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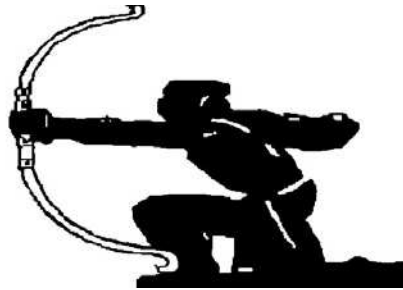
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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Heading Them Off

By Sonia Singham

It was a privilege to be invited to participate in the Interview Skills Programme at Bishop Douglass Secondary School in November. The atmosphere was as one would hope it to be in a large secondary school, but what was encouraging, having had experience of and information about the behaviour of them, was the courteous manner of the students.

The organisation by the staff and the Education Business Partnership (EBP) made the day the success it was. The recently appointed Headmaster, Mr Kelly, has obviously made a great impact in raising the profile of the school.

Many people to whom I have spoken have commented on the improvement of the neighbourhood. The shopkeepers no longer feel as threatened because they

are assured of an immediate response to anti-social behaviour.

The impression that I got from the students I interviewed was that they were a committed group of young people, receptive to advice and the interest taken in them.

Let us hope that this positive attitude will continue and that the Head teacher and staff carry on helping to raise these young people's achievement.



At least they would not have far to go to get the bus! Photo by John Dearing

**Carbungle** This was the sight on Fortis Green in December after a driver met an immovable object - in the shape of a bus stop...

## Planning Blight

With all the attention presently on the proposed Waitrose development at the south end of the High Road, it is perhaps easy to forget that the proposal to build a Tesco Metro store at the Leopold Road petrol station is still with us (first reported in *THE ARCHER* in June). They plan to demolish the car wash building to make space for the new store, and for 11 car parking spaces.

Whether this has been affected by the Waitrose proposal is hard to gauge, but the Barnet Council Planning Department's database of planning applications (publicly available at Whetstone) shows that this one is still outstanding: not approved, not refused, and not withdrawn.



### Unsettling

Indeed, a cursory scan of this database shows a number of outstanding applications for

East Finchley, some going back several years. The effect on the lives of those residents affected, not to mention the owners of businesses in the area is at the very least unsettling, and must, in addition, diminish the value of their properties; in essence, planning blight.

According to a reliable source in the industry, the legal framework governing the processing of planning applications requires councils to make decisions about them within eight weeks of receiving them, unless they have to go to the council planning committee, in which case they should be scheduled for the next meeting. It would seem that there are reasons why this does not happen in Barnet. It is to be hoped that when the new government regulations come into force, this lamentable state of affairs will cease.

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## THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699  
LONDON N2 8JA

**Voicemail & Fax:**  
Editorial/enquiries: -  
**08717 33 44 65**

Advertising/finance: -  
**08717 33 45 28**

**e-mail:**  
the-archer@lineone.net  
**website:**  
www.the-archer.co.uk

**PUBLISHED BY**  
*East Finchley Newspapers*

**EDITOR**  
**Kevin Finn**

**EDITORIAL TEAM**  
**David Hobbs**  
**Diana Cormack**  
**Daphne Chamberlain**

### SUB-EDITORS & PROOF READERS

**Frances Loveday**  
**Pam Kent**  
**Tony Roberts**

**PICTURE EDITORS**  
**Erini Rodis**  
**Daniel Ferri**

### DESIGN & PRODUCTION

**Alison Roberts**  
**Tony Roberts**  
**Paul Northam**

**ADVERTISING**  
**John Dearing**  
**Toni Morgan**

**FINANCE**  
**Sue Holliday**

**ADMINISTRATION**  
**Toni Morgan**

**DISTRIBUTION**  
**Alison Roberts**  
**Pam Kent**

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
**John Dearing**  
**Mal Jacobs**  
**Robert Moore**  
**Hugh Petrie**  
**Sally-Jo Seery**  
**Sonia Singham**  
**Femke van Iperen**

**HONORARY LEGAL ADVISER**  
**Francis Coulson**

*Thank you to Madden's Ale House for providing us with a meeting place.*

### 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 January is the copy deadline for the February issue.**

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

## Were YOU Involved?

In February 2003 The Archer celebrates its tenth anniversary. As part of the commemoration of a decade in publishing a free community newspaper for East Finchley, we are seeking to re-establish contact with the many volunteers that have contributed to our success over the years.

If you are, or know of, someone who has been involved with THE ARCHER in any way, please help us by e-mailing the-archer@lineone.net or telephoning us on 08717 334465 and leaving a message, letting us know how we can make contact. Your kind assistance will help us to make our celebrations complete.

Everyone at THE ARCHER would also like to take this opportunity to thank contributors, volunteers, advertisers and readers, past and present for helping to make our modest newspaper such a resounding success.

## Cheque it out

by Erini Rodis

**One Abbey-Link customer got a little more than she bargained for when she tried to make a deposit last Saturday. Upon request out rolled a deposit envelope, which wouldn't open easily, so another was requested. On closer inspection the original envelope was actually sealed with somebody else's deposited cheque already inside!**

When the errant cheque was returned as a matter of lost property, the lady behind the counter assured our source that the cash machine automatically prints account details on the outside of each deposit envelope. As this envelope had no such markings on it, it will have to be assumed that the customer concerned had simply forced it back into the wrong slot!

Others have told stories of cheques going missing in the cash machines of other banks too, with knowledge of such

moneys denied until a member of staff was forced to search for an envelope which had been misdirected by the machine! So how reliable are these machines? A lot of older folk don't trust these new fangled devices, and I'm beginning to agree. Of course they're wonderfully convenient for getting cash out in an emergency, but they're a poor substitute for a real live person behind the counter giving you a receipt for your money – so if you have to use a cash machine, be careful where you put your money!



