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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Daisy Moore with her trophy. Photo © Sarah Williams 2010

Young cricketer Daisy still bowling them over

By Diana Cormack

Fourteen-year-old Daisy Moore, of Cromwell Close, continues to impress in the cricketing world. She played for Middlesex Under-15s in the Women's County Championships and Gunnersbury 2nd X1 in the Women's Southern League last year, and was the only female in the adult squad when she played for East Finchley's cricket club N2CC and for Finchley CC against Walthamstow CC in their club centenary match.

This should be good grounding for Daisy as next season she has been invited to play for the prestigious Highgate Taverners where again she will be the only female.

Top score for Superstar

But perhaps Daisy's greatest achievement was at Lord's in September 2010 when she won the Clydesdale Bank Junior Superstar Competition Girls' Under 16 category. That sounds impressive enough, but Daisy also achieved the highest individual score in the whole competition including all categories male and female and all age groups. Nationwide competitors are tested on their batting, bowling and fielding skills.

Wearing her Finchley kit, she was presented with a large trophy by Stephen Finn (Middlesex and England fast bowler) and Neil Dexter (Middlesex captain) in front of the Lord's pavilion.

Daisy's father, cricket club coach Robert Moore, told *THE ARCHER* that cricket is the fastest growing sport for girls in the country. "It has grown rapidly over the last five years due to the success of England's women's team," he said.

Children's and youth centres under threat

By Janet Maitland

The futures of the Old Barn Centre in Tarling Road and the Newstead Centre in Fallows Close, both offering vital services to children and young people, are hanging in the balance.

The Newstead Centre, a popular nursery, is facing closure as part of Barnet Council's cost-saving programme in 2011. Turn to page 3 for the full story.

The Old Barn Centre is run by the Old Barn Youth and Community Association (OBYCA), a registered charity providing services for children and young people. Some groups that use the premises have been severely disrupted, however. Family support charity Home-Start and the Monday Youth Club have both been forced to move out or close down over recent months as a result of health and safety concerns.

Action Group formed

Maureen Clemetson, who runs the Monday youth club, said that she had to close the club temporarily because of problems with fire doors and extinguishers. She told us: "If this isn't sorted out, we'll be paying out further down the line because young people will be doing destructive instead of constructive things."

Sergeant Andy Matthews of the Safer Neighbourhood Team said that his team had been called several times to the centre to deal with a civil dispute between the management committee and the Muslim

prayer group Al Karim. Councillor Alison Moore said East Finchley councillors were concerned about the future of the centre.

"I don't know who elected the new trustees," said Kirpal Dhadda, from Home-Start. "We did run a teenage parent group at the centre, but we've had to move them somewhere else."

The Old Barn Action Group, set up last November, says that following two years of confusion at management committee level all previous staff at the centre have been let go and the After School Club has been discontinued. The group warns that if the building is not used it will become a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

OBYCA's annual report

The centre's annual report and accounts for year ending March 2010 were filed with the Charity Commission by Reverend Geoffrey Muhoro, the new director of OBYCA and one of three new trustees. The action group claims the three trustees are members of the Rivers of Joy Ministries International, a group that hires the centre on Sundays and defines itself as an evangelical, Pentecostal or charismatic ministry, operating through a network of local churches.

Continued on page 3

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

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

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Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

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East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815
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London Transport 020 7222 1234
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Hospitals

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Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
MIND 020 8343 5700
NHS Direct 0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

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Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014

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Drivers wanted

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact runs a transport and escort service providing volunteer drivers to take people who cannot drive or manage public transport to occasional appointments, such as the doctor. Contact is currently looking for more volunteers for this service. Drivers must have their own car, a clean driving licence and will need to have a CRB check. If you can help please contact Amanda Radonich on 020 8432 1415 or Sian Jones on 020 8432 1416 or email info@efncontact.org.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council
45 Bancroft Avenue, N2
Two-storey rear extension.
88 Church Lane, N2

Conversion of first floor into two residential units with associated extension to roof, including rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

Change of use of ground floor from A2 (Professional Services) to B1 (Light Industrial). Associated single-storey side and rear extension. Relocation of existing access to rear. New parapet wall to elevation adjacent to 90 Church Lane.

42 Church Vale, N2
Two-storey side extension, single-storey rear extension. Extension to roof, including three dormer windows.

25 Howard Walk, N2
Proposed rear dormer window added to existing loft room.

1 Ludlow Way, N2
Single-storey rear extension, internal refurbishment and changes to fenestration.

39A Sedgemere Avenue, N2
Roof extension involving rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

Haringey Council
Bomarsund, 94 Fortis Green, N2

Erection of front boundary wall matching imperial gaunt bricks. Provision of timber gates.

26 Ringwood Avenue, N2
Erection of single storey rear extension, addition of two side dormers and one rear dormer with alterations to entrance/internal alterations.

Artsdepot funding to be cut

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has announced plans to cut all core funding to artsdepot, the arts centre in North Finchley, from April 2011. The centre provides a wide variety of theatre, children's shows, comedy, dance, visual arts and music. It also runs a diverse range of courses and outreach programmes and has been recognised by the Mayor of London as a beacon of excellence.

"If this goes through, Barnet will be one of the largest councils in the country to spend nothing on the arts," said Nigel Cutting, the centre's director.

In the last financial year, artsdepot received £194,000 from the council, which is 11% of the annual turnover. About 25% of artsdepot's income comes from private trusts and foundations who value its work. The rest comes from box office sales and hires.

In 2009/2010 more than 110,000 people came through artsdepot's doors, while the education and outreach departments worked with groups including young people with disabilities, refugees, young offenders, people with demen-

tia and those excluded from mainstream education.

Shocking

and shortsighted

Nigel Cutting said that he was shocked by the proposal as he had been in constant dialogue with Barnet Council for the last six months, but at no time had it been suggested that funding would be withdrawn in 2011. "Arts provision will need to take a share of the cuts, but this is hugely disproportionate and shortsighted, especially since artsdepot is a council initiative," he said.

Artsdepot is urging anyone concerned about this decision to sign the online petition, a link to which can be found at www.artsdepot.co.uk and to write to local councillors.

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Children's centre faces closure threat

By Diana Cormack

One of the few remaining places in East Finchley that caters for the under-fives could be facing closure as part of budget cuts. Parents who use Newstead Children's Centre in Fallows Close have formed an action group (www.savenewstead.com) to fight against the loss of such a necessary amenity.

The centre recently underwent a £1 million refurbishment programme and has been judged as "outstanding" by Ofsted. It provides a wide range of services for parents and children, including baby care, family and parenting courses, a childminding support network, advice surgeries, stay-and-play sessions and a nursery for two to five-year-olds. There has been a serious reduction in the number of local pre-school playgroups in recent years and the loss of another would be a bitter blow.

The centre is used by all sections of the community. Parents of special needs children have described the potential loss as devastating.

