

Poor signage

Part of the problem appears to be the road signs which, as the driver of the other car involved pointed out, are "Give Way" not "Stop" signs. He also felt that the white lines were faded and needed repainting. About ten years ago these lines were reversed in order to give vehicles on Summerlee Avenue precedence and to stop rat-running along Southern and Baronsmere Roads before the one-way entry from the High Road was created.

Mr Spinks told *THE ARCHER* that at first he believed their 2009 Picasso was a write-off. At the time of writing it is under repair whilst he and Robina are still having medical treatment for the after effects of the collision. Police did not attend the incident.



Stan Spinks with his damaged Picasso. Photo by Diana Cormack

The noise of the impact brought out residents to see what had happened. One told *THE ARCHER* they have wanted Barnet Council to improve safety at this junction for years because of the number of collisions and near-misses which occur there. He said they hear the screech of brakes indicating a near-miss three or four times a week, on average.

As well as motor vehicles, these incidents often involve cyclists who speed across



The Phoenix Team, L-R: Maurita Van Droogenbroeck (Front of House), John Wallcraft (Duty Manager, Front of House), Jodi Warren (IT, photographer), Paul Homer (Chief Executive), Eleanor Sier (Heritage Officer), Dan Badja (Catering Manager). Photo by Diana Cormack

Phoenix spreads its wings again

The scaffolding has gone and the Phoenix Cinema staff are ready to welcome you through the doors once again. Years of fundraising and months of construction work have passed and now it's time for film-lovers to rediscover London's best local picture house.

Turn to our special reports on page 6 to find out more about what the new-look Phoenix has in store and read about the cinema's fascinating history. We also have a competition to win the new book that shines a light on the cinema's first 100 years.

The £1.1 million refurbishment project includes the complete restoration of the original Edwardian barrel ceiling and repairs to the art deco plaster relief wall panels created in 1938. The mezzanine floor above the foyer has been extended into a large public café and bar with an open-air terrace overlooking the High Road.

Architects HMDW and contractors Durkan have been racing to finish the work in time for the reopening night on 10 September. A gala reopening when guests will include the Phoenix's many famous patrons takes place later this month.

Do you have a story for us?

You can send your stories, letters, and photos by email to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. You can find out more about contributing and advertising at www.the-archer.co.uk

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08717 33 45 28

PUBLISHED BY
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PRINTED BY
Sharman & Co Ltd

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Faced Stag for providing
us with a meeting place.

THE ARCHER team wishes
to thank all the generous
people who give up their
spare time, in all weather,
to deliver the paper for us.

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Comments to THE ARCHER may
be published unless clearly
marked 'Not for publication'
within the text.

Copy deadlines

October: 10 September
November: 15 October
December: 12 November

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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

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London Transport 020 7222 1234
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Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
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Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
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Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
MIND 020 8343 5700
NHS Direct 0845 4647

OAP's Advice

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CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
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❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Mayfair robber's drugs factory

By Janet Maitland

A member of the gang who robbed Graffs the Mayfair jewellery shop had been living in a drugs factory in East Finchley.

Thomas Thomas, who was sentenced to 16 years at Woolwich Crown Court on 6 August, was responsible for parking a number of vans strategically around Mayfair to obstruct the police response to the robbery, which took place last August.

Thomas, 46, was arrested on 15 October 2009 and gave his address as a house in Durham Road, the same house that had been raided by police the day before. Thirty cannabis plants were seized and two people arrested. They were bailed pending forensic examination, but were not prosecuted due to a lack of evidence, said Barnet Police.

"Thirty plants may not sound very much, but they have a street value of £24,000", said Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant Andy Matthews to THE ARCHER at the time.

Jewellery still missing

The gang stole 43 pieces of jewellery worth millions. One necklace alone was reported to be worth £3.5 million. None of it has ever been recovered. Aman

Kassaye, 25, the gang member who held a gun to the manager's head during the robbery, was sentenced to 16 years for conspiracy to rob, five years for possessing a firearm and two years for kidnap. Two other gang members were also sentenced to 16 years for conspiracy to rob.

There is a £1 million reward for information leading to the recovery of the jewels or more arrests. If you have any information, call police on 020 8247 4804, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.

Library in Ethiopia

Anyone wishing to make contact with Jean Bailey following her article on a public library project in Ethiopia (THE ARCHER, August 2010), please email Jean397@btinternet.com or visit www.aysanew.org.

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Planning Applications

Barnet Council

95 Abbots Gardens, N2
Part single, part two storey side and rear extensions and associated steps at the rear. Formation of single storey rear garden store. Roof extension including side and rear dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion.

42 Church Lane, N2

Three-storey rear extension and extension of existing basement following demolition of existing rear extension and outbuildings to create self contained office to rear of property. Associated alterations to south and west elevations and new parapet wall.

78 Church Lane, N2

Part single, part two-storey extension of lower ground and ground floors.

80 Church Lane, N2

New shallow steps to replace existing with handrails.

65 Durham Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey rear extension, including Juliet balcony. Alterations to roof involving raising part of crown roof and side terrace area.

58-60 High Road, N2

Addition of a third floor level to facilitate conversion of existing flats above 58 and 60 High Road into six self-contained residential units including associated off-street parking, access and associated alterations to roof and rear elevations; three-storey rear extension and rear extension to ground floor commercial units.

Lorraine Court, Park Gate, N2

Roof extension including rear dormers and recessed side dormer to facilitate creation of new apartment within roof space of existing residential building.

Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2

Erection of single storey modular

classroom/community group building.

3 Maya Road, N2

Single storey rear extension.

13 Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Roof extension including rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

Stag Court, Leslie Road, N2

Installation of air-conditioning units in acoustic enclosures to the rear of building, to provide cooling for ground floor commercial unit.

6 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing double garage and erection of single storey garage/studio. Single storey rear extension.

Long Drive, 26A The Bishops Avenue, N2

Demolition of house and erection of replacement two-storey dwelling with basement and roof accommodation following demolition of existing house.

Redways, 27 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Extension to time limit for implementing planning permission reference C08073M/07, granted 12/09/2007, for demolition of existing house and construction of new single family dwelling.

Rooftop at Viceroy Parade, High Road, N2

Installation of three panel antennas and two dish antennas on the rooftop with ancillary cabling and access ladder. Installation of ancillary equipment cabinet and electrical meter within brick enclosure at ground level along East End Road. Telecommunications application.

Haringey Council

24 Fordington Road, N6

Erection of ground floor rear extension, first floor side extension and alterations to first floor rear window and roof slope.

74 Twyford Avenue, N2

Infill of front porch.



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Neighbours alarmed at flats plan

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local residents are furious about a current planning application registered with Barnet Council. If approved, this application would allow part of the terrace of shops and flats in the High Road between Fortis Green and Fairlawn Avenue to be extended upwards and to the rear. The section concerned is numbers 58-60, above Josephines Florist and the former Panoptica premises.

The proposal is to add an extra floor, enabling the existing accommodation to be developed into six self-contained flats, and a three-storey rear extension. The application includes off-street parking and access.

Neighbours are angry and worried about the prospect of over-development, increased traffic, loss of light and privacy, and the ruin of a pleasant architectural façade.

One resident of Fairlawn Avenue told us: "I am already overlooked by the existing second floor of this terrace. I have my curtains drawn most of the time, and an extra storey will make things much worse. We buy parking permits, but often can't use them already, and the problem of rats and rubbish behind the terrace would get worse. This will set a precedent."

The Barnet website gives the target date for a planning decision as 14 September. At the time of writing, no date had been fixed for a site visit. Any member of the public can submit an online comment. The Barnet website is www.barnet.gov.uk, and the planning application number is F/02631/10. See our letters' page.



East Finchley's Mary O'Toole (Trustee), Cllr Anthony Finn (Mayor of Barnet) and Gill Dodge (CEO Noah's Ark Children's Hospice). Photo by Lorraine Keetch

New voyage for Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice has found a site to build a new permanent home. The charity has become the leaseholder of the Barnet Countryside Centre, also known as the Denis Bland Nature Reserve.

The nature reserve at Byng Road, High Barnet, presents a unique opportunity for Noah's Ark to establish a children's hospice at the heart of the community to complement the support it is currently providing to local children and families.

Over the next few months Noah's Ark anticipates applying for full planning permission, having already achieved outline planning permission as part of the original bid for the land.