The doomed phonebox is served notice. Photo by John Dearing.

## Triumph of the Mobile Phones

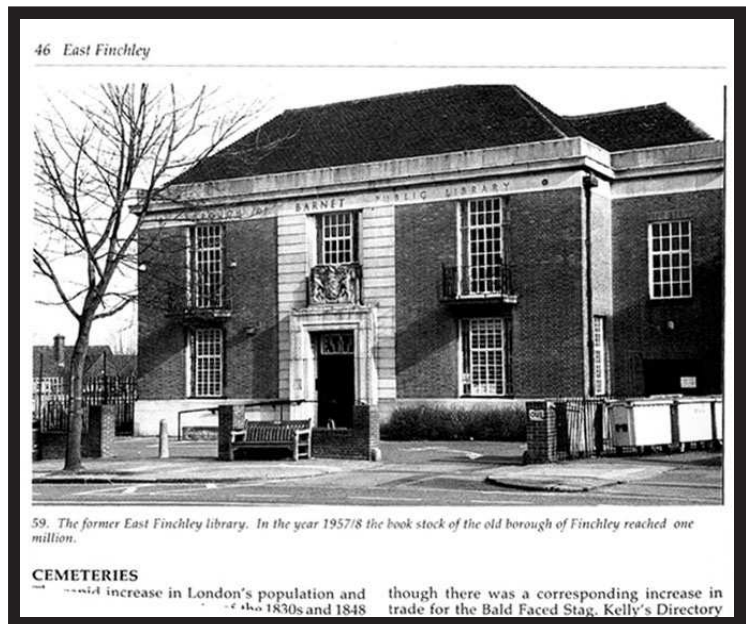
By John Dearing

**BT has served notice that one of two telephone boxes located opposite the Phoenix on the High Road, is to be taken out. Inevitably, it is the one that takes coins. The other one has been upgraded to allow people to send e-mails and text messages to mobile phones, but you need to have a phone card or a credit card to use it.**

Ten years ago, there would have been an outcry at the loss of a social facility such as this, but these days, with most people owning mobile phones, it is only a minority who would find this a problem. It seems likely that the use of phone boxes has

fallen to the point that it is presumably not economic to provide two call boxes at one location, although this must only encourage more people to acquire mobiles, leading to even less use of phone boxes - a vicious circle.





## Was Somebody Trying To Tell Us Something?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Glancing through a local history book the other day (*Finchley and Whetstone Past*, by John Heathfield), I came upon a photograph of our present library. It was labelled as "the former East Finchley library". The book was published in 2001.

### WOW

The next Warning on Waitrose meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 20th January in All Saints Church Hall, Durham Road.

## Juggleathon

By Diana Cormack

Gap year student Mark Winton of Durham Road chose World Aids Day to perform an unusual fund raising event. Dressed in drag, he jogged around Cherry Tree Wood whilst juggling at the same time. A group of friends added to his difficult task by bombarding him with such things as flour, wet sponges and even a dead fish! However, they also supported him by carrying buckets to collect donations from park users, who were gradually being tempted out into the afternoon sunshine following a morning of almost continuous rain.

Eighteen-year-old Mark is going to study medicine at Leeds University next September, but before embarking on his medical career he will be doing some voluntary work in Tanzania, organised by the Student Partnerships Worldwide charity. Founded in 1985, SPW has grown rapidly in terms of aid it gives to the developing world. It sends young adults to countries



Joggler Mark Winton dragging around Cherry Tree Woods.  
Photo by John Dearing

## A Sense of Community

By Erini Rodis

The Free Church Hall in Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, hosted a buffet for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and local Street Wardens on 12 December.

David Fulton, co-ordinator for Norrice Lea and Holne Chase amongst others, hosted a raffle for P&O ferry tickets & other prizes - and the bucket was held by Linda Bailey of Brookmans Park, who, until a serious injury a couple of years ago, used to patrol the area as a PC.

Larry McFarlane, who runs the scheme in two blocks of flats nearby, organises these social events. 90 plus folk attended this one, including MP Rudi Vis, who had to shoot off to a Finchley Society do before I could capture him on film.

Kaye Morgan, on the steering committee, sorted out food from M&S, and wine from a friend's restaurant opposite the Royal Free Hospital.

PC Jeff Williams, who currently patrols the HGS area, and Inspector Jenny Hounsell also attended, to give advice and meet some of the people who make their working lives a little easier.

Fulton complained that most people aren't interested in joining Neighbourhood Watch until they've already been burgled, but stated that the role of Neighbourhood Watch isn't just about giving common sense advice about how people can secure their property and belongings. It's also about people looking after each other's property, by encouraging a sense of community. Social gatherings like this are one way of helping to build this in an area where people tend to drive out to work and back from 7 till 7, often not seeing a local soul beyond their



The hard core of the buffet, including ex-Home Beat officer Linda Bailey (2nd from left), party organiser Larry McFarlane (3rd from left), Kaye Morgan and David Fulton (3rd and 2nd from right). Photo by Erini Rodis.

privet hedged drawbridge until the weekend.

### Watching works

Barnet Borough Watch: Co-ordinators of the Neighbourhood Watch in Barnet have

compiled a graph which shows that Neighbourhood Watch schemes do have a positive effect on crime statistics, especially in the cases of residential burglary and burglary artifice (which is the term applied to the acts of con men.) The graph

shows that, in East Finchley, roads with a neighbourhood watch scheme had only a fifth of these crime incidences, when compared with roads without the scheme.

such as Uganda, India, Nepal and Tanzania to carry out English teaching or environmental work placements.