Working parents need Newstead

Losing the nursery would mean major problems for those parents who rely on it in order to go out to work, particularly those in tough circumstances who do not want to be a burden on the taxpayer.

Cheryl Connell has used the centre for her oldest daughter Alice, four, for 18 months and hoped her sister Sophie would be able to join her next year. She said: "Alice has formed strong bonds with the staff and children. We have watched her self-confidence blossom here."

Mrs Connell, a nurse, added that the centre's hours enabled her and her husband Jim, an office worker, to go back to work.



Cheryl Connell and her family are fighting alongside other parents to save the Newstead Centre.

Jenny Borst, whose two-year-old son Tom has recently joined the centre, said there was a misguided perception that East Finchley was home only to middle class parents who could afford private childcare. She said: "There are housing estates here with people managing in difficult circumstances, and there are single parents who use the centre. It is not a middle class luxury."

Funding for Children's Centres comes entirely from central government's "Sure Start" grants.

In a letter to parents,

Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families, said funding was available up to April 2011 but there were no guarantees any centres would survive into the new financial year. Barnet Council said in December that it would consult with staff and parents at all the children's centres and these consultations will close on 31 January before an announcement is made in February.

Generous response after Bobath roof theft

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in East End Road is back to full strength following the theft of lead from the roof (THE ARCHER, October 2010).

The raiders caused thousands of pounds worth of damage that led to treatment rooms being closed off for health and safety reasons. The theft was especially disappointing since the internationally renowned treatment centre had only just finished raising money to replace a leaking roof above its reception.

However, thanks to the understanding of the insurers and the generosity of local people, the roof of the Grade II listed building has been returned to its former glory.

"We were really over-

whelmed by the generosity of the local community," says Kevin Gillespie, fundraising manager. "In the weeks following the theft, people walked in off the street with cash and cheques. We managed to cover all our costs and it was all down to local press coverage and word-of-mouth."

Donations helped to pay for the roof to be coated with Smart-Water, a chemical imprinted with a DNA-type code that can be read under ultra-violet light. This makes it traceable to the original owner and will act as a deterrent to future thieves.

Children's and youth centres under threat

Continued from page 1

The annual report does not mention children and young people although this is OBYCA's registered stated purpose. Instead, OBYCA's principal activity is described as 'the provision of advice, information and counsel for members of the public.'

Rev Muhoro told THE ARCHER there was no change in the purpose of the OBYCA or the membership of the management committee. "The three trustees are the executive; all the other members are still there, just not mentioned in the report. And we do run children's activities such as Karate Kid and Soccertots," he said.

He said that police had never been called to the centre but agreed that Al Karim had been asked to leave "because they had not paid their dues". He also said that neither he nor the other trustees were members of Rivers of Joy Ministries.

Looking to the future

At a subsequent meeting with THE ARCHER, the Reverend said that two committee members were no longer invited to management meetings because they were found to have had a financial interest in the Old Barn. He also said that he shared the concerns of the action group about the

building not being used for its main purpose, and was looking for organisations to use the centre to run services for children, young people, families and pensioners.

He will be holding a meeting at the Old Barn on 8 January at 6.30pm for anyone interested in the future of the centre. Any charity that would like to run a service should call him on 07957 600 035.

The Old Barn Action Group will be holding its own open meeting early in the New Year. Anyone interested in joining the group should call William Hudson on 07870 647 284.

On the right foot

Shoe boutique Kokos in the High Road sponsored Christmas presents for children attending the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in East End Road.

Kevin Gillespie, fundraising manager, said: "We really enjoy forging links with the local community and it's great to see that small businesses are still interested in helping good causes."

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Centre Manager Mark Healey assists Cllr Anthony Finn, Mayor of Barnet, unveil the new sign. Photo by John Dearing

Green Man's second decade

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Green Man Centre celebrated its 10th birthday in style at the end of November, with a reception hosted by the new centre manager Mark Healey, and the head of the Green Man Management Group Janice Kerr.

In his welcoming speech, Mark Healey said: "Today is a great opportunity for us to get together, to celebrate what has been achieved in the past ten years, to thank those who have got us to where we are today, and to look forward to the future."

Representatives from many local organisations and groups who use the centre were there, making the most of the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and enjoy tasty snacks.

Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Anthony Finn, who unveiled the new Centre sign, said: "You are doing marvellous work here. People can look at this centre and say, 'This is what we can achieve'."

Opportunities Fair

There is a lot of events going on at the Centre now, with more planned for the future. Coming up on Friday 28 January is an Opportunities Fair, when a

number of organisations will give advice and information on a range of subjects. To be involved, or for more information on the centre, contact Mark Healey on 020 8815 0703 or at www.twitter.com/GreenManCentre.

Park House latest

Last month we reported that Barnet Council's Cabinet Resources Committee of 30 November would be making a decision on the future of Park House. The original agenda stated that the Council would decide whether to let it to third party organisations for a commercial rent. However, the item was withdrawn from the agenda. See Letters on page 11.

Sergeant leaves Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Janet Maitland

Sergeant Andy Matthews has left the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) after two years of dedicated work. He has a position in the Crime Management Unit at Colindale Police Station and will continue to oversee the SNT until a replacement is found.

During his time in East Finchley, the team has set up new initiatives such as the Shield Project, which has reduced the number of elderly and vulnerable victims of crime, and E-Watch, an email-based local crime early warning system. It's also run many proactive operations tackling burglary, carcrime, drug dealing, ATM crime and anti-social behaviour.

Sgt Matthews said: "I would like to thank my team, ward panel members and other partners for their part in making this a very rewarding two years of my police service."

Review of SNTs

His move coincides with a London-wide review of all SNTs. A statement from senior management at the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) says that the purpose of the review is to find better ways of using current neighbourhood policing resources.

In every neighbourhood in London there will continue to be named officers who are responsible for identifying and



tackling local crime and anti social behaviour. MPS also says that no changes will be made without feedback from Barnet Council and local residents.

If you want to be involved in this review you can complete an online questionnaire at www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/339166/19e4/

The Safer Neighbourhood Team office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone them on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email them at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Snapshot of life in one day

The Finchley Society is marking its 40th anniversary on Friday 11 February by asking people to take a snapshot record of life in our area on that day.

They are hoping to record all aspects of local life, big and small, day and night, as long as it is within the old areas of the Borough of Finchley and the Urban District of Friern Barnet. This is the area between Brook Farm in the north and The Spaniards Inn in the south, and from the Finchley Golf Club in the west to the Friern Bridge Retail Park in the east.

Send your photos to [web@fin](mailto:web@finchleysociety.org.uk)

chleysociety.org.uk, or post them to Derek Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, N3 1YN. Please include information on the time, location and subject of each photo, plus your own name and contact details.

All records will be kept in the society's archives and the best shots will be shown at various events and, it is hoped, turned into a book.

News from the village

Daphne Chamberlain reports on the latest meeting of the East Finchley Village Residents Association.

