



David Evans (left) presenting his first book to Alan Whitewright.
Photo by Diana Cormack.

Two for a million

By Daphne Chamberlain

At least two East Finchley people took part in World Book Night on 5 March. Sponsored by booksellers and publishers, and backed by authors and librarians, a million books were given away. Each of 20,000 volunteers chose one title from a list of 25 and was sent 48 copies of that title to distribute.

Paula Dozie heard about it on BBC Breakfast News, and thought it sounded fun. She chose *Half of a Yellow Sun*, by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Trudging around streets on the night, particularly with a toddler to look after and her husband away for the weekend, would not have been ideal. So she got round that by giving copies to friends, family, the Library, Black Gull Bookshop, the Phoenix, and members of East Finchley Natural Childbirth Trust. Where books went can be tracked by a unique ID number issued to every giver.

The launch on 4 March in Trafalgar Square, attended by Boris Johnson, was billed as "the biggest single literary event in history".

Paula told us: "It was really something different. Nelson's Column was lit up, and the first 1,000 volunteers in an online ballot were given places round the stage. Graham Norton, the host, interviewed a couple of volunteers, and authors and celebrities read aloud from books of their choice and (in one case) a Cole Porter song lyric."

Author Margaret Atwood read at the launch and her own book *Blind Assassin* was the one given away by our other East Finchleyan David Evans. He learned about the scheme on the internet, and chose that book because he really loves it and wanted other people to enjoy it too.

Did any more of you take part? We'd love to know. Our contact details are on page 2.

Academic sheds light on sacred texts

This year is the 400th anniversary of the publication in 1611 of the King James Bible, the most widely read translation of the Bible ever made. To mark this event, Professor Bob Owens of the English Department at The Open University, was invited by Oxford University Press to edit the 1611 text of *The Gospels* for the paperback series Oxford World's Classics.



The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are regarded by Christians the world over as their most precious and sacred writings. They provide the fullest and most memorable accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and scenes from them have provided subject matter for innumerable works of art, literature, and music.

Bob, who lives in Church Lane, places the Gospels in the context of the development of early Christianity as it separated itself from Judaism, highlighting how each one offers its own distinctive portrait of Jesus. He also describes how the translators of the King James Bible went about their task, and gives examples of the extraordinary influence of this book on the development of the English language as well as English literature.

His edition provides very full explanatory notes, elucidating aspects of life in first-century Palestine and clarifying obscurities in 17th century language and phraseology. Bob says his aim was to make the Gospels accessible to modern readers, while preserving the splendour, the music and the rhythms of the King James text.

The Gospels: Authorized King James Version is published by OUP on 10 March 2011. It is available from all good bookshops, at £8.99. ISBN 978-0-19-954117-1.

Stolen number plates

Barnet Boroughwatch has issued a warning to residents about a series of number plate thefts in the borough in recent months.

"This type of crime is often not reported to the police," said Paul Hammond, the coordinator. "But if your plate is cloned and the bandit vehicle is used by criminals, the police will come knocking at your door. Don't forget to cover your back: report your stolen plate to the police."

Phoenix becomes a 2012 Olympics icon

By David Tupman
It is a great coup for *THE ARCHER* to be the first of the UK print media to reveal that East Finchley's favourite cinema will play a big part in London's cultural Olympics.

Fresh from its own centenary success, the Phoenix will join the 112-metre-tall sculpture - the ArcelorMittal Orbit - as part of an artistic centrepiece for the Olympic park in Stratford. Costing £19 million, the twisting tower has been designed by Turner Prize winning artist Anish Kapoor incorporating the five Olympic rings and will offer visitors panoramic views of London. The Orbit will stand 22 metres higher than the Statue of Liberty.

In contrast, a 10-metre replica of the Phoenix Cinema will be placed between the Orbit and the Olympic stadium and will shine across the park with brilliant Technicolor-inspired light effects.

The Olympic organisers will undertake the necessary works to take full-sized plastic replica moulds of the cinema's exterior and interior features. Such is the technical wizardry of the process, customers will experience absolutely no disruption to the film schedule at the Phoenix itself.

Paul Homer's film choices

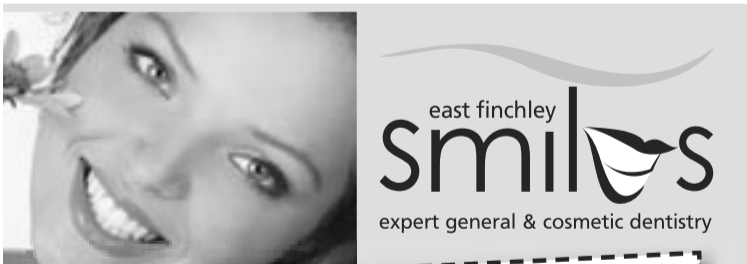
The revolutionary plasticisation techniques mean that installation of the life-size cinema at Stratford should be completed by March 2012. When fully operational, The Phoenix at the Park, as this temporary structure will be known, will be offering a rich programme of British films. This will start with Tony Richardson's gem from 1962 *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* and will alternate with *Chariots of Fire* from 1981. In case of the inevitable summer British downpour, *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, a hit in 1964, will be a top draw for film buffs. And of course, if the medal tally is looking glum, visitors can sit back and watch Dennis Price and George Cole in the neglected classic of 1959 *Don't Panic, Chaps!*

Work on this exciting project is scheduled to begin on 1 April.

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Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

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