### A Good Mark

Mark, a former pupil of Holy Trinity School, Christ's College and Woodhouse, is currently taking lessons in Swahili. In February he will commence training in Tanzania to prepare him for teaching environmental health in local schools. It is vital that youngsters there learn about AIDS and malaria in order to help prevent the spread of these diseases. He will also be helping villagers to improve their water supplies, to make fuel-efficient stoves and to introduce more efficient ways of using their agricultural resources.

However, to enable him to do all this, Mark has to raise £3,000. To this end he is working in Homebase and was sponsored by friends and family in his juggling event. If you would like to assist Mark in his admirable attempt to help people in great need, please send a cheque made out to him with SPW written on the back. Send it to: Mark Winton (SPW) c/o THE ARCHER.

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## Harmony Stones – Healing Through Energy

By Daphne Chamberlain

On the table lay a selection of painted ceramic stones. “Choose whichever one you want”, said their creators. “Pick them up. Let your intuition guide you.”

They were round, about 4.5 cm in diameter, each with its own design. I selected four, holding each one in turn. Each time my hand tingled. Then I spotted another one, with a design which brought back memories. This must be the one for me, said my mind. But my hand disagreed. When I picked that one up, I felt nothing, but my tingling hand led me to one I would never have chosen by sight. Why?

The answer was written on the back of each stone. Each one was harmonised with a certain quality or condition – e.g. peace, playfulness or commitment. Simon Parr and Francesca Cassini of Sedgemere Avenue, the creators of the stones, explain, “By having a stone which has been created to harmonise you with the qualities you want to bring into your life, you are saying, ‘yes please, I’ll have some of that!’” If you don’t need that quality, the stone is not for you.

### Quality control

Not everyone feels the physical tingling, but that was my response to the energy in the stones. I finally selected mine by touch alone, with my eyes closed and the stones shuffled around, and the quality I chose seems absolutely right.

When Michael Brooking at Essential Energies, Leicester Mews, tested these stones, he reported an “exceptional energetic quality”. So where does



Francesca Cassini and Simon Parr in harmony. Photo by Toni Morgan

it come from?

Simon, who works at the Healing Centre in Covent Garden, is a member of the National Federation of Spiritual Healers. “All healing”, he says, “Is love and energy coming through from the same source. While the clay is wet and being shaped, we

are charging the atoms and molecules with that loving energy. These stones help us recognise what we need, and reconnect us with the source of our strength within.”

To find out more about the Simonangelo Healing Stones, please contact Simon or Francesca on 020 8365 2134.

## A Pound a Pee

Since early December, customers at the *Old White Lion* public house next to East Finchley tube station have been having a bit of fun in aid of a serious cause. They have been taking part in a countrywide event, aimed at raising money for research into prostate cancer. Assistant manager, Rachael, told *THE ARCHER* that there has been a good response to the activity, which is called Peeball.

### What is Peeball?

Peeball is a groundbreaking and risqué alternative to the usual badges, pins and key rings sold to raise money for charity. It is a small, biodegradable ball

that works a little like a fizzy bath ball. For men (all of whom have played the game before, unofficially, using cigarette butts and disinfectant cubes as urinal targets), the challenge is

to pop the Peeball into a urinal, take aim, pee and dissolve it as fast as possible. Girls can buy them too - Peeballs make the perfect gift for any man.

It’s fun, it’s cheeky and, because it’s so different, Peeball could actually help make a difference. Prostate cancer is the UK’s fastest growing cancer disease, being the most common cancer affecting men and killing around 11,000 in Britain every year. Research and support is, however, severely under funded. Your help is needed to raise £1 million for The Prostate Cancer Charity

### Win a Holiday

As a thank you, the outlet that sells the most Peeballs nationwide, will win a week’s holiday for four people to Hong Kong, with great runners-up prizes too. The holiday includes a stay at the Peninsula Hotel; the gentlemen on the trip may wish to visit the Felix rooftop restaurant, which has one of the most amazing urinals in the world, with breathtaking views of Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island.

For full competition details visit [www.peeball.com/sales](http://www.peeball.com/sales) (password: weebit). For more information about Peeball, to play on-line and to learn about the game’s star players, visit [www.peeball.com](http://www.peeball.com).

## Hope you can Help

By Diana Cormack

“Hope House North London exists to provide facilities and services to children and young people in the Borough of Barnet with the intention to cater for their social, educational, physical, spiritual, emotional and general welfare needs.”

This mission statement for a venture started by St Barnabas Church in North Finchley covers a wide area of needs. The catchment area from which youngsters who attend Hope House come is wide too, with some living as far away as Hackney, but East Finchley is obviously a nearer neighbour.

As well as an after-school club, there is a drop in café for 11-18 year olds, with Dream-cast, pool and other free facilities and games. On Friday nights there is a youth club providing 11-14 year olds with art, drama, dance, music and sport.

### Giving them hope

These activities, which help children to build relationships with others and to promote self-esteem, also serve to give them something to do and so keep them off the streets.

But a greater personal challenge is offered in the form of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. Hope House runs an open award centre as well as

liaising with local schools and it continually seeks to extend provision in this internationally recognised scheme.

Future projects include an adventurous activities programme working with children who are at risk of exclusion. Hopefully the creative arts programme will be extended and a Sports Leadership Course will be available. Funding comes from the London Borough of Barnet and from various charities, but this is short term and both money and volunteers are needed to expand the scheme. To this end Hope House is looking to other churches of all denominations, as well as to the community as a whole for help.

