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THE ARCHER



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where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



The injured woman was taken to hospital in the air ambulance. Photo by John Dearing

Woman Found Injured near Tube Line

By John Dearing

Around 13:45 on Sunday 20 July, an elderly woman was found between the tracks of the Northern Line, more or less directly underneath the East End Road bridge, north

of East Finchley station.

The air ambulance operating from the Royal London Hospital was called and landed in the station car park around 14:00. British Transport Police

and paramedics were also in attendance. Northern Line train services were stopped in both directions, and the woman, who was still alive but badly injured, was treated *in situ*, before being taken to hospital in the air ambulance. It was not known exactly how she came to be next to the track, but it seems unlikely that she fell from the parapet of the bridge. It is more probable that she entered the restricted area at the side and in attempting to cross the track was in collision with a train.

One local resident said that he had heard the helicopter landing and on looking out saw people around the track, while trains were still running.

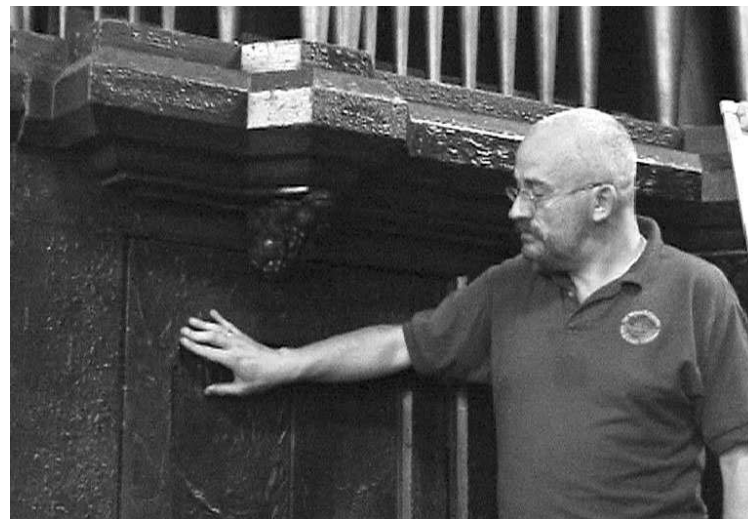
Arson Attack on Church

The fire brigade was called out in the early hours of Tuesday 15 July to a fire in the East Finchley Methodist Church on the High Road.

The fire was discovered by the cleaner at about 6:30am. She then promptly alerted the police and the fire brigade.

Entry was gained into the church by breaking a side window on the Park Road side of the building. The altar had been overturned and there was extensive damage to the consecrated area where the fire was started. The wooden

pelmet and curtains behind the altar were completely destroyed. The organ, which is a smaller version of the one originally in Alexandra Palace, sustained damage to the leather lining of the organ and the bellows. The heat caused the couplers to crack and the organ pipes are full of dust, making this beautiful instrument unusable.



Building Steward, Robert Alderman examines paint, which has bubbled up in the heat under the pipes of the organ. Photo by Erini Rodis

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The damage caused by heat and smoke means that the building is out of use until at least the end of August. As well as being a church, it was used by several groups. The one most severely affected being the mothers and toddlers group.

On Saturday, a small group of church members rallied round to help clear up the charred remains and the minister Mrs Brenda Dunstone said that although the church could not be used, services could be held in the Fellowship room.

The forensic team has been able to obtain some clues, but anyone who might be able to help with the investigation is asked to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

• Visit your community newspaper on-line at www.the-archer.co.uk •



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Your contributions

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

14 August is the copy deadline for the September issue.

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Mr Bhuiya's Honda left abandoned in the High Road last July

£7,500 Reward to Solve Murder Mystery

After more than a year investigating the murder of a minicab driver, police are still looking for help from the public. The incident took place in the High Road near the entrance to St Pancras Cemetery during the early hours of Saturday 13 July 2002.

Sixty-year-old Mohiuddin Bhuiya was found lying on the ground and his Honda Accord, registration number H658 YGW, was left in the middle of the road. The father of four died in the Royal Free Hospital the following day from a brain haemorrhage caused by a fractured skull.

He had been returning to his minicab office in Archway after dropping off a customer. As he had not been robbed, police believe he may have got into an argument with another driver. They are anxious to trace any witnesses or anyone who was in the High Road at the time of the assault. A reward of £7,500 is being offered for information



Victim Mohiuddin Bhuiya

leading to a conviction.

If you can help or if you know who is responsible, ring the incident room on 8358 0200 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Tesco Turned Down

The Government Planning Inspectorate has dismissed an appeal made by the Tesco/Esso Alliance against the Council of the London Borough of Barnet. This was in relation to their proposal for the redevelopment of the Esso filling station situated between Leopold Road and Church Lane, opposite Martin Schools' field.

The proposal involved the replacement of the grassed area and the car wash facility with a new Tesco Express sales building; the siting of new fuel tanks roughly where the present forecourt shop is; the replacement of the existing forecourt canopy and pump with new items broadly located where the existing units are; a slight change of the inward access position; and the provision of eleven car parking spaces along the rear boundary of the site.

The Tesco/Esso proposals did not fit in with present Government policy that new retail investment should be used to sustain and strengthen existing centres, nor had they demonstrated the need for such a redevelopment. Let's hope that local traders who had opposed the plans no longer face the imminent threat of losing their livelihood to big business.

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Contact East Finchley's Community Police Officer, PC Paul Carter, at The Community Office, Golders Green Station, Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail: paul.carter@met.police.uk

Community Services

- ❖ Credit Union, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Local Planning Applications

Former Scouts Hall, 27 New Trinity Road – erection of a part two-, part three-, part four-storey building comprising 3 three-bedroom houses, 2 two-bedroom flats and 3 one-bedroom flats with basement car-parking. Provision of refuse storage enclosure.

258 East End Road – conversion of existing building into eight residential units including extension to existing side addition.