The past few months have been an exciting period for Noah's Ark. In May the Mayor of Barnet chose it as one of the charities he will support during his term of office in 2010-2011. For more information contact the Noah's Ark office on 020 8449 4477.

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Natural born swimmers

Babies as young as just a few days will now be able to take part in multi-award-winning swimming classes starting in East Finchley. The Water Babies programme, designed to make the most of babies' natural affinity with water, teaches confidence and safety, using specialist techniques that see many swimming short distances from as young as 30 months.

Therese Rodohan and her sister Carmel run the classes in the pool at Oak Lodge School, Heath View. Therese said: "The lessons give you such a feel-good factor." Carmel added: "I think we often underestimate just how much children are capable of, even when still babies. And they clearly love the sense of freedom that being in water provides."

Despite the emphasis on parents and babies having fun, the course does have a very serious safety point to it, teaching the babies water skills, such as turning onto their backs or swimming to the nearest solid object following a sudden submersion.



Finley David Muir photographed by Jez Dixon for Water Babies

"With research showing that new mothers are less likely to suffer from post natal depression if they can gain support from their peers, that's another reason why we're very proud of what we do," said Therese.

In the last three years, Water Babies has won four national awards: Best Swimming Class,

Best Baby Development Activity, and Best Baby & Toddler Development Activity with *What's On 4 Little Ones*; and Best Children's Activity with Tommy's.

For more information about classes, contact Carmel on 020 8349 5239 or visit www.waterbabies.co.uk.

No more library late fees

Library users in Barnet can now borrow nearly 1,000 fiction and non-fiction titles via their personal computer using the new free eBook service.

Customers can log on to the council's digital library website, install free software and then download the latest audio or eBooks. Titles can be transferred to supported MP3 players or iPods, with some titles even available to burn to CD for future reading.

Up to ten titles can be loaned out at any one time and, once the three-week loan has expired, the eBooks are automatically returned to the central digital library collection, meaning no risk of running up late fees. The eBook service can be accessed at <http://barnet.lib.overdrive.com>

Victory over Fortis allotments

By Sheila Armstrong

The Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust has completed the purchase of the Fortis Green allotments site from Thames Water, after months of campaigning and negotiating.

The deal was done exactly one year to the day after Thames Water's shock announcement that they were selling the land for potential housing development. Now the land will be owned and managed by the not-for-profit organisation set up last year, maintaining its use as allotments for all time. On its website reporting the good news, the trust thanked all its supporters for their donations and messages of goodwill. It said: "None of this would have been possible without the fantastic

contributions of the local community and friends from further afield. We're extremely grateful for your help in saving this small but lovely part of green North London from the threat of development."

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Third man jailed for Grange Estate murder

By Janet Maitland

On 30 July, John-Paul Oboh was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment at the Old Bailey for his part in the death of Colin Browne on the Grange Estate in 2006.

Police and ambulance services were called to the estate on 12 April 2006 following reports of a badly injured man. The victim, Colin Browne, died before he could be taken to hospital. A post-mortem showed he had suffered several stab wounds and also been shot.

Oboh left the country on a false passport soon after the murder. He eventually surrendered himself to the British Deputy High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria, in September last year and was charged on his arrival back in England. Two other men were imprisoned in 2006 for the same murder. Police are still looking for a fourth man, Piers Guthrie, who

remains wanted in connection with this crime.

Colin Browne, who was from Leyton E10, went to the Grange Estate after being contacted by his ex-girlfriend. She told him that her brother and his friends were having problems with a group of men who had assaulted them following minor incidents that had been perceived by the group as showing disrespect to them. Colin Browne went to the area to seek out the men and was killed in a confrontation with them.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 020 8733 4704. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Beware of pickpockets

By Sgt Andy Matthews

Two local residents have been targeted by pickpockets while shopping in Budgens. One victim had foreign currency stolen from her bag on 4 August. The other had her wallet stolen a few days later. Both victims were 77 years old. We have seized the CCTV and are trying to identify the suspects.

It is clear that pickpockets are operating in the area. The Post Office may be a factor as the victims had been there first. It is possible that they were observed in there by the criminals and then followed into Budgens.

I strongly urge members of the community never to leave purses or handbags unattended on top of shopping baskets or trolleys, not even for a few seconds. We have a number of free anti-pickpocket clips that can help

prevent such crimes. Just ask us for more details.

We patrol the area and every day that we're on duty we patrol Viceroy Parade in front of Budgens.

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 EasFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.



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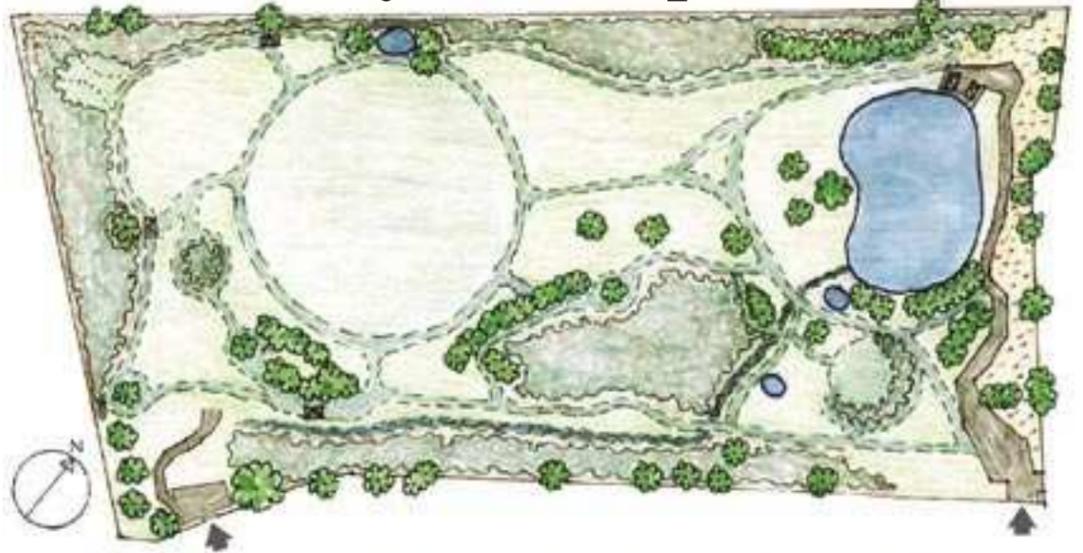
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Autumn days in the pasture



Long Lane Pasture - map by Chris Brown.

The glory days of summer may have passed but there are still plenty of flora and fauna to enjoy at Long Lane Pasture through the autumn months. This very special pocket of land, opposite the fire station on Long Lane, is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm and is a delightful place to stroll and spot wildlife.

Work days take place every Saturday from 10am to 12pm. Turn up in rough clothes if you fancy getting involved; all tools are provided. For more information email enquiries@longlanepasture.org or visit www.longlanepasture.org

Fake police steal from bank accounts

By Janet Maitland

If you receive a phone call from the police asking for your bank details because your account has been subject to fraudulent activity, don't give them any information. It's not the police, but criminals who are trying to steal money.

In early August three local people, all of them elderly, received such calls. In order to gain the trust of the victims, the criminals made several phone calls, getting more information each time. Eventually the criminals came to the victim's home address to pick up their bank card and PIN, claiming that this was required for further investigation.

On each occasion the victim was asked not to discuss the matter with anyone else and over a period of days substantial amounts of money were removed from their accounts. One of the victims was 94 years old and the others were in their 80s.

Close the door

"It saddens me to think that these vulnerable members of the community are being targeted by callous criminals in this way," said Sergeant Andy Matthews of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. "I want to make it very clear that under no circumstances will a police officer, or for that matter any bank official, ever ask for your PIN or need to come to your address to pick up your

bank card. If anyone comes to your home, claiming to be from the police or a bank and asking for your card and PIN, I urge you to decline their offer and close the door."

Call the police on 999 if they are still near your house, or 0300 123 12 12 if they have left the vicinity.

Barnet in Bloom Awards

Congratulations to Martin Primary School on achieving first place as the Most Eco Friendly Garden in the annual Barnet in Bloom Awards.

Martin School also gained a first in the shape of Oliver Clymer, who won the title Young Gardener of the Year. Judges' Choice for the Most Outstanding Garden was won by East Finchley's Jason Earl.

