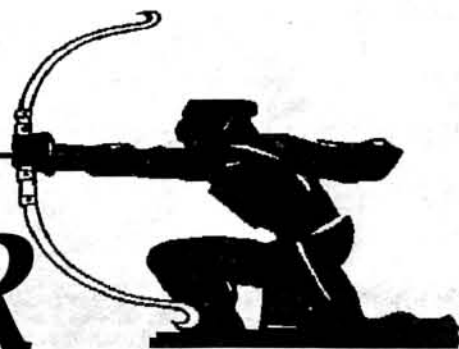


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers. September 1995 No. 31 **20p**

Park Drive

Barnet Council is to crack down on vandals and troublemakers plaguing Cherry Tree Wood and other parks.

More Park Rangers will be patrolling in the area after residents called upon the Council

to make our parks cleaner and safer.

Part of the new Council initiatives will include taking Park Rangers out of cars and putting them on foot or bikes. Each patrol will work its own patch, so they will become familiar,

well-known and trusted faces with park users.

Space patrol

Cllr. Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation and Leisure stated, "We are beefing up the service to meet real needs. We have listened and learned from the worries of park users and we are determined to make all of our open spaces safe and enjoyable centres for the whole community."

McGuirk added, "We want park users to be able to put names to faces - to trust and know the council officers patrolling their parks."

"Putting Park Rangers back on their own beat will deter those whose only pleasure seems to be disrupting the enjoyment of the majority."

STOP PRESS! The café in Cherry Tree Wood has reopened after a long period of closure, *The Archer* is informed. We urge our readers to support it: the more the park and its facilities are used, the less the vandals will destroy.

Sentence for carer

The manager of a sheltered housing scheme in East Finchley has been sentenced to six months imprisonment after being found guilty of causing actual bodily harm to a tenant.

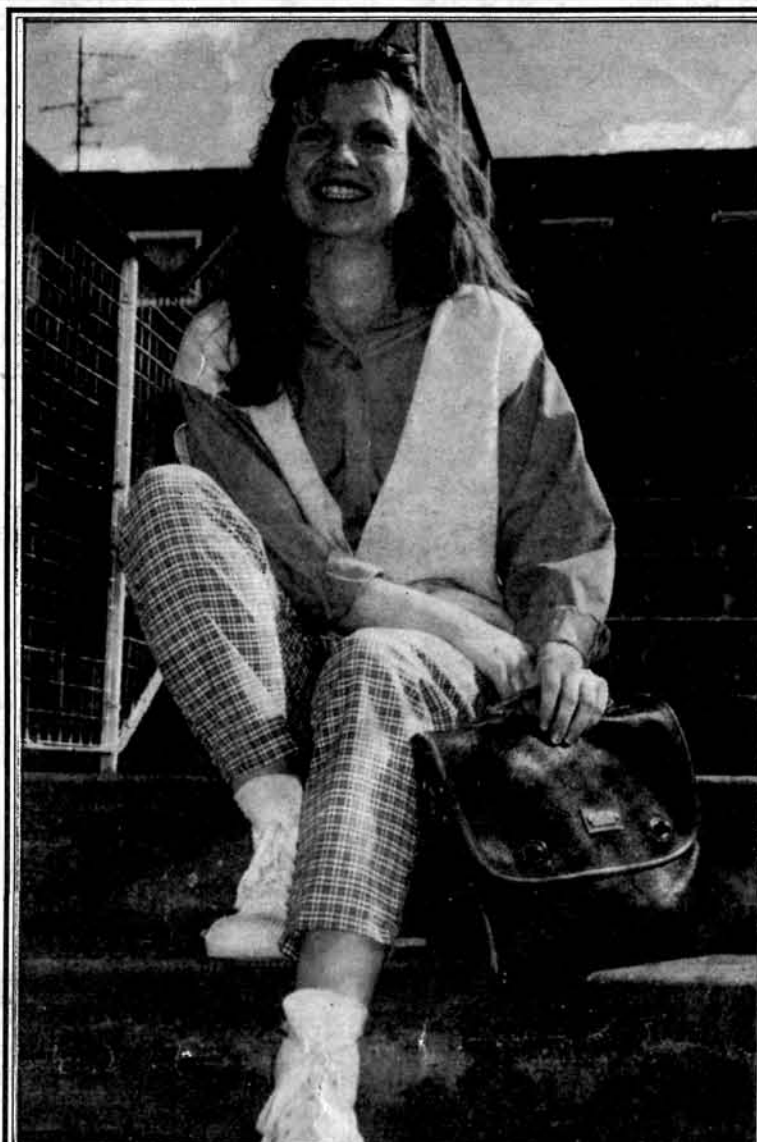
Sheltered Housing Manager, Mrs Terri Gordon went to visit 84-year-old resident Mrs Elizabeth Turkish at her flat in Paul Byrne House, Helen Close last December after a complaint from neighbours about excessive television noise.

It is alleged that Mrs Gordon threw Mrs Turkish on the floor, against a wall and against a wardrobe leaving her with bruising to her hip and back. Neighbours in the flat next door also reported seeing Mrs Gordon slap the old woman in the face.

Mrs Gordon, 47, denied the allegations - claiming she herself had been attacked by Mrs Turkish. A statement from her solicitor said she would be appealing against the sentence, although bail pending an appeal was not granted.

Mrs Gordon's employers, Servite Houses, have since issued a statement in response to a petition from local residents which expressed discontent with Servite's handling of the

case: They wish to emphasise that Mrs Gordon was suspended from duty immediately after the guilty verdict was reached and there is no possibility of her returning to work at Paul Byrne House.



1950s chic in East Finchley
 You could look this good for less than £15 - Louise Story shows us how in next month's *Archer*.
 photo: David Tupman

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Thanks also to Bob Welch of Welch's Ale House

Your contributions

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote that you think our readers might find interesting but are nervous of putting pen to paper, phone 0181-883 1307 and we'll get someone to help you.

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Gas escapes 0181-346 9191
Water 01707-277111

Councils

Barnet

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Elderly 0181-444 4411
Children/family 0181-449 5511
Housing 0181-446 8511
People in hospital 0181-440 5111
Noise 0181-202 8282
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Carers Nat.Assoc. 0181-343 3665
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Cit. Adv. Bureau 0181-349 0954
Contact (N2 help) 0181-444 1162
East Finchley Advice Service 0181-444 6265

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Mind 0181-446 6470
NSPCC 0800-800500
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Relate 0181-445 0888
Samaritans 0181-889 6888
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Muswell Hill 0181-340 8055

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St Luke's 0181-883 8311
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Euston/St Pancras 0171-387 7070
Kings X 0171-278 2477
Charing X/Victoria/Waterloo/Liverpool St 0171-9285100

Other

E. Finchley Library 0181-883 2664
Mus. Hill Odeon 01426 911885
Phoenix Cinema 0181-883 2233

CRIME DIARY

Tuesday 2nd August -

Burglars broke into a house in Linmouth Road by removing the cat-flat in the back door. They then ransacked the house and set fire to the sofa. The house was unoccupied as the family were on holiday at the time.

Saturday 5th August -

A 35 year-old woman had her handbag snatched from her in Church Lane N2 at 12:45am. The thief was described as a tall, thin white male, wearing a dark leather jacket.

Saturday 12th August -

At 10:30pm a man was attacked by five white males in an alleyway between Stanley Road and Market Place. He was pushed to the ground and his watch, valued at £550.00 was taken along with £38 in cash.

15th/16th August -

Between 7:16pm and 7:30am, a derelict house in Winnington Road was broken into and £300 worth of power tools were stolen.

Wednesday 23rd August -

Burglars raided a house in Lyttleton Road by climbing in through an unlocked bedroom window and stole a hi-fi system worth £1,000.

Thursday 31st August -

A house in Long Lane was broken into via a ground floor window and a camcorder valued at £1,500 was taken.

Friday 1st September -

The Oak Lane school for children with special needs was broken into in the early afternoon. Burglars entered by a window and stole computer equipment valued at £7,600.

Sunday 3rd September -

A 55 year-old man walking down Hamilton Road late at night was attacked from behind and punched in the face. His watch was stolen.

Slick cut

Thresher's Office Licence in East Finchley High Road has been raided twice recently, once in late July and again in August.

In the first raid, two burglars armed with a kitchen knife threatened the assistants and escaped with cash and cigarettes valued at £100.

In the attack in August a robber armed with a 12" knife also escaped with cash and cigarettes.

The burglar was a white male with brown hair, slim and wearing a white shirt and blue jeans.

Leisure Centre

The new leisure complex being built in the High Road on the site of the former open-air swimming pool, is said to be on schedule to open by Easter 1996. There will be an eight screen cinema, three swimming pools, (two of them open-air), a ten-pin bowling centre, three restaurants and parking for 800 cars.

Cable threat

In a bid to minimise damage to trees, Barnet Council is negotiating with the cable company Videotron, which is due to increase its cable laying work in the borough.

A new Road and Street Works Act came into force in January 1993, superseding the Council's previous agreement with Videotron, after considerable damage was done to trees by cable distribution companies in other areas.

Lewisham based Videotron, was responsible for the laying of cables in the Hampstead Garden Suburb area back in 1992, and there were very few problems with their work.

Trees company

Negotiations are still in progress on the measures needed to avoid damage to trees, for tree surgery if needed and to replace trees that are lost.