1-5 Lincoln Parade, Lincoln Road – erection of 4 three-bedroom, three storey town houses with integral garages following demolition of existing shopping parade and light industrial unit.

Land adjacent to 373 High Road – formation of new vehicular access from High Road.

Viceroy Close – erection of a four-storey block of ten self-contained flats with associated changes to parking.

162 High Road – change of use of ground floor to sale of air tickets and overseas properties.

202 Creighton Avenue – conversion of existing house into three self-contained 2-bedroom flats. Provision of additional off-street parking.

Bishop Douglass RC High School, Hamilton Road – erection of new sports hall incorporating ancillary facilities together with associated changes to hard and soft landscaping. Provision of access track at side for service and maintenance vehicles.



Noel Lynch and Miranda Dunn inspect the land. Photos by Erini Rodis

Not Such a Fair View

By Erini Rodis

A wall has finally been built to stop local children from wandering onto what was effectively a dumpsite in Long Lane, just north of the North Circular Road.

The 8ft high surrounding wall was completed in early July in response to complaints by nearby residents about the noxious fuel smells and potential dangers that inevitably lurk on a disused van depot.

The land was owned and run as private family business, until it was sold to Fairview Homes for over half a million pounds in 1998.

Green machine

Local Green Party Chair Gardi Vaswani, Miranda Dunn and GLA officer Noel Lynch made a recent inspection of the site. Among the rusty vehicles, piles of old tyres and other abandoned detritus were an aboveground diesel tank and an underground fuel tank, which needed the inspection of Jean Fincken, petroleum inspector for the fire brigade.



As petrol is much more flammable than diesel, legislation is tighter around it, so her concerns are as to whether a petrol tank is deemed unsafe. Over the years however, paperwork has disappeared, and so tests are underway to identify the contents. Ms Fincken is nevertheless confident that, "Fairview Homes are aware of the tanks, and they will notify us on the development of the site. They also know that they must excavate very carefully indeed."

Picking it Clean

What do a pair of car number plates, a petty cash box, a kitchen hob and half a bottle of whiskey have in common? Along with the usual sweet wrappers, cans and a few more sordid items, they were all things which were discovered during this year's litter pick at Cherry Tree Wood held on Sunday 29 June.

The litter pick is an annual event organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Fortunately, this year the sun shone, encouraging a group of volunteers to assemble at the appointed hour, eager to try out the litter grabbers and gloves which Chris, the park keeper had provided. Plastic aprons advertising the event were also available which several litter pickers sportingly wore.

Gathering momentum

From there, the event gathered momentum with children enthusiastically joining in and passers by breaking off to help out. Some stayed close, roaming the grass field, missing nothing. Others ventured to the far corners of the wood and wrestled to free long discarded rubbish from the undergrowth. What they shared was a real enthusiasm to help clean up the wood. "Why not make it a more frequent event?" asked one volunteer. Another said, "I often despair at the litter in the wood and feel I should do something about it. I just needed an event like this to spur me into action". With more than two-dozen participants at this year's event, it was clear that this is a view



Doug Campbell of Park Hall Road with Chloe Campbell aged five, Robbie Campbell aged three and five-year-old Jasper Crockford. Photo by Diana Cormack

shared by many.

By the time the last volunteers wandered back at around 1.30pm, an impressive pile of black rubbish sacks had built up; and the wood looked clean, really

clean. Not satisfied with that, an energetic group of Friends then turned their attention to the picnic area, mulching the shrubs which had been planted the previous year.

Summer at the Library

Activities for Children:

The Reading Maze – this year's summer reading challenge.

Fortnightly Saturday craft activities.

• **Tuesday 5 August 2pm:** Family Reading group for 4–7s

• **Thursday 14 August 10.30am:** Family Reading Group for 8–11s

• **Thursday 28 August 9.30am–12noon:** Drop in. Get some work published on the web.

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Three-year-olds Antonia & Keisha beside tyre ruts in grass. Photo by Diana Cormack

The State of the Estate

By Diana Cormack

"We don't expect miracles, but we would like something spent on this estate," said a resident of Prospect Ring, where two ten-storey buildings provide an impressive view of the surrounding area. Less impressive are the windows through which this scene can be viewed. Except for those on balconies, they are extremely difficult to clean and their old, metal frames with flaking paintwork cause draught problems.

Apparently the promise of replacement double-glazing has long been in the air. Some inhabitants believe this is why any exterior improvements seem to be in limbo. When I saw them, each block had its own particular outstanding eyesore. One had a wide streak of green slime down the side, stemming from an overflow pipe which has been causing problems for months; the other an extensive splattering of white paint across descending windows and walls.

Unacceptable hazards

Another eyesore, but also a potential danger, were deep holes gouged out by the wheels of large vehicles at the edge of the roundabout the flats overlook. They can fill with up to eighteen inches of rainwater, causing a hazard for smaller vehicles, unwary cyclists and pedestrians but particularly young children. On part of this land is the concrete base of an old laundry where people now park, for although the

residents are lucky enough to have some garages provided, Prospect Ring was built in the late 1950s when no one envisaged the rise in the number of car owners.

Another example of previous planning is what might have been a miniature maze and sculpture for a children's play area, which, by today's safety standards, seems unacceptable. Situated between the high-rise blocks, it is perfectly positioned for a playground designed specifically for the under-fives. Although there is a children's playground on neighbouring Park Road, busy mums would be happier if toddlers could play safely closer to home. Some mothers pointed out nearby cracked and unstable walls which they are worried will cause accidents.

Unfortunately as they have already found to their cost, particularly with on-going lift malfunctions, any leaseholders would be hit hard by refurbishment bills. However,

those residents of the Ring who are feeling forgotten are also wondering just what their prospects are.

At the time of writing *THE ARCHER* was still waiting for comments from Barnet Council's press office.

Playgroup Places

Places are available for September at the Old Barn pre-school playgroup for children from two years of age.