Passionate about local issues

The Finchley Society held its 39th AGM at Avenue House, East End Road, early in the summer attended by 33 members. After the main business of the evening when David Smith was re-elected as Chair and the Treasurer reported that the Society's finances were in a healthy state there was a lively discussion about local issues in an open forum.

Topics covered were opposition to the Brent Cross enlargement, the problem of traders taking over the pavements in Ballards Lane, the sad demise of local shops, and the battle to prevent suburban houses being turned into flats either by conversion or redevelopment.

David Smith urged members to get more involved in local campaigns. In his Chairman's Annual Report he suggested some additional campaigns members could support, for instance: the use of 'Church End' instead of 'Finchley Central'; the menace of ivy killing trees; unlawful advertising by trailers and vehicles parked in various places such as by La Deliverance statue in Regents Park Road and opposite the Vue Cinema complex; and banner advertising at the junction of High Road & Summers Lane.

He reminded members that those who started the Finchley Society nearly 40 years ago did so because they wanted to celebrate their cultural heritage and cared deeply about both the natural and man-made environment.

He urged all members to get passionate about something, to go out into Finchley & Friern Barnet and talk to neighbours and to people in the street and get people involved in the issues they care about.

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Visitors always welcome



Grange Estate children speak out

By Diana Cormack

At the end of July The Grange was one of four estates in the borough visited by the "love where you live" summer road show, organised by Barnet Homes. The aim was to clean up and improve the neighbourhood, with residents and housing organisation representatives working together.

Staff left their offices to meet residents face to face, listen to their ideas and find out what they felt was needed. The event also provided people with the opportunity to receive advice and information directly from council officers.

Playing close to home

The road show was held at the Brownsell Road play area and some local children took advantage of the occasion to present their own ideas by writing letters to the visitors from the council. They would like to have their own play facilities in the quadrangle formed by the blocks of flats where they live, Elmfield, Fossett and Sycamore House, where parents and carers would be able to keep an eye on them.

Their original plan of converting two boarded-up caretaker's storage rooms into a

recreation area and a study room seems to be far too expensive. Now the youngsters are hoping to raise money for outdoor play materials such as basketball nets, exercise equipment and a paddling pool. One eight year old girl told *THE ARCHER* that she would like to help by doing a sponsored swim, washing cars or making fairy cakes to sell.

A local resident said the children, whose ages ranged from seven to early teens, played well together and looked out for each other but the older boys in particular needed something to do. A well-equipped community flat nearby, however, contains a range of activities including computers, table tennis, snooker, drawing materials, etc, which are available for young people to use under adult supervision.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Cuisine extraordinaire

I've got nothing against squirrel. It makes an eco-friendly Christmas treat, preferably casseroled with hazelnuts a la Delia, but I didn't know that a Budgens manager over in Crouch End agreed with me. So here's a few more suggestions for culinary insanity.

Peru is a good place to start. Why Peru? Guinea pigs, that's why. What we think of as a pet, the average Peruvian thinks of as lunch. Guinea pigs are easy to grow, breed quickly and taste a bit like rabbit. You can fry it, roast it or chuck it on the barbecue. And in Peru they get through 65 million of them a year.

They're cute enough to get Sophie Dahl involved, probably stroking one while smiling sweetly. All you need do is get her on TV discussing the best sauce to serve with it so you can create a romantic dinner for two and next thing you know half of East Finchley will be enthusiastically selecting a Chilean Chardonnay to go with it.

But why go to Peru when there's edible wild life closer to home? Badgers might be seriously cute, but farmers and Jeremy Clarkson want to kill them. The solution? Badger stew. Entice your badger out into the open with the promise of an up close and personal experience with Kate Humble, whack it over the head and hand it over to those beardy blokes on motorbikes, add carrots and onions and there's lunch. If that's too dull you could go all Nigella and get inventive. Maybe you could roast it and serve it like suckling pig, but with a pomegranate where the apple usually goes.

Why go out into the country when exotic cooking is only walkies away? Yes, I'm talking Korean cuisine. I'm talking about the life-affirming properties of dog soup. The only problem has been getting the vital ingredient, dog. Now the solution is at hand. The police keep on arresting dangerous dogs, Battersea Dogs Home is full of unwanted, mad pitbulls that are too dangerous to let anywhere near humans. The answer is just a recipe book away. Get Jamie Oliver in on the act and the problem's solved. Chien au vin, anybody?



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Father Hill retires after 33 years at Holy Trinity

By Angela Anderson

In a moving sermon, his last before retiring from Holy Trinity church after 33 years as priest, Father Laurence Hill spoke about his faith and relationship with the church as a journey of pilgrimage. Starting as a choirboy, aged seven, and then server at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, had a profound influence on him and led him to seek ordained ministry within the Anglican Church. He studied at King's College, London, and came to Holy Trinity church in January 1977.

Remodelling the building

During his time there he oversaw the re-ordering of the church in 1991. An advertisement in *The Stage* newspaper led to bookings for the church hall from drama groups and eventually a theatre company which stayed for three years. However, the church was built in 1846 and eventually needed expensive repairs so the decision was taken to sell the hall. The resulting funds were used to remodel the church's interior, creating a lounge, gallery and kitchen. A local Hindu group, Depala, bought the hall and Christianity and Hinduism have existed side by side for nearly 20 years.

Looking back at his time in East Finchley, Father Hill feels that one major change was the disappearance of many local businesses, such as engineering firms and a printers, and an increase in the number of good cafes and restaurants in the High Road.

Importance of pastoral role

He and his wife Atsuko plan to rent a flat in London as she continues with her piano teaching and they will also live in their cottage in North Wales. Having been here since he



Fr Laurence Hill. Photo by Angela Anderson

was 19, Father Hill feels that leaving London would be a big step. "I don't know how it feels not to live in London," he said. "Maybe Dr Johnson was right in saying 'A man who is tired of London is tired of life'"

Though having a building as

old as Holy Trinity to refurbish had been stimulating, great fun and hard work for many people, the heart of his experience as priest, he said, had been his pastoral role with the people in the parish and the children at Holy Trinity School.

Barnet drops letters about Neighbourhood Skip services

Not all local residents were able to make use of Barnet Council's Neighbourhood Skip service on 20 July. A reader in Baronsmere Road told *THE ARCHER* that she did not receive a letter informing her about it and, judging by the small amount collected in her area, she believed that other people were not notified either.

When she called the council to enquire about this she learned that it was the last time residents would be informed by hand delivered letter. In future, information regarding the twice yearly Neighbourhood Skip provision will be available online, at local libraries, published in local newspapers or obtainable from Barnet's Street Based Services Unit on 020 8359 4600. You can visit www.barnet.gov.uk/street-cleaning-programme for details of the next N2 collection, scheduled for February 2011.

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We're back!

Phoenix Cinema chief executive Paul Homer reveals more about the reopening and the attractions to follow.

When you read this, The Phoenix should have re-opened its doors, or very nearly. As I write in mid-August we are due to re-open on Friday 10 September, but who knows what could happen in the next four weeks!

The restoration project has been amazing, stressful, exciting, exhausting and all-consuming. It has also been very worthwhile and rewarding. It's a fantastic feeling that by completing this project on time and on budget, which is pretty much the case, we're giving East Finchley and Phoenix customers a landmark building, a wonderful cinema and a great café. I'm just delighted that I could be part of it.

As we stand on the cusp of our first centenary it's wonderful to think that the cinema might still be here in another 100 years, serving the East Finchley community. I wonder what the cinema will look like then.

And so we get back to the business we do best, showing films. Our first film is, like The Phoenix, a British independent: *Tamara Drewe*, directed by Stephen Frears and based on the popular comic strip by Posy Simmonds. We're sure it will prove popular with our Phoenix audiences.

Outside of main features we have a free programme of tours and archive shows,



Paul Homer photographed by Diana Cormack

kicking off on 12 September with films from the 1910s, the first decade we were open. On 19 September we have guided tours from 10am as part of Open House and from 2pm we have the first in our From the Archives screenings, looking at Cinema Architecture.

We're delighted to welcome you back to The Phoenix. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

One hundred years of cinema

Conceived in 1910 as The East Finchley Picturedrome, the Phoenix is probably the oldest purpose-built continuously serving cinema in Britain. In that time, it has never been a bingo hall, snooker club or gone 'dark'. It has adapted to survive and, as it reopens following a major upgrade, David Hobbs looks back at the changing fortunes of the Phoenix and British cinema.