If you are interested in participating or assisting in any way, you can contact Hope House North London Ltd at 45-51 Woodhouse Road, North Finchley, London N12 9ET

Tel. 8492 0006, E-mail [hopehouse@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:hopehouse@globalnet.co.uk)

## Home-Start Success

**Home-Start Barnet, an East Finchley-based charity that helps families with young children, held its fifth AGM in St. John’s Parish Centre, Friern Barnet. Staff, volunteers and Management Committee members were joined by visitors including Barnet’s Deputy Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, and his wife Joanna.**

Avril Shattock stepped down as chair after six years’ involvement in the scheme. The new chairman is Peter Evans, a former head teacher, who was previously Treasurer.

Councillor Tambourides said that Barnet Council was indebted to the scheme. Christmas was a time for families and Home-Start had enabled many families to put their troubles behind them. He added that, if it were not for voluntary organisations like Home-Start Barnet “our borough would come to a halt”.

Avril Shattock described the ongoing struggle to secure funding. They had been unlucky not to obtain Lottery money, but there was some promised money in the pipeline. The Drop-In Centre on the Grahame Park Estate had proved amazingly successful. Home-Start had been invited to take a lead role in the implementation of SureStart which is a government initiative to improve services for young children and families.

Coordinators Julie Phillips and Ruth Sonntag reported on an award from the Middlesex University Business School to set up a library for volunteers, a grant from Help a London Child to buy “Fun Bags” filled with toys for Home-Start families, and money from the Rotary Club for 10,000 volun-

teer recruitment leaflets.

Debbie Beckford, the Project Worker who helped set up and run the Drop-In last June, elaborated on their success.

### A significant influence

Treasurer Peter Evans referred everyone to the accounts in the Annual Report and thanked the two coordinators, who had had to spend a great deal of time fundraising on top of their work recruiting volunteers and supporting families. He expressed the committee’s thanks to Avril Shattock, who was presented with a gift.

Dr Burnett gave a fascinating talk, comparing the health of Barnet residents with that of other boroughs, and showing the correlation between levels of health and various socio-economic factors in the different wards of Barnet. He spotlighted local health priorities and explained the importance of services such as Home-Start which, by offering friendship and support, have a significant influence on the health and well being of families with very young children.

The next seven-week course of preparation for Home-Start volunteers begins on Tuesday, 25 February. If interested, call Julie, Ruth or Linda on 8371 0674.

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for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome





## End of an East Finchley Era

By Diana Cormack



Another long-established business in East Finchley has closed down. Only a short time after Tom's Butchers closed its doors, Finchley Pets has had to do the same. So, after more than 50 years, there is no longer a pet shop in East Finchley.

The first was set up by Peggy Darvill and her husband, who rented space in part of another shop near Barclays Bank. When the business grew they moved to 1 Lincoln Parade, at the corner of Lincoln Road and the High Road, where Finchley Pet Stores traded for over 40 years.

Some of the customers were residents of The Bishops Avenue

and Winnington Road. Notable amongst these was the immensely rich Sultan of Brunei, whose staff took large monthly deliveries of cat and rabbit food along with fish food supplies for the royal carp. Peggy also served members of the East Enders cast and TV personality Katie Boyle, before they all moved out of the area.

### Loss of service

Now Mike Ryan and his son-in-law Gerry have had to

move too. Although, as reported in December's *ARCHER*, trade for them was not what it used to be, there are many pet owners in East Finchley who relied on Finchley Pets. Not only could they get food and other necessities for their pets, but also good, useful and free advice as well. All their customers, particularly the old, the infirm and children, will be hit by this closure and will have to look hard for a similar service.

## East Finchley loses another pub - Red Lion Closed

By Hugh Petrie

On 26 November 2002, The *Red Lion* closed. Established before 1715, when Anne Wyatte left it to her sister Elizabeth Heard, it was originally *The Rabbit* (by 1720s *The Three Rabbits*). A clapperboard house with a red tiled roof, it was at the extreme edge of the 18th century hog market. For drovers, coming from as far away as Wales, the sign of *The Three Rabbits*, would have signalled the beginning of the largest hog market in Middlesex. Once the pigs had been penned, the drover would have gone to *The George* to sell his stock to local pig dealers, whilst his men would have piled into *The Three Rabbits* for a well earned drink.



The Red Lion in its heyday. Photo by Ray Swan

In 1786 a London printer and bookseller, called James Barker, bought the house, calling it *The Red Lion* and giving the area its name. In the 1820s the parish constables described

the house as disorderly, stating that it was open when 'divine service' was being held at the parish church of St Mary's (Church End). The Claridge family held the house from around this period until the 1860s, and had for a time a slaughterhouse for pigs. By the 1870s the market had finished as a weekly event, and in 1888 (when Meux Brewery bought the property) skittles and a pleasure garden show that the house was no longer connected with pigs. At the end of 1901 work commenced on Elmfield Road - a new road between Long Lane and Red Lion Hill - and the building standing today was erected. The old house was then pulled down. The new occupier of the *Red Lion Hotel* was William Bishop.

## For the Young-at-Heart

The Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon is going back to childhood for its latest exhibition.

*British-made Playthings 1900-1990* is a reminder of the importance of Britain's once-thriving indigenous toy industry at a time when most toys and games sold in this country are actually made abroad - even if they bear British companies' names.

The exhibition will concentrate on dolls and soft toys from the collection of doll enthusiast Brenda Faris. There will also be a chance to get 'hands-on' with plenty of toys and games for children - and adults.

### Japhet and Happy

The second part of the exhibition features children's cartoons by JF Horrabin.

Horrabin, who lived in Hendon from the 1950s until his death in 1962, was a cartoonist and map-maker whose "Japhet and Happy" cartoon strip ran in the *News Chronicle* from the 1930s to the 1950s. At its height *Japhet and Happy* was as popular as *Rupert the Bear* in the *Daily Express*, with its own annuals, souvenirs and children's club.