Based at the Old Barn Community Centre on Tarling Road, East Finchley, it is open from 9.30 – 12.30 on Mondays to Fridays during term time. There are plenty of activities for youngsters both indoors and on the large, fenced off playing area outside.

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Local MP addresses Cypriots

By Erini Rodis

"While the missing are still missing...the struggle must go on!" cried local MP Rudi Vis at a rally in Trafalgar Square on Sunday 13 July. Organised by the National Federation of Cypriots of Great Britain, the speakers also included Simon Hughes and Eddie O'Hara, who impressed the thousands-strong gathering by addressing them in Greek, in a call for freedom and the implementation of human rights in the Republic of Cyprus.

Dr Vis is also adamant that, "since elections have produced the finest coalition government over there for many, many years...the UK government really should assist them," in a pledge for a unified peace.

Hopes for unity

This rally has been an annual event for 29 years. However this year's took on a special significance as it coincided with significant recent changes. Greek and Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus have this year been allowed to integrate for the first time since the invasion and subsequent partial occupation

by Turkey in 1974.

Accompanied by their passports, thousands have been queuing up since Easter to cross the UN Green Line without getting shot. Mixed emotions abound amongst refugees who are now able to drive for an hour or so to meet the occupiers of their ancestral homes. They are currently allowed to stay for up to 72 hours, but only if they can show hotel receipts. Cypriots are nevertheless hopeful that this painful process, together with the accession of Cyprus into the EU, might be a first step towards a full reintegration on the island.



MP Rudi Vis lends his political support to a Cypriot cause. Photo by Erini Rodis

Use It, Don't Lose It!

By John Dearing

Did you receive a thin blue magazine through your door last week entitled Barnet's Community Plan? Did you struggle through a couple of pages of Council Newspeak ("bold common vision", "quality learning opportunities", "trailblazing a borough-wide service"!!), only to give up in disgust and throw it the bin? I nearly did, until I noticed that there is a questionnaire enclosed which will "inform next year's budget setting process" – this must be important, I thought.

After taking advice from a qualified translator, it would seem that all areas of government have 'Community Plans'; the national one is where John Prescott announced his intention to concrete over the whole of the southeast of England and build several million new houses on it. Ken Livingstone has one, and so have all the local councils. In principle, everything they are going to do is in their respective community plan. If anything appears to be missing, it is because they are not going to do it!

Speaking their language

Barnet Council has given us an opportunity to comment on this important document. Since it is probably the only time they will do this, it is of paramount importance that as many people as possible respond, especially in East Finchley, which is all

too often overlooked in favour of the more fashionable parts of the borough. Please don't send your responses to *THE ARCHER*, send them to the council! We would however, welcome your letters on this subject.

When you fill in the questionnaire, don't be tempted to write things like "I want my dustbin emptied more frequently", because they will just ignore you – you have to respond in Council Newspeak. My personal concern is the over-development of East Finchley, with new blocks of flats sprouting on every corner. I will have to say something like "The creation of good quality community space relieving personal levels of stress is a key planning priority"!

Whatever you do, don't just throw it away – if you send it in, you might win a prize!

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Holy Trinity Wins Gold

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Eagans Close, has received a prestigious award from Sport England, the country's leading strategic sports development agency. It is one of only 104 schools in the country to have been granted their top grading, the Activemark Gold Award.

Activemark is a national accreditation programme which recognises schools that show a commitment to promoting the benefits of physical activity. To achieve an award, a school must offer a well-balanced physical educational programme, provide an environment that encourages physical activity and teach children the importance of staying active for life. Holy Trinity had to complete a very thorough assessment process. Inspectors looked at the many after-school sports clubs as well as normal games lessons and other sporting activities in which pupils are involved.

Active life

Last month the school team were runners-up in the North Barnet Primary Schools Ath-

letics Competition held at the Cophall Stadium, having won it for the past three years. Head teacher Duncan Mills, who also finds time to organise the event, runs the training for athletics after school. Other members of staff give of their time to run sports activities throughout the year which include successful football, netball and tag rugby teams as well as cricket, rounders and dance clubs.

The award is valid for three academic years, with some schools continuing to be monitored to support the development of the scheme and to ensure that standards are maintained. With their motto of High Standards Together, there is no doubt that Holy Trinity School will continue to try to maintain their position at the top.



Holy Trinity pupils in action Photo by courtesy of Holy Trinity School

Scholarship Success

By Diana Cormack

Whilst most of his Year 6 classmates at Our Lady of Lourdes RC School will be moving on to continue their education at local secondary schools, things will be very different for ten-year-old Bernard Chan. He will be leaving his home in Cleveland House, Oak Lane to board at a prep school near Ascot, which he will attend until the age of thirteen. Then he will take up the scholarship place that he has won to attend the prestigious Eton College.

Gifted and talented

At six years old Bernard

was a member of MENSA and his ability was recognised in school, where he was accelerated into the year ahead. Despite being a year younger than his classmates he gained places at both Latymer and Queen Elizabeth Boys' Schools last autumn.

In February he was short listed, along with six state-school pupils from other areas, for one of four free scholarships. After tests in English, mathematics and IQ he had to give a prepared speech on a chosen subject and be interviewed. Bernard came second overall. His accountant father and nurse mother were also interviewed. They have always encouraged their son in his studies, as well as his twelve-year-old sister Stephanie, who is a pupil at St Michael's Girls School.

Despite his schoolwork Bernard finds time to play both Western and Chinese chess. He

also enjoys football, rugby and has won medals at his swimming club. At the moment he wants to emulate other members of his family in Malaysia and become a doctor.

The Business of Learning

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Education Business Partnership was set up ten years ago with the aim of improving the motivation, qualifications and achievements of young people in the borough, thus helping them to realise their potential. By working with the local business community and giving a vocational input, the objective is to enhance the educational experiences of young people to improve their progression from education to work.