Although the initial plans date from 1910, a series of delays meant that the Picturedrome did not open until May 1912. Avoiding the usual classical style, it opted for a 'Moorish' look and was significantly different inside to today's cinema. It had the barrel-vaulted ceiling, but the screen was at the High Road end and there was a refreshment lounge above the entrance.

In the pre-World War One, pre-Hollywood era there was a thriving British film industry, there was even a studio in East Finchley in this period. The 1920s was the high point of the silent cinema and a time of competition between the local cinemas, each aiming to serve their local area. The New Bohemia in Church End opened in 1920 and heavily promoted its ten-piece orchestra, and the Picturedrome, which was renamed The Coliseum in 1924, also offered its live shows alongside the films.

The Coliseum stole a march on the other local cinemas when sound arrived and on Monday 22 July 1929 proudly announced that it was the first local cinema equipped to show the new talking pictures.

The mid-1930s saw the second wave of cinema building as the big picture palaces with over a thousand seats opened. However, for the Coliseum things did not look good. Middlesex County Council carried out safety checks on all cinemas over 20 years old and the Coliseum was told in April 1937 that if it had not achieved the required standard by November 1939 it was unlikely to keep its licence. Faced with this

ultimatum, in 1938 the cinema changed hands again and the new owners set about transforming it.

The cinema closed for ten months while extensive work was done. In addition to replacing the Moorish frontage with an Art Deco design, the auditorium was reversed and remodelled with the screen moved to the other end, new walls panels with a bronze and gold colour scheme installed and the capacity increased to 549 seats. New projectors and an RCA sound system were fitted and the cinema was given a new name, the Rex. Now it was able to compete with the picture palaces.

Wartime and its immediate aftermath saw a boom in cinema, but the post war years saw audiences decline dramatically. The Rex survived by avoiding mainstream programming showing foreign language and independent films. In addition it showed 'X' certificate films at a time when the Rank Organisation, who owned both the Odeon and Gaumont chains, would not. In 1970 a new, young manager, Steve Wischhusen, arrived and began showing art house films, helping establish the Rex's reputation as an innovative independent cinema.

The year 1974 marked the end of the Rex as an independent cinema as it was taken over by Granada who replaced the art house programming with mainstream films, to the dismay of local cinemagoers. There was a negative effect on admissions, a local petition and sufficient local opposition for Granada to think again and in 1975 they sold the cinema to Charles Cooper's Contemporary Films.

Contemporary Films were a groundbreaking distribution company who specialised in foreign and independent films. They changed the name to The Phoenix and promptly restored the previous innovative screening policy.

By the 1970s, audience patterns had changed so much that many of the grand picture palaces were going dark and 1984 saw cinema audiences reach their low point, down to 3% of their peak in 1946. By now, Contemporary Films felt that running their own cinemas was no longer viable. In addition, Charles Cooper wanted to retire. In 1983, a property company applied to Barnet



The changing face of the Phoenix over 100 years.

Council for planning permission to replace the Phoenix with an office block. The council approved the plans, but the GLC rejected them. After a public enquiry, planning permission was finally granted in 1984 and that looked to be curtains for the Phoenix.

They say that a phoenix is a mythical bird that rises from the flames and, presented with the likely end of the local cinema, the local community decided to fight back. Spearheaded by actress Maureen Lipman, local people organised a massive petition and lobbied the GLC to save the cinema. In its dying days the GLC offered a grant to buy the cinema and in December 1985 the Phoenix Cinema Trust bought the cinema and adjoining land from Contemporary Films and the Phoenix was saved. This was one of the last cheques the GLC wrote before Margaret Thatcher abolished it.

Since then the trust has made a number of changes including enlarging the foyer, installing new projection equipment, fixing the heating and gradually restoring the cinema to its former glory. The Phoenix's future was safeguarded in 2000 when it was made a Grade 2 listed building, ensuring that both the facade and the auditorium were protected. It may be the oldest cinema in continuous use in the country, but it has outlasted its competitors and has a bright future ahead of it.

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Win the brand new Phoenix history

Enter our free competition and you could win a copy of the complete story of the Phoenix, courtesy of the cinema.

Gerry Turvey's book *The Phoenix, a Century of Film in East Finchley* is a must-read for all film fans and Phoenix-goers. The book is available from the Phoenix at £15.

To enter our free prize draw for a complimentary copy, send your name, address and telephone number to the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. A winning name will be chosen at random from all email and postal entries after the closing date of Friday 24 September. Good luck.

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Neighbourhood charity merges to survive

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we reported in our July issue, East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact has merged with Age Concern Barnet. The move went ahead officially on 17 July, in a mood of optimism on both sides. Karin Share, Chair of Contact, acknowledged that Contact had had fears it might not survive the coming economic cuts.

She said: "Joining forces with Age Concern Barnet seemed to be the obvious choice, because our work is so similar." She made it clear that Contact will continue all its services for older people, including befriending, the shopping bus, gardening and lunch clubs. The Contact management committee will form a sub-committee within Age Concern to oversee these services.

Ann Owens Centre is new HQ

Julia Hines, Chair of Age Concern Barnet, said that they wanted to retain Contact's neighbourhood feel, while also introducing people to services offered by Age Concern. She mentioned the welfare benefits advisor, handyperson scheme, nail-cutting service, exercise classes, personal grants, day

trips, and all the activities at the Ann Owens Centre, like tea dances, bridge, computer access and art groups.

She thanked MP Mike Freer, East Finchley Councillor Alison Moore, and Caroline Chant and Heather Bates from Barnet Adult Social Services Department for their help during the merger.

Contact has now closed its office in Long Lane, and both services are operating from the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane. This means that personal callers will have disabled access for the first time.

Telephone callers now have a choice of two numbers: the original Contact number at 020 8441 1162, or 020 8203 5040. Contact hope that all their generous donors and volunteers will continue to support their work through Age Concern Barnet.



Asghar Shaikh in top form. Photo by Diana Cormack

Dry cleaners tops 25 years

By Diana Cormack

On 22 July Asghar Shaikh invited customers to join him in celebrating 25 years in business at Tops Dry Cleaners. Born and bred in the East End, Asghar has travelled to East Finchley daily by public transport from Forest Gate since he took over the shop in 1985. Dry cleaning, clothing repairs and alterations have been done at 3 Fortis Green since 1964 and Asghar was happy to welcome the original owner to the celebrations.

Over the years he has got to know many of his customers well. Some who have left the area or even the country come to visit him when they are around. His satisfied clientele includes a number of media stars and there are signed photos of some displayed in the shop.

Asghar told *THE ARCHER*: "I really appreciate all my lovely customers", and he has taken many individual photos of them to mark this special occasion. Judging by the comments and presents he has received, they really appreciate him too.

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The full Wingate and Finchley FC line up for the coming season. Photo by Martin Addison

A chaperone to future stars

By Marian Bunzl
Sonia Singham is fast becoming chaperone to the stars of the future. Last time it was two young boys in an opera in Amsterdam, as reported in *THE ARCHER*. This year it was a month in Paris to look after Celeste de Veasey, the talented 15-year-old daughter of international opera star Janis Kelly.

In Stephen Sondheim's musical *A Little Night Music*, at the Chatelet Theatre, Celeste played the granddaughter of Leslie Caron's glamorous grande dame who presides over a series of interlocking love triangles set in a grand country house. Sonia and Celeste were housed nearby in an elegantly furnished, high ceilinged apartment, rather like living on the stage set of the show.

Minding Celeste

Sonia's duties entailed supervising GCSE revision (at least three hours a day). Fortunately, Celeste was very disciplined, so there was no need to nag. Then there was shopping and cooking. Celeste is a vegetarian, but Sonia has a veggie son, and speaks French, so Parisian vegetables were no problem.

In supervising her free time, the amount of freedom allowed had been discussed with Mum and Celeste was a sensible girl, so Sonia's worst problem was restraining herself from commenting on her outfits.

And, of course, theatre life: sitting through endless rehearsals, helping Celeste with the director's notes on improving her performance and occasionally taking Fifi, Leslie Caron's Tibetan terrier, for walkies. The cast were very protective of Celeste, as she was by far the youngest member, and on her first professional engagement.

Sonia and Celeste got on splendidly, and Sonia treasures the beautiful thank-you card from her charge. The show was a great success; Celeste was praised in all the reviews. And in Sonia's few spare moments, she discovered that Paris shops were on sales. As a result, she now has an air of genuine Parisian chic!