The exhibition runs until 23 February and admission is free. Museum opening times are: Mon-Thur: 10am-12.30pm, 1.30-5pm. (Fri: Closed). Sat: 10am-1pm, 2-5.30pm. Sun: 2-5.30pm.

## New Year, New Look

By Diana Cormack

If you made a New Year resolution to sort out your surroundings but don't know where to start, help is at hand. Forget those TV programmes that solve all your paraphernalia problems in half an hour - it can take a two hour session just to clear out a wardrobe. At least that's what Sue Kay of East Finchley says and she should know, for Sue is an expert in the art of 'decluttering'.

After her 40th birthday Sue took a new direction in life. A book influenced her to have a major 'decluttering' of her possessions and this led to her helping family and friends to do the same. She decided to let her old life go and set up in business on her own. Decluttering and organising really appeal to Sue because they make use of her skills and experience. Her degree in psychology gives her an insight into the emotional reasons for holding onto things and the benefits of letting them go.

Since last May Sue has been running her London-wide "no more clutter" from Fairlawn Avenue. Her background in information and design helps her to set up organisational systems geared to the individual client. But who are her clients? Often they are people who have reached a point in their lives when they feel ready for a change, whether it be for the home or workplace. Sue will do small jobs like reorganising your wardrobe or she can blitz your whole house or office. But don't worry about

being bullied or made to throw away things that you use and love. She will work alongside you, offering a calm, impartial perspective.

### Let it go

Charities can benefit from your unwanted goods or you can sell them and treat yourself on the proceeds. Instead of feeling overwhelmed and disorganised,

you can relax in stress free surroundings where you are more in control. Letting go of the old stuff can free you emotionally to allow new opportunities and experiences into your life. Now that sounds like a really good way to start the New Year!

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## Open Government?

The proposed development of a Waitrose supermarket and library has certainly kept us all busy. Radical changes to a neighbourhood, that a development like this brings, are bound to produce a wide range of opinions and reactions.

*THE ARCHER*, having finally gained sight of some definite plans after months of speculation, is determined to report all aspects, opinions and reactions, rather than voice an opinion of its own. One would expect local businessmen, residents and special interest groups to form definite opinions, based upon the facts available, and then to make them known. One notable group, however, seems to be unable to give an opinion, even if they wanted to. That group is our local Councillors. I find this an amazing situation. We elect our local representatives based upon what they believe, what they plan and what their stance is on issues that are important to us individually. We may get an opinion on the Euro, fox hunting or global warming, for example, but not on a massive change to our beloved East Finchley.

What is the reason for this astounding situation? Our councillors are either on, or connected to, committees dealing with local planning, presumably, so that they can be fully aware of proposed developments, and to represent the views of East Finchley. Unfortunately, as a result of these offices, our councillors cannot, apparently, voice any opinion; otherwise they could be excluded from the various planning application processes. This is not to say that our Councillors are not concerned or interested. They are. A public meeting is promised, and Councillors have assured *THE ARCHER* that they are trying to arrange this soon. But there is surely something wrong with the planning rules, or the way



How the proposed store might look

the local political organisations are organised, when all the locally elected representatives of our community cannot

tell us what they think about an important local issue. Is this what is meant by 'open Government'?

## Friends of Wood vote against Waitrose

**The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood voted overwhelmingly against the proposal to build a Waitrose anchor store on the site adjacent to the wood, close to the park entrance. This was one of the results of a questionnaire members were recently invited to complete on three important issues.**

They also voted overwhelmingly in favour of locking the park gates at night to deter vandalism. On the third question, that of renovating the derelict pavilion, the majority did not think it would be a suitable place for a restaurant. Many thought that the former kiosk site opposite the tennis courts eminently more suitable.

## The Wood in Winter

By Pam Smith of Cherry Tree Road

In Spring the wood is bright and new,  
The fresh green leaves are far and few.  
In Summer they are packed so tight,  
In many parts they block the light.  
In Autumn when the leaves are yellow  
All the trees just start to mellow.  
In Winter when the trees are bare  
And all the lovely leaves are rare  
'Tis then we see a different view,  
The wood takes on a magic hue.  
The hoar frost clings to every bough,  
The wood is very wintry now.  
We walk in snow without a sound,  
An eerie silence wraps around.  
How beautiful the winter snow,  
But we can't wait to see it go.  
Stand awhile and see its grace.  
Look upon its wintry face.  
Thank God for all the beauty there  
For Winter has its purpose here  
Without it we would have no Spring  
So think it as a joyful thing.

## Waiting to be Told

By Diana Cormack

Last January *THE ARCHER* revealed plans for a Waitrose store, which would affect the whole of East Finchley. Recently Councillor Colin Rogers told a meeting of local pressure group *Warning on Waitrose* that Waitrose maintains the High Road could not survive without a superstore, claiming it would bring in customers who would also shop elsewhere in East Finchley. Presumably they would leave their cars in Waitrose's car park while they explore their new environment?

For this venture is also for customers from a wide catchment area to drive in, drive out and maybe drive locals mad with congestion, pollution and possible parking problems. An unconfirmed rumour that all of Brompton Grove is now a public road is worrying residents nearby. They are concerned that vehicles could use it to access Waitrose car park.

A transport business might provide the stumbling block to any plans. John Scott of Greater London Hire, whose car service occupies much of the site, has emphasised that they have no intention of moving or selling out for the foreseeable future.

