



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

❖ **Badminton** on Wednesdays. Call 020 8349 0170

❖ **Body Control Pilates** classes. Call Deanna Wisbey 020 8883 7029

❖ **Counselling and psychotherapy service** at the Green Man Centre. For details phone 8346 0194

❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), has monthly meetings & rides. Call 020 8440 9080.

❖ **Ramblers Association** (Finchley & Hornsey) Vivien Malindine 020 8883 8190

❖ **Tae kwon Do** Green Man Every Thursday 7-9pm 07949 612 706

❖ **Tai Chi** the Green Man Monday 1.30-3pm (new class 16 Sept)

❖ **Tennis Club** off Southern Road. Call 020 8440 6953

❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217

Dance, Drama, Art & Music

❖ **Adult Line Dancing.** Call Footloose 020 8440 8530/ 8216 5633.

❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.

❖ **Barnet Schools Music Centre** call 020 8359 3111 for details.

❖ **Broadway & West end Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.

❖ **Chipping Barnet Folk Dance Club,** Vivien Malindine, 020 8883 8190

❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call Vicky 020 8883 1554

❖ **Country & Barn Dancing,** at Oakleigh Park, 020 8349 0754

❖ **Columbian party dancing** classes, Call Nelsy 020 8444 2012

❖ **Incognito Theatre workshops,** Colney Hatch Lane, 020 8883 0911

❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736

❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315

❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church 020 8455 2403

❖ **Private singing lessons,** all levels Contact Anouschka 0208 444 82 05

❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London,** Contact Stephen Kelsey, 020 8883 3365

Clubs & Social

❖ **All Saints Beer and Wine Circle** Call Richard Baldwin 020 8883 7081

❖ **Bingo,** Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916

❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm

❖ **East Finchley National Child-birth Trust,** Contact Ann Sullivan, 020 8442 1941

❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at the Old White Lion. Contact Lillian on 020 8444 1793.

❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people, Rene & Reuby Hyams, 020 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee 8958 7878

❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society,** Contact Brian Merryweather 020 8444 3251

❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613

❖ **Hampstead Social Group,** membership late 30's-late 40's Call David Morris, 020 8348 3495

❖ **North London Bridge Club,** Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495

❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.

❖ **Muswell Hill Association** call Gerry Saunders 020 8883 7274

❖ **Muswell Hill Synagogue,** Tetherdown, 020 8883 5925

❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge,** 020 8883 4390

❖ **Old Barn pre-school club,** 020 8349 4613/1961

❖ **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Community Centre, Julia 8444 2276

❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professional and business people, Details Eric Dalton 8340 0822

❖ **Single Solution** over 30s night. call 020 8802 2326/ 8363 2328

❖ **Finchley Credit Union,** the Green Man Wednesday 3-5pm.

All Change at Adamson Court?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Occupants of Adamson Court, Hertford Road, have been told that it is no longer suitable as sheltered accommodation for the elderly. They are to be moved to alternative housing, but Barnet Council appears reluctant to make public their plans for the building.

Jill Howe of Durham Road has an 85 year-old aunt living in Adamson Court. She told *THE ARCHER* that they were informed by letter in July 2001 that Barnet had decided to update sheltered housing over the next ten years, which could entail her aunt and the other residents being moved to different accommodation.

Mrs Howe says, "We didn't think it would happen for years, and we heard nothing else until July of this year, when residents and their relatives were told that the 'decanting' process would begin in September."

Relatives say they had one week's notice for their appointment with the 'decanting' officer, who discusses needs and options for each resident.

What's the rush?

Jill and Peter Howe want to know why, "after such a long silence, when nothing happened, is everything being rushed through now?". They have referred the matter to Victor Lyon, Leader of the Council.

Residents of Hertford Road have also complained to Coun-

cillor Lyon and to Councillor Alison Moore. Ken and Sylvia Littlefield say they were told by a worker in the Housing Department that details were being finalised for use of Adamson Court probably as a hostel for the single homeless, but they could ascertain no further facts. They say that when they asked why such a prime site was not being kept for the elderly, they were told that there was insufficient demand for that category of accommodation. However, another source within the Council reportedly told them there were hundreds of the elderly requiring sheltered housing.

They continued, "We believe that Barnet Council have dealt with this matter in a very secretive and underhand way, completely ignoring local residents and any opinion they may have".

Other residents of Hertford and Bedford Roads are organising protests about what may be a controversial use of the building without prior local consultation.

Binnie Barnes

'One of the best supporting actresses of the Golden Age' - can East Finchley claim her?

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Binnie Barnes", said one admirer, "was more fun to be with than most of the leading ladies to whom she lost the man".

She played poker with Clark Gable and Zeppo Marx, was literally kicked on stage by Noel Coward, and ended up, aged 95, in a Beverly Hills mansion after starting from - where?

Local legend says Prospect Place, Holy Trinity school and a nursemaid's job in Muswell Hill. Binnie said Holloway and a milkmaid's job on a Kentish farm.