New ticket prices for football club

Wingate & Finchley FC, based in Summers Lane, N3, has restructured its ticket prices for the 2010/11 season in a move to encourage more fans to come through the gates.

Under 16s are now allowed in for free and concessions, which have been extended to students and the unemployed, are reduced to £3.50. The club has also announced a new season ticket price plan, which offers further savings.

"As a community-focused club, it is our intention to reach out to all fans in the area, especially those who may have found the previous pricing structure prohibitive," said commercial manager Mike

Bayly.

"For those living on a tight budget, we need to make our club as attractive as possible. More importantly, we need to ensure young people in the area have a place they can come to with their friends and enjoy a good afternoon of football, without having to worry about the cost. Young supporters are the future of this club, so we need to look after them and make them part of the Wingate & Finchley family."



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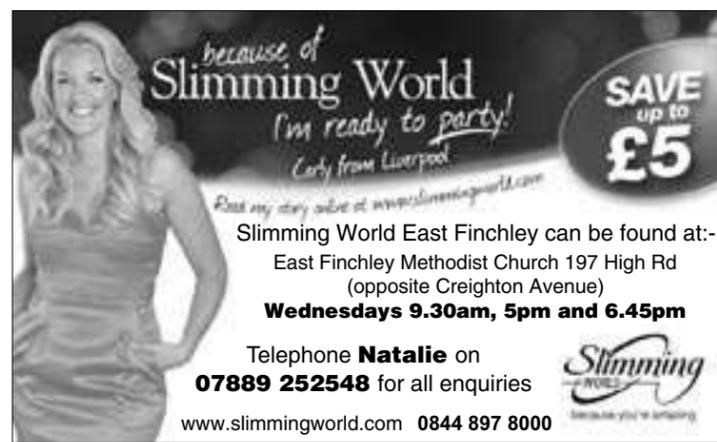
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New police website targets young people

By Janet Maitland

A new website aimed at 11-16 year olds has been launched by the Metropolitan Police. Safe, to be found at www.safe.met.police.uk, provides information and advice about the crime and safety issues that matter to young people, such as bullying, drugs and knife crime.

Safe was designed with the help of young people from a range of backgrounds, whose personal experiences and perspectives helped the site designers to understand how young people feel about crime and safety, and how they receive and research information.

"Young people can be as much as three times more likely to be the victim of a street robbery than any other age group, so Safe is a way we can give them advice on how to keep safe," said Chief Superintendent Adrian Hanstock.

Named officers

The contacts section of the site lists the names of local Safer Schools police officers. Hundreds of these officers work closely with secondary schools in London. The site has a dedicated section for teachers and hosts a number of resources including the 'Watch over me' and 'Living together' teaching packs. There are also links to support organisations and crime prevention films including the award-winning anti-weapons MPS film 'Choose a different ending'.

"Between April 2008 and March 2010, police recorded 5,675 knife crime offences in London where the victim was aged between 10 and 19," said a police source. "This age group makes up about 11% of London's population but nearly 28% of knife crime victims."

Every little helps

By Adam Justice-Mills

There's been a lot said recently about cutting back: cutting costs, cutting waste, cutting grass. I'm trying to reduce the amount of the stuff we use at home every day: energy, fuel and water.

Our baseline assessment of CO₂ usage from the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group showed lots of potential for energy, fuel and water savings. Trouble is, getting the family to cut down is hard so I've had to "nudge" them on many fronts.

We got a free electricity energy monitor from British Gas, which shows electricity use minute by minute, week by week. Bit scared to install a water meter, though: maybe next year.

At this time of year (and given we don't have air conditioning) we don't heat much except water but that is a lot of water heating for the four of us. I've turned the (fully lagged) tank thermostats down by two degrees and cut the boiler 'on' time to 45 minutes, which should save around 10% of that energy. We got a 'single cup' water heater for tea and coffee (it's amazing what a full kettle uses).

I'll be draught-proofing our doors and windows this autumn too. That and keeping the central heating thermostat under lock and key (why not wear a jumper indoors?) could save 10% off gas bills over the winter. That's provided I can persuade my family not to leave windows and doors open.

Our washing machine and dishwasher both have "eco" and half-load modes (less electricity and less water, I hope), so we will try those. With a bit of luck, we might even cut our costs.

As for fuel, cycling is fun and I hope to try the StreetCar car club. There's one in Twyford Avenue now.

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for The Grange (3 rounds)

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net

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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

Early days of our spending tsar

Prime Minister David Cameron last month appointed billionaire Topshop owner Sir Philip Green to lead a review of government spending. Will his early days growing up in Bancroft Avenue, N2, influence his thinking? Here his sister Elizabeth recalls his early fashion disasters and their childhood days.

It's said that the model Kate Moss told my brother: "You're a boy from Croydon, and I'm a girl from Croydon, we should do business!" We were from Croydon, until we moved to East Finchley when I was eight and he was five. I still pass the house now.

We moved to North London to be part of the Jewish community but I was not aware of this until the first day at my new school, South Hampstead High School. My mother said: "If they ask you whether you want to go to Jewish or non-Jewish prayers, say Jewish."

That was my first acquaintance with my heritage. Mind you, I was better off than Philip because he had to wear a bright orange blazer and cap, an early fashion victim of Norfolk House. Things improved fashion-wise for him later.

Bikes, buses and Blackjacks

We lived in Bancroft Avenue, as did our cousins. We lived at one end, they at the other. Not a close-knit family but a close-knit road. In those days we all rode bicycles together up and down and ran in and out of each others' houses. It seemed safer than today. Until the day Philip rode his bike into a lamppost and received a mighty blow on the head.

I remember going to see my first films at the Rex cinema, now the Phoenix. It was rather a lonely existence as my brother went off to boarding school and my parents travelled across London to business in Croydon every day.

During my young school-days my best friend Barbara and I travelled home from school in Swiss Cottage on the buses alone. Twopence halfpenny to Golders Green, then the same home on the 102, and just enough change for some Blackjacks and Fruit Salads.

Koko the black poodle kept us company in Bancroft Avenue, until a fire sent us all packing into Hampstead Garden Suburb, a fire that Koko didn't survive.

Happy childhood days? I'm not sure, but a nice neighbourhood, good neighbours and a quiet leafy suburban existence.

YOUNG ARCHER



The 4th East Finchley Guides hard at work outside the station.

Guides go guerrilla gardening

Each year Guides must do at least one piece of community service to gain their annual Challenge Badge. Earlier in the summer, the Guides of 4th East Finchley joined the N2 Guerrilla Gardeners at their plot by East Finchley tube station.

They helped with weeding, planting, and watering and said it was great fun getting involved in this exciting local project. The girls learned a bit about the plants and enjoyed getting their hands dirty. They hope to go back in September to pick some of the fruits and vegetables that have been growing there.

Stepping into Amy's shoes

The 4th East Finchley Guides unit is run by Toni, Kristy and Amy. Unfortunately, Amy has to leave the area as she is starting a teacher training course in Hull. Toni said: "We wish Amy the best of luck. Having a team of three really makes running the unit easier and means we have many more ideas. We also have great fun together. We would very much like to hear from anyone who could

join the team."

The local Rainbow Unit also really needs another adult volunteer. You don't need to have a background in Guiding but you do need to be over 18, agree to be CRB checked and able to attend most weekly meetings. Having regular access to email is really helpful.

Being a Guide Leader gives you valuable skills that can be transferred to the work place and is a fun way to contribute to the local community. Contact Toni on 020 8815 0715 or 4theastfinchleyguides@googlemail.com to find out more. More information about Guiding at <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Nature reports online

The Finchley Society website have started a new page for nature reports. Already it is packed with sightings of blackcaps, parakeets, greenfinches, exotic butterflies and herons. You don't have to be a member to contribute. Just email your sightings of wildlife in Finchley and Friern Barnet to web@finchleysociety.org.uk. The very attractive website is at www.finchleysociety.org.uk.

Allotment friends raise their game

Allotment holders have converted a plot at their site off Plane Tree Walk for use by a recently-disabled colleague. The plot has paved paths and raised beds, with the front area kept open for fruit and field crops. Members of the East Finchley Allotment Holders Association gave up their time to do the construction and fill the beds.