A spokesperson for Videotron said that the company always follows tree preservation measures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The current plan for Hampstead Heath is the topic for discussion during the walks scheduled for Sunday, 5th November. The meeting point is outside Burgh House, New End Square/Well Walk (near Hampstead Station) at 2:30pm.

Barnet Sports Forum has been set up to find novel ways of getting residents with disabilities to take up more sport-related activities. If you are interested in taking part in the discussions then call Carol Nelson on 0181-203 4187.

Festival Meeting

The East Finchley Community Festival Committee will be holding a public meeting at 8:00pm on Thursday 26th October at East Finchley Library in the High Road. This is the perfect opportunity for you to comment on this year's Festival or make suggestions for next year - or just to find out more about the work of the committee.

New Dynamo

Des Welton has been appointed by Barnet Council to spearhead the Council's strategy to regenerate the local economy.

He aims to "revive Barnet's commercial base, reduce economic disadvantage, improve skills training and enhance the area's transport infrastructure". He also said that he is particularly looking forward to "forging close links" with residents, special interest groups and businesses.

Lend a doll

The Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon is planning to hold a Christmas exhibition of old and new dolls houses and is keen to hear from anyone who is willing to lend their dolls house or furniture for the exhibition. They are particularly looking out for items made in Barnet. If you can help, call Gerrard Roots on 0181 203 0130

Brothers in law

Two brothers from East Finchley have been charged with the murder of Raymond Morgan, aged 25 years. He was stabbed in Muswell Hill Road as he was walking home with his girlfriend.

The two brothers have been remanded in custody for four weeks after appearing before Highgate magistrates.

Child centre gets go ahead

Oak Lane Health Clinic is to provide the home for a child development centre in Barnet.

Services for children with learning difficulties are currently scattered across the borough and parents have backed the proposal to move to one central site in East Finchley. The decision to use Oak Lane Clinic was made at a meeting of Barnet Council's social services committee this week.

East Finchley councillors Joan Ryan and Helen Gordon were amongst those opposing the move to Oak Lane, favouring instead the Professional Development Centre in North Finchley High Road. The PDC is currently used by the council's education department and it was feared a move to this site could have meant further delays to the project.



MP's call for action

by Len Willcocks

Mr. Hartley Booth, MP for Finchley, is leading a campaign to help elderly residents avoid losing their homes and savings to pay for care in residential or nursing homes.

Some ideas being brought forward following Mr. Booth's call for action include raising the £8,000 savings limit and tax benefits to encourage saving for old age.

Full cost

Only when a person in care has under £3,000 left is the full cost of care paid for by the local authority.

Fees can range from £200 to £300 per week for care.

Under the present rules residents of homes have to pay the full amount if they have assets valued at over £8,000.

The high cost of care is causing much hardship and stress to the elderly and their families. Often it means losing their savings after a lifetime of work, so our MP's action in bringing this matter forward is to be applauded.



Hartley Booth - MP for Finchley.

Appropriate Adults

Barnet's Appropriate Adult Panel, one of the first of its kind in Britain, has just finished a year-long experiment working with youngsters and people at risk in police stations across the borough.

The Panel was formed to ensure the best interests of any "vulnerable person" in custody is met during police interviews.

"Vulnerable people" such as juveniles or those with mental health problems should be interviewed while in police custody with a responsible adult present, such as their parents or a social worker.

On some occasions this is not possible and appropriate

adults, who are aware of Criminal Law such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1994, and other police procedures, sit in on interviews, making sure the detainee is held for the shortest time possible.

Anyone interested in becoming an appropriate adult should contact the Secretary, Barnet Appropriate Adult Panel, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG

East Finchley Library

On Friday 29th September from 11:00am to 12 noon there will be a talk by Ellis Hillman entitled "Beneath the Pavements of London - A Subterranean Guide".

Ellis Hillman is the author of 'London under London'. Coffee, tea and biscuits are provided at 30p.

McAppeal

McDonalds announced this week that it would appeal against Barnet Council's decision to refuse planning permission for a restaurant.

The news came as no surprise to East Finchley residents who have mounted a campaign to prevent McDonalds opening its staff restaurant on the High Road to the public.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce

The North London Chamber of Commerce, which covers Barnet, Enfield and Haringey, plans to become "the serious influential business voice for North London" and one of its first moves is to start up a recruitment drive for new members. For further details, contact Barnet Chamber of Commerce, 23-35 Hendon Lane, Finchley N3 (Tel: 0181-343 3833).

Barnet Chamber of Commerce have invited cllr. Stan Cross to a meeting to discuss parking issues in the borough. The meeting will take place at their offices at 23035 Hendon Lane at 6pm on Monday 4th December. For more information contact the Chamber on 0181-882 0180.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce hold regular 'Network Lunches' throughout the year and they are an opportunity for business people to meet, network, discuss business activities and local issues. They will

The car boot sale is here to stay. Such a sale is now taking place every alternate Sunday mornings at the big playing field of Martin Schools in the High Road. It will continue throughout the winter.

Get the boot

On alternate Sunday mornings in East Finchley High Road, if you are passing the big playing field by Martin Schools, just past the library, you will see a scene of great activity.

Cars and vans are on the field unloading bric-a-brac, books, clothes and furniture; all preparing for the Sunday morning car boot sale.

From 7:00am to 2:00pm the field is open for one of Finchley's most popular car boot sales. There is a good social atmosphere and, who knows, maybe you will find just what you are looking for.

According to one booter, Alan, who regularly has a pitch, "I not only do good business,

but really enjoy the atmosphere and good humour of the people. During the lovely summer weather it certainly beat being in a stuffy shop."

New CHC Chairman

East Finchley resident Roger Chapman has become the new chairman of Barnet's health watchdog, the Community Health Council.

Chapman, 40, took over from Rochelle Simmons this month after three years with the CHC. By day he is a town planner for Haringey Council, but has been campaigning over health issues for ten years through his membership of the Barnet Health Campaign Group.

He is a supporter of the NHS principle of care being free for all and hopes his new role will enable him to look after patients' interests and provide a service that reflects people's needs.

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History Evening

Alan Stripp, wartime code-breaker at BP, gives a talk on Bletchley Park and The Enigma Breakers at the Imperial War Museum at 6.30 pm on 10 October 1995.

Tickets are £4.10 (Friends £3.60), includes a glass of wine, and are available from the box office on 0171 416 5311.

A private view of the Museum's new Secret War gallery follows the talk.

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SHOP OF THE MONTH

The Ridley Bagel Bakery

by Gwen Conacher

"This" said Ana, "is a BAYGEL. Not a Baggle, nor a Bargel." Ana Sanchez is in charge of the branch of the Ridley Bagel Bakery and Patisserie in the High Road, so she should know. She and her team are frequently amused by the various pronunciations of the classic 'Bagel'.

This shop is one of seven Ridley branches in East and North London. The head office and bakery are in Ridley Road, Dalston. Open 24 hours a day, the bakery is kept busy making

bagels and cakes which they despatch twice a day to all their shops. East Finchley alone gets through an average of six crates of bagels a day.

Rolling stock

Bagels, plain and filled, are popular with local residents and office workers. Of Jewish origin, they have a wide appeal and the shop has many regular customers.

Bought to eat at home, they are usually toasted and buttered. For snack lunches - takeaway or eaten at tables in the shop, they are available ready-filled with a variety of savoury and sweet mixtures and

served warm or cold. The excellent delicatessen in the shop offers a wide selection specialising in Jewish delicacies, such as gefilte and kosher salami. Soup and hot drinks are also on the menu.

Hard boiled

The chewy texture of bagel, which makes them a substantial midday meal, is due to the unusual method of cooking them. After the yeast dough is shaped, the bagels are first boiled, then baked.

Personally, I like bagels for breakfast, American-style, toasted with scrambled eggs and smoked salmon!



"Say baygel, not baggle," says Ana

CONTACT GROUP

10th Anniversary Celebration

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the local contact group, an evening of songs from old time music hall provided by "The Confections" is being held on Friday 20 October from 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall, High Road, N2 for all connected with Contact now or in the past. A fish and chip supper is being served in the interval and transport can be arranged if required.

In 1985 a group of local people met together. They decided to give a little of their time to help those in East Finchley who were alone, or ill or disabled and whose lives might be improved with their support - calling in for a chat, helping with shopping, offering a lift, filling in forms, doing odd jobs, etc. and just being available to those who needed them.

Contact Support

Today, supported by Barnet Council, from an office in the Neighbourhood Centre,

Church Lane, co-ordinator Christine George, her assistant Pat, a volunteer committee and a team of willing volunteers try to answer the needs of the elderly. Over the years thousands of people have been helped and a changing team of volunteers have been able to answer their call. New recruits with a little spare time are always sought to enlarge this much valued service.

Tickets for the celebration are £5 each and a good evening out is promised. Any spare tickets may be booked by calling 0181 444 1162.

IN THE GARDEN

Coup De Grass

by Paul Savill

Worried about your lawn? Will it ever be quite the same again after the drought? In the first of a new series Paul Savill's know-everything-about-gardening neighbour in Lauradale Road has the answers.

"You've done it all wrong. In fact you shouldn't have done it at all..." So said my Lauradale Road neighbour the other day when he observed my efforts to revive my languishing lawn to health.

