

THE ARCHER

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Hot car inferno

By Daphne Chamberlain

In the past five months no less than 15 burned-out cars have been dumped in East Finchley's Islington Cemetery.

The cars, stolen from all over North London, are raced around Coppett's Wood playing field before being crashed through the boundary fence into the cemetery. Some of them may have been driven at high speed round the cemetery itself. They are then set alight.

cial situation at the moment - have just spent £20,000 on renewing their boundary railings.

Some of the continuous railing damage is done by people looking for a short cut (including some dog-walkers). It's worth remembering that repairs come out of public funds.



Burning rubber - photo by Daphne Chamberlain

"They are even burning them in the daytime now," the cemetery manager told me. "They don't remove the parts, necessarily. It seems to be more a question of racing them and then burning them."

The cars are thought to have smashed several memorial stones near the dumping area.

Cemetery security

The police are being consulted about security measures - including CCTV cameras and crash barriers which can be pulled across the paths when the cemetery is closed.

"It all takes money," said the manager, "and this is a huge area. I've spent hours round the dumpsite, and the police have promised to patrol. At the moment, there aren't many witnesses."

Any trespassers on Islington and the adjoining St. Pancras (Camden) Cemeteries can be prosecuted. Camden Council - who are in a rather better finan-

Note: - If you are worried about weeds growing across a grave, tell the cemetery managers and they will be removed free of charge.

Fire Call

The fire brigade was called to the a fire on the allotments adjoining Martin Schools on 29 February, where a fire had apparently spread from a burning car to a shed.

The flames were brought under control by the single remaining fire unit from Finchley, which had to rely on support from a unit from Colne.

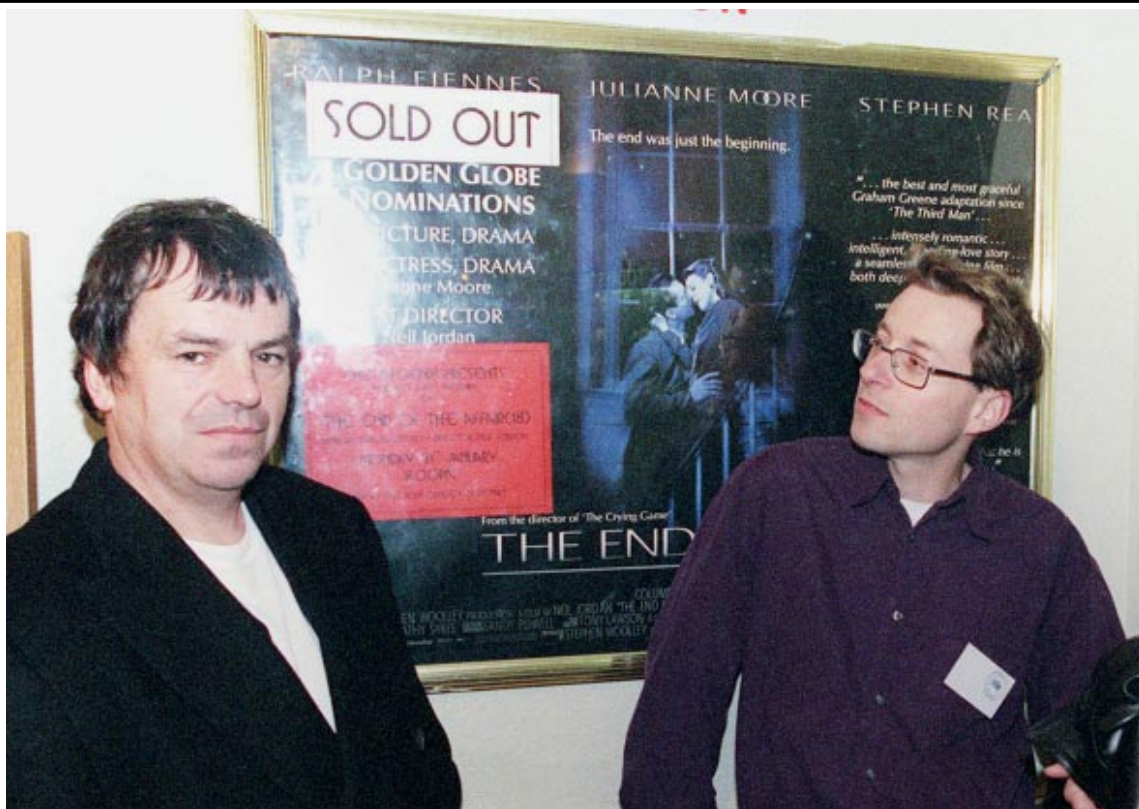
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Neil Jordan at The Phoenix. Photo courtesy of Times and Observer Newspapers.

An East Finchley Affair

By Diana Cormack

I'd never been to a film premier before, but I didn't have problems about how to get there or what to wear because this one took place just round the corner in the High Road.

The Phoenix cinema was the setting for the first public screening of *The End of the Affair*, a film adapted from the novel written by Graham Greene. Before it began the audience enjoyed tasty home-made cakes prepared by Rachel Kolsky and Sandra Lloyd, mother of duty manager Marcus Lloyd, wine donated by Waitrose in Ballards Lane and tea from an urn lent by Martin School. You don't get that in the West End!

Dressing down

We waited with bated breath while the raffle was drawn, then had to wait even longer before the appearance of the writer/director Neil Jordan and his producer Stephen Woolley. They introduced their film along with one of its stars, Steven Rea, who obviously knew that there was no need to dress up for the occasion. But

he did look decent as the sad civil servant whose wife (played by Julianne Moore) has a wartime affair with their writer friend (based on Greene himself and played by Ralph Fiennes).

Brief encounter

The Phoenix has a part in the film too, allowing the lovers to have a brief encounter in a cinema showing a newsreel of VE Day celebrations. This was done because Jordan was not able to shoot a scene showing these on Waterloo Bridge. So you sit in a cinema watching people in a film sitting in the same cinema

you're sitting in watching a film - spooky or what?

Sell out

He chose the Phoenix for the first public showing and it was also a good opportunity to raise money. The sell-out audience paid £20 a ticket and raised well over £5,000 towards refurbishment, with a new sound system being of primary importance. Other plans include modernising the toilets and improving access for the disabled. The basic interior décor will not, I am glad to say, be altered.

See review on back page.

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