Events for all ages at annual arts festival

By Geoffrey Hanson

This year's East Finchley Arts Festival runs from 2-10 October at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, featuring 13 events over nine days. The musical events cover everything from early music to jazz, and four young and talented winners of the 2010 North London Festival will give recitals during the two Saturday lunch hours.

Young talent is also displayed by The Finchley Children's Music Group, whilst Geoff Felix brings his Punch and Judy show for the children. Under 18s get a special ticket price of £1 for most events.

The Beggar's Opera comes with a buffet supper, and violinist David Juritz is

joined by accordionist Milos Milivojevic in a recital with a difference. The most gauche Victorian proposal letter ever written features in *English Eccentrics in Love*, alongside words by Henry VIII, Philip Larkin and Rupert Brooke.

The Simon Purcell Trio are joined by award winning jazz singer Liane Carroll,

and world-famous consort of viols Fretwork are joined by equally famous counter-tenor James Bowman. The London Mozart Players bring the Festival to a close with a concert that includes a new work for organ and orchestra by festival director Geoffrey Hanson, Schubert's *5th Symphony* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass*.



"Victory Auto Services at their former home in the High Road. Photo by Mark Bharadia"

On the ramp for 21 years

By John Dearing

Not long after the Second World War, the topically-named Victory Service Station was set up in the High Road. It was originally a petrol station to which drive-in service bays were later added.

Bought out by a Mr Patel, it was split into two companies: the Texaco petrol station and Victory Auto Services. Mark Bharadia joined them about 18 years ago and subsequently took over management of the High Road business.

A second garage services site in Fortis Green to the rear of what was then a Total petrol station (now a car wash) was set up and run by Wayne Adams in 1996. In 2000 the lease ran out on the High Road site, which was closed and promptly redeveloped into flats. Mark and Wayne then merged their operations at the Fortis Green site.

Different skills

Mark has experienced how much the trade has changed in recent years. In the past much of the work done on cars was to repair the ravages of rust, welding chassis, patching or replacing body panels and so on. These days most cars have effective rust protection.

Much of the work on cars now requires modern electronic diagnostic systems. These indicate which device is apparently malfunctioning. However, this is not necessarily the location of the actual fault and the real skill is then finding it.

Victory Auto Services do mechanical repairs, tyres, bodywork, clutches, exhausts and air conditioning recharge and service. Mark and Wayne have been joined by Khalid and Andrew, their loyal and experienced staff who have been with them for six and three years respectively.

Mark was a keen amateur cricketer and member of Finchley Cricket Club for many years and now enjoys umpiring. Wayne has been a motorcyclist since he was 17 and currently enjoys riding a Triumph. As part of the Tetherdown School centenary, Victory Auto Services were pleased to donate a hand carved wooden bench.

Programme of events

• Saturday 2 October

12.30pm, Young Artists' Recital given by winners of the 2010 North London Festival Christina Petrou, soprano, and Sayaka Kurata, violin. Tickets £5. Snack lunch available. 11.30am & 2.30pm, Punch & Judy for the children; Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch & Judy show in the church garden, inside if it's wet. Bucket collection. 7.30pm *The Beggar's Opera*; John Gay & William Pepusch's satirical take on 18th century London low life. Semi-staged performance given by the London Ripieno Singers and soloists. Tickets: nave £15; conc. £12; side aisles £10; conc. £8 under 18s £1. Supper by Amici Delicatessen £6 extra, pre-booked only.

• Sunday 3 October

4pm, Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, sung by the choir of All Saints' East Finchley. Choral evensong is almost an art form in itself and the service will be sung to music contemporary with this fine Victorian building. 7.30pm, Finchley Children's Music Group. Giving concerts of both choral and solo items, the group has become a festival favourite. Tickets: £10; conc. £8; under 18s £1.

• Monday 4 October

7.30pm, Simon Purcell Trio with Liane Carroll, voice, Julian Seigel, sax & bass clarinet. Recent performers at Ronnie Scott's Club, these five musicians will present various combinations of instrument and voice, all drawn from the jazz tradition. Tickets: nave £15; conc. £12; side aisles £10; conc. £8; under 18s £1.

• Tuesday 5 October

7.30pm, East Finchley Writers presents a selection of readings across many styles and genres to move, amuse and surprise you. Admission free. Bucket collection

• Wednesday 6 October

6.30 - 8.30pm, Art Exhibition Private View. The exhibition of works by London and international artists will be open on evenings when concerts and events are held, and from 12 noon at the weekends during the Festival. In aid of the North London Hospice

• Thursday 7 October

7.30pm, *English Eccentrics in Love*, Sally Bradshaw, Kevin Moore & Mark Etherington; an entertaining evening of words and music on the eternal theme. Tickets: nave £15; conc. £12; side aisles £10; conc. £8 under 18s £1.

• Friday 8 October

7.30pm, David Juritz, violin,

Milos Milivojevic, accordion; a recital with a difference! David Juritz, soloist and leader of the London Mozart Players is joined by Milos Milivojevic in a programme which includes Tartini's *The Devil's Trill*, Mendelssohn's *Variations Op 65* and Victor Vlasov's *Five Sights on a Country Gulag*. Tickets: nave £15; conc. £12; side aisles £10; conc. £8 under 18s £1.

• Saturday 9 October

12.30pm, Young Artists' Recital given by winners of the 2010 North London Festival Agnieszka Pluta, piano, and Rosanna Terberg, flute. Tickets: £5. Snack lunch available 7.30pm, Fretwork & James Bowman; an evening with the world's leading consort of viols and one of the world's leading counter tenors. Tickets: nave £20; conc. £18; side aisles £15; conc. £12; under 18s £1.

Sunday 10 October

7.30pm, London Mozart Players; acknowledged as one of the UK's leading chamber orchestras. Programme includes Schubert's *5th Symphony*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and a new work for organ and orchestra by festival director Geoffrey Hanson. Tickets: nave £20; conc. £18; side aisles £15; conc. £12; under 18s £1.

All events except Choral Evensong will be held at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley. All Saints' has disabled access & facilities. Box Offices: Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 (0208 444 4717), Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 (0208 883 5631) and online: www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk (10% surcharge on each ticket).

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❖ **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.

❖ **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 0433.

❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029

❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.

❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk

❖ **Tai Chi class** at EF Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk

❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.

❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N3, 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 & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.

❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.

❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-15 year olds. Mondays 6.30-8pm. Contact Dominic Conway 0777 284 3958

❖ **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 13 & 27 Sept at 8.15pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.

❖ **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.

❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact 07957 344 724 or www.swamprock.org.uk.

❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706

❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Mon each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.

❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452

❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.

❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251

❖ **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.

❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.

❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.

❖ **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com

❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.

❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495

❖ **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.

❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.

❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390

❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.

Review: Masayuki Tayama

By Ken Carter

Masayuki Tayama is The Red Hedgehog's latest catch. On 25 July, his all-Rachmaninov programme finished a short series of concerts at the Highgate venue. It featured Etudes-Tableaux op. 33, Piano Sonata no 1 and, as encore, the Prelude in G minor.

Tayama is a formidable, rising young Japanese pianist. He conducts master-classes in advanced piano playing and his own playing style is masterful, technically highly powerful and accomplished. He has a magisterial presence and his performances have an arresting, sturdy authority. He fills The Red Hedgehog's intimate chamber with charged energy in resonant, voluminous sound. For myself, however, I missed contrast, intimacy, delicacy and any sign of Rachmaninov's surging romance, his humour or his aristocratic grace.

Stuck on you

By Sheila Armstrong
Local artist Edgeworth Johnstone exhibited his paintings in Chorak's on Muswell Hill Broadway during August. Johnstone had four works exhibited at Tate Modern this year at the exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of its opening; the first Stuckist artist to do so.

Edgeworth lives in Muswell Hill, with his wife fellow artist Shelley Li, having previously lived in pubs and played in rock bands. Both are Stuckists who dispute that conceptual art is art, believing it to be exploitative and done for an elite, "a product of the art world's mad cow disease," in their words. The Stuckist name comes from Tracey Emin's remark to a fellow artist that he was "stuck, stuck, stuck". And there are now Stuckists from Shanghai to Karachi.

Johnstone's work is figurative and well worth spending some time on. The steady gaze of the *Hundred Year Old Man*; strong red figures in *Animated Conversation*; *A Bullring* showing the defeated silhouette of the bull: all capture the essence of their subjects.