Like most lawns in East Finchley my lawn has been reduced from a handkerchief of green to a small brown patch by the summer drought. After so long without water will the damage be permanent?

So in my desire to help its recovery I went at it with scarifier, besom, fork and chemicals and as I was finishing, hot and tired, espied my neighbour coming through the side gate.

Lawn order

"Tch, tch, tch," he shook his head. "Why don't you talk to someone who knows what he's doing before you start? There's no need to worry. Nature always corrects itself. Now that the rain is here, the grass will grow a treat. Mark my words."

Still, after the bashing it had this summer from the heat, drought and trampling, it could in his view benefit from a major tonic in the form of what he calls "acupuncture and unction."

Forking hell

The acupuncture is his word for spiking and unction for top dressing. To be really effective both processes are necessary.

For spiking you can use a

fork, but it is hard, slow work and can create ridges in the lawn. Far more effective are the spiking machines on the market. These can be fitted with hollow tines which remove actual cores of soil and allow air and the dressing to penetrate deeply.

"Well worth the investment. Cheapskates like you will never have beautiful lawns," he guffawed.

Now the secret to healthy lawns does lie in the soil, so regular top dressings - which can penetrate the lawn by properly made holes - can do much to improve an existing lawn.

Loam arranger

My neighbour's recipe for this autumn's dressing prepared with the drought in mind is as follows: one portion of loamy soil, one portion of well-rotted manure, half a portion of leaf mold and half a portion of sharp sand. Mix well and apply at half a bucketful per square yard.

You can then apply what my neighbour describes as his "coup de grass"! That is a mixture of bonemeal and sulphate of potash mixed 2:1 applied at two tablespoons per square yard.

"Will work wonders on most lawns," said my neighbour. And then added after a pitiful look at my lawn: "Mind you, some are beyond help..."

Next month in *The Archer*: How to get hyacinths to bloom throughout the winter.

COMPETITION

For all those who enjoy "Call My Bluff" we have a quiz for you set on the same principle. We hope to make it the first in an eventual series so for the first one we have three words beginning with the letter A - all found in the Oxford English Dictionary together with three meanings for each. Can you choose the correct one? Answers with your name and address to be sent to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. The first correct one out of the bag wins an *Archer* t-shirt.

ackamarackus

- a) A lively Portuguese dance for newly wed couples.
- b) A "tall story" intended to deceive its recipient.
- c) To be drunk on a strong sweet liqueur made from the marasca cherry.

albarello

- a) A sort of container especially for drugs.
- b) A small boat made of wicker-work and covered with skin used for pilgrimages.
- c) A rope making machine.

aclumsid

- a) To be stiff or numb.
- b) Small one-seeded fruit which does not open to release seed.
- c) An 18th century joke which failed to make a laugh.

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HISTORY



Emily Sparrow in 1968 and great-grandson John Sparrow in 1995 (below)

Five Generations

by Paul Savill

The history of the family of John Sparrow, who lives in one of those c1830's houses in Fortis Green, stretches back 175 years into the history of East Finchley.

His connection with the area goes back five generations: two of his great, great grandfathers lived in East Finchley; one served ales to local residents and one built some of its houses.

John, now retired, lives in one of them. It was built by his great, great grandfather, Mark Plowman, who was born in Buckinghamshire in 1797 and came to live in East Finchley in the 1820's.

He had nine children. His eldest son, Thomas, made bricks in East Finchley's hog market, which is called Market Place today. Another son,

Charles, was also a builder and is believed to have built Avenue House in East End Road in 1858.

House of Sparrow

Their sister, Emily, married Joseph Sparrow on Christmas Day 1866 at St. James's Church, Muswell Hill. We show her here in all her Victorian finery on a day during November 1878. She was John's great grandmother. Her father-in-law, also called John Sparrow, born in 1812, was a licensed victualler and became the inn-keeper at the Bald Faced Stag in 1851.

Editor's note: If your family has long connections with East Finchley, please contact us. Our readers love stories about the good, or the not so good, old days.



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Shadow of
a drought

by Ros Daitshell

Rainfall this summer was the lowest since records began and it was also the hottest summer since 1976. This has affected all kinds of things in the Borough of Barnet but particularly the trees and the roads.

Mr. Jones the Tree Officer at Barnet Council has reported that trees all over London were affected. The Borough of Barnet has 35,000 trees, more than most of the other London boroughs. Every year an additional 1,000 trees are planted in the borough to replace old stock.

Drinking deep

It is the road trees that were most affected by the drought. The trees in the woods are in an environment that can withstand periods of drought as they generally are older trees that have deep roots, whereas the young saplings planted in roads have shallow roots and

cannot withstand prolonged periods without water.

The Council was watering them on a weekly basis but conditions were so dry that this was not always enough.

The weather has also affected the roads and services like water pipes. Everything expands and then contracts in extreme weather conditions and the extreme heat has caused roads and pipes to expand and then as the temperature dropped they have contracted causing cracking. This could become more of an issue as the cold weather descends on us.

New
Recruits

Barnet Conservation Volunteers are seeking to recruit more members. The group undertakes practical conservation work throughout the borough and aims to protect and enhance the environment for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.

The group's tasks are usually on the first Sunday of the month and start at 10 am, ending at 4 pm. Transport is available to all sites. Future tasks include the clearing of two ponds which have become overgrown and badly littered, and the cutting back of invasive sycamore and rhododendron scrub in an ancient woodland.

Membership is free. For further details, call Jenny or Doug Friedman on 0181 444 1404.



PERMANENT RESIDENTS

The Natural History Man

by Bob Davenport

Few of those buried in East Finchley Cemetery in East End Road travelled further in their lives than Henry Walter Bates - from Leicester to the depths of the Amazon basin.

Born in 1825, at 13 he was apprenticed to a hosier, where his duties were to open and sweep out the warehouse. In his spare time he studied in the local Mechanics Institute or searched for insects in Charnwood Forest. In 1843 he had a short paper, "On Coleopterous Insects Frequenting Damp Places", published in the first issue of the *Zoologist* magazine.

Bitten by the bugs

Two years later he found a job as a clerk, but it didn't suit him. Meanwhile he had become friends with another keen entomologist, Alfred Russel Wallace, an English teacher. Inspired by the journal of Darwin's voyage around the world in HMS *Beagle* and by a book on an Amazon expedition by one William H. Edwards, they decided to visit the Amazon themselves, collecting facts and specimens to contribute to the debate on the origin of the species and selling duplicates to defray their expenses.

They left Liverpool on 26th April 1848 and reached Pará (now Belém) near the mouth of

the Amazon on 27th May.

Up the river

For the next 11 years Bates explored and collected around the Amazon and its tributaries, penetrating 1,400 miles upstream. (In March 1850 he and Wallace decided to split up, and the latter returned to England in 1852 before moving on to the Malay Archipelago in 1853.)

He described his travels *The Naturalist on the Amazons*, which Darwin called "The best book of natural history travels ever published."

Avid reader

During his four-and-a-half years based at Ega, in the Upper Amazons, he found that "The want of intellectual society...became almost insupportable. I was obliged, at last, to come to the conclusion that the contemplation of nature alone is not enough to fill the human heart and mind." Any periodicals he received, such as the *Athenæum*, were so precious that he went over them three times, "...the first time devouring the more interesting articles; the second, the whole of the remainder; and the third, reading all the advertisements from beginning to end."

By the time he left South America he had discovered over 8,000 species unknown

to science, had learned German and Portuguese, and had made a profit of £800.

Grim prospects

On his last night on the Pará river on his way home, 2nd June 1859, he noted, "Recollections of English climate, scenery and modes of life came to me with a vividness I had never before experienced during the eleven years of my absence. Pictures of startling clearness rose up of the gloomy winters, the long grey twilights, murky atmosphere, elongated shadows, chilly springs and sloppy summers; of factory chimneys and grimy operatives, rung to work in early morning by factory bells; of [Poor Law] union workhouses, confined rooms, artificial cares, and slavish conventionalities. To live again amidst these dull scenes I was quitting a land of perpetual summer..."

Home, sweet home

After three years back in England, though, he found "...how incomparably superior is civilised life, where feeling, tastes and intellect find abundant nourishment, to the spiritual sterility of half-savage existence, even though it be passed in the garden of Eden."

For 28 years, from 1864, he was assistant secretary of the Royal Geographical Society. He died of bronchitis in 1892.



Holiday Disaster

What's the worst thing that can happen to you on holiday? To fall sick, to lose your money, or to be assaulted? Resident of Fortis Green, Tony Tuck's recent holiday in France ended in a disaster equal to, if not worse than any of these - his car burst into flames near Angers...

Vieille saucisse

The 1978 Renault 16L, "ancien voiture" (French for 'old banger') enjoys and esteemed reputation in France. Mine, an ex-demonstration car in excellent condition bought for 6,000F in 1993 had never let me down.

French people in London espying 80 11 QL 16 number-plate assuming I was a fellow countryman, would eagerly accost me to extol the car's "bon engine" and tell me how on the autoroute it pleaded to go like a rocket.

A respector of the car's venerable age, I never tried it out, preferring the relative sedateness of the D and N roads. Even so, I can attest to its power and durability. It grumbled worst than a back seat driver on our uneven, potholed Capitol streets, but on an open good road - especially in its native land! - it became a fiery stallion chafing at the bit and demanding to be given its head.