Library

Polly Napper from East Finchley Library Users Group was the guest speaker at the Association's November meeting. Negatives in the library's recent history are its reclassification from a Town Centre to a Local library, cutting hours and funding, followed by the disappointment of not securing support from the Big Lottery.

Polly had positive news though, telling the meeting about the library's excellent records for loans and visits. She said: "Martin School use it all the time. Saturdays are very busy, and the computers are always in use. It's a very valuable part of our community".

To keep up to date with library developments, contact Polly at pollynapper@btinternet.com.

Church Lane traffic

Chair Bob Owens will arrange a meeting with Cllr Andrew McNeil in the New Year. EFVRA member David Broome has spoken to Barnet Chief Executive Nick Walkeley about a 20mph limit, and also asked what was being done about the headless lampposts.

Mr Walkeley said that the lampposts were being "looked into", and suggested that traffic might be slowed by narrowing the road. More volunteers are needed to collect signatures for the 20 mph petition.

Hobbs Green bollards

Bollards are now in place. This swift action followed Cllr McNeil passing on details and photos of traffic congestion supplied by a Hobbs Green resident. This resident has now met Barnet Highway Officers about poor visibility at the Hobbs Green/Church Lane junction.

Stanley Field

EFVRA member Roger Chapman suggested a public meeting in January, as the Council plan to sell the field appeared to be at odds with its own Open Spaces strategy.

For EFVRA information or enquiries, contact Caroline Broome on 020 8444 2329 or email east.finchley.village.residents.association@virginmedia.com.

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Visitors always welcome



Pupils, staff and parents planted for the future at Holy Trinity.

Trees for the next generation

By Sally Aitio

Holy Trinity School was given 30 trees by the Woodland Trust to plant in the school grounds as part of a national scheme. Each class had the opportunity to put on their wellies and plant a tree.

By planting these trees the school hopes to create an area of biodiversity where wildlife will want to live. On a more global level, planting trees will also help combat climate change and improve the environment.

There are plans to grow vegetables for the school kitchen next spring, as well as to develop composting facilities in order to reduce, recycle and reuse organic waste.

In late November, Holy Trinity also held its second 'no power hour' when staff and pupils switched off all the energy consuming appliances in their classrooms, as part of a national initiative called 'Switch off Fortnight'.



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Stationer wins national award

By Annie Raff

East Finchley's stationer has earned itself a national retail award. UOE, which has been trading on the High Road for more than 25 years, won the BOSS Industry Award for Retail Excellence. It was deemed "the best stationery shop in the UK" by the judges, beating off the likes of Tesco.

Manager Elliot Jacobs is delighted by the recognition, saying he was "stunned" when he heard his company's name called at the awards ceremony at the Lancaster Hotel.

When asked why they decided to submit an application for the award, Mr Jacobs said that, despite the economic downturn of the last two years, which has left many businesses struggling to survive, UOE has seen an increase in trade and custom.

He puts this down to the fact that they maintain high standards as well as an element of tradition. Staff are well trained in product knowledge but, more importantly, are friendly and always willing to make the effort to enhance the customer experience.

Local and loyal

But it's not only the staff who make UOE a success; nothing would be possible without the support of local loyal cus-

tomers. Mr Jacobs calls East Finchley a "fantastic community, in that everyone supports their local high street".

As well as sorting out any stationery needs for locals and passers-by, from whom they gain 85% of their retail trade, UOE also supply national companies across the UK and Ireland with all their stationery. Like Mr Jacobs' own rise to success from Saturday boy to managing director, it seems UOE is a real success story.



From left, Elliot Jacobs, Mike Jacobs & James Chowen. Photo by Annie Raff.

Paying the price for "free" parking places

By Diana Cormack

On 2 December, Barnet Council announced in the press and on notices displayed locally that they proposed to make amendments to their Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). Changes would be made "in order to ensure that the London Borough of Barnet's CPZs continue to work effectively".

This would entail converting all the free parking places to "Permit Holder Only" during the appropriate hours of restriction. Residents and visitors would have to display a valid permit or visitor voucher between either 10am-6.30pm or 2pm-3pm, in previously free places.

For East Finchley traders this could lead to a loss of business vital to their survival in the current climate. Some already feel that potential customers are put off by the High Road parking meters, particularly those that are not cash-only payments. They see this latest move as counter-productive at a time

when Barnet, instead of continuing to milk a captive cash cow, should be working to support local shopping centres.

At a particularly busy time of year with the run-up to Christmas, anyone wishing to inspect or object to the proposals had to do so within 21 days of the notice.

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That's (ten) grand: (left to right) Diane Pary, Fundraising Development Manager, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, Simon Gerrard, Managing Director of Martyn Gerrard, and Conal Presho, Head of Fundraising and Communications, North London Hospice

Happy hospices

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and the North London Hospice were delighted to receive a £10,000 donation from Martyn Gerrard director Simon Gerrard. The north London-based estate agency has been supporting both charities during 2010 and through various sponsorship and challenge events, management and staff have raised £10,000 for these two very good causes.

Review: See How They Run!

By Daphne Chamberlain

And did they run! Through the vicarage and its garden, upstairs and downstairs, through the French window and out to a fantasy lily pond, wearing long johns and each other's clothes, waving sticks, brandishing a gun, and pushing a drunken lady into a cupboard.

Who were they? A bishop, a vicar, a visiting clergyman, an actor turned soldier, a policeman and an escaped prisoner of war. But who, out of all the real and bogus clergymen on stage at the end, was actually the vicar? He knew, we knew, the all-seeing maid knew, but why was his new, ex-actress wife not telling?

The Guild Players knew a thing or two when they chose the classic 1940s farce, Philip King's *See How They Run!* It was a great example of the genre: tightly written, full of action, and with each crazy development following on naturally from the one before. However good the vehicle, though, it has to be driven, and the company rose to the occasion.

Acting, direction, stage management, sets and costume were all excellent, and the front of house people added to the atmosphere with their World War 2 clothing, sandbags and posters in the foyer.

The audience who braved last month's biting cold really enjoyed this production, and the company must have been rewarded by their reaction. When I saw it on the first night, the title could have been rewritten to "Hear How They Laughed!"

The Guild Players meet and perform in Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, but welcome members from throughout the local community and further afield. Find out more at www.guildplayers.org.uk or from Betty Robertson on 020 8441 7696.

Well done, East Finchley Library!

By Daphne Chamberlain

THE ARCHER has seen loan statistics for all Barnet's libraries for the 12 months up to September of last year, and East Finchley has performed extremely well. In fact, it was out of its league. Not only did it easily top the loans table in the group of libraries with the lowest number of opening hours, but it also recorded more loans than four other branches which are open for longer. It was the same story when assessing the number of visits to the library.

Virtually all Barnet's branches recorded increasing usage and loans, but it raises the question again of why East Finchley is in the lowest league for opening hours.