Edgeworth can be contacted via his website www.edgeworthjohnstone.co.uk or info@edgeworthjohnstone.co.uk. The Chorak bakery and cafe can be approached by other local artists who wish to exhibit their work.



6.45pm session with their winning man of the year William Boulton (total weight loss to date 4 stone) on the left and runner up Tony Abrey on the right (total weight loss to date 2 stone)

Slimmers glad to lose the pounds

Men have been celebrating some impressive weight loss successes at the East Finchley Slimming World group.

William Boulton, the 5pm session "Man of the Year", has lost four stone since the beginning of the year and proudly walked his daughter down the aisle at her recent wedding in a suit several sizes smaller than he'd thought possible.

Billy Prendergast, the 6.45pm session "Man of the Year", was brought along by his wife Vanessa; together, since the end of 2009, they have lost over 100 pounds. Billy has gone down several waist sizes and was very relieved that he could still enjoy the odd beer over the World Cup without it affecting his weight loss.

Natalie, the group's consultant, said: "It's not always easy for men to make the first step to join a slimming group. The stereotype is that it is mostly women but once men come through the door they quickly see how welcoming an atmosphere it is for everyone to lose weight."

Slimming World is offering a special discount for readers of *THE ARCHER*. Bring along a copy of the paper to any group and

receive £5 off the joining fee of £10. For details please call Natalie on 07889 252548 or e-mail nma@btconnect.com.



5pm sessions man of the year Billy Prendergast who has lost a total of 4 stone to date

The group meets at the East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, on Wednesdays at 9.30am, 5pm and 6.45pm.

Kidnap attempt foiled

By Janet Maitland

Two men tried to kidnap a woman on 6 August while she was walking to the bus stop on her way to work. At about 6.15am the victim was walking down Cavendish Avenue, N3, towards Mountfield Road when a car pulled up at the kerb in front of her.

When the driver asked her if he could give her a lift, she declined, but he persisted. When she continued to refuse, his passenger tried to push her into the car. Two people passing by intervened and the two men drove off.

The vehicle is described as a dark blue or black four-door Opel, or possibly Vauxhall, with a light brown leather interior. The driver was described as being about 25, black, with a shaven bald head and a strong build. He spoke with a 'street rapper accent', was wearing a dark brown t-shirt and had a square gold ring on his left hand. The other man was described as having an Asian/lighter

skin than the driver but about the same age. He was skinny, not very tall and wore dark blue jeans, a dark blue polo shirt and black shoes.

"We don't know what these men intended to do to the victim, but it was unlikely to be pleasant," said DC Mark Bennett, the officer in charge of the case. "Our thanks go to the two witnesses who intervened to help her out. We would like to speak to them, or anyone else who witnessed the event or has any further information."

If you can help call police on 0300 123 12 12, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting reference number 2418853/10.

What's On...

Sunday 5 September

• **The Battle of Barnet:** guided walk with Paul Baker, City of London guide. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. For details, contact Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Saturday 11 September

• **Barnet Ghosts:** guided walk with Paul Baker, City of London guide. Meet at High Barnet tube station booking office, 7.30pm. For details, contact Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Sunday 12 September

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 7.30pm. Viola da Cunha (mezzo soprano), Charlotte Keeffe (trumpet) and Alan Peach (piano) perform Classics to Modern, including works by Schumann, de Falla, Laura Shur and Gershwin. Collection in aid of the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Sunday 19 September

• **The Kandinsky Winds** in concert, Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, London, N6 5HG, 11.30am. Tickets £7 (£5 concs; £1 school children). Book on 020 8348 8716. www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

Friday 24 September

• **Quiz night at the Ann Owens Centre**, Oak Lane. 7pm. Tickets £10 each, including ploughman's supper and soft drinks. Maximum of six people per table. Proceeds to Age Concern minibus fund. Register with Grace Fensome on 020 8445 1808 or gracefensome@yahoo.co.uk.

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 September

• Fourth annual **Oktoberfest** at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, starting at 6pm. Come and enjoy a friendly atmosphere and a good selection of British and German beers. A barbecue will be available.

Sunday 26 September

• **Jewellery making with Sarah Drew:** create your own designs with eccentric recycled materials and sea objects; 2pm - 5pm in the Community Sukkah at a private address which will be emailed to you before the event. Telephone number for tickets (£25) and information from Jewish Community Centre for London on 020 7431 9866.

Tuesday 28 September

Little Tales: a fun-filled themed, interactive story session. Your

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

child can engage with favourite stories while you relax and enjoy afternoon tea. Suitable for children aged 2+. All food strictly vegetarian. 3:30pm, The Rubens House Sukkah, 184 Ballards Lane, London N3 2NB. Price: £4.50 per child. Tickets and information: the Jewish Community Centre for London on 020 7431 9866.

Throughout September and beyond:

• **Low impact exercise sessions** at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2; Mondays 1.45pm - 2.45pm, **seated exercise to music**; Tuesdays 11am - 12pm, **movement to music**; Wednesdays 11am - 12pm, **Tai Chi for people recovering from falls** (referrals only); Wednesdays 2pm - 3pm, **low impact exercise for the more active**. Contact Lisa or Dawn on 020 8432 1417 or 1418 for more details. Classes open to all, unless stated, with £2 charge for non-members of the Centre.

Low impact exercise sessions at Prospect Place, East End Road, N2; Tuesdays 2.45pm - 3.45pm, **chair-based exercise to music for over-55s**, with a charge of £1.50. Contact Janet Conway on 07950 683 575 for more details.



Letters to the editor

Objections to High Road flats plan

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to inform your readers of the proposed planning application for 58-60 High Road, N2. The proposal is to add a new third storey, rear extension and off-street parking. This comprises a conversion to six flats, making the building particularly out of keeping with its surroundings.

The additional height of the block and rear extension will not only impact on neighbouring Fairlawn Avenue with respect to appearance and increased traffic (already a busy one-way road with the Phoenix Cinema at the corner), but will affect the High Road and East Finchley in general.

58-60 High Road is an attractive building with a roof construction and height in keeping with the area and the listed Phoenix cinema nearby. The proposed third storey and rear extension, will ruin this architectural quality which is so characteristic of East Finchley's charm and village atmosphere.

Details of the proposal can be viewed at: www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-application (planning Application Number: F/02631/10). I would like to ask all ARCHER readers who care about East Finchley to view the plans and submit an objection as soon as possible, online or to write to: Mr Robert Marchant, Planning, Housing & Regeneration Service, Building 2, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.

**Yours faithfully,
Name supplied,
Fairlawn Avenue, N2.**

Traffic lights tame traffic

Dear Editor,

I believe it would be a mistake to remove the traffic lights at the junction of East End Road and Ossulton Way, N2 (THE ARCHER, August 2010).

The locally generated traffic is light but this is a rat-run for drivers, mainly on autopilot, mainly at peak hours, working round the not-so-recent loss of the access to East End Road from the North Circular Road following the building of the underpass at what was once the Manor Cottage.

Drivers got seriously ratty after the building of the underpass and before the lights were installed because the sight lines at East End Road and Ossulton Way are poor, mainly because heavy vehicles have to be allowed for.

There may be ways to discourage the rat-run, and I'm sure residents fronting onto Ossulton Way would welcome this, but if this is not possible I believe the traffic lights are the best option.

**Yours faithfully,
Robert Morris
Heath View Close, N2.**

Pavilion plans are disproportionate

Dear Editor,

I read in the August edition of THE ARCHER about the 'revised' plans for the old pavilion building in Cherry Tree Woods. What exactly is 'new' about these plans? The only factor that has changed is that there is no longer to be a flat roof.

It remains the case that this development is proposed on precious Metropolitan Open Land, the equivalent to greenbelt in the UK. The

plans contravene all guidelines for redevelopments on such land. This is a factor that both Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion and Barnet Council have been alerted to and have blatantly ignored to date.

Any re-development on such land should be done so as to enhance the use of the open space, for example, to provide sports changing rooms, or for purposes of horticulture or agriculture.

The other factor that remains the same is the scale of the development. It has once again not been clearly emphasised that the re-development of the pavilion proposes to accommodate 120 people; 80 for a cafe, 20 for an 'education space' and 20 for people to have 'parties and classes'. Most cafes along the High Street cater for less than 40, none for over 50. These proposals are totally disproportionate.

