



# An unforgettable moment in the history of punk

By John Lawrence

It was a baking hot night 40 years ago. It was a tiny wood-built community centre in East Finchley with hundreds of young fans packed in. And on stage were a band that had just broken into the big time as kings of the punk rock scene.



Glory days: (left to right) Stranglers lead singer Hugh Cornwell with Finchley Boys Al Hillier, Dennis Marks, Chris Green, Tommy McGonnall and Steve Hillier, plus Bruce Foxton of The Jam and The Stranglers' Jean-Jacques Bumel, pictured at The Roundhouse in 1977.

The date was Saturday 27 August 1977, the place was the now-demolished Herbert Wilmot Centre in Eagans Place, next to Holy Trinity School, and the band were The Stranglers. At the time of the gig, their single Peaches had just been one of the summer's big hits.

### The Finchley Boys

So why were they playing to a jumping crowd in a community centre in N2? Well, Hugh Cornwell and the rest of the band were friends with a gang of lads called The Finchley Boys who had a football team in the Barnet Sunday League, so they agreed to help raise money to

buy them some kit.

Steve Hillier, now 61, grew up on The Grange estate and was one of the Finchley Boys. After first meeting The Stranglers at The Torrington in North Finchley, he went on to work on their worldwide tours for 17 years.

### Legendary gig

He recalls the Herbert Wilmot gig like it was yesterday: "The centre usually just had discos and there was only a low platform stage. But it didn't bother us. We cleared all the pinball machines and sofas out of the way and hundreds of people turned up, all ages, from all over Finchley.

"It was absolutely rammed on a very hot night and was so steamy inside. The audience was wall-to-wall and there were people stage diving and doing all sorts. The energy was fantastic. For everybody there on that day and in that summer the music was a life-changing experience. It's still a legendary gig among Stranglers fans."

Forty years on from their East Finchley debut, The Stranglers are still playing live. Later this month they're in Belfast, then later in the year they will be touring France before moving on to New Zealand and Australia early next year.

# Car abandoned after crash

By Janet Maitland

Broken metal was scattered in all directions when a man crashed a stolen car straight into the central barrier on Fallosen Way, NW11, at about 8.30pm on 2 July.

The driver of a blue BMW had been travelling east along the A1 when he suddenly swerved to the right just before the traffic lights at Hill Rise and smashed the car head on into the barrier. Although the front of the car was badly damaged, the driver managed to get out.

"Witnesses saw the driver leave the car and then get into a

car driven by someone else," said a police spokesperson. "The car was left abandoned and was later recovered." The BMW had been stolen from an address in Southall.

On 13 July, Barnet Council officers, Transport for London and local councillors met at the Ossulton Way crossroads to discuss what to do about safety on this stretch of the A1.

# Motorcyclist named

By Janet Maitland

The motorcyclist killed when his bike collided with a car on Fallosen Way on 21 June has been named as 29-year-old Benjamin Hillbrook, from Southgate. Emergency services were called just before 11am to reports of an accident on the A1, just past the traffic lights at the junction with Hill Rise and Northway, NW11. Despite the best efforts of everyone involved Mr Hillbrook was pronounced dead at the scene.

"We urge anyone who saw anything to come forward," said Detective Sergeant Jane Mallet. "It could prove vital to our ongoing investigation." Contact the dedicated witness appeal line on 020 8991 9555. You can also tweet police via @MetCC.

## Human Resource Solutions Plus

Helping you to manage, train and develop your employees at a commercially sensible cost.



[www.hrsp.net](http://www.hrsp.net)

Richard Pell: [info@hrsp.net](mailto:info@hrsp.net) • PO Box 27013, London, N2 0WX

## Nicky Sharp Osteopathy Clinic

*Cranial and Structural Osteopathy  
and Acupuncture*

*All Major Insurers Accepted*

For consultations and appointments:

**Telephone: 020 8815 9433**

260 East End Road

[www.nickysharposteopathy.co.uk](http://www.nickysharposteopathy.co.uk)

London N2 8AU

e-mail: [info@nickysharposteopathy.co.uk](mailto:info@nickysharposteopathy.co.uk)



## Dissolving the blocks to self healing

Kathryn Scorza  
Registered Hypnotherapist  
Soul Therapist  
and Spiritual Healer

tel: 07703 404 839  
email: [kathryn@kathrynskorza.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@kathrynskorza.co.uk)  
[www.kathrynskorza.co.uk](http://www.kathrynskorza.co.uk)

**HYPNOTHERAPY  
SOUL THERAPY  
SPIRITUAL HEALING**

Hypnotherapy can help with managing many issues, including stress, anxiety, pain, fears, phobias and compulsions.



Nice 'n' sleazy: The Stranglers play the Herbert Wilmot Centre in August 1977. Photos courtesy of Steve Hillier



## Almar BSL

Accountancy | Tax Consultancy | Bookkeeping & Payroll

### Business services:

Bookkeeping & Accounting  
Business planning  
Business start-up  
Company Secretarial  
Corporate tax planning  
eCommerce & Payment Solutions  
Payroll  
Service Charge Accounting  
VAT

### Personal services:

Personal tax planning  
Self assessment

### Specialist sectors:

Building profits  
Charities  
Owner directors  
Retail  
Sole traders

### Why choose us?

By providing high quality of service and not charge over the top fees, we retain the business and loyalty of our customers, as well as win many new ones through word of mouth. We also work with tax specialists, investor advisors and auditors to provide clients additional services where there is a need.

Call us for a FREE review of your requirements and to discuss best way forward, with no obligation.

Tel: 0203 151 0750 or email: [info@AlmarBSL.co.uk](mailto:info@AlmarBSL.co.uk)

Visit our newly improved website with useful and topical information: [www.AlmarBSL.co.uk](http://www.AlmarBSL.co.uk)

Almar Business Solutions Limited is a registered company in England and Wales (registered number 04541322), holder of ACCA Practising Certificate with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has Professional Indemnity Cover for its business activities.