Consultation

Last month *THE ARCHER* asked Barnet why paper forms of the questionnaire were not readily available in libraries, why notices advertising the survey were not put up immediately, why publicity emphasis was on participating online, and

why there was confusion over when the survey would end. Readers' letters have asked the same questions.

Barnet's reply arrived too late for us to print last month, but did not directly address our questions, saying that posters were up, and residents were encouraged to fill in the consultation online, as this is quicker, more convenient and more cost effective.

Strong response

A council spokesperson said

that 1,390 paper copies had been sent to all Barnet's libraries at that time, with more available. Almost a tenth had gone to East Finchley.

Barnet told *THE ARCHER* that they had received "a very strong and positive response rate from East Finchley Library". Of 743 online responses to the consultation questionnaire received by 22 November, 252 had come from frequent users of East Finchley library. Proof indeed that we care about our library service.

Review: Catching Father

Christmas

By Steve Cannon

If you want to find out all about Santa, what do you do? Kidnap him, of course. This was young Amy's fool-proof plan in Gomito Theatre Company's Christmas show at artsdepot.

The studio space was perfect for this play; intimate enough to involve the young audience, but large enough to create an imaginative spectacle celebrating the everyday objects that exist in the home, turning them into amusing, and sometimes frightening, characters.

In *Catching Father Christmas*, Amy's attempt to capture Santa set off a stream of events that threatened the whole festive season. She failed to catch her prey, but netted a star-carrying elf instead. Her home then came to life. A hairdryer became a parrot, sock patrols stalked the staircase and Amy's duvet developed an identity crisis, believing itself to be a



Where trees talk and duvets think they are snowmen... Amy and The Secret Agent in *Chasing Father Christmas*. Photo by Tom Allen.

snowman. These and many other characters were voiced and puppeteered by Sophia Sibthorpe and Stuart Conlan with suitable energy, while Catriona Mackenzie successfully played Amy as a little girl who prefers rockets to roses.

In a narrative that paid homage to tales as diverse as *The Jungle Book* and *The Snowman*, Amy battled against gremlins, a pirate and her own naughti-

ness. Plot and action developed at speed and, despite the frantic pace and some relatively complex dialogue, the children in the audience were focused throughout.

My five-year-old co-reviewers were frustrated, however, that the title character of the show never put in an appearance. After all, he has become the hero of Christmas for most children nowadays.

Artsdepot competition

Our December competition for a family ticket to see *Catching Father Christmas* at artsdepot was won by Pamela Toledano, of Park Hall Road, N2. Thank you to artsdepot and to everyone who entered.

Driver wanted to distribute

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THE ARCHER is looking for someone who could spare a small amount of time once a month to distribute the paper to some of our network of deliverers.

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Best feet forward at the start of last year's Big Fun Walk

A fun day out supporting the North London Hospice

The Big Fun Walk is a family-friendly sponsored event held every year in aid of the North London Hospice. Its annual running costs of over £5.8 million come mainly from activities such as this, as only 22% is met by public funding.

Community participation has grown steadily, from 300 participants in the first walk in the mid-1990s to some 1,500 people in 2010.

The next Big Fun Walk will be on Sunday 10 April 2011. The 7.5-mile route from East

Finchley tube station to Storey's Gate near Westminster Abbey passes through many of London's beautiful Royal parks and is suitable for all ages and abilities. Small children in buggies and well-behaved dogs on leads are

very welcome. Food, drink and entertainment for everyone are provided at no charge.

Please note that advance registration by 24 March is essential for every participant, including children. There is no fee but every adult walker is asked to raise at least £30 in sponsorship or donations to support the hospice and those aged 17 and under are asked to make their best efforts.

For further information visit the website at www.bigfunwalk.co.uk, email bigfunwalk@netscape.net or phone the 24-hour Big Fun Walk line on 020 8202 5586. All calls will be returned if you leave a clear message and give your contact details. Note that this event is organised by volunteer fundraisers who work away from the hospice premises so please use only the contact details above.

Six months to save Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

Brian Coleman, Barnet's Cabinet Member for the Environment, has secured six months for East Finchley to put together a plan to keep Stanley Road Playing Field for the community. Cllr Coleman intervened at November's Cabinet Resources Committee, which was expected to agree that the freehold interest of the land should be marketed and disposed of.

Cllr Coleman has attended events put on at the field by local people working to keep it for East Finchley, and presented the prizes at the football tournament held there in September 2009. He asked for the community to have a year

to work on a viable proposal, but the time was reduced to six months.

Barnet Council will be soliciting "expressions of interest" during that time, but will not make any formal decision. See Letters, page 11.

New ideas for community festival

By Roger Chapman

People from the festival committee, local community groups, businesses, schools and stallholders met in November to discuss how to build a better East Finchley Festival for 2011.

The group noted with deep regret and sadness the untimely death of Helen O'Toole. Helen had been an active member of the festival committee, including a stint as secretary, and participated in many festivals on the community stage.

To remember Helen the meeting unanimously agreed that the community stage should in future be known as 'The Helen O'Toole Community Stage' and that future festival programmes should acknowledge the contribution Helen made to the festival.

The meeting then broke into smaller groups to discuss ideas on how to make next year's festival, to be held on Sunday 19 June, more success-

ful. Numerous ideas emerged including: improving the range of activities for children, possibly with a children's zone; promoting 'I love N2' merchandise; dispersing food stalls amongst the other stalls rather than concentrating them in one place; improving the advertising catchment area, and updating the website and Facebook links.

These ideas will be developed over the coming months by the new festival committee. East Finchley Festival is run entirely by local volunteers.

To know more, volunteer to help or put forward your own ideas for improving the festival, please e-mail roger.c.hapman99@gmail.com

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Comfort food

Budgens East Finchley has again sponsored old time lunches and dinners of boiled bacon, carrots and pease pudding at Age Concern's Ann Owens Centre, the Green Man Centre and Paul Byrne House on the Thomas More Estate for over 100 senior citizens late last year.

It was good old-fashioned dining and a gesture of gratitude from the store to the people of East Finchley who have given them tremendous support. The idea was repeated from last year due to popular demand. Budgens' owners welcome other ideas for helping the local community, young and old.

Was your road gritted?

During the snowy spell in early December, THE ARCHER received an email from reader Melvyn Friend copying us in on a request he had sent to Barnet Council, asking for a gritting team to be sent to Hamilton Road and Brackenbury Road as they were covered in ice.

Mr Friend pointed out that these were important access roads to Bishop Douglass School, were used by a care bus transporting disabled people and also had a number of disabled parking spaces for drivers who relied on their cars for mobility.

The reply from the council's highways team, seen by THE ARCHER, stated that his request had been referred to the relevant department and he could expect to receive a reply within five working days.

Mr Friend said this was too long to wait for the residents, teachers, parents and disabled people hoping to use the roads safely.

Was your road gritted during the icy spell? Let us know here

at THE ARCHER by emailing the-archer@lineone.net or leaving a message on 0844 579 6949 (enter mailbox number 63450).

