



Phoenix goes all funny again

By Andry Moustras

Following the roaring success of last year's sell out show, the Archer Academy has announced their second comedy night, which will take place on Monday 15 June at the Phoenix Cinema.

Once again the evening will be compered by Academy parent and top comedy stand-up Ian Stone, a regular in the West End's Comedy Store and ranked by The Independent as one of the top ten stand-ups in Britain.

Stone will be joined by headliner Stephen K Amos, a TV and radio regular, who has performed on Live at the Apollo (BBC1) and Have I Got News for You (BBC2), as



Stephen K Amos tops the bill at the Phoenix

well as Sara Pascoe (Mock the Week, The Thick of It) and Ian Moore (The Stand Up Show).

Ian Stone said: "Last year's comedy night at the Phoenix was as good as any that I have been involved in in 25 years in the business. It's a beautiful venue to be watching first-class stand-up in."

Last year's comedy night raised £7,000, which was used to enhance the school's enrichment provision for students. Tickets this year cost £25 plus booking fee and are available at tinyurl.com/archercomedy2015. Doors open at 8.30pm for a 9pm start. Please note that the event is for over-18s only.



Sara Pascoe. Photos by Edward Moore

Letters

Old Barn: a space for all Dear Editor,

I read your articles and comments regarding the Old Barn with great interest. It is a shame it has been closed so long. I feel strongly that it should be a place for all groups to use. Integration is important. I feel that creating a centre for one group of people would be excluding others.

The piece of land earmarked for the Bravanese community should I feel be kept as an outdoor space for all the young people in our community and the play area reinstated. I've been reading your paper since I moved here and it is very informative and has helped me settle in the local area so thank you staff and editor of THE ARCHER!

Yours faithfully,
Jane Beyer
Address supplied.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"

The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.



VE Day comes back to life

By Daphne Chamberlain

Seventy years ago this month, 10,000 people had a party in the grounds of Avenue House in East End Road (pictured above). They were celebrating VE Day, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe. Were any of you among them? If so, there will be a special welcome for you at a big anniversary event on Sunday 10 May.

Avenue (now called Stephens) House is inviting everyone, of all ages and backgrounds, to let their hair down and have a fun day. The organisers say: "We would love people to come in vintage dress, and we would love to hear from anyone who came to the original celebrations here at the house in 1945, and to offer them a free lunch."

The party will run from 12 noon to 5pm, with entertainment from the stage on the lawn starting at about 1pm. Performers will include The English Jazz Orchestra and The Three Belles.

Children can learn how to dance around a maypole, and (English weather permitting) you can enjoy picnics on the lawn. Bring your own food or buy some to eat there. There will also be Sunday lunch served in the house, and a drinks tent on the lawn.

The cafe in the stables will be open, as will the Bothy Gardens and the Stephens Collection museum, and there will be stalls on the terrace.

Exhibition

Following last year's WW1 exhibition, Stephens House will be staging a tribute to the work carried out there during both World Wars. The exhibition will run from 1 July to 30 September.

If you would like to contribute memories and/or artefacts, or to volunteer as a steward, please contact info@stephenshouseandgardens.com or Fiona Marcus on 020 8346 7812 (option 4).

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Fair dues for all

By Ian Cormack

A trip along The Bishops Avenue at night when so few lights are on shows how nearly a whole street can be taken out of the economy by spasmodic occupiers.

When you think this is happening all over central London in properties owned by mainly foreign investors who do not have to pay for leaving their properties vacant, the size of the problem starts to become apparent.

They can passively make ordinary people's lives more difficult just by taking property out of circulation because there is less left for the rest of us.

To get over this dilemma we need to insist that people who wish to monopolise property whether they use it or not, should pay to the national Exchequer for this privilege.

This single act would provide a level playing field for all citizens, as everyone has to have access to land one way or another to live and work. They cannot avoid it. Taxes on anyone who works for a living should be reduced by the same amount to facilitate fairness to all.

Land has no intrinsic value in itself. It gains its price from the activities of people around it, as a block of flats on the top of Ben Nevis would prove. So the gains from rising populations and improved infrastructure paid for by public funds should not be squirrelled away into private hands.

By charging the appropriate rent to those who wish to monopolise these finite resources, these gains would be assisting the general population.

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. Tweet us @TheArcherN2 and find us on Facebook. You can also find out more about contributing and advertising at www.the-archer.co.uk

A friendly welcome awaits you

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Michael Stanway is happy to answer any enquiries:

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