



Anyone for table tennis?

By Diana Cormack

Years ago I had to give up playing badminton and my beloved tennis due to a neck/back problem. Since then I have been looking for something which suits my competitive nature but does not involve any overarm action.

Reading in *THE ARCHER* about East Finchley Altogether Better's table tennis reminded me that I had once been rather good at it. Admittedly that was when I was a teenager but, despite the many years in between, I decided to give it a try.

The good news is that I can still play pretty well and I've met some nice people who enjoy the game and can have a laugh too. A few of us have had to relearn the rules as they have changed a little over time and there is often banter about the correct score, but this all adds to the fun (as

do some of the double entendres made). I look forward to these Tuesday afternoon sessions and am now reaching and returning shots which I might not have even seen a few months ago!

All equipment is supplied and the provision of hot and cold drinks plus biscuits adds to the friendly atmosphere in the Shree Aden Depala Community Centre, Church Lane, N2 (beside Holy Trinity church).

Everything is free and takes place between 2.30pm and 4pm. Just come along one Tuesday or call Lisa on 07909 998453 for further information.



Visitors enjoy the local art. Photo Mike Coles

Inside the artist's studio

The beauty of East Finchley Open's artists' weekends is that visitors can meet the people who have created some stunning works of art, often in the environment where they work.

This year's Open House weekends at the start of July saw 45 new and established artists displaying paintings, jewellery, ceramics, wood, glass, sculpture and textiles in 13 homes and studios around East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

The event has been running for 12 years now and seems to get ever more popular.



Energy savers: Mary and Peter outside their home in Heath View.

Don't waste your energy

There's a chance to find out how to make your home more eco-friendly when Mary Hogben and Peter Hale open the doors of their very own 'SuperHome'.

The couple's 1960s, two-storey property in Heath View, N2, has been made 74% less carbon intensive by extensive insulation works and the addi-

tion of solar panels for water heating and electricity. They say they have cut their energy bills by 40%.

Peter says "Our first aim

was to improve the fabric of the home to make it thermally more efficient. It also made sense to use the sun's energy."

SuperHomes are properties in the UK most improved for energy use. Mary and Peter will be welcoming visitors on Sunday 6 September and entry is free. To find out more and to pre-book a place, visit www.superhomes.org.uk/168

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RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

The big rock'n'roll giveaway

Well, that's it, the world of rock'n'roll is over. No more dirty fingers from cheap newsprint, no more dashing out on a Thursday to read about the important things in life, death and music. No more voting for the ultimate gig or band or narcotic. Why? Because life is about to change forever as the NME becomes a freebie and online app.

Anyone who really cared about music lived in the world of the NME. I did, devouring the words of the unwise along with the thoughts of Julie Burchill and dreaming of the future of rock'n'roll. Whether it was rock critic Nick Kent matching Keith Richards drug for drug or writers Charles Shaar Murray or Steven Wells, your life could be measured in newsprint.

It all started back in 1952 when a bloke called Maurice Kinn decided that the long established Melody Maker needed a competitor. By the time The Beatles conquered America it was selling over 300,000 copies a week. Every year there was the poll winners' concert as the great, the good and the not so great played in front of a herd of screaming teens. This was the first golden age. By 1970 it was losing out not just to Melody Maker, but to a young upstart called Sounds as it managed to miss the psychedelic boat.

Such things did not kill the NME. It regrouped, got new writers, including Kent and Murray, and was soon back up there selling 300,000 copies per week. They still had the poll winners' concert, except this wasn't The Beatles, this was Emerson, Lake and Palmer, and Frank Zappa and Hawkwind with Lemmy belting out 'Silver Machine' in the surreal setting of The Oval. Even punk didn't faze it. Enter the music press's answer to teenage lunacy with Tony Parsons and Julie Burchill as the NME's hip young gunslingers.

Back when The Smiths tried to rewrite culture and later when Oasis did the same there was always the NME. It has outlasted Sounds and Melody Maker. Everything from Elvis to Kurt to Amy via Led Zep and The Who was there in its grubby pages.

Now they're down to 15,000 copies a week, but the NME being the NME, it is about to try and give itself away. So between now and September, if you believe in rock'n'roll treat yourself to a copy, because picking up a freebie outside the tube station just won't be the same.

FEELING STRESSED?
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