If you too are concerned about any aspect of the development you can contact a group of residents at weloven2@yahoo.co.uk

**Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.**

Wrong time for pavilion work

Dear Editor,

In relation to the new plans released by The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion (THE ARCHER, August 2010), it should be noted that this group does not by any means represent all the stakeholders, ie local residents and users, in Cherry Tree Wood.

Many continue to feel that an expensive and extensive six-month building programme which would create a seating area far larger than that of any cafe in the vicinity, as well as a second storey in order to accommodate leisure facilities, is both out of proportion and entirely unnecessary given the proximity of The Institute and the plethora of local venues and cafes, all within a stone's throw of Cherry Tree Wood.

In the current climate, with hundreds of far more essential projects such as schools and hospitals being scrapped and many services for the vulnerable at risk, to proceed with the pavilion development would be an irresponsible waste of resources.

**Yours faithfully,
Diana and Peter Forbes
Address supplied**

Kiosk serves community well

Dear Editor

Your article showed the "new" scheme which is proposed. Basically the plans remain the same, save for the fact that the roof is no longer a flat roof. The usage remains identical. It is for Sally Wigfield to seat 100 downstairs for her 'education space' about food, and cafe (including an exterior decking area not shown or mentioned in the Archer article). A further 20 will be able to hire out the second storey for 'parties and classes'.

The largest cafe on the High Road is Costa, which seats approx 50. Many others seat under 30. To have a new pavilion to cater for 120 is disproportionate, especially when the kiosk serves the community very well with 28 seats.

Also to be considered is that Cherry Tree Wood is deemed Metropolitan Open Land and should be protected at the same level as greenbelt. Buildings should be

re-developed only be in relation to the open space (sports changing rooms, agriculture, horticulture), not for cafes, halls to hire for parties and classes nor for 'education spaces' about food. Sally and our ward councillors are ignoring our concerns about this.

**Yours faithfully
Barry H White
Fordington Road, N6.**

Anyone for table tennis?

Dear Editor,

I've recently retired, am recovering from ME, not very fit (!!!) and am looking for somewhere in East Finchley to play table tennis, particularly over winter. I'd be grateful if any of your readers know of anywhere locally where I could get a regular game.

**Yours faithfully,
Jane Townsend
Address supplied**

Please contact us if you can help with Jane's request. Write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email the-archer@lineone.net

Obituary:

Audrey Violet Cartwright

Audrey Cartwright, aged 76, died recently after a short illness. Audrey was a local lass, born in East End Road on 6 September 1934. She married Peter Cartwright at Burnt Oak register office in 1956 and lived at various places in East Finchley, moving from a small flat to larger premises as her family increased. She had been a widow for many years, but shared her house in Benedict Way with her son, Stuart.

She had two sons, Stephen and Stuart, on whom she doted. Her happiest times were spent with them and her grandchildren, especially at Christmas. A very sociable character, she loved her bingo and was an ardent Tottenham fan.

Audrey had worked at Florence Wyman and Halls, both ladies' outfitters, in Finchley. She became a dinner lady at Holy Trinity School, starting off in the old building on East End Road, now the Bobath Centre. Audrey retired in 2000 after



Audrey Cartwright. Photo by Diana Cormack
28 years at the school and her long service to the borough was recognised when she received a Civic Award from the Mayor of Barnet. Many local youngsters will remember her from those days and she will be sadly missed by her family and many friends and acquaintances.

Obituary:

Maria (Marie) Fry

By Jancsi Halasz, Carmen Stevens, Steve and Anna Fry

A resident of East Finchley for 40 years, known for sharing a kind word and a smile with those she met, Marie was one of those characters our community will miss. Marie passed away in December 2009 at Chase Farm Hospital aged 66 years.



Marie arrived in England from Budapest in November 1957 with her mother and brother, having lived through the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. After leaving school she worked as a trainee hairdresser at Fortnum and Mason in Piccadilly. Deciding that hairdressing was not for her, she went to France to further her education and to teach English. After returning to England, Marie married and set up home in East Finchley, where her son Stephen was born in 1965.

Marie returned to work teaching French at Parliament Hill School and during this time became a member of Gingerbread, having been one of the first women to represent herself in her own divorce case. She had an interest in the law, joined the Probation Service in Islington and worked for Education Welfare. Her work brought her into contact with Arsenal Football Club. She helped to manage a recreational football team and helped with French translation for the players.

As part of her role at Islington, Marie was responsible for licensing children to work in theatre and film. One of her most enjoyable tasks was being involved in the licensing of the young actors of the first Harry Potter film.

Despite a full working life, Marie still found time to keep an allotment in East Finchley. She loved gardening and was very much part of the allotment community. Marie was also a wonderful cook and is sorely missed by her many friends and family for her wisdom, warmth and tremendous sense of humour. She is survived by her son Stephen, daughter-in-law Anna and grandchildren Henry, Alice and Lizzie.

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Photo by Steve Gorton

Tee in the garden

By Angela Anderson

What would you do if you disliked gardening? Call in a makeover team or pave over the entire garden? One enterprising East Finchley couple contacted the British Minigolf Association to find out whether they could have a minigolf course built in their back garden.

They were put in touch with miniature golf design specialists Urban Crazy (www.urbancrazy.com), based at Staples Corner. Jon Angel designed a slick, imaginative mini course for their back garden, incorporating features based on his clients' interests and using natural elements, such as old chimney pots to hold plants chosen to attract insects.

Ingenious features

Part of one hole involves hitting the ball up into a channel which moves wind chimes located in a traditional garden shed, emerging into a conduit which rings another set of chimes. The golf course takes up most of the back garden but a central water feature of Highland stone and cobbles, bench, plants and shrubs, makes it a very pleasant space in which to sit.

Forget seaside crazy golf with weather beaten windmills and gaping clowns' mouths into which to putt the ball, this is a beautifully designed space using the latest minigolf course materials and imaginatively and skillfully interpreted by Capital Garden Landscapes in Highgate.

Minigolfers united

Members of The British Minigolf Association team were at the course's 'open day' on 7 August, enjoying playing the game in an urban city space surrounded by other similarly sized gardens. Richard Gottfried

of the BMA explained that they were an association of amateurs and semi-professionals and he had played in competitions and tournaments both nationally and internationally. "It is a recognised sport for those who wish to pursue it as a game or a fun way of spending time with

family and friends."

Most minigolf courses are in public spaces. This unique one in East Finchley is not open to the public but the owners intend to use it to raise money for charity through the National Gardens Scheme and other charitable events.

East Finchley: clone town?

As part of his studies for a Master's degree Paul Faulkner is producing a documentary on "clone towns", the phenomenon whereby towns lose their individual identity as they become increasingly populated by the same handful of chain stores. A think tank has suggested that East Finchley is one of the towns that have managed to retain some distinctiveness in terms of its shops. Paul came to the area to interview someone who isn't concerned about the spread of clone towns and someone else who is. That someone else was Roger Chapman and here are his views:

One of the things that attracted me to live in East Finchley over 25 years ago was the diversity and character of the High Road. Today East Finchley High Road remains a distinctive and attractive town centre with lots of independent shops and services.

But elsewhere in London and nationally the inexorable rise of the chain store has resulted in identikit urban environments: "clone towns". Homogenised high streets create a retail infrastructure that is hostile to small independent businesses.

Is this something we should be bothered about? What is wrong with the loss of small shops and services if a weekly or fortnightly car trip to a superstore can meet our needs?

Why we should be concerned

The benefits of small shops and neighbourhood shopping areas extend beyond the convenience of being able to buy food and access services within walking distance.

They provide a wider social and economic role and one that is central to a sustainable neighbourhood. Over 50 per cent of the turnover of independent retailers goes back into the local community, compared to just five per cent from supermarkets. They also meet the needs of the disadvantaged, socially excluded and elderly, particularly those with a lack of mobility. A few years ago local people fought off a proposal for a large Waitrose superstore in East Finchley, recognising the damage it would do to High Road businesses and to the local character of our neighbourhood. But the threats from supermarkets, rising rents and an unsympathetic planning system remain.

Retaining the independent businesses in our High Road means using them on a regular basis. We need to encourage and promote the benefits of shopping locally. Numerous schemes such as the 'wedge card', Brixton pound and 'shop local' campaigns have been trialled elsewhere in London. Maybe it's time we worked out a scheme for East Finchley - or do we just get in the car and pop down to Colney Hatch Lane?

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