



The Archer

www.the-archer.co.uk Email: news@the-archer.co.uk

   @TheArcherN2

Voicemail: (messages only) 0800 612 0748 for editorial and general enquiries or 0800 612 4027 for advertising enquiries only

Published by East Finchley Newspapers CIC

Registered in England & Wales company no 14524944

Copy Editor

John Lawrence

Sub Editor

Lucy Moorman
Fiona Macdonald

Picture Editor

Mike Coles

Production Editor

Alison Roberts

Distribution

Toni Morgan,
Jane & David Marsh

Finance

David Marsh

Editorial Team

Ruth Anders, Daphne
Chamberlain, Diana Cormack,
David Gritten, David Hobbs, Janet
Maitland, Lynn Winton

Social Media: Justine Csaky

Printed by Sharman & Co Ltd on 100% UK-sourced recycled newspaper

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous volunteers who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

Copy deadlines - April: 15 March, May: 12 April, June: 10 May



Unused land: The car park at the rear of the Phoenix Cinema is listed as sold subject to contract. Photo Martyn Gerrard.

Cinema trustees defend decision to sell off unused car park area

By David Melsome

Trustees of the Phoenix Cinema have defended their decision to put the unused car park at the rear of the venue on the market after a group of members called on them to halt the sale and consider other options.

We reported last month that the spare land measuring 2,600 sq ft was being marketed by estate agents Martyn Gerrard as “an exciting development opportunity” for offers over £400,000. It has since been sold subject to contract.

Following our report, three of the cinema’s supporters wrote to the trustees saying they were deeply concerned at the sale of a valuable asset and protesting that it had not been openly publicised to the local community or the cinema membership. They started a petition which at the time of press had gathered 300 signatures.

Stephen Kersley, Ruth Kersley and Rachael Harvey said: “We ask that Trustees please respect the community’s wishes, halt the sale and arrange to hold a meeting inviting members to join in a discussion about your proposals and invite ideas and input from our community about how best to use the land to support the cinema.”

Financial pressures

In response the nine trustees of the cinema charity, who are volunteers, told members that they had looked at a range of options and shared their thinking at their AGM and with cinema staff prior to taking the final decision to sell the land.

“Like all cinemas and theatres, since the pandemic the Phoenix has suffered the double whammy of higher costs (particularly energy) and lower admissions. UK cinema admissions are still 30% down on pre-pandemic levels. Most months we do not break even and this is creating a risk that the cinema becomes insolvent and would have to cease trading,” they wrote.

“While we are aware that the sale is a one-off move, there is no purpose to retaining it and it is clearly best to realise its value before it is too late to use the proceeds. We will invest the money in creating a second screen and bringing the

main auditorium up to audience expectations, particularly with new comfortable seating.”

The Phoenix bought the land 40 years ago along with the freehold of the cinema. Although accessible as a small car park it has remained unused for most of that time except for a few temporary outbuildings.

Free concert
Soprano Alison Smart Fisher and pianist Katharine Durran will be performing a programme of works entitled *Angels, Saints and Sinners* in the next free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church on Sunday 10 March at 7.30pm. Admission is free with a collection in aid of Médecins sans Frontières. The church is on the High Road opposite Creighton Avenue and is fully accessible.

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

The **Green Man Community Centre** on Strawberry Vale, N2, is looking for volunteers to help out on Friday afternoons at their community hub. Tasks include setting up, cooking and clearing. For more details email greenmanbookings@hotmail.co.uk

MS Haringey is a local group of the national MS Society. It is looking to recruit a volunteer to manage all aspects of its financial activity, under Charity Commission rules. Initial training will be given. The role would suit a retired person with an accountancy or similar background. Interest in the welfare of people living with multiple sclerosis would be a strong recommendation. For details please contact Jane Howard at Haringey@mssociety.org.uk

East Finchley Festival CIC is seeking activities co-ordinators to schedule activities and performances and liaise with outside providers. There are also assorted volunteer positions available on the day of the festival (23 June). Please visit eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer for details.

Finchley Foodbank, based in East Finchley, is looking for new trustees and would particularly welcome candidates from all backgrounds, ages and abilities with experience in communications, finance, fundraising and IT. The role would involve overseeing the governance and direction of Finchley Foodbank and attending monthly meetings. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please send your CV with a cover letter to finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com by Sunday 24 March.

Re-engage is looking for volunteers co-ordinators, hosts and drivers to assist with monthly tea parties for over-75s, who are lonely, isolated or in need of companionship. See www.reengage.org.uk/volunteer/new-volunteers/become-a-tea-party-volunteer for details or email ruth.carter@reengage.org.uk

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column and listed on the East Finchley community hub website, please complete the form at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/be-part-of-it.



Take part in research: share your views about how our healthcare system impacts the environment by joining a focus group discussion.

Receive a £50 voucher

Green Man Community Centre,
East Finchley

Scan the QR Code for information and to register by 12 March!



Any questions, please contact:

Miranda.macfarlane@kcl.ac.uk

07423556446

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

65 Brackenburg Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer window.

8 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer and three front roof lights.

East Finchley Cemetery, East End Road, N2

Rebuilding of two sections of collapsed boundary walls.

32 Gurney Drive, N2

Submission of details of conditions 5 (Acoustic report) 6 (External door/window details) pursuant to planning permission.

1 King Street; N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Land at Central Avenue (adja-

cent To Willow House), The Grange Estate, N2

Submission of details of conditions 3 (Materials), 9 and 10 (Acoustic Report), 13 (Cycle Parking), 15 (Privacy Screens), 17 (Secure by Design), 24 (Landscape & Ecological Management Plan), 30 (Ecological Features) and 31 (Boundary Treatment), pursuant to planning permission.

Land rear of The Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, N2

Submission of details of condition 20 (Surface Water Drainage Strategy) and 22 (Excavations for services in relation to trees) pursuant to planning permission.

5 Leicester Mews, N2

Change of use of building (light

industrial) to live/work unit. Changes to front and rear fenestration.

17 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

O/s 79 - 83 High Road, N2

Installation of one electrical vehicle charging point unit with double-sided LCD screen, feeder pillar and associated electrical connection works.

Rear of 15 Talbot Avenue, N2

Erection of cottage, following demolition of existing rear studio. Associated refuse/recycling, storage and amenity space.

21-25 Viceroy Parade, High Road, N2

One double-sided internally illuminated LCD screen, with integral vehicle charging point.