Pneu tyres

In fact, the only problem I'd had was in Springcroft Avenue when some unkind soul, obviously disliking the French or, as the police suggested, not liking me parking in his or her spot, punctured all four of my tyres. So much for the 'entente cordial.'

On Saturday morning 19th August, our "vacance" at an end, my wife, Barbara, and I drove away from our home in the Charente and set off confidently for Angleterre et East Finchley.

We started out early to break the back of the journey before the full intense heat of the day. Keeping to a steady 80-100 kms the car purred smoothly as ever. We paused at the Poitiers tollgate to give her a rest, and then again at Loudun.

Avrille fuel

At 1:50pm at Avrille, 10 kms from Angers, I drove into the local Intermarche pour essence.

The blazing sun was, as the French say, an "inferno". To let the car cool down before I topped up, I drove across the vast car park to the only shady spot, a tall hedgerow to the petrol station.

Getting out to stretch our legs, Barbara and I became aware of a strong smell of petrol all around the car. I checked under the bonnet. Ca va! I looked underneath the car. No leakage. There was a drain right beside my door. Could fumes be coming from there?

Flambé

Deeming it wise to move, we got back in the car. I switched on the ignition. The next second there was an al-

mighty bang, followed by flames and a cloud of black smoke.

Scrambling out, we saw that the concrete underneath the car was on fire. Flames billowed out from under the bonnet.

I hastily hauled my briefcase and our luggage off the back seat as the petrol attendants rushed across with fire extinguishers and with great alacrity doused the flames. Opening the bonnet, I saw to my dismay that the electrics were completely burned out.

In something of a state of shock, wondering what could possibly have caused the explosion and how the devil we were going to complete our journey - Barbara had to be back at work on Monday morning! - I telephoned our insurers, Mutuelle de Poitiers.

Down the panne

Within a quarter of an hour they had organised a breakdown truck. The mechanic examined the car, shook his head and declared it "Kaput" - les reparations auraient coute plus de la valeur de la voiture."

He listened as I explained what had happened the, examining the concrete he sniffed the air like a veritable bloodhound and with Gallic

certainty proffered an authoritative explanation.

Because of the intense heat (45c!) the lack of any breeze, petrol fumes instead of evaporating into the air had built up into a pocket on the ground level precisely where I had the bad luck to park. When I switched on the ignition a spark ignited the fumes. He gestured to the heavens, and shrugged philosophically.

Look, back in Angers

At the garage, regrettably, I signed the certificat de cession d'un voiture to declare the car scrapped, handed over my certificat d'immatriculation, and was paid 200F.

Our insurers had organised a taxi to take us to our mountainous luggage to the Europcar office at Angers. By 5:30pm, we were back on the road and arrived at Cherbourg at 10:00pm on time to catch our ferry.

We arrived back at our flat on Fortis Green at 8:30am mourning the loss of our faithful ancient Renault 16L, but marvelling at our incredible fortunate escape from awful death or serious injury.

We cannot praise too highly the well co-ordinated efficiency of Mutuelle de Poitiers. British insurers kindly take note!

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

A good year for the roses?

by Ricky Savage

Voice of social irresponsibility

Cor, what a scorcher! Yes, it's welcome to the globally warmed-up Britain that sweltered through a long hot summer of temperatures in the high 80s, hosepipe bans, fatties oozing out of shorts and mindless panics about the affect the hot weather had on the lawn. There was something else as well, the distant whine of tour operators praying for rain because no-one wanted to jet off to the Costa del Livin' to spend two food-poisoned weeks in some half-built concrete hell-hole when they could get sun, sea, sand and bloody-minded landladies in downtown Blackpool. What a shame.

I wish I knew what it was about us Brits that causes us to whinge on about the first decent summer since 1976. Maybe we aren't easily satisfied, maybe we just like a good old-fashioned moan, maybe we resent not being able to turn ourselves the colour of wrinkled prunes in our own back gardens or maybe we all secretly want skin cancer. I don't know.

What I do know is that we moan like crazy if there isn't enough sun and whinge on and on and on if there is a decent summer with insanely high temperatures. Why, oh why

can't we just sit back in the shade, open another ice-cool lager and just enjoy it, like the French, the Italians, the Germans and just about everyone else?

I guess the answer lies in this weird tradition of working solidly through the day from 9 to 5 with only an hour for lunch. That's fine in the usual British rainy season that lasts from May to October, but not so cool if the temperatures are high, the sun is out and what passes for an England Cricket team might actually win a test series.

At times like that we need long lunches under shady trees with cool lagers, iced wines and jugs of Pimms. What we don't need is sweaty offices, dodgy air-conditioning and morons with attitude telling us that we should be grateful that we do have a job. In fact why have unemployment statistics gone up this summer? Because lounging in the sun is better than working. Besides, how many of our wonderful politicians work during the summer? None of them. Well, none of the human ones at any rate. John Major watches cricket, Tony Blair goes on his hols and only the mad Vulcan, that is John Redwood, sticks around ignoring the sun.

So, let's quit whinging, let's turn up the air-con, cool the wine/beer/Pimms and get seriously chilled-out ready to moan about the rain when it arrives in October.



Photo: London Borough of Barnet Local History

The Way it Was

The grounds of the Five Bells in East End Road have altered, but the pub itself is instantly recognisable in this c1905 postcard.

The building is 19th Century but there was a predecessor, in existence by 1751 and pulled down in 1811, which stood on the next block of land to the right.

He present inn was in op-

eration by 1814. Like other inns of that period it was used for a variety of purposes including a post receiving station and a venue for bare-knuckle fighting matches.

Another of these we find recorded in 1825: "A coroner's inquest was held at the Five Bells on the body of David Rayner, Esq., which was found in a pond near East End."

by Paul Savill

A more appropriate name for the pub today should be the Four Bells. For some time now the pub's road sign has been short of a bell!

The Archer thanks Barnet Local Studies and Archives for this picture. If any reader has any interesting pictures of East Finchley as it was, please contact us or Dr. Taylor of the Archives on 359 2628.

Photo call

If any reader of The Archer has a photograph of Sims Motor Units, who used to be in New Oak Road, would they kindly contact Len Willcocks on 0181-444 8289.



SHORT STORY

Richard Spencer who recently came to live in Fortis Green with his artist wife, has a very unusual occupation - he is a practising dream analyst. He has broadcast on Greater London Radio and writes for Woman's Realm. Now he is writing regularly for The Archer. Readers are invited to send in their dreams for interpretation or to consult him directly.

Dream a little dream

We spend nearly one-third of our lives immersed in the oblivion of sleep, during which our minds feast on a rich kaleidoscope of images and scenes, some impressionable and deeply affecting, others long forgotten. Yet, for all the hours we indulge in dreaming, very few of us spare any time in waking life to distil meaning from dreams to stop to think how much benefit could be derived from dream interpretation.

Dreams were once thought of as visitations, bestowed upon us from the Gods, to set men straight and deter them from the path of vice. Philosophers and writers pored over dreams to wrest the meaning and truth from their magic, secret epicentre. And, before the advent of scientific research, all manner of notions were advanced to account for them. What continued was a sense of respect both for the dream and its pre-eminence in the life of man. Ancient Egyptians and Greeks laboured over their dreams, Jung and Freud devoted their life's work to them and sleep researchers wired people up to machines for a more pragmatic approach to understanding the surreal landscape of dreams. Nowadays, alas, only small tribal cultures like the American Indians and the Senoi in Malaysia defer to their dreams, as of old. What they gain, and we lose, is a sense of unparalleled insight and harmony. The Senoi are renowned for having no recorded incidences of neurosis, psychosis or violence, and these facts are not pure coincidences - they are the by-products of remaining in touch with the dream.

Dreams have had such profound effects over cultures and individuals (Hitler, Coleridge, Darwin, Einstein to name but a few) as to have swayed men and their societies into collective change. Many of the greater feats of mankind: from literary masterpieces to the invention of the sewing machine would not have been possible without individuals reading and nurturing their dream-life.

Sleep: perchance...

Research conducted into dreams in the last fifty years, pioneered by Aserinsky and Kleitman in 1953, has shown that the purpose of sleep is to dream, NOT to rest the mind. Our dreams become the guardian of sleep and, more importantly, they secure our ability to function and grow as human beings. They are, in short, the sine qua non of mental and

psychological vitality.

The dream is far more than just the freewheeling of the mind over daily events. It is a vital, deeply complex activity wherein the mind processes data and information, sifts facts from noise and generally tries to organise thoughts and feelings into a more coherent pattern. Our dreams are the valiant efforts made by the unconscious to regulate and restore psychological equilibrium. Beyond this, they provide a unique tool to understanding and mapping the psyche; they are the very source with which man can best glimpse the hinterland of his past and, potentially, future.

Lay me down

The dream also reveals our true, core selves, the one often enough buried beneath years of acquired social and emotional defence skeins. The dream peels back the masks we wear and opens us up to full exposure, stripped of behavioural camouflage. If we take note of the contents of our dreams we have the infinite capacity to change, grow and adapt into more self-aware and dynamic human beings. As a piece of commentary from the depths of our innermost being, the dream is an unassailable statement leading us into self-knowledge and personal truth.