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Young hands get busy at the Holy Trinity craft stall.
Photo by John Lawrence

Presents of mind

Everyone loves a handmade gift, particularly if it is practical as well as good looking. The craft room was one of the main attractions at the Holy Trinity School Christmas Fair on 5 December. Children decorated mouse mats, made mobiles and jazzed up recycled cans to make pen pots. Year 6 girls demonstrated their talents by sewing Christmas stockings and hand covering buttons with beautiful unique fabrics.

The Christmas Fair is a firm date in the school's diary and Holy Trinity are proud of the wide variety of stalls, all run by parents, staff and the children, that make the fair so successful every year.

There was the excellent food stall, featuring dishes from several nations, as well as book, tombola, and cake stalls. This year there were fossils for sale, a Secret Present room, the raffle, face painting and prize jars created by the children themselves.

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- ❖ Dads' Club: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ Parent & Toddler Group, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ Stepping Stones, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

Pupils find out about each other

By Charlotte Carey and Genevieve Watson

Year 5 Holy Trinity School

Pupils from Kerem Jewish School visited Holy Trinity School late last year as part of our shared futures project.

Our school, Holy Trinity, is a Church of England school where all the children learn about Christianity, have assemblies, and visit our own church for special occasions such as harvest, Christmas and Easter services.

We have been paired with Kerem Jewish School in Norrice Lea, N2, to help us learn about their fascinating religion. One Friday morning, in our pairs, we discussed what we had in common and played some exciting games to help us get to know each other. After our enjoyable break with Kerem, we did some more activities with our pairs.

Before Kerem came, the whole class were jumping up and down with excitement though we were really nervous because we had never seen them before. At first we were anxious, but after a while we settled down and were very happy to have met our Kerem friends.

We're really looking forward to visiting their school. They have a synagogue attached to their school and we're excited to have a guided tour around it.

YOUNG ARCHER

New play area: users report back

We reported in November on the opening of new play facilities and a skate park on Muswell Hill Playing Fields, at the rear of Coldfall Wood. Jake McConnell went to find out how they have gone down with the young people using them.

What do you think about this new play area?

Iris, 12: It's good they made a skate park here because there isn't one close by. The play park's good because the apparatus is fun, and not just for younger children. The rides are really good.

Willem, 15: I think it's a good area for a large range of age groups.

What is your favourite apparatus in the play park?

Iris: The zip-wire, you can go really fast.

Emily, 12: The big swing.

Frankie, 12: I love the big spinny table.

If you could change this area what would you change?

Iris: The skate park could have a mini-ramp and a bowl.

Emily: It could have more space to play in.

Austin, 15: I would make the skate park bigger because there is a lot of empty space that could be used.

Willem: Fill in the grass with concrete in the centre of the skate park and extend it.

How would you rate this play area out of 10?

Iris: Nine; Emily: Seven; Frankie: Nine; Austin: Nine; Willem: Seven.



Young ones can enjoy music and play at the Stepping Stones group.

Extra session for young music group

Stepping Stones is a music group with a difference. Established over five years ago by three local mums, Sonia Lapwood, Karen Roberts and Jo Girling, the group entertains children under three at the East Finchley Baptist Church on Creighton Avenue every Tuesday morning during term time.

Babies and toddlers enjoy live music, particularly the flute and guitar, and can join in themselves with instruments to bang and shake. Parachute games and bubbles add to the fun, with a snack and a story to finish the session.

Stepping Stones has become so popular that a second session has been added at 11am, with the first continuing at 10am. All new children are welcome to the group. You can drop in any Tuesday morning with no need to pre-book.

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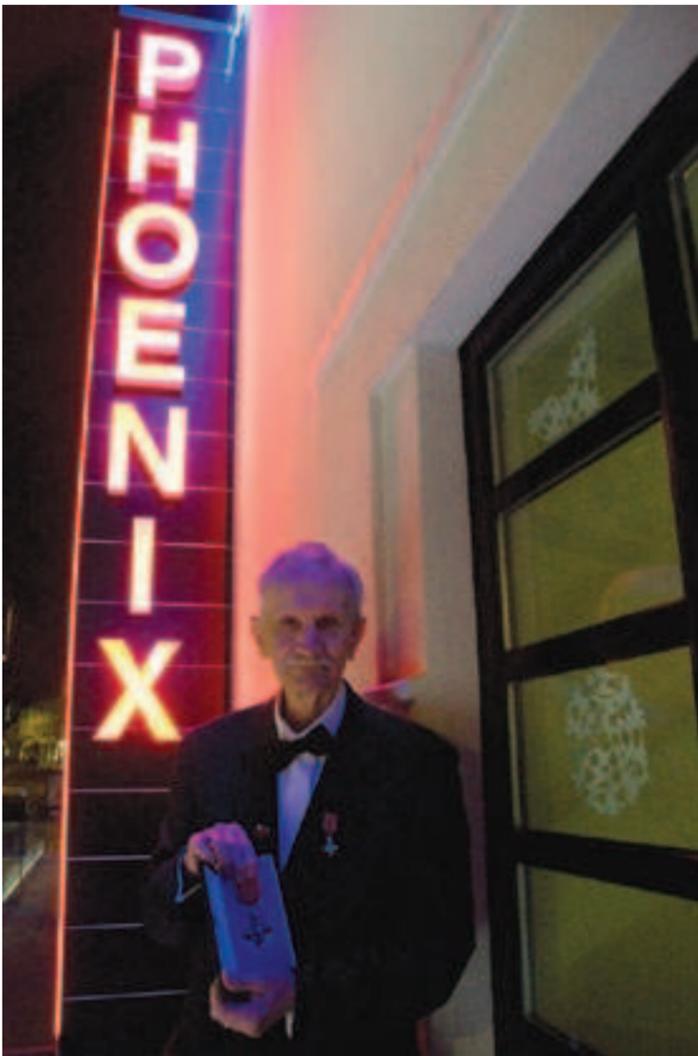
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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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Projectionist bows out after 50 years

By Sheila Armstrong

Peter Bayley MBE will never forget his last night at the Phoenix Cinema as he ended up having to mend the film when it broke half way through the classic *The Glenn Miller Story*, one of his favourite films. His benefit on 12 December was a great end to 50 years of working life at the Phoenix. Immaculately dressed in a dinner jacket, and accompanied by his wife, Peter reminisced about his career and answered questions from the audience about his early days as a projectionist. Happy retirement, Peter.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Passport, please

In the darkness of snow bound Britain as we sit ConDemned in the cold while all around us students are revolting, there is but one glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel. And no, it's not an approaching train, it's Pickles! Yes, the man named after the dog who found the World Cup is handing power back to communities.

So what does East Finchley want to do with it? If we're going to have our own budgets, take over local services and run the bits Dave wants to close, we need independence. So that means passport control on the North Circular and at the tube station, border controls on Fortis Green and signs on approach roads announcing that the 'Autonomous Republic of East Finchley welcomes careful drivers'.