Her birth certificate confirms Holloway - Gertrude Maud (Gitelle came later), born to Rose and police constable William in 1903 at City Arms Buildings, North Road. Holy Trinity can be ruled out (I've checked their records), though as for Prospect Place - but we'll return to that.

After a spell of working in the Royal Northern Hospital, bed making lost its allure and she started flourishing a lariat in cabaret as 'Texas Binnie Barnes'. After that it was *Cavalcade* at Drury Lane, where she was so overcome by stage fright that Coward booted her on.

Film Fun

Moving to films, she often worked on two a day at Elstree. "I got sprayed with a bucket of water in *An Old Spanish Custom*

in the morning, and then had to run across the street to be glamorous as Catherine Howard in *The Private Lives of Henry VIII* in the afternoon." In between she squeezed in a brief marriage to art dealer Samuel Joseph.

Binnie's first US visit lasted one day. She came home because the Waldorf Towers shook, but - in 1934 - when 20th Century-Fox threatened to sue, she returned for good, marrying producer Mike Frankovitch in 1940.

The Thirties and Forties saw her trading quips with most of the vintage stars. Described as "stylish, sophisticated and sexy, adept at comic dialogue, but not afraid to do a pratfall to get a laugh", Binnie admitted that she never wanted the responsibility of playing the lead. "I never considered myself a big wheel. I just liked working. It was great fun."

The late Cyril Wilds remembers riding in her Cadillac in Times Square. Cyril said she was an East Finchley child, but I wonder whether she lived here in her twenties. The street directories of that time do show an Arthur Barnes in Prospect Place. Was that the connection?



Donald Camie and Brian Timms reunited.

Australia School Reunion

By Brian Timms (ex Huntingdon Road)

It didn't look much, but the meeting of two grey-haired old blokes in The Anglers' Arms was momentous.

Faces pressed close, they kept repeating incessantly, "Finchley.....Martin.....Alder". Odd for a pub in Melbourne, Australia! But not for Donald Camie and Brian Timms, meeting recently for the first time in nearly 50 years, via a website uniting old mates.

Since that happy drink, six ex-pupils of the Martin School, Long Lane's now demolished Alder, and of Manorside have surfaced Down Under.

Does anyone remember Shirley Crane, Don's sister Carol Camie, Janet Phillips and Derek Woolley?

The old school

The gang of six plan a reunion party in Melbourne in October next year, and seek help finding any other pals from the late 1940s and early 50s who might also live in Oz. Their phone lines run hot with tales of Finchley during and after the War, bemusing their kids and grandkids.

What, for instance, happened to the Spitfire aircraft parked for years on the grass near the entrance to Cherry Tree Woods, and how was it put there?

Then there's the story of Peter Sellers' mum, handing out signed photos of her son in 1950 from her first floor flat opposite the Martin. After school there

was a suicidal rush across the High Road to the flat until the expiry of the photos. Piled on the hall table and handed out with a smile and "There you are, love".

Total Recall

Shirley, relocated from Brackenbury Road to a quaint outback village, is the gang's memory star. Her ability to recall everyone and everything leaves the rest of us wondering how she failed the 11+ and landed in the Alder.

Janet has retired by Queensland's golden beaches; Donald in Melbourne is in the diesel pump trade he learned at Simms.

Carol has a fabrics business in Perth, Brian grows flowers in Moruya, Derek is a retired engineering professor in Ballarat.

But the gang of six still hunger for *The Archer*, its names and news. It proves the old adage - you can take kids out of Finchley, but you can't take Finchley out of the kids.

Anyone wishing to join the party, or who knows other ex-pupils living in Oz, please e-mail Shirley Crane at wanderers@wn.com.au, or Brian Timms at Briantimms@hotmail.com, or mail Shirley at P.O. Box 183, Balngup, Western Australia 6253.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to the-archer@lineone.net

The Church Farmhouse Museum has an exhibition of embroidery and troika pottery from Sunday 3 November, admission is free.

The Crouch End Festival Chorus is performing at the Barbican hall on Sunday 10 November at 7.30. It is a programme entitled big choir, big band. Box office 020 7638 8891.

Finchley & District Philatelic Society November events are as follows:

6 November: The Society is holding an Auction. All are welcome to bid for or sell stamp items.

20 November: William Kaczynski is giving a talk and display on World War II Refugee mail.

New Members and visitors will be welcomed. For further information phone Brian Merryweather 020 8444 3251 and visit our website at www.stampdomain.com/finchley

North London Chorus sings Handel's Messiah at St James Church, Muswell Hill. Saturday 7 December 7.30 p.m. Tickets: £16, £12, £8 (£6 concessions) Les Aldrich or by telephone 020 8349 3022. New members welcome

Music in Muswell presents the Hilser Trio performing works by Ravel, Jolivet and Debussy. At united reformed church Muswell Hill, on Saturday 23 November call 020 8883 7875.

Jazz Evenings at the Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, near Avenue House in East End Road, N3. All-star band every other Monday from 8-11pm. Only £5 entry fee, very reasonably-priced bar. 4 and 18 November ; 2, 16 and 30 December.