Without the dream, we would lose our bearings in life and plunge into chaos. The dream and its riches shield us from the delusions our conscious minds put in our path. Consciousness is the ally of treachery, the dream is befriender of truth. We could do with taking lessons from the quiet wisdom of our dreams, for contained within them is the germinal seed of development: personally and globally. The wise man should read his dreams for self-knowledge and improvement. By doing so mankind is offered chances to heal, grow and fulfil itself on an unprecedented scale.

RICHARD SPENCER IS AVAILABLE ON 883 2436.



Dreams... by artist Zuhul Purla, wife of Richard Spencer.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Kathakali - Indian Drama

by Len Willcocks

Kathakali is an expressive mixture of Indian dance, drama and music which re-enacts Hindu epics, where good dramatically prevails over the forces of evil.

These performances, transformed into classical art by actors trained in the martial art of

Kalariapagyattu, will be coming to Barnet. The opening night of a national tour will be at the Old Bull Arts Centre, 68 High Street, Barnet on the 19th September at 7:30pm.

It will be a rare opportunity for the public to see the full Kathakali Troupe in this country. The troupe includes

the award-winning actor, Kalamandalam Gopi.

Tickets for this fascinating evening of Eastern culture and tradition are available from the Old Bull Arts Centre on 0181-449 0048.

Ticket prices are £6.00 for adults and £4.00 concessions.

Risk a verse

The annual Barnet Open Poetry competition has a new category this year for Comedy to be judged by John Hegley, best-selling hardback poet in recent years. John's poems appear regularly in The Guardian. He asks for poems of 15 lines only, and is seeking "the poetry of wit".

In the other categories, the limit is 35 lines. General poems will be judged by Elaine Feinstein, poet and novelist; Katherine Gallagher will again judge the 7-12s and 12-16s; and Edward Blishen the over-60s.

The closing date for the competition is 18th October, and there are prizes of over £400. Entrants who are resident in the Borough of Barnet pay half fees.

Entry forms are in Borough libraries, or send an SAE to Barnet Borough Arts Council, c/o All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ. Telephone enquiries for the competition to 0181-446 7989.

Up the wall

Currently on display at the 'Tate' of East Finchley, Chorak, on the High Road, is a selection of paintings by Collin Selley.

The paintings divide into a curious mix between figurative abstraction, quasi-Expressionism and Art-school portraiture. The disparate combination splashes colour and contrast onto the walls of Chorak making for an un-

sual side-serving with your coffee and cake.

Selley lives in South London but works in East Finchley and is fully supportive of the idea of bringing Art into the domain of everyday life, by exhibiting in local shops and cafés.

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young archer

Crums Crisps

by Lee Welch

When you're feeling peckish and mum hasn't quite got the dinner ready, chances are you will curb your hunger by purchasing a bag of your favourite flavoured crisps. We all enjoy a packet from time to time, but also we tend to take our favourite between meals snack for granted.

Here are some vital facts about our favourite nibbles. It is believed that the crisp was first created by a Red Indian Chief although these particular crisps would have been very different from the ones we know today. In fact the crisps we enjoy now were actually created by accident in 1853 by a New York chef named George Crum when he was asked by a customer to slice his chips wafer thin. These extra-thin chips became so popular that they were soon being eaten nationwide.

In moderation crisps can be included as part of a healthy balanced diet, eat too many though and they can be fattening.

Only high quality potatoes are used for crisp making, small potatoes are completely disre-

garded, while the larger ones are cut to size, cleaned and prepared before frying. The carefully prepared slices of potato are cooked at a temperature of 360°C. After a short while, normally 3 to 4 minutes they become crisps. They are then put through a process called a flavour torpedo (in short they are sprinkled with a flavouring powder) this just leaves weighing and packaging before they leave the factory and arrive in your local shops. So next time you munch into a packet of your favourites - remember! If it hadn't been for a certain Red Indian Chief and George Crum, you would just have to wait for mum to dish up the dinner.

Did you know that for every 1000kg of potatoes, only 270kg become crisps.

Doodles bugged

by L.A. Welch

Are you a classroom doodler? Do you leave squiggles wherever you go?

Did you know that every time you take to creating one of your little masterpieces, be it on a book, a wall, or (heaven forbid) a school desk, you are leaving a small but nonetheless important piece of personal information about yourself. Doodles have meanings, and we all at sometime or another feel the urge to express our artistic talents on whatever is at hand. Here are a few favourite squiggles and their meanings, to give you the general idea:



NAMES This person's ego is massive and the doodler is probably a bit cocky too.



FISH This one is a real down-to-earth sort, who likes to compete, but can be nosy.



CIRCLES This doodler depends only on his or herself and tends to think and worry too much.



HOUSES This artist likes things to be done in the correct way and desires a secure environment.



BOXES Another one who likes things done properly. You can rely on them in a crisis.



FLOWERS This petal wants to love and be loved, is warm and caring and would look after you if need be.

THE FACT IS...

by Lee Welch

Donna Griffiths of Hereford & Worcester started sneezing on 13th January 1981 and didn't stop until 16th September 1983 - a total of 978 days

The longest case of living without food or water was set by Austrian Andreas Mihavecz

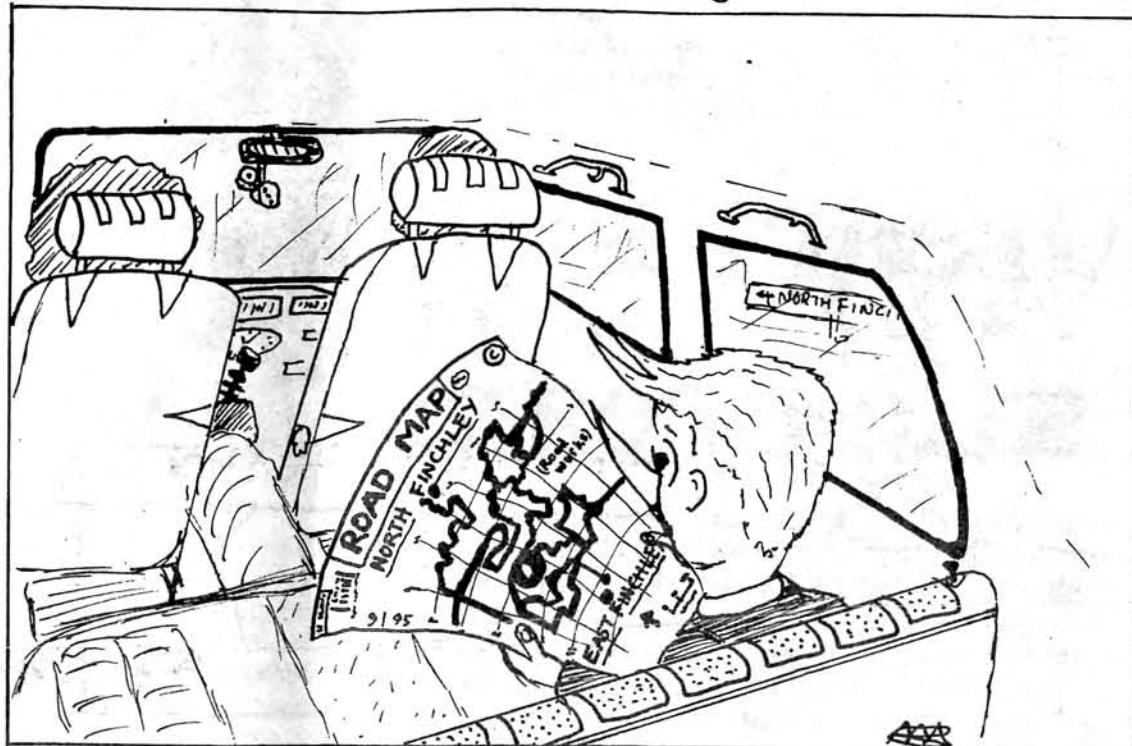
who lasted 18 days.

The longest ever No. 1 hit record in the UK was Frankie Laine's *I Believe* in 1953. It remained at No. 1 for 18 weeks.

The population of China increases by a staggering 37,000 people per day.

NOEL

by alex athanasiou



GAMES

The People's Game

by david hobbs

To the delight of many - to the curses of others - the football season is with us again. Its history is chequered: a 'working class' game that was once suppressed by the upper classes and then developed at Public Schools! David Hobbs writes.

The People's Game

It is September, the professional football season is well under way and now, as the schools open up for another year, boys and girls will once again kick a ball about in the belief that they are merely continuing a centuries-old tradition. They are not. In fact, football as we know it, goes back little more than 100 years and has its roots, not in the parks of the inner cities, but on the playing fields of Eton.

In the 17th and 18th centuries football, as a custom with local and complex rules, was firmly established in popular culture. As towns grew in the late 18th century, this traditional, rough house game became increasingly something that the middle and upper classes wanted to suppress.

By the 1830s football was less played and less popular than fifty years earlier, but still largely a workers game. Yet, as the game declined amongst urban workers, so it began to be increasingly encouraged in the public schools.

Disunion

Eton, Harrow, Charterhouse and Rugby all had variations of the game, although Rugby was the only school that allowed players to run with the ball. Most schools allowed the ball to be caught but the player then had to kick it forward.

Beginning in the early 19th century, sports began to be introduced into the public schools as a means of discipline. Soon sport and in particular football, became an end in itself as a cult of muscular Christianity based on a mixture of the Bible and athleticism became central to the ethos of the schools.