In the peoples' republic there will be no library closures and Stanley Field will be opened up for a strange mixture of dog walking and football. We will take over meals on wheels, offering a full restaurant service, complete with wine list and waiters for all those that need it. All East Finchley students will be exempt from tuition fees in return for supporting the community by going to the Phoenix and drinking in local pubs at least once a week. A special East Finchley Education Allowance will encourage our 16-year-olds to stay at school and study something useful like X Factor studies or computer hacking.

How are we going to pay for this? How in a ConDemned world are we going to create utopia in north London? Simple, become an inshore tax haven. We need to think outside the box and not just try to attract hedge funds, but welcome everyone who works in the gardening and horticulture business. Soon we could be a shining light in the austere darkness of London. Soon we could become such a beacon of hope that we could bid for the World Cup. And, on the day that our victory is announced, we will unveil a statue outside the new East Finchley International station in honour of he who made it all possible. Yes, I mean Pickles. Pickles the dog, that is.

Conquer your anxiety in these hard times

Dan Roberts, a wellbeing coach based in East Finchley, gives his advice on coping with anxiety in this harsh financial climate.

We live in worrying times. Having barely recovered from the recession, we now face a series of harsh cuts that look set to increase unemployment, slash benefits and have a knock-on effect for people across the UK. It's only natural to feel worried but this worry can easily become disproportionate, especially if you are prone to anxiety.

Simple techniques

You can use some simple cognitive techniques to keep your worries in check. If you're anxious about an upcoming event, you are probably 'cata-

strophising': expecting the worst and thinking anxiety-provoking thoughts like: "I'm bound to lose my job."

These automatic negative thoughts (ANTs) act as a subliminal running commentary on everything we do, often provoking strong emotions like anger or fear. The first step is to make your ANTs conscious, so every time you feel anxious, note what you were thinking at the time in a journal.

Do this for a week, then pick out recurrent thoughts and start to challenge them. For example, when you catch yourself thinking: "I'm bound to lose my job," you could modify this to a more realistic thought like: "I am

worried, but so is everyone at work. And I'm good at my job, so I'd be one of the last to face redundancy."

When Panic Attacks: A New Drug-Free Therapy to Beat Chronic Shyness, Anxiety and Phobias, by renowned cognitive therapist Dr David Burns, provides dozens of similar techniques to help quell your anxiety. Yoga and meditation are also helpful, as is regular exercise like jogging or brisk walking. Exercise burns off the 'stress hormone' cortisol, which heightens anxiety.

For information about Dan's coaching and workshops, visit www.danroberts.com

From one archer to another...

Our congratulations to Roger Spellane from the Aquarius Archery Club, who was declared Sports Performer of the Year 2010 at the Haringey Celebration of Sports Award Ceremony at Alexandra Palace. Roger started at the club, which meets at the end of Southern Road, N2, as a beginner with his wife Sheila just four years ago. After learning and practising basic techniques he decided to specialise in the traditional long bow and the last two years have seen him achieve spectacular success, winning many competitions indoors and out.

In May 2010 he shot his way to victory at the prestigious Southern Counties Long Bow Championship at Winchester and more recently won a major national event at Coventry, qualifying him for elite Master Bowman status.

Care home help

The national charity, Counsel and Care, supported by the Department of Health, has published the *Care Home Handbook*.

The handbook, which is free to all Barnet residents, guides people through the options for funding care, gives advice on choosing a suitable care home, and clearly sets out the rights and choices involved. To obtain a copy of the *Care Home Handbook* call 0845 300 7585 or go to www.counselandcare.org.uk/helping-you.

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- ❖ **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 3, 17 & 31 Jan 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.



Kill 21 have their debut album on release.

Rocker in residence

By Lucy Chamberlin

Part-time property developer Jason Lipman has lived in East Finchley for five years and for more than two of those he has been the lead singer of rock band Kill 21. Last year the band wrote and recorded their debut album *Shoot on Sight*, launching it in November before setting off on a UK tour.

Kill 21 play gigs in Camden, Shoreditch and Kentish Town as well as the home counties, and next year plan to take the summer season by storm, playing at the Reading, Leeds and Download festivals. The group's style is classic rock but with a modern twist:

"We appeal to a mix of people from age 15 - 60 or so,

and it's great to have such a wide range," says Jason, who is 24. "Nothing makes me happier than making music and being on stage. To make a living from that would be the best thing I could ever do - ever!"

Jason lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb before moving to East Finchley, and loves the village feel of the High Road.

Each morning, he stops for breakfast at Amici Deli.

Kill 21 are playing at The Bridge House 2 in Canning Town on 24 February, supporting a big act including a former member of Iron Maiden. See www.myspace.com/killtwentyone or www.coprodirect.com for more information.

Review: North London Chorus

By Ken Carter

Two works performed by the North London Chorus rang out to a packed St James's Church, Muswell Hill, on the last weekend in November.

Elgar's *From the Bavarian Highlands* (1895) comprises six part-song settings of holiday poems that Mrs. Elgar dedicated to the Slingsby-Bethells, in whose alpine guest-house the Elgars had stayed. Music and words swing in rollicking mood, lilting and melodic. The North London Chorus, with piano, sang in relaxed, holiday mood, seemingly joyful at discovering this young, unbuttoned Elgar, not yet dedicated to the more sober demands of writing serious 'English' music.

Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*

derives from Bavarian sources, too, looking back on mediaeval song-making with a modern ear. It offers a rich variety of poem/songs evoking spring, taverns and courtly love. Many have dark, macabre twinges. One of the most heartfelt is *Cignus ustus cantat*, the swan's farewell while it is being roasted on a spit. Gareth Dafydd Morris (tenor), in resplendent voice, was piercing and searing. Sally Silver was his clear-toned, ringing match, urgent and impassioned in *Amor volat undique*.

Three pianos and percussion accompanied these songs, for the most part sparsely with ruthless energy and simple, stark rhythms. The Association of Percussion Players were astounding and vibrant. The North London Chorus responded in kind, giving us a burning rhythmic drive that took no prisoners, in marked contrast to Elgar's sunlit highland warmth.

Uncover history

By Roger Chapman

Two projects looking at aspects of the history of East Finchley are getting under way in the New Year, and you can be involved.

East Finchley Oral History will be a major oral history project hoping to answer questions such as why the area contains such a vibrant community. The project will interview and record a range of residents, workers and visitors covering the last 70 years (more if possible) but aiming to get people's memories back to the 1930-40 period through oral reminiscences.

It will also collect supporting material (films, letters, documents, ephemera etc) which will be digitised and the originals returned to the owners

Review: Desperate to be Doris

By Diana Cormack
You didn't need to be a Doris Day fan to appreciate *Desperate to be Doris*, but it helped. The entertaining script made several references to her which aficionados like me could see coming, but that only served to make it more enjoyable. So did the clever references to current events, along with the nods to local people and places. *The Ham and High* featured strongly, but I won't press that point!