However, including a public amenity in the plans could be to facilitate the way for a com-

pulsory purchase order. This is the proposed new library, which would be far removed from where there is arguably most need - amongst the residents of Strawberry Vale and the Grange Estate, and both our local primary schools. Tricia Little, Deputy Head of Barnet Cultural Services stated that it is 'only ten minutes walk away' from Martin Schools. How many roads would the children have to cross, necessitating extra supervision, and how much more time would be spent out of the classroom? She also said, "We might develop links with other schools too." There are none in that immediate area, but then perhaps Ms Little does not live around here.

Those who do have been waiting for over a year to be told what is going on. Barnet Council's stock reply continues to be that no application for planning permission has yet been made.

Even so, some businesses have been approached; the site is being inspected; plans are in circulation which surely would not have been drawn up without the borough being consulted? For instance, they must have agreed on a new library. So what do they plan to do with the site of the present one, which just happens to adjoin a very large school field, also owned by Barnet Council.

Unless they tell us exactly where things stand at present, the future of East Finchley High Road appears to lie between a rock and a hard place.

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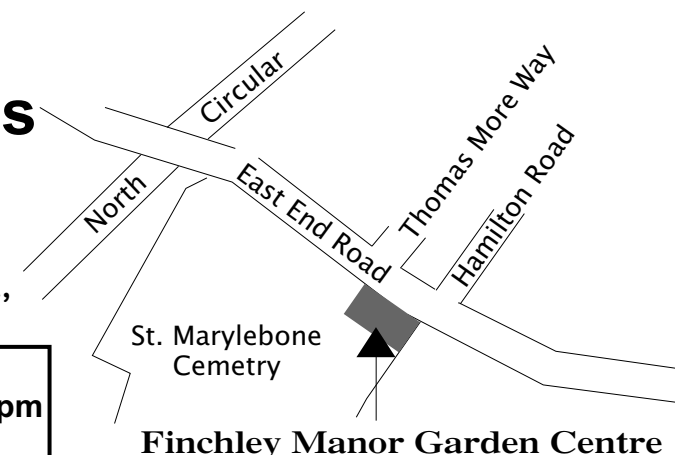
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## WAITROSE LETTERS

### Effects on Viceroy Close

To the Editor:

**As a resident of Viceroy Close, a major concern to me regarding the proposed Waitrose development is the impact on the Budgens and Iceland supermarkets.**

If the development goes ahead, it will provide stiff competition for both stores, and their future must be a matter of concern, not just to their owners, employees and customers, but also to the residents of Viceroy Close and adjacent roads.

As readers of *THE ARCHER* will know, Budgens' car park is the subject of two outstanding planning applications, both proposing to build a flat block over this land. These applications first emerged two years ago and have been a blight on the future of the area ever since - there is no resolution to them in sight, either way. Few if any of the local people affected have a good word to say about them and many have objected, formally.

If the proposed Waitrose superstore leads to the closure of one or both of the supermarkets in Viceroy Parade, the impact on the area will be enormous and quite unpredictable, except that it will remove at least one good reason for rejecting the proposed flat block development. Should this development now become acceptable to the planners and go ahead, it will be for the wrong reasons.

The effect of the Waitrose development on the other shops in the High Road will not necessarily be beneficial; **unless** something is done about the availability of parking - Waitrose car park would not be a solution, it is too far south. If the council is serious about developing the East Finchley High Road as a shopping centre, it should take over Budgens' car park and run it as a properly managed car park.

**John Dearing**  
Address Supplied

### The Future Of East Finchley High Road

East Finchley has a thriving local high road which is under threat from the Tesco Express proposal to the north and now the proposed Waitrose.

East Finchley High Road has a Budgens supermarket and a wide

variety of local shops including chemists, fishmonger and green-grocers. Allowing the development of a major superstore would put many of these shops out of business. If Budgens were to close, which is highly probable, the unit would be likely to remain void as no other retailer would want a unit of that size. The High Road is an important focus of the local community.

It would be a travesty to allow the demolition of part of the parade of shops (including the flats above) and develop an enormous super-market which will create traffic chaos and pollution.

It would also be an appalling planning decision to allow a super-market to be built by a public park and in an already congested area.

The area is very well served by a variety of supermarkets:

**North Finchley:**

Waitrose,

J Sainsbury

**Central Finchley:**

Tesco

**Friern Barnet:**

Tesco

**Muswell Hill:**

Marks and Spencer,

J Sainsbury

**Temple Fortune:**

Marks and Spencer,

Waitrose

**Golders Green:**

J Sainsbury

All these are accessible by public transport. A new supermarket will not generate new consumer spend but is an exercise in shifting it from one store to another, destroying a local high street and creating pollution in the process.

Barnet Council cannot allow this development to go ahead.

**With best wishes,**  
**Judith Salomon**  
Long Lane, N2

### Library Misgivings

Dear Editor,  
When I first heard the rumours regarding the Waitrose supermarket I thought great, it is about time we had a decent supermarket. We are very lucky with the fresh fish shop and greengrocers but we need somewhere to purchase the large (dry) items.

However, not at the expense of the library. I do appreciate that it is proposed that the library will

just move. I for one cannot see the reason why this should happen. The building it is in at the present time is a beautiful period building which I think will just be replaced by a faceless block of expensive flats.

Has a feasibility study been done to assess how much it would cost to improve it for the disabled, also for the new computer facilities? This proposal will shift the whole balance of the village, placing the major facilities at the south end, just metres away from the borough boundary. What will happen to the shops that are now north of the centre? Their trade will probably drop off as people use the car to get to the south of the village.

I was also incensed when I read Ms Little's comments stating it would mean a 10 minute walk, for an adult maybe but most certainly not for a group of small children. I would hate to think how long it would take the poor teachers to assist the children across all the roads, especially East End Road. No mention was made of the children from Holy Trinity - is it assumed they do not use the library? Also what about the parents who visit the library as they pick up the children from school?