Varsity game

As these boys left their public schools they took the game of football with them and from the 1840s the game became popular at Cambridge University. From Cambridge, the game moved out into the country as Cambridge graduates went out into the world at large. By the 1850s these young men were starting to form clubs so that they could continue to play football and clubs began to spring up in places like London, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

On October 26th 1863, the Football Association was formed and rules were codified, forming the basis of the game as we have come to know it. Although many of the public schools remained aloof from the FA, the influence of the public schools remained strong.

Missionary position

A missionary zeal in furthering the cult of athleticism coupled with a growing interest in the plight of the poor led to the ex-public school boys in-

roducing football to the urban poor. To them, sport was the perfect solution to the poor health of the working class and no sport was more suited to this than football. Not only did it not require any special equipment, it also appealed due to its long-standing tradition as a popular sport. This was not merely a transplant, there was also an upsurge in working-class interest, especially after 1871 when the FA Cup began and provided a focus for the new, codified game.

Even though the old, ramshackle form of football continued for much of the 1870s, there was a striking growth in interest in the game. This growth was within the ideological framework of the public school system and for the first 11 years, the FA Cup was won by amateur, ex-public school based sides like the Old Etonians.

Between 1870 and 1900 football was transformed from a folk game into a disciplined recreation and although it had been developed by a handful of public school boys, by 1900 it had been re-adopted by the working class, especially the industrial working class, as their game. It is the tradition of 'The People's Game' that became the game of football we know today.

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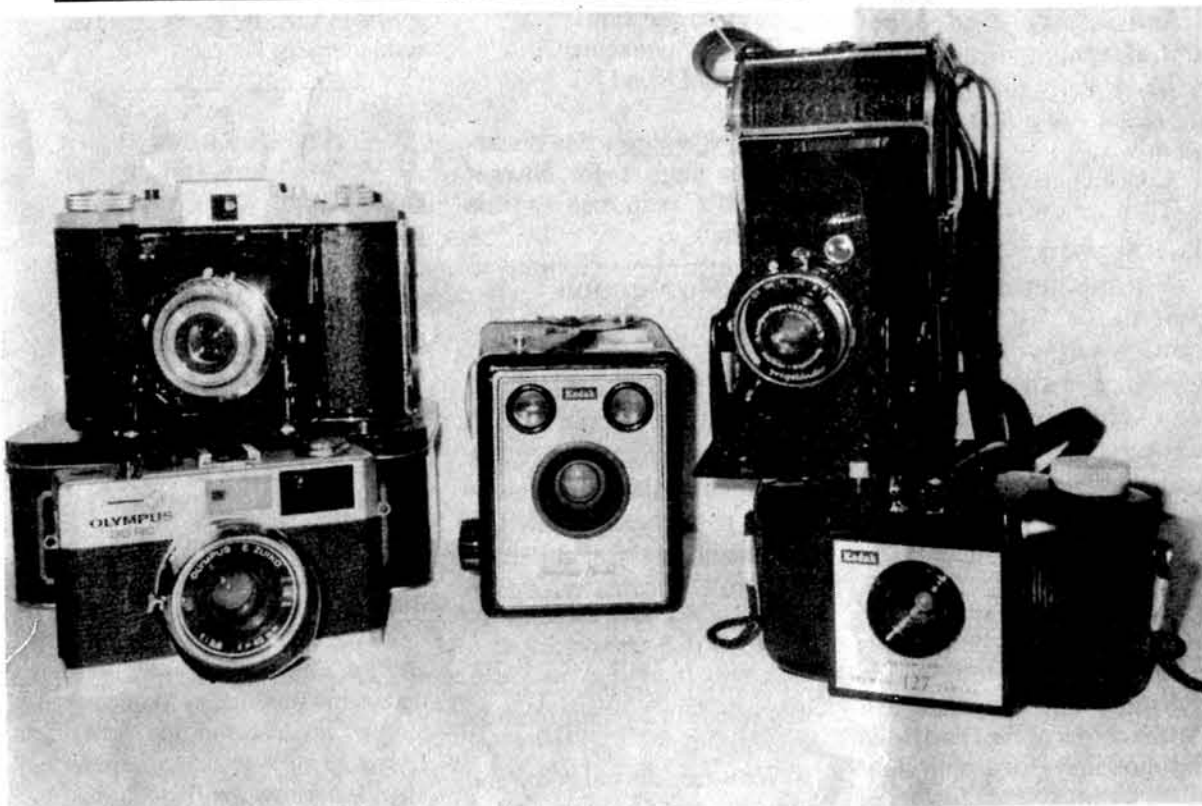
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Local Society Spotlight



Antique cameras from the Frances McCrane camera collection

Flash, Bang, Wallop

Story & photo David Tupman

The thriving Hampstead Photographic Society (HPS) welcomes new members from East Finchley. Founded in 1937, the society meets every Tuesday at 8:00pm in the crypt of St. John's Church, Hampstead.

Following a recent successful exhibition of photographs at the Phoenix Cinema the HPS has a summer exhibition at

Swiss Cottage Library from 2nd September.

The HPS's 1995-96 programme and newsletter are

available at local camera shops and libraries or telephone Paul Mosby on 0181-444 9830 or Joan Spencer on 0171-794 6622

Fare deal

The proposal from Anthony Attard for the introduction of concessionary fares on public transport elicited responses from various MPs.

Here is the contribution from Mr. Stephen Norris, Minister of the Department of Transport:

"The possibility of extending travel concessions to unemployed people has been considered on a number of occasions. The Government remains of the view that this would not be an appropriate way of helping unemployed people. It would impose heavy financial burdens on taxpayers and local council tax payers. It would also be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to ensure that such a concession were only used for journeys directly connected with the search for work.

The Employment Service is

keen to make sure all unemployed people have as much practical help as possible. In recognition of this, all Jobcentres offer a structured and coherent advisory and information service, which is aimed at helping clients back to work quickly.

This service starts as soon as the client makes a new claim for benefit and intensifies as unemployment lengthens and finding work becomes more difficult.

I hope that this is helpful."

The campaign goes on and *The Archer* welcomes readers' comments.

Church News

On Sunday 17th September at East Finchley Methodist Church there is a Harvest Family Festival Service at 10:30am.

Harvest Thanksgiving at St. Margaritas United Reform Church, Victoria Avenue N3 is on Sunday 24th September at 11:00am.

There will be a Harvest Supper with a difference with speaker Hugh Brown, a Prison Chaplain in Japan. He has a history of involvement with the IRA before finding new life in Christ.

For tickets for this talk to be held at Christ Church (Anglican), High Road, North Finchley N12, telephone Shelley Alexander on 445 2532.

Buy a bench

Sad because the benches have been removed from Pigeon Corner? Well, don't be. One way of getting them back is to buy a commemorative seat (or two) from Barnet Council! Call 0181 359 4334 for further details.

NEW FAX NUMBER

0181-444 8093

or

e-mail

archer@finn.netkonec.co.uk

FACTS

The highest officially recorded sea wave measured 34 metres or 112ft.

The Blue Whale gives off a low frequency call which reaches as much as 188 decibels or three pneumatic drills in volume.

COMPUTER CLUB

Next meeting on
Wednesday 27th
October at WELCH'S
High Road East
Finchley N2

CHESS Pawn brokers

The one hundred-year-old Muswell Hill Chess Club is appealing for new members. The club meets every Thursday at 7:30pm at the Tetherdown United Reform Church Hall at the top end of Tetherdown, N10. Chess players of all ages and standards are welcome.

More information from Will Ransome on 348 7882.

AWAYDAYS! Palace Tours

Alexandra Palace, the famous North London landmark, received a set-back when the Millennium Committee, a quango established to allocate £11.6bl. of National Lottery money over the next four years, rejected the Palace plan to create a museum showing the history of TV.

Alexandra Palace is the birthplace of television. The very first TV transmission was broadcast from the Palace in 1936.

Anyone wishing to see the television studios can view them on a tour which takes place on the first Saturday of each month.

The tour starts at 2:00pm and lasts for two hours.

It is advisable to book in advance as places on the tour are strictly limited.

For information phone 0181-348 7563, or for information contact Tours Helpline on 0181-365 2121

Alpha better

Alpha is for anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. People of all ages are welcome.

An Alpha course takes place each Thursday at 7:00pm at All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2 off Fortis Green. Each Thursday starts with a hot meal.

There is no charge.

If you are interested please contact Fr. Derek Brown at 45 Oakdene Park N3 1EU or ring him on 0181-343 4154.



Real Food at Welch's

If you have been intrigued by the menus and messages on the blackboard outside Welch's Ale House, you will find the people behind it even more interesting.

John Dacam and Kevin Finn met through *The Archer*. When the production team started to meet at Welch's they found well-equipped catering facilities but no chef. Both being in need of new impetus and keen on cooking, they teamed-up to establish a "real food" catering service in the already popular "real ale" house.

Neither had a formal training, but both appreciate good, freshly-cooked food.

Kevin's wife is Malaysian and he describes the menu as "Sino-Franglais". They delight in putting, say, an exotic smoked salmon soup on the same menu as spotted dick and include great curries and Mediterranean dishes in their repertoire.

Prices are realistic and cover not only generous platefuls, but second helpings as well. Coffee is excellent and refills are the norm.

There is also always an excellent cold buffet including sal-

ads, cheese, quiches, patés and made-to-order sandwiches.

Fat and Finn

Perhaps the nicest things about the whole enterprise are the friendly, relaxed atmosphere and warm unfussy welcome at Welch's. You always come out feeling better than when you went in!

Ready to try anything different, 'Real Food at Welch's' established themselves in the eyes of East Finchley residents when they put on a ration-book lunch for pensioners for one-and-sixpence, to celebrate VE Day. Since then, there have been barbecues, Saturday snacks, and now Sunday roasts at tea-time (4:00 to 7:00pm).

More new ideas are in the pipeline so if you have any suggestions or requests for special features go and see John and Kevin - they'll be happy to talk.

Chiropody & Reflexology

by Julie Russell

at Pure Balance

for a appointment ring

0181-883 4316

for home visits ring

0181-444 1184

1A Leicester Mews Leicester Rd
East Finchley N2 9DJ



LETTERS

Pest Control

Dear Sir,
Pigeons - they seem to be winning - first the rose beds now the seats - dirty pavements and danger from the trees. For a long time I urged the former cllr. Davies to use his influence to get these pests removed; to no avail. The present E. Finchley councillors do not seem to be either aware of or interested in our environment.

A short while ago, a BBC programme showed that pigeons are destructive, foul, dirty and disease-ridden pests. The East Finchley flock are outside a foodstore.

They should not be fed. They should be destroyed. The corner which, at the moment, is a disgusting, depressing mess, could then be cleared up and restored to a pleasant feature. Isn't that what we want?

May I make a comment on another feature in *The Archer* about sponsoring trees - "Trees for Life". When my husband died 10 years ago, the family paid for a tree to be planted in his memory in Cherry Tree Wood where it flourishes for everyone's enjoyment. Think about it!

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Joyce Pinnell
Elm Gardens N2

Editor's Note: Sponsoring trees in East Finchley? What a great idea. Let The Archer have your comments.

Bird call

Dear Sir,
The pigeons!! The arrangements at the moment are greatly to be preferred to the shabby 'garden' that the pigeons owned and ate - but the pigeons should be dealt with - they are impossible and steadily getting worse. They are greedy, heavy and all pervasive. I think to kill them is the only way, and it needs a thorough job - they ruin the gardens; there are

clouds of them in Cherry Tree Wood - they gobble-up what I put on my brick table and walk over the garden breaking the stems of plants and are a general nuisance and should not be fed.

Also the crows - they increase yearly and the variety of small birds is getting less and less in consequence. We had a wren, but not now, and a nut-hatch - not now - thrush - not now and so it goes on - the only birds not afraid are the sparrows!

All power to your elbow
Yours sincerely
Anon.

Thorn birds

Dear Sir,
I quite agree that Pigeon Corner is unsightly and would suggest that prickly bushes would stop pigeons roaming over the area, as well as making such a drab corner more attractive to look at (surely an important consideration if we're trying to attract even more tourists to the area).

I'm not a gardener but I know that the police recently advised homeowners to plant crime-detering (prickly) plants under windows and in front of drainpipes in order to put off would-be burglars. Perhaps your crime correspondent or your gardener could look into this.

If such plants can stop crime, then I'm sure they'll be out best weapon in the fight against the pigeons!

Best regards
Cathy Turnip
Park Gate N2

Danger - Pigeon Corner

Dear Sir,
The first thing the authorities must do is to put their notices where they can be seen and not out of sight high up on a pole. Then ensure it is obeyed! At the moment, the corner is a health hazard with food shops nearby and a danger

to the public with birds flying in their faces and gravel with droppings under foot to make them slip.

Incidentally, the pigeons enjoy eating the grit the council put down.

C.O. Kennedy
The Causeway, N2

Bank statement

Dear Sir,
I much enjoy your paper *The Archer* and it gets better each month and I always read it through and pass it on to relations in Harringay!

I think the move of the bottle bank has been a disaster - we generally dump our rubbish as we go shopping - nobody wants to trail down to the tube station to dispose of it. May I suggest that the corner of East End Road and the High Road with their backs against Budgens' wall would be handy and also out of the way and it is a very broad path there.

Yours sincerely,
anon.

Wildwood

Dear Sir,
One of the reasons for the recent defeat of the McDonald's Restaurant proposal was the potential desecration of Cherry Tree Wood with litter. How is it then that the residents of East Finchley cannot defeat the mindless morons who are systematically dismantling the children's playground in their woods.

During the summer the loutish teenage boys and girls of this area have been clambering over the fence during the early evening, drinking alcohol and loitering in the playground. While there, they have set fires and broken, kicked and hacked at their siblings' rides and swings. They have even left broken glass as traps to maim if possible.

When is something going to be done about this? Has anyone reported this to the police apart from myself? Is Barnet Council bothered? Are there any plans to repair this vandalism? Is there any chance that our off licences will stop selling alco-

hol to these under-age kill-joys? Perhaps *The Archer* can investigate these questions?

Gerard Donnachie
Hertford Road N2

Editor's Note: See the article on page 1 for Barnet Council's response to this problem.

Slow coach

Dearsir,
Re your recent article. A friend and I went with SeeMore Travel under the Tunnel and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. On the coach were a number of people I know who also enjoyed the trip.

The delay coming back was due to two young people taken off the coach by immigration officials.

We were delayed going and returning and SeeMore Travel made it plain that they did not know what was going to happen, as it was out of their hands when we arrived at Folkestone. I think for £10 we had good value for our money, and if it was offered again, we would go.

I do enjoy your paper.
Yours sincerely,
Violet G. Crouchley
Homefield Gardens N2

To Boldly Go

To boldly split an infinitive is one thing but to thrice split one is verging on foolhardiness.

Still, congratulations to *The Archer* for having the guts! The paper never does things halfheartedly and will have grammarians bickering for ages.

The breach I am referring to took place in last month's edition in the 'Tourist Attractions of East Finchley' article. In this David Hobbs states the North Circular enables tourists "to easily, quickly and comfortably reach" the area.

Peter Pedant
Summerlee Avenue

Editor's Note: First it was our spelling and now it's our grammar! But as far as I can remember, there is nothing actually wrong with splitting infinitives, just a question of taste.

If you have any views of the English language as she is now spoke in East Finchley, please send them in.

Air sickness

Dear Sir,
However sympathetically last month's letter by an ex-pilot talked about the joys of seeing aeroplanes flying over East Finchley, these same aeroplanes are a burden to some other inhabitants of the area. So it was quite astonishing to read that the author would wish the Concorde flew over our area as well.

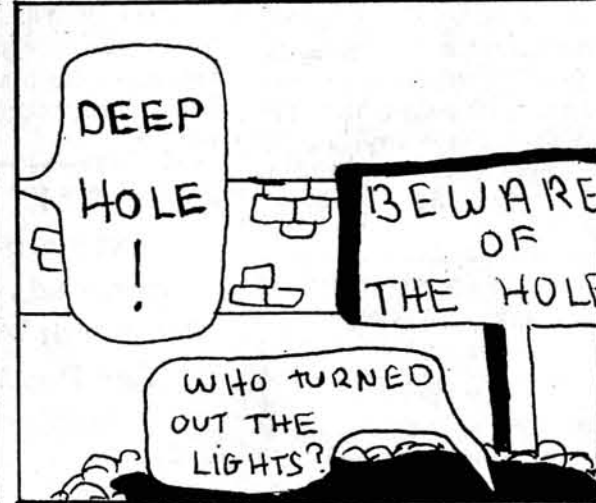
On weekends, my husband and I are already often woken up around 6:00am by a succession of heavy-sounding, low-flying aeroplanes; and generally, the flight path over our area causes a lot of heavy, unpleasant noise. The thundering sound of the Concorde, which deprives many people elsewhere of ordinary nights of sleep and which disrupts daytime conversations, would aggravate this situation. In communities around Richmond, for instance, inhabitants robbed of their sleep even had to start a campaign to try and make Heathrow comply with its own rule that the Concorde does not fly before 6:00am and after midnight.

At a time when airports often plan runway extensions and expect to double their quantity of flights in the coming years, the airline industry has to deal with an increasing number of communities which object to the noise, frequency and nightly hours of low-flying aeroplanes. In view of these PR problems for the industry, a letter which celebrates the flight path over our area and regrets the absence of Concorde sightings may be taken as an invitation to divert even more aeroplanes here.

It may not be possible to set back the clock and diminish the amount of flights in general; but now that flights are expected to almost double, it would be nice if airport planners and airport builders would think of locations and flight paths in less densely populated areas.

Sincerely,
I.V. Eeghen
Western Road

FERGUSON'S LOT....



By Dean.



SHORT STORY

Rumours of a panther roaming East Finchley inspired cat lover David Hobbs...

Panther of Suburbia

From here I can see forever, or at least the forever that is London. It sprawls before me, visible through the haze and frames by the arch of an old railway bridge as if an image plucked from the pages of a Sunday supplement.

Yet here the city is both distant and all-enveloping. Its sounds of traffic and commotion are submerged beneath the chitter-chatter of birds, the whine of the power drill and the distant, but soaring voice of a soprano practising scales. This is the suburbs and here, between the garden fence and the railway line, is the real urban jungle, for this is the land of the panther, the land of the large black cat.

The land is not much to look at. It is nothing more than a wasteland of dead fridges and broken-down beds, but it is where the panther has made his home.

Here he stalks mice, snatches fledglings from flight, but mostly makes his stand when those who would dispute his claim to be king choose to challenge him. The laws of the jungle make for a tough life and the panther knows that all power resides in the paws of the winner.

Cat walk

For the losers the panther has nothing but contempt as they scuttle away at his approach. Yet even losers have victories and, to a defeated, one-time champion, an extra breakfast or the warmth of a fire is a triumph to be savoured. Not, of course, that the jungle is their home, they know that the panther rules the jungle and they must beware when they venture into his domain.

They are not the only ones who fear the panther. On high branches sit the worried and the frightened in the knowledge that

the ground is a dangerous place. Pigeons sleep uneasily lest the 'black ghost' descends on them at night and pray for salvation to their gods as they await the dawn.

The panther does not care. He knows his power, his position and his strength. He also knows the risks he runs and has such scars from close shaves as to almost deny him his double life as a drawing-room favourite. He doesn't mind, he is the master of all that he surveys in the jungle. He does not need any helping hands, for he is king in his world. This is only right and proper. Here in the no-man's land between the garden fence and the railway line the panther is special and because he is special he is king. Yet this is not his doing, merely a non-doing that has left him unique, a complete cat and father to many. Here he is king, until dinner time.

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.



Hot weather and litter go hand-in-hand. We stroll the streets in shorts and T-shirts, sipping from our can of drink as we soak up the sun. And then what? Well, we in East Finchley are lucky. As well as litter bins along the High Road, there are litter bins at the tube station. However, elsewhere on the tube network, particularly in Central London, there's not a litter bin to be seen.

Try as I might, it's not always easy to put an empty drink can into a bag with a newspaper in it - there's always a bit at the end that can't be sucked up by a straw or won't be shaken out of the tin and yet it's enough to make a huge mess at the bottom of the bag!

Times have changed. Thankfully, no-one worries about bombs at tube stations anymore, so why haven't the litter bins been returned? Anyone who remembers the fire at King's Cross tube station will recall that cigarette stubs and other litter blown underneath the escalators fed the flames and turned a minor incident into a tragedy.

Although smoking was banned, the continued absence of litter bins at tube stations has - to my mind - meant that the threat of another major fire at a tube station remains. I am now writing to London Underground to ask them when will they put their litter bins back onto the platforms. If you feel the same, then I am sure they will be pleased to hear from you.

Katerina Pasternak.

NATURE NOTES

Duck's tale by R.E. Mack

A group of people were watching a duck on the lake at Kenwood, paddling furiously to escape a large Labrador. As they could not understand why the duck did not simply fly away, I was able to show off by pointing to a group of small ducklings (able to swim, but too young to fly) in the opposite direction. The duck was cleverly drawing the dog away from them.

The tenacity (and bravery) with which creatures defend their young is well-known. Birds which nest on the ground use the 'trailing wing' technique, feigning injury, to draw intruders away from the nest. Lapwings swoop menacingly, whilst some sea-birds can inflict nasty wounds; and never get between a cow and its calf, or approach a sitting swan.

Most people will have observed parent birds flying to and from the nest all day, taking food to the young. Even when the chicks are out of the nest and on the lawn, the parents will still care for them ceaselessly.

Puffin blow

Yet this slavish devotion to the young ends abruptly, even brutally. PUFFINS, which raise their young in underground burrows, simply fly off to sea one day; the youngsters are driven by hunger to emerge into a hostile and strange world.

GUILLEMOTS, which nest on ledges on the cliff face, leave their single chick before it can fly (although it can swim). The chicks have to hurl themselves in the direction of the sea, some of them perishing on the rocks. Sheep will drive away a juvenile seeking nurture with a well-aimed kick.

Some birds and animals do stay together in family or larger groups for considerable periods (usually bigger creatures who take longer to mature), but it is normal to drive away and totally ignore the young once they can fend for themselves. Morality does not enter into the matter. Creatures have an overpowering urge to preserve their genes by procreating, and go to great lengths to achieve this end. Once achieved, the matter is ended.

No worries about noisy and unco-operative teenagers!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

The Archer is re-launching this section as part of the expansion of its services to the East Finchley community.

Now, however, advertising in this section is absolutely free to any private resident of N2. Sorry, businesses, you will have to pay but only at the rate of 50p per line - unless you place a job advertisement which is always free.

So come on residents, use your community newspaper, the only one of its kind in north London.

Send in your advertisements to sell those unwanted items of furniture, to find a pet, or whatever.

Please try to make them amusing!

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THEATRE



Languid pose: Melanie Clifford-Walsh of Indent Theatre Co.

Loitering with Indent

by Katerina Pasternak

East Finchley was represented at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival when local theatre company, INDENT, performed *Dakota* - a new play about John Lennon's life just before he died.

The play's black humour focused on the humdrum existence of its two leading characters, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, who are bored with life and too lethargic to change things for the better. Nick Asbury played a very convincing John Lennon and Julie Adcock was an exceedingly flirtatious Yoko Ono.

INDENT Theatre Company presented three other shows at the Festival; *Virtual Locality*, *Crash Blind* and *No Hay to Save in Brooklyn*.

The Company is based at Finchley Youth Theatre (FYT) on the High Road and was formed in 1994 by three graduates of Dartington College of Arts. Its aim is to bring new works to the public and the company's first production, *All Day Breakfast*, was premiered at FYT in April of this year before going on to venues in Cheltenham, Banbury, Totnes,

Tamworth and Mainz in Germany.

Take two

If you missed the April performances of *All Day Breakfast*, then you have another chance to see the play when it is performed at Ealing Arts Centre on the 11th and 12th October. Two more productions are in the pipeline: *Intermission* will be at FYT on November

23rd, 24th, 25th and 30th; December 1st and 2nd before going on tour, and *Skirmishes* will be at The Etcetera Theatre in Camden Town in March of next year.

It takes a while for a theatre company to establish itself and INDENT is no exception to the rule. It needs support - so, if you like their shows, tell your family and friends.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jackson's Lane Community Centre

Jackson's Lane Community Centre (opp. Highgate tube station) is holding an Introductory Acting Day on Saturday 11th November. This one-day workshop is for adults only, with theatre games and improvised exercises designed to stimulate creativity.

The *Talking Heads Club* at Jackson's Lane is looking for new members. The group meets once a month from 3rd October to review a selection of the previous month's programmes on Channel 4. If you fancy joining in the debates call 0181-340 5226.

If you have some performance experience of stand-up comedy and wish to hone your technique to get onto the circuit, Jackson's Lane Community Centre has just the course for you. The course starts on 31st October. For more information call 0181-340 5226.

What's On in East Finchley

20th September *Family history.* History of St. Giles and Bloomsbury. London & N. Middlesex Family History Society, Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet; 7:30 to 10:00pm.

23rd September *Dance with Gail and the Highlanders.* St. Mary's Church Social Club, High Road, 8:30pm - £2.50.

7th October *Dance with The Benn Brothers.* St. Mary's Church Social Club, High Road, 8:30pm - £2.50.

8th October *Concert by the Inderwick Piano Trio.* East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road; 8:00pm - Free (collection)

14th October *The Confections* concert party. St. Mary's Church, High Road, 7:00pm - £5 (inc. buffet) - advance tickets from Ruby Sasin on 445 7907.

21st October *Concert.* Judith Russell and David Trafford perform piano/vocal pieces by Beethoven, Brahms, Fauré, Copeland etc. in aid of UNA, UNICEF and Christian Aid. Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, 7:30pm - £5 (£3 concs.)

Regular activities in East Finchley

Badminton (moderate standard). Shree Aden Centre (next to Holy Trinity), Church Lane - Fridays 8 to 11pm (0181-444 7163)
Bingo. St. Mary's RC Church Social Club, High Road - Sundays 8:00pm.

Bridge. Northside Bridge Club. East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road - Thursdays 7:30-11:00pm (Partnerships only - 0181 445 7788).

Tetherdown Bridge Club. Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10 - Fridays 2:00-5:00pm (0181-883 1327)

Councillors' Surgery. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Saturdays - 10:00-11:30am

Drama Classes. (under 25's). Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road - (0181-883 9957)

Employment Counselling. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Tuesdays 2:00-4:00pm

General Advice. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Monday to Friday - 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm

Immigration Advice. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane (by appointment only) (0181-444 6265)

Karate (6-15yrs.) Old Barn Community Centre, Fallows Close, off Tarling Road - Saturdays 2:00-3:00pm (0181-445 1863)

Legal Advice. Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane - Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm.

Musical Memories. Memory Lane Singing Club (over-50's), Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, N3 - Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:30pm (0181-458 5659)

Over-60's Club. Finchley Community Gospel Church, Hertford Road - Fridays 2:30-4:00pm.

Parent and Toddlers Club. Finchley Community Gospel Church, Hertford Road - Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:00pm (in term time) 80p

Photography. Hampstead Photographic Society St John's Church, Church Row, Hampstead. Tuesdays 8pm. (0181-444 9830)

Vegetarian Lunches. (Gujarati). Shree Aden Centre (next to Holy Trinity), Church Lane - Wednesdays and Thursdays (0181-444 2054)

Youth Clubs. Herbert Wilmot Centre, Market Place (0181 444-8422). Old Barn Community Centre, Fallows Close (off Tarling Road) (0181-349 4613)

To have your **non-commercial** event listed here (space permitting) send details to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA by the middle of the month for publication in the following month's edition.

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