Written by award-winning writers and performers Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding, this musical comedy whipped along with costume changes at a cracking pace, as these two played all the parts except one. Darren Southworth was Dean, the Doris Day sing-alike who saves his local operatic society by stepping into the lead at the last minute. Darren sang well and played the part convincingly.

As a fan of *Coronation Street*, I kept seeing barman and underwear factory machinist Sean in that role and not just because Dean works in a clothing outlet 'up north'. Later I discovered that Maggie and Sue have both taken part in the famous 50-year-old soap.

Locals in chorus

Their Manchester-based theatre company Lipservice is at present touring the country with this successful production, for which local people are recruited and trained to sing in the chorus. In the performances at the end of November around 20 survived from the first rehearsal I had attended (see *THE ARCHER* November 2010). They supplied impressive vocal backing, along with the silliness their role required, and thoroughly entertained family and friends in the audience.

What's On...

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

Saturday 8 January

• Help look after **Coldfall Wood**, 10am-12.30. Wear old clothes & strong gloves. Meet at middle entrance, Creighton Ave. Tools & hot drinks provided.

Saturday 15 January

• **Cockney Sparrow Project**, 12-3pm. Free. Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2. Contact Mark Pearson on 020 8802 4573.

Friday 28 January

• **Green Man Centre New Year's Opportunities Fair**. Promoting local opportunities for local people, a variety of groups and organisations will showcase services and facilities, covering a range of interests including volunteering, advice, information, support and activity groups. Free admission, 2pm-6pm, Green

Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2. Contact Mark Healey on 020 8815 0703 or www.twitter.com/m.GreenManCentre.

Until 30 January

• **A Slice of Saturday Night**, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate village, N6. This West End hit is a nostalgic pastiche of sounds from the Swinging 60s. Tuesdays to Saturdays at 7.45pm, Sundays at 4pm. Box office: 020 8340 3488.

What's on at artsdepot

• **Apthorp Gallery: Visitor**, Friday 14 January to Sun 27 February, 12pm-4pm. **Jackson's Way: The Jaksathon**, Thursday 27 January, 7.30pm. **Sunday Buzz Free, Traditional Cubano Trio**, Sunday 30 January, 1pm-2.45pm; **Ruby Wax: Losing It**, Wednesday 2 February, 7.30pm.



Letters to the editor

Who's pinched our salt?

Dear Editor,
These few weeks are the cold days and snow is definitely coming. But I notice, unlike in past years, there are no yellow boxes of salt left in different corners of East Finchley. How come (as the Government said they had oodles of salt for melting ice) this year they are not put out near East End Road and Prospect Place?

I have a suggestion: if the Council gave out small bags of salt to each household for them to spray on the places they need to deal with, then this might help to reduce hazards for everyone and traffic. The only thing is I do not know whether this melting salt is poisonous or harmful to skin?

Yours faithfully,
Lily Joseph,
Address supplied.

Park House: why waste this prime site?

Dear Editor,
Thank you for the recent front page article by Daphne Chamberlain regarding the council questionnaire on how we use Barnet libraries (THE ARCHER, October 2010). This has prompted me to write and remind us all that a few years ago our council had a huge incentive to close our valuable library and replace it with a 'service' inserted into the roof space of an oversized supermarket which was simultaneously proposed on the site of Park House, opposite East Finchley Station.

Given the latest cuts enforced by central government, we will be hard-pushed to save our library this time as it has always been the council's desire to close it. On one of my visits to the library I asked for the questionnaire (thanks to your article). To my surprise I was told by the librarian that they could not put these out on show and that one had to ask for the questionnaire which was in the back office. Strange approach if you are looking for an all-inclusive survey not to advertise the fact you are inviting public/user feedback.

Now for my reason for writing. I have been monitoring the council's strategy for the sale or rent of Park House and periodically speak with the person responsible for the letting/sale of this property. They have stopped trying to sell it on the basis of it being a depressed market. On my every call, they tell me they have an interested tenant, which always happens to be a council department. Strangely, these interested parties never come to fruition. For the last 18 months they have not even had a 'To Let' board on the site. This was rectified recently only because of my persistent questioning

which, once I went into writing to them, they managed to resolve.

My question to Barnet Council has always been the same: why are we not getting any revenue out of this valuable and prime site? I have asked how much the rent or sale value would be (as I may know of interested parties) but they will not tell me.

I wonder if the bigger picture of linking this site with the library is still in the background? Hopefully this is not the case. However, I would like to know why there is not a workable and enticing offer on the Park House site for the open market to consider so that we as taxpayers and our council get much needed revenue rather than losing money.

Yours faithfully,
James Elliott,
Address supplied.

Be a befriender

Dear Editor,
The Big Society is in action here in Barnet and Finchley with RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme) and their new face-to-face befriending scheme. RSVP volunteers are improving an older person's quality of life by befriending older people in their homes, taking them out or in some cases volunteers inviting the older people to their home.

The aim of the scheme is to personalise care for the older people, giving them a choice about what they want to do. RSVP in Barnet has volunteers doing this much-appreciated service, but still requires more volunteers to cope with the increased demand for such a personalised service. So if you are interested in befriending please contact RSVP on 0203 2344 082 and ask for Mike Barnes (Homeshare Co-ordinator) or email homeshare@csv.org.uk

Yours faithfully,
Michael Barnes
RSVP, Moxon Street, EN5

Who are you calling older?

Dear Editor,
As someone who has just begun collecting their pension, I was rather horrified to see the number of references in THE ARCHER to 'older people', referring to those over 50. There was a piece on Barnet's Older Assembly for the over-55s, The Barnet Elderly Asian Foundation's party for the over-50s and an advert for the over-50s tea dance at Christ Church. Personally I am still commuting, working and hope to continue to do so until I am at least 65. I play tennis, go to the gym, travel, have walking holidays, go to galleries, cinema,

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the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

theatres and so on, as do most of my friends. We are all going to have to work until over 65 soon anyway! Wake up, Barnet! We are all fit and living longer. Fifty is the new 40, 60 is the new 50. I do not feel like a senior citizen. In fact, I scarcely feel middle-aged.

Yours faithfully,
Bridget Chandler,
Huntingdon Rd, N2.

Lovely lights

Dear Editor,
On behalf of Martin Primary School, I would like to thank the council for every year putting up Christmas lights. We think they light up the whole of East Finchley High Road and give a warm feeling that Christmas is near. We especially like the Santas outside our school.

Yours faithfully,
James Dillon
Year 5, Martin Primary School

Stanley Field update

Dear Editor,
As predicted by Daphne Chamberlain in December's edition, Stanley Road Playing Field is effectively up for sale. Barnet Council's Cabinet Resources Committee, at its meeting on 30 November, did indeed declare the site "surplus to its requirements" and agreed that "the disposal of the freehold interest be advertised on the open market to seek details of proposed schemes and initial bids".

Apparently, the committee also agreed to give local interest groups and residents six months to put forward concrete proposals for the playing field. Whether this means the council will not take action on any other plans that may emerge from outside the area until the conclusion of the six-month period is unclear.

The position of the Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT) is unchanged: given the comparative lack of green open spaces in East Finchley, the Stanley Road site should be retained for sporting and recreational use. Council officers themselves admit East Finchley has "notable deficiencies in playing pitch provision".

As Daphne reported, the FCDT is working closely with a group that includes Steve Selwood, an ex-Derbyshire batsman, who is currently head coach at Finchley Cricket Club. While much work remains to be done, the plan is put an indoor facility on part of the site, together with two external multi-sport pitches. The indoor centre would have cricket lanes, facilities for football, badminton and other sports as well as changing rooms and a cafe.

Both the FCDT and Steve want to work closely with local residents. As Steve has said: "It is about creating something with a business in mind, but with residents on board every step of the way." Please feel free to contact me at the FCDT with your comments and opinions (020 8883 4916; robertson@btconnect.com).

Yours faithfully
Rob Robertson
Finchley Community Development Trust

Review: The Finchley Choral Society

By Ken Carter

The Finchley Choral Society gave us three of the six parts of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*: the birth of Jesus, the angels' appearance to the shepherds in the fields and their consequent journey to the manger in adoration of the holy wonder-child. This was on a cold Saturday at the HGS Free Church on 4 December.

Vigorously and briskly, Grace Rossiter animated the performers. The choir was rich in altos, well-provided-for in sopranos, sufficiently stocked with basses and rather short on tenors. To everyone's credit, the outcome was a much more unified sound than these proportions would imply. The massed voices were most agreeable and the small orchestra made a gallant sound.

The soloists were pleasurable, too. Particularly com-

manding was Jonathan Saunders' bass. His rich voice rang out with authority and secure depth. Juliet Fraser, soprano, and Stephen Jeffes, tenor, ran him pretty close with skilled, clear, vibrato-less diction, while Catherine Hopper, mezzo-soprano, held her notes purely and agreeably.

Altogether, the smaller forces and zesty tempos displayed Bach to better effect than larger forces were likely to have done.

Is this a record?

By Rosemary Coates, writing in The Finchley Society newsletter.

My grandparents, Edwin and Rose Cattle, who lived most if not all of their married life in Leopold Road, had six children: Leo, who died in 1899, Walter, who died in 1917, Harold, who died in 1976, Cecil and Harry, who both died in 1987, and Ruby, who died in 2010.

This means that their children died in three different centuries. If not a record, at least a very unusual occurrence.

Footnote from Daphne Chamberlain: Ruby Cattle, who was also a Finchley Soci-

ety member, was an ARCHER reader who helped us with information about the history of Strawberry Vale. She also contributed to The Finchley Society's book, *Finchley Remembered*.

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Natalie: 07889 252548

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Reprieve for listed building

By Daphne Chamberlain

A reprieve has been granted to 320 High Road. Barnet Council has rejected an application to extend a block of flats to up to three metres from the Grade II listed house, which would have overshadowed it completely (THE ARCHER, December 2010).

320 High Road is one of the two Victorian gatehouses at the northern entrance to Camden and Islington Cemetery. Barnet Council received objections to the application from a number of local residents, The Finchley Society and the Garden History Society, which is a statutory consultee for English Heritage.

The owner of the house, Iggy Mascarenhas, told THE ARCHER: "I am really relieved, although

I am very worried that the developer will appeal the case, as the reasons for refusal are very similar to those given on previous applications, which were eventually granted on appeal."

Barnet ruled that the proposed extension would mean over-development of the site, and detriment to the character and appearance of the area, the amenities of neighbours and the setting of the listed house.



From left to right: Liz, Tee (the boss), Uri, Dougie and Hannah. Photo by John Dearing



By Adam Justice-Mills

After all the festive fun (and excess) I'm ready to tighten my CO2 belt, resolving to try harder in 2011 to make a little difference. Perhaps it's worth revisiting why "global warming" is important to us individually.

As a poorly-informed natural sceptic, I looked for a beginners' guide to global warming. I wanted to know: what are the consequences of global climate change; are we making things worse (and by how much); and can we do anything about it? You can check these things for yourselves and decide if you believe the science or not (links on my blog).

I do believe it now, and I also believe we can make a difference; hence this column. This month I'm thinking about seasonal food and short days. Seasonal food has several benefits: it's possible to get food in season locally (with lower CO2 from transportation) and, while it's often cheaper due to seasonal glut, buying seasonally is still good for the local economy.

There are websites listing local, seasonal foods throughout the year. January veg include beetroot, sprouts (lovely), celeriac, Jerusalem artichoke, kale, leeks, parsnips, potatoes, radishes, spinach, swede and turnips. Fruit includes apples, pears, European oranges and pomegranate. Sweet chestnuts are great. Meat could be goose, guinea fowl, rabbit, venison. Fish could be crab, mackerel, mussels, turbot, brill, monkfish.

Of course, through freezing, pickling and jam-making seasonal food can tide you over these darkest months (we froze half our cooked turkey to eat later in the winter). If you're feeling adventurous, try foraging for food around East Finchley with urbanharvest.org.uk on the third Saturday of every month. Wrap up warm and roll on spring!

Fitness studio on our doorstep

A new fitness studio has opened in the heart of East Finchley promising to help you work off the effects of an over-indulgent Christmas and New Year. Mightefit Health Studio is just off East End Road, close to the Five Bells pub. Staff offer unique training systems and a "pyramid approach" to produce dramatic transformations in body and lifestyle.

The new studio is modern, stylish and filled with state-of-the-art equipment, and all the health coaches are highly experienced. Contact Mightefit on 020 3224 3043 for a complimentary training session or visit www.mightefit.com.

New soundtracks to old films

As part of the Phoenix Cinema centenary celebrations, the cinema partnered with Rithmik music studio, run by Barnet Council's Youth and Connexions Service, to present a pioneering free screening on Sunday 28 November. The event fused work by Barnet's early filmmakers with brand new soundtracks composed by young people from the borough of Barnet.

Members of Rithmik had seen screenings of works by Barnet-based British pioneering filmmakers R.W. Paul and Birt Acres. The latter held the first-ever British public film screening in January 1896 for members of the Lyonsdown Photographic Club in Barnet. The young people then worked with world-renowned silent film accompanist Stephen Horne to compose new soundtracks.

Eleanor Sier, Heritage

Officer at the Phoenix, said: "The soundtracks they produced were exciting and fun. It's extraordinary when you realise that the young people have never watched films like this before and certainly haven't composed a film soundtrack before."

For more information on Rithmik and its programmes, please contact Barnet Youth and Connexions Service on 020 8359 3562.

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