Once again these faceless planners and Menomonee are at it again. We should really not let them spoil our environment, after all it is us who live in it.

What the whole issue needs is a public meeting with all appropriate parties present, where they can explain fully their intentions.

**Yours,**  
**Helen Day**  
Address Supplied

## Dr Rudi Vis MP replies:



MP Rudi Vis by Erini Rodis

### Ref: Proposed development of Waitrose - East Finchley

**Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2002, which I have read with great care.**

I am in agreement with many of the issues that you have raised and, were we still to have a Labour/Liberal Democrat local authority, I would have had some influence with our Councillors.

I do not know whether you are aware that the land owned by the council, at present used by Social Services, has been identified for disposal and Waitrose, I believe, have been looking for a site in this vicinity. They have presumably identified a market and would be interested in any site close to the A1.

No planning application has been received, but I know that your local councillors are insisting on a wide and detailed consultation on all aspects of any proposals that may be forthcoming. They wish to gauge opinion across the whole East Finchley area.

The site could possibly be developed for housing, which is likely to be quite dense. Any application will require detailed consultation and improvements to the road layout in this part of East Finchley to ensure there is little if no impact on residential roads.

I will endeavour to keep you informed on developments.

**Yours sincerely**  
**Rudi Vis**

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## YOUNG ARCHER Old New Year

By Diana Cormack

**Did you know that a year used to be ten months long? That was in the time of the early Romans, when the tenth month was called December because *decem* means ten in Latin.**

### September to November

So working backwards we have November because *novem* means nine, October because *octo* means eight and September because *septem* means seven. For some reason those were the only months named after numbers, so where did the first six months get their names from?

### January

January was named after Janus, who was the god of doorways, entrances and beginnings. He had two faces, so he could look back to the past and forward to the future, which made him an ideal choice for the New Year.

### February

February comes from Februa, which was the Roman festival of cleaning and purification after the winter months.

### March

March was named after Mars, their god of war.

### April

April's name was based on the Latin word *aperire*, which means to open, suitable for the time of year when the buds are beginning to open.

### May

May was named after Maia, who was the goddess of spring and new growth.

### June

June gets its name from Juno who was the goddess of women, marriage and the home and was the wife of the chief god Jupiter.

### July & August

July and August were added to the Roman year in honour of two great emperors, Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar. These twelve months of the year began on 1 January 45 BC and were known as the Julian calendar. No prizes for guessing who that was named after!

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Martin Junior School

Children in Year 6 have been working closely with the Barnet Education Business Partnership. Local business people worked with the ten and eleven year olds to show the relevance of literacy and numeracy to the working world. Following on from this the children operated their own postal scheme. They filled in application forms and wrote personal CVs, before being interviewed in groups and then given jobs. Later they attended training, when the demands of the post were explained.

The local sorting office manager came in and brought a genuine postal trolley and sacks. Every child was issued with a uniform and they visited the East Finchley sorting office to watch the professionals at work. Back in school children and staff bought stamps at 1p each from the "Post Office" which, at lunchtime, became the sorting room. Mail was collected by trolley from eight pillar-boxes, franked and sorted by the mail sorters and later delivered to both infant and junior schools.

At the end of the scheme, Year 6 will spend their stamp duty earnings on equipment they choose for the school. As well as learning how a post office works, they have also learned the value of teamwork in this tremendously successful project.

Over one hundred children from Years 3 and 4 impressed packed audiences with their singing and dancing in Charlotte Howard's magnificent production of Alice in Wonderland. The costumes and set design won compliments too.

The entire school went to the cinema for a special performance of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Children in Martin Infant School enjoyed a wonderful performance of Coppelia from the Globe Theatre Players.

For the third year running, Deborah and Martin Hoffman from Parentline Plus will be holding a free series of workshops suitable for parents and carers. Each session will run on Thursdays from 8.00-10.00 pm as follows:

**16 Jan** It's all too Much – Coping with the stress of parenting.

**23 Jan** Helping Children Learn – Supporting children at school.

**30 Jan** Building Children's Self-Esteem – Bringing up confident children.

**6 Feb** After School Stress-Busting – Managing after school stress.

### Holy Trinity School

Both infant and junior departments have been to the Phoenix cinema. The infants saw Tigger the Movie and the juniors The Iron Giant. The junior school's wonderful performance of Peter Pan was much enjoyed by all who saw it.



Above: Holy Trinity School Head teacher Duncan Mills receives the Investors In People award from assessor Colin Rosen. Photo by David Smith.

Below: Head teacher Maggie Driscoll and deputy head teacher John Pickering with Martin Junior School's Investor in People Award. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Heads, You Win

By Diana Cormack

**Two local schools have received the Investor in People Award in recognition of meeting the national standard for good practice. They can now proudly display the plaque and certificate as well as put the Investor in People logo on school stationery.**



## School Trips

Children in Martin Junior School have written these reports about their educational visits

### My Trip to the British Museum

By Catherine Beagent, class 6P

**When the bell rang in the morning I thought the trip would cause absolute havoc because I wondered how you get 60 children and eight adults into one train carriage.**

Surprisingly enough, we managed to board the train in an orderly manner. When the train finally stopped after what seemed like years (in reality only 15 minutes), everybody filed out and we made our way down the road to the British Museum.

The British Museum let us use a comfy room where we could leave our bags and coats. We were led to the Sutton Hoo Exhibition by Mr Pickering, who had told us so much about the ship burial that we barely had to read the text the museum provided - all we had to do was to look at the objects!

I was quite surprised at how damaged some of the treasure was. I knew that not all of it would be in one piece but I never expected to see an iron cauldron broken into pieces or solid silver plates with huge chunks missing.