So how does it work? Every year a local programme is produced, based on national and regional priorities. This year's objectives were *preparing young people for the world of work, raising achievement and enhancing employability skills*. Youngsters between the ages of five and nineteen were involved in and around their various places of learning. Some East Finchley parents might not be aware that their children in local primary and secondary schools have been benefiting from the Partnership. For example, pupils at Holy Trinity and Martin Schools have been involved in *Project Junior Reader* using business volunteers to engage pupils' interest in reading. *Water Works* to develop pupils' understanding of the importance of clean drinking water and math-

ematically based activities to extend numerical skills, which even included an educational visit to Tottenham Hotspurs Football Ground.

Sharing skills

Christ's College, N2 has also been involved and it hosted the *Boys Branch Out* careers event where male pupils from eight Barnet secondary schools met representatives from the business community. Men with different and unusual jobs based on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) described their work. The aim of raising pupils' awareness of the diversity of career opportunities available through studying STEM subjects must have been achieved, for amongst the speakers were a male midwife, an executive chef and a crime

scene examiner!

The list of those involved in Barnet Educational Project ranges from local and national businesses to worldwide organisations. As well as giving them the chance to contribute something to the community, it also helps to develop their employees' skills as they coach young people. Feedback has been really good and volunteers, once they have done it, tend to get hooked.

But more are needed. If you would like to get yourself or your business involved or want more information contact Rubina Menghrani, Education Business Partnership, Mansions Centre, Squires Lane, Finchley, N3 2AB, tel. 8349 2793, e-mail rubina.menghrani@barnet.gov.uk.

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PLANTS



Tube boss Paul Godier looks out over the plaque. Photo by Hugh Petrie.

Blue Plaque for Finchley Genius

Harry Beck, who lived at number 60 Court House Gardens, West Finchley for many years, was England's most important contributor to graphic communication. There is little doubt that the tube map which we all know, provided not only an elegant explanation of London's underground railway, but also an icon and model recognised the world over. When the car company Audi chose the top ten designers of the 20th century, Harry Beck was there.

Route master

Tube maps were based on maps of London. But in the 1920s services expanded rapidly. The important stations and interchanges in central London were crammed into a small space in the centre of the maps. What Beck did was radical, and his 'plan', though modified, is still in use today. All the stations are shown at uniform distances from each other, and the only landmark is the river Thames. Interchanges, circles, are clearly distinguished from small nodes representing ordinary stations. This enabled Beck to expand the centre of the map and make everything clear. A simple idea yes; but isn't that the nature of true insight.

Simply elegant

Finchley Society invited

friends and important people to the unveiling, including the Mayor of Barnet, and Dennis Sanger, Group Station Manager for Finchley, and many from the Society. The local press were there, including photographer Peter Beale of the Hendon and Finchley Times. Graphic Design Historian Ken Garland was signing copies of his book, and made a fine speech. One person who required no invitation, and for whom the day was extra special was Delfina T Brooks, the current resident. Ms Brooks made everyone welcome and provided tea and cake in the garden. A modest, but given Beck's shyness, a fitting celebration of one of England's less well known, but no less important, geniuses.

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Changing Places at the Phoenix

By Sophie Leighton



Maureen Lipman tests out potential new seats in the Phoenix foyer. Photo by Erini Rodis

At 11.30 am on Sunday 13 July, a lively queue was bunching up in the sun blazing down on the Phoenix cinema. Refreshments were thoughtfully laid on for the launch of the seat sponsorship campaign by Maureen Lipman and the special screening of Caroline Link's Academy-award-winning film *Nowhere in Africa*.

This is the next phase of renovation, and the three new seat models – from luxurious dark green with brass beading to more modern-looking red – now under consideration are on display in the foyer and are there to be tested out. Although there is no official voting procedure, we are promised that any particularly strong views will be taken into account.

The best seats

The seat replacement is provisionally scheduled for December and the campaign needs to raise about £40,000 for its 250 seats. Sponsoring one brings you benefits like a plaque with your name and costs £250 for an individual or family, payable in instalments (£50 off if you are a Friend). At a higher rate for a range of

business benefits, local businesses are also already taking up the opportunity to take part in the campaign. Sponsorship forms and further details can be downloaded from the website (www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) or picked up from the foyer. Anyone regretting the disappearance of the existing seats too much will find they can buy one to install at home!

Commitment to independent film-making

Maureen Lipman, the cinema's patron, kick-started the campaign in style and Anthony

Tasgal, *Chair of Seating* for the Trust, stressed the Phoenix's continuing strong commitment to independent film-making. He outlined plans already under way for more family activities, such as the Saturday morning film club for 6–11-year-olds and screenings for parents with babies and other recent initiatives including a range of workshops and courses for young people aged 6–19 on practical film-making and animation, fostering new talent for the future as well as making the best on offer available here.

A Safe Place to Talk

For the last three months an Eating Disorders Support Group has been meeting in the elegant surroundings of Avenue House, East End Road.

User led

The group was set up by co-ordinator Fenella Lemonsky, who explained, "I set up the group when, as a recovering bulimic, very ill and in treatment, I discovered there was nowhere for me to go to talk in a safe, confidential, nonjudgemental yet supportive way. I wanted good quality, highly skilled, and confidential support that was user led."

"Through my work at Barnet Voice I was aware that there were no statutory eating disorder services in the borough apart from dietetic support, and those wanting a specialised dedicated service would have to travel out of the borough."

Food for thought

"I was inspired to get Eating Disorders Association accreditation for the group after visiting two EDA groups in the UK and seeing how warm, welcoming, safe and well structured they were."

The North London Eating Disorders Support Group offers support to those whose life is dominated by food, whether through anorexia, bulimia, binge eating or any other type of food dimensioning issue and offers support to men and women aged 18+, and to 16 and 17 year olds if accompanied by a responsible adult. The group, which is accredited to the National Self Help Network of the Eating Disorders Association, meets on the first Sunday of each month 10.20–11.45am at Avenue House. There is no attendance fee,

although voluntary donations are welcomed. Meetings are open, and attendees can come and go at any time.

Self help

The group is jointly led by Ms Lemonsky and two mental health professionals. "We have all been 'vetted' by EDA and follow a strict code of ethics and policies to ensure the group has a good grounding and is safe," explained Ms Lemonsky, "We receive regular additional training and supervision (supervision from a senior psychologist who works in an internationally accredited eating disorder unit) and will be attending the annual Self Help Network Conference in Derby in September where we meet other Group Contacts and receive further training."

Award winning

The group has obtained an award from the Millennium Commission, administered and supervised by the Kings Fund, and has just gained some financial support from Barnet Primary Care NHS Trust. Funding remains an issue, however, especially for ongoing expenditure for such items as good resource materials.

Ms Lemonsky would love to hear from local businesses that may be interested in providing financial assistance in return for full acknowledgement. For further information on the group, phone 07952 549941 or contact Ms Lemonsky through the EDA Self Help Network Team 01603 619090 or by email to FLemonsky@aol.com.

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PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

This year's SATs results in both Key Stages 1 and 2 were outstanding.

Year 6 had wonderful weather for their school journey on the Isle of Wight but inclement weather did not prevent Year 5 having a good time at Moat Mount. Year 4 visited the Tower of London, Year 3 went to the Science Museum, Year 2 had a day in Brighton and reception children learned a lot at the London Aquarium.

The Summer BBQ, which included an Animal Road Show with snakes, frogs, iguanas and spiders, was very successful.

Children on the School Council attended the Ronald McDonald Charity presentation at their head office in the High Road and received a £1000 cheque for playground equipment.

School governor and parent Chris Hampson successfully completed a sponsored bike ride from London to Southend on one of our hottest Sundays, raising £540 for the school and £270 for the British Heart Foundation.

A building appeal with the aim of providing a library and science/ design and technology block plus extra space for teaching special needs has been launched.

(The Head of Governors at Holy Trinity is Sylvia Duthie. We apologise for calling her Sheila in last month's ARCHER!)

Martin Schools

In two architecture workshops, Years 5 and 6 built amazing structures out of cane and elastic bands. This was in conjunction with Barnet Education Business Partnership (see page 5), as was a new Maths Trail at the local fire station, devised by talented maths co-ordinator John Jackson. Year 3 followed this trail and also went to Kew Gardens as part of their science work.

Year 4 took part in Barnet's Road Safety Programme and they held a very successful Victorian Day. Year 5 went to St Albans for their study on Tudor monks and also followed the fire station Maths Trail. Year 6 enjoyed a day of citizenship training, a history trip to Hendon RAF museum and, a final treat, a trip to Whipsnade.

Several classes have seen Magic Lantern shows to complement the art curriculum and the whole school watched a wonderful performance of *Twelfth Night*.

Now back in action, the field was the scene of a particularly memorable event. Children from both schools stood within the shape of the Martin bird while aerial photos were taken from a helicopter. When it landed there was a special assembly given by the pilot and crew, before each class had their annual photograph taken.

The field was also the venue for Junior Sports Day. As well as athletics, the children have taken part in netball matches; the girls' cricket team was in an inter-borough *kwik cricket* tournament and the new after-school football club, where children from several schools receive expert coaching, is proving popular.

Two charity fund raising events took place. In *Miles and Miles*, sponsored participants walked on the school field to raise £200 for McMillan nurses, and the juniors wore something yellow and collected £225 in aid of the North London Hospice.

The PTA organised a Summer Fun Day on the field, attended by hundreds of children and adults, and made a fantastic £3,500. They also organised a Bingo Night, a Great Balloon Race and sold cakes and salads to raise funds for both schools.

The infant school enjoyed the visit of a travelling book fair. Nursery children went on a trip to the London Aquarium; reception children have visited Highgate Woods and Year 2 have been to Woodside Farm.

The annual International Lunch, where parents and staff in the infants provide food representative of many different countries, was again an enjoyable event.

THE ARCHER hopes teachers enjoy a happy and restful holiday.

YOUNG ARCHER



Games exchange at Holy Trinity School Photo by Diana Cormack

Playing the Game

By Diana Cormack

When I was about eleven years old I went to my friend's house for the day, which wasn't unusual. However, on that day something happened which I have never forgotten.

It started to rain, so we went indoors to play in her bedroom. But she shared it with a sister who was a couple of years older than us and she chucked us out.

"It's not fair," moaned my friend. "All my things are in there and we've got nothing to do."

The bedroom door opened.

"Here. Take this," said her sister, holding out a long, narrow box.

Old favourite

It turned out to be Monopoly, which I'd never heard of before, but as soon as we started playing I was hooked. I thought it was the best board game ever! We played for hours and hours. When I got home I couldn't wait to tell my brother and sisters about it.

Every birthday and Christmas I dropped hints to Mum and Dad about *Monopoly*, but I never got it. In those days it was quite expensive and my parents just couldn't afford it. Maybe I liked it because it gave you so much money! Anyway, I had to wait until I was grown up and then I bought it for myself.

The first version appeared in 1904. It was called *The Landlords' Game*, invented by a woman and why she invented it I do not know.

New inventions

But I do know that with all the different board games around today it must be really hard to think of something new. However, as part of their recent problem-solving week, children in Holy Trinity School had to make up their own games, many of which showed their interests, for example *Lost in Egypt* by Dani Ella Larimer, *The Lost Vikings* by Billy Hancock and Freddie Howard, *The Seasons* by Georgia Glick and Serhat Cosgun's *Fruit Game*. Albert Wood invented *The Secret Passages of Hogwarts* and Subomi Oguntinyinbo used his maths to make *All Sports*.

Both infants and juniors had a great time when they joined together to play each other's games.

Archer Bridge



By Mike Graham

One of the toughest events in the calendar is the Young Chelsea Marathon. This does not involve running 26 miles; indeed, most bridge players very rarely run for more than ten yards. Instead, it is a 24 hour bridge event. You start play at 2 pm on Saturday afternoon and finish, 165 boards later, at 2 pm on Sunday, having played through the night.

This year's event was, quixotically, played over the same weekend as the London Marathon. There were a large number of overseas players involved, and Erik Saelensminde and Odin Svensonn

of Norway duly carried off the top prize. I was fortunate enough to play with David Burn, well known as a coach to England teams. We did not play particularly brilliantly and finished ninth, but we

Dealer South
EW Game

♠
♥
♦
♣

A73
KQ872
A108
AJ

♠ Q1096
♥ J1096
♦ 3
♣ Q1032

N
W

E

♠ J84
♥ 4
♦ 9654
♣ K8765

S
K52
A53
KQJ72
94

had rather poor luck with our slam bidding. This board did not help our cause:

David and I sat North-South, and we were the only

pair in the field to bid to Seven No-trump. Seven Hearts and Seven Diamonds were bid on a few occasions, but most pairs only bid to the six-level

(and, inevitably, a few pairs stayed in game).

Grand slam scuppered

There are, in top tricks, two spades, one club, five diamonds, and three hearts. A 3-2 heart break (68%) will add two extra tricks, for a total of thirteen. These are good odds for a grand slam, and, playing pairs, you want to be in No-trump. Seven Hearts made would score 1510, but the No-trump grand slam would score 1520, for a better score. Not so on this occasion, however; the 4-1 heart split scuppered the grand slam, and we scored a joint bottom instead of a top. No justice!



Claude Grahame-White with a lady passenger in a Farman biplane, c.1911.
Photo from a collection by Clive R Smith.

Memories of Hendon Aerodrome

A new exhibition for the summer takes place at the Church Farmhouse Museum, in Greyhound Hill Hendon, to celebrate 100 years of powered flight. The material is drawn from the extensive collection of Clive Smith, a postcard dealer based in Brent Street, who, over the years, has put together this singular collection of photographs, posters, tickets, brochures, and ephemera from London Aerodrome Hendon, much of it from the period before the First World War.

The Vision of Claude Grahame-White

In January 1910, at the age of thirty, Claude Grahame-White came to the top of Greyhound Hill and gazing down on the flat fields of Colindale below realised that it was the perfect location for a flying school and aerodrome. By 1914 it had become the premier centre for aerial demonstrations, racing and the London social elite in which Grahame-White was a larger than life character. One of the original "magnificent men in their flying machines", he was charming, debonair, sporting, and certainly cocky. He wowed the ladies, and in the photographs he poses as a man in his prime, confident of his success. Many of the

demonstrations, such as *looping the loop*, may seem like publicity stunts; but they are distractions from White's list of genuine and serious aerial experiments.

Flight firsts

Hendon was the centre for the development of night flying, particularly important in the defence of London during the Zeppelin raids that came with the Great War. It was from Hendon that the first defensive patrol of London was launched (led, of course, by White himself). Hendon also saw the first ever parachute jump from an aeroplane in 1914, and the first airmail, from Hendon to Windsor Castle. White realised the potential of this new invention. Literally thousands

of people flocked to watch the shows at the aerodrome itself, and during those golden summers before the darkness of the oncoming war, Sunny Hill Fields was packed with spectators. The exhibition lasts until 25 September, and the museum is open 10.00am–1.00pm and 2.00–5.00pm Monday to Thursday (closed Friday), 10.00am–1.00pm and 2.00–5.30pm on Saturday and 2.00–5.30pm on Sunday. Tel. 020 8203 0130 email gerrard.roots@barnet.gov.uk or hugh.petrie@barnet.gov.uk.

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Foxy, foxy

Hark, I hear the sound of the unconscionable in hot pursuit of the inedible. Yes, it's fox hunting time again and our beloved legislators have got themselves into another twist over it. Labour rebels are backing the fox in ways that they would never back the poor and oppressed while true blue Tories support the fox hunters in a way they would never back any other bunch of self-righteous thugs. Why? Because parliament decided that men and women in red coats can't follow dogs following Basil Brush and then watch the dogs rip poor Basil apart. The Labour rebels say hunting with dogs is cruel, the Tory toffs say it is part of our rich cultural heritage like slavery and witch burning. Besides, the poor foxhounds will suffer if they don't have foxes to rip apart. With some of the greatest minds in Britain gathered together in Westminster I'm amazed that they can't find a solution, so I guess it's down to me to ensure that the fabric of this fine country of ours does not go to the dogs/foxes etc.

So, let's get this straight, it's only hunting with dogs that's banned, so why not hunt with something else. What about hunting with two-headed mutant sheep? That would concentrate the foxes' minds at lambing time. Or hunting with elephants, werewolves, kangaroos, armoured personnel carriers or local councillors. All comes down to the same thing; mindless thugs rampaging across the countryside in the name of liberty, violence and the British way of cruelty to animals.

Naturally the maniacs on horseback would say it's not the same without the dogs, so what about drag hunting? The bigots could combine their love of a violent death with a spot of cultural vandalism by chasing Lily Savage and Danny La Rue across open fields. Actually, the way to stop fox hunting is blindingly simple. All you need to do is breed mutant foxes. After all, who is going to want to chase a six-foot-high furry beast that's armed with a couple of machine guns and has a very bad attitude...

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Clubs & Social

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- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professional and business people, Details Eric Dalton 8340 0822



5 yr old Asha and 6yr old Simon video their animations. Photo by Erini Rodis

Phoenix gets kids animating

By Erini Rodis

Staff in the 'Phoenix cinema animation tent' showed hundreds of children how to create stop-motion animation using video in Friary Park, N11 on Sunday 13 July.

It was there as part of the Children's Arts Festival, which took over the park with interactive displays, performances, creative environments and endless games on one very hot and sunny day. Secret trails and yoga workshops were also available to the thousands of children of all ages who attended.

The tables of the Phoenix animation tent were especially full, as kids created first a back-

ground scene, then a character or two to move around on it. Once done they joined a good long queue towards a video camera which had been set up on a rostrum to take a still of each subtle movement. The video was then played back at full speed, and patience was rewarded with lots of smiles, as the children, and of course their proud parents and guardians, got to view their very own stop motion animation pieces.

Barnet Community Plan: A Flawed Document

By John Dearing

Barnet Council has distributed information about its Community Plan to residents and businesses, together with a questionnaire, but the consultation period, unfortunately, falls squarely over the holiday period. Apparently the timing "has been prepared to ensure that views inform next year's budget setting process"! Despite the offer of a free prize draw, one cannot be optimistic about the likely level of response.

It is in the form of a little magazine containing not the Community Plan, but a one-page summary of it (from which people are expected to fill out a two page questionnaire) and several pages of quotes from members of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The language used is arcane, and it is not easy to make sense of it.

Whose views?

The membership of the LSP appears to be poorly representative of the community. It is totally biased towards training, employment and law and order, with no obvious representation for housing, young people, or old people and only token representation of ethnic minorities (who form 18% of the population of the borough!).

East Finchley businesses will not have failed to notice that the chair of the LSP is also the commercial director of the Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Only one of the members is an elected representative.

The questionnaire has impossible questions such as asking us to choose between "making Barnet safe" and "developing civic pride - a sense of community respect". It asks for people to choose two out of a list of five priorities - surely what people will want is all of these, but there is no obvious way of saying this. It is hard not to imagine an underlying political agenda.

If Barnet Council really cares about the views of its constituents, it should really try a bit harder than this.

The Barrier of Age

By Mal Jacobs

Women are conscious of it, men try to ignore it, but it affects them all at some time – the subject of age, ageing and ageism. In our society (due mainly to successive government policies) there is now a lack of Seniors at all levels. Not only did we throw out the baby with the bathwater but ignored all the warning signs along the way.

Other countries were, and are, more conscious of the enormous skills and experience of its mature workforce. Here, as usual, we react with a knee-jerk reaction and suddenly discover we are short of talent!

In a recent interview, Sir Trevor McDonald mentioned that societies which flourish are those that use the talents of people, regardless of their age.

Butt end of jokes

The new age discrimination legislation reminds me of the old saying, "You can change the laws but that may not change the minds". Ageism is alive, healthy and all around us in so many ways (and has been for so long) it will be a hard road to travel but it must be done.

Seniors have been the butt end of jokes, sketches, talk, soaps to name a few and everyone is guilty. It includes all of society including TV, newspapers, theatres, pubs, the workplace etc plus us for allowing it to happen in the first place.

Public bodies

Can you ever remember seeing or speaking to someone at the Pension Services (DSS) over 50 or 60? The same applies at the BBC.

(Both are public bodies.) After the Jimmy Young debacle of the sacking episode, the BBC could now show amends by using mature people on front desks, newsreaders etc in public visible places to promote the new legislation that is coming.

The mind boggles with questions if you are working at 70. Will you still get a concession price on entrance prices? Will you still get charged double the normal travel insurance price as usual? Will you still need a doctor's certificate to drive to work? Will you still get a Seniors discount in a restaurant that operates it? Should you take the Viagra tablet before going to work or when going home?

Degrading

To be fully capable of doing a job but not required or losing your job because of your age must be so degrading but it is happening, unfortunately, every day. Of course in the USA they have been working to 70 and beyond since time immemorial so once again we are late on the scene.

Doris Day was quoted once as saying, "The really frightening thing about middle age is the knowledge that you'll grow out of it!"

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

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Letters to The Editor

Inappropriate

Dear Editor

RE: National Hospital Site

We object very strongly to the current proposals for the development of this site. We urge the Council to reject it because:

1. It will mean even more parking and traffic in this area, and the present parking restrictions will not help. They are designed to prevent all day commuter parking, but students and visitors to the Institute will come for short periods only, thereby adding massively to the parking problems.

2. It means increased traffic, pollution, noise and danger in an already overcrowded area. Deansway is already extremely congested and problematic during the evening rush hour.

3. The proposed entrance on The Bishops Avenue near the High Road would make this difficult junction even more dangerous. The proposed entrance on Deansway frankly beggars belief.

4. The plans mean cutting down many fine trees, including many with tree preservation orders.

5. It means the destruction of a fine Victorian building, which should be renovated and put to good use.

6. The proposed buildings are much too big, much too high, and much too near the boundaries of the site. They would severely damage the site itself, and also the surrounding area, through overlooking, shadowing and noise. Both areas are conservation areas, which Barnet is bound by law to "preserve or enhance".

7. The proposals conflict with many of the policies in the Barnet Unitary Development Plan, which is of course a statutory document.

We are not opposed in principle to the development of the site, provided that the plans are sensible and appropriate. The current proposals are not. We therefore hope that you will reject the current proposals.

Mark and Gay Berelowitz
Edmunds Walk, N2.

Pensions backlash

Dear Sir,

Has Mal Jacobs (*Scraping the Barrel, The Archer June 2003*) ever wondered how the pensions paid in other EU countries are actually funded?

The so-called 'pensions time-bomb' is becoming a major preoccupation of EU politicians who only now are waking up to its implications. Pensions there are paid for by the working population out of current earnings not, as in the UK, from funded pensions schemes. At present three members of the working population support one pensioner. Within a generation this proportion of support is expected to halve. In other words to maintain the level of pensions paid at present, each member of the working population will have to double his tax contribution. That is assuming that pensioners do not continue to live longer and longer. Well before that stage is reached there is likely to be a backlash.

Already the lines of confrontation are being drawn with pensioners and unions on one side and governments and those joining the workforce on the other. It has been pointed out on many occasions that one of the risks Britain faces is being made to contribute to the un-funded pension liabilities of other EU members.

Yours sincerely
Fabian Olins
Foscote Road,
Hendon NW4.

Gridlock

Dear Sir,

We wish to add our strongest objections to the many you will already have received. The proposed plans for the National Hospital site will totally change the neighbourhood and add materially to the traffic congestion which in the Deansway has already reached gridlock at peak times.

That such a development can even be considered for what is designated as a conservation area is difficult to comprehend. It will be out

of scale with the other buildings in the area and result in the destruction of many fine trees, many of which are covered by preservation orders. The Bishops Avenue entrance will add further danger to the already hazardous junction.

The proposals conflict with many of the policies in the Barnet Unitary Development Plan which I understand to be a statutory document.

Yours sincerely
Charles Wolff
Deansway, N2.

Double Trouble

To the Editor,

Most East Finchley residents know about the proposed Waitrose development, and many are horrified at the increased traffic and parking problems that it would bring. But Barnet Council is also actively considering another proposal (the "Octagon" plan) whose effects would be just as bad, if not worse; to build a new road leading from The Bishop's Avenue, more or less where it joins the High Road, to a vast new building for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute (without parking provision for the 6,000 further education students who would attend courses there), and to two very large blocks of flats.

The Council is considering these two developments as if they were completely separate. Because they are in different wards Waitrose goes to one Planning Sub-Committee, and Octagon to a different one. How convenient. For the Waitrose plan, they consult residents in East Finchley ward – and for Octagon, only Garden Suburb residents. Divide and Rule indeed!

Barnet must consult residents on BOTH sides of the High Road about BOTH schemes, and consider the combined effects on traffic and parking of BOTH schemes together. We urge all residents to write or email their Councillors demanding this.

Richard and Alison Stein
Deansway, N2.

Send your correspondence to:

"Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.
(Due to space restrictions, letters over 200 words will be edited)

A Waitrose compromise

Dear Sir/Madam

There is an obvious solution to the current row over Waitrose's planned development. Waitrose should buy the Budgens/Iceland site. It could relocate the Post Office and shops to the empty units opposite and would provide a decent high quality medium-sized supermarket. There is already some parking space behind the site, and this compromise need not affect the library.

People who worry about the effect this might have on other food shops on the High Street should look at Muswell Hill where a Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencers sit comfortably between a range of good small shops including a fishmongers and grocers. East Finchley is great but is looking increasingly shabby and needs an injection of new shopping blood

Regards
Mr Pearl
Huntingdon Rd, N2

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.

A Bad Lot

By Susan Toms of Bedford Road
Residents of the County Roads, if you have a vehicle - even if you have a parking permit - BEWARE!
When you come home late at night and can't find a space and you park at the end of the road on the yellow line, just until you go out in the morning... They will get you!!!!

Last week, as I was on an early morning walk, before most people would be leaving for work, I was horrified to see a parking attendant on a motor cycle going from road-end to road-end and ticketing residents' cars, despite the valid resident's permits displayed. I followed the attendant at some distance, to check that I wasn't mistaken about what he was doing. He was so busy that he didn't notice me at all. There was absolutely no traffic about and, in any case, the cars concerned were not in a place where they would have caused an obstruction.

This activity, obviously undertaken with the prime intent of catching people out in order to rake in yet more money from motorists, sickens me.

The resident's parking tariff has been increased by 50% without prior consultation or notice. Even so, this gives no guarantee that a parking place will be available near one's home, or indeed even in one's own road, especially at peak times! The tariff in council car parks has increased and there is soon to be a 2hr maximum parking time imposed as well. Now (and I wonder how long this has been going on?) the traffic vultures are deliberately aiming to catch residents out, with this early morning patrol.

How much more are residents prepared to take?

So next time you arrive home late at night and can't find a space for your car, DON'T make the mistake of putting it on a yellow line at the end of your road, or you'll be the next victim of Barnet's creative money-making policy.



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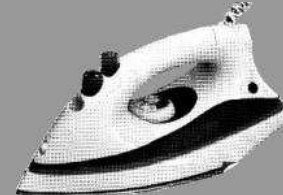
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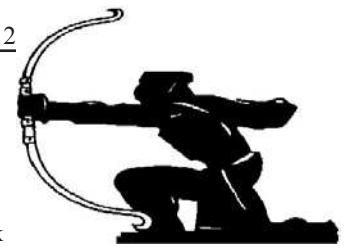
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And All That Jazz

By Diana Cormack

It should come as no surprise to clientele at Madden's Ale House to learn that one of A-level student Zac Klein's subjects at Fortismere School was music. Though they might not recognise his name, they may well recognise his piano playing.

Zac, of Hertford Road, started having conventional classical piano lessons at the age of six. At thirteen he switched teachers and styles, a move which no doubt found favour with his jazz-loving father. They go to many jazz concerts together where Zac has noticed that the only other young people in the audience are usually from Fortismere. He pays tribute to the way the school's music department has influenced him and to the great inspiration that they give their students.

Piano player

Jazz legends Bill Evans, John Coltrane and Wynton Kelly, amongst others, have also had an influence on Zac's musical development. He now

plans to play more standards and to develop his improvisational skills, which Friday night customers enjoying a drink at Madden's might already have heard; that is when the popular Jeremy Currie Trio entertains in the pub at 130 High Road. Obviously recognising talent when he hears it, Jeremy invited Zac to play, a daunting task for someone who had only previously performed at family gatherings.

However, the event proved a success and has led to Zac providing regular piano playing stints there. Now Zac is looking to form his own jazz group. If you are interested you can contact him through *THE ARCHER* (contact details on page 2) or pop into Madden's sometime.



Zac Klein playing the piano in Madden's. Photo by Diana Cormack



Sub-standard service: passengers perspired quietly in a darkened train for over an hour while waiting for underground signal failures to be resolved just before Stockwell. Northern Line, 10 July. Photo by Erini Rodis

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