After lunch we went to the Egyptian part of the museum where (much to the boys' satisfaction) we saw the mummies. We went back to school and marvelled at the wonderful time we had experienced.

### Our Trip to the National Gallery

By Ellen Ellis, class 3K

**Our trip to the National Gallery was very exciting. The coach ride was very long but it was worth it. When we arrived, our assistant met us at the entrance and told us the rules of the Gallery.**

Once we had entered the Gallery, she told us the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, where Theseus leaves Ariadne on an island. After that she told us about a self portrait by someone called Elizabeth who was probably very rich. After we had lunch, we split into groups and took turns to look at pictures and turns to go the shop. We had a lovely time and learned a lot.

## Our Theatre Visit

By Mulki Ibrahim, class 4H  
**We went to the theatre to see *Great Expectations*. First we rushed to the train station; when our train came we got on. We got off at Kings Cross; we changed with another train and then got off at Caledonian Road. Then we walked to the theatre.**

At last we were there, we waited a while. Then we went up the stairs and there was the stage.

We had to wait for a while, then the show started. I liked the bit when Estella said she will adopt a baby girl and teach her to love. She was used by her step-mother to break men's hearts.

Well, about the characters, my best was Pip and Estella. Pip was little and tatty, he worked for Joe the blacksmith. Joe's wife was rude to Pip, she was really mean to him. He was invited to go to Miss Havisham's and play with Estella. Estella was teasing Pip.

When Pip and Estella were adults their whole relationship changed. It changed because they found out that they were in love. I really enjoyed the play and recommend it to other people.



**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

**Saw you coming...**

Phineas T Barnum's famous remark that a sucker is born every minute was proved right as 2002 ended. The sorry tale of the Prime Minister, his wife, her guru and the conman, reminded me of the dictum that you should never give a sucker an even break.

But whacko slimming scams cooked up by some smooth-talking Aussie are small beer compared with the really great cons of the past. Few can match Horatio Bottomley, the East-End-born Hackney MP and publisher of the jingoistic John Bull. His final flourish in 1918 was the Victory Bond Club, a neat little con that consisted of helping those who couldn't afford the £5 bonds by letting them pay what they could afford into the club which would buy the bonds for them. Bottomley pocketed £150,000 of the £500,000 that flowed into the club.

Jabez Balfour, a JP, Mayor of Croydon and MP for Burnley was at it a good few years earlier. His scam was called snowballing, his worthless companies sold land and property to each other, turned in huge 'profits', paid dividends to investors and looked almost honest. The trick was to use the money from the latest stock issue to pay the dividends due on the last and pocket the difference. Eventually the snowball melted and Balfour got 14 years. I think Enron came up with something similar ...

In Europe Victor Lustig was a conman of such sublime skill that he 'sold' the Eiffel Tower, not once, but twice. Next stop was the USA where he even tried to pull a fast one on Al Capone!

I can't leave out Maundy Gregory, the man who 'sold' knighthoods and peerages by finding out who was going to get a gong a few months in advance, then approaching the sucker and offering to 'arrange' it in return for a hefty fee.

There's one born every minute and all a conman needs to do is pick his moment, sound convincing and pocket someone else's cash. I guess we're all suckers in the end; it's just that no one but my friends will laugh if I fall for some con artist; if you're either famous or married to someone famous or both the whole world has a good laugh at your expense.

**Michael Gentry:  
Craftsman Extraordinaire**

By John Dearing

Michael Gentry is a picture framer and restorer, whose talents have also been applied to all manner of restoration projects. He is a keen guitar player who likes skiffle and swing; recently, he has restored a Martin acoustic jazz guitar from 1933.

In 1955, he became an apprentice restorer in Muswell Hill Broadway, and started his own business in Aylmer Parade in 1975, moving to his current workshop at 28, Church Lane in 1983.

**In the frame**

His varied clientele includes dealers, collectors and other private owners, galleries, museums, exhibitions, manufacturers, shipping and insurance companies. In 1986, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, presented the Pope with a painting of St. Thomas a' Beckett by Robert Wraith, framed by Michael Gentry. It is said that this painting still hangs in the Pope's private apartment.

The RAF museum in Hendon preserves some unusual wartime art. The practice of painting mascots onto the sides of airplanes was common, but it was only possible to remove and save the mascots



Michael Gentry in his workshop with jazz guitar restored by him.

Photo by John Dearing.

if they were fabric-covered planes such as the Wellington bomber. Michael has restored about a half dozen of these.

He has worked for Marlborough Fine Art, framing pictures for their 'stable' of artists, which includes John Piper, Ron Kitaj, and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. He has framed prints by Hockney and Picasso, and originals by Ben Nicholson. Another of his clients was Gloraphilia of Mill Hill, who produced tapestries.

**Heirlooms**

Michael's local trade is mostly antique / period pieces requiring restoration, typically family heirlooms, usually in very poor condition until he works his magic. He

recently restored six antique leather screens which were filthy and rotten in places, and some regency mirrors whose wooden frames were in a parlous state.

An incident some years ago that many readers may recall was when Lady Sonia Melchett hosted a party for TV-am, and Anna Ford threw wine at Jonathan Aitken. The wine splashed some of Lady Melchett's pictures, and Michael was subsequently called in to do repairs.

Michael will also copy or do pastiches of famous paintings, for example, horses in the style of Stubbs.

Michael Gentry can be contacted on 020 8444 7152.

**Deep in the Rainforest**

By James Loveday

**First I would like to thank very much everyone in East Finchley who sponsored me, enabling me to participate in this amazing expedition.**

After reaching Lima airport at midnight we departed on a disconcertingly old plane. The flight took about four hours, mostly over thick rainforest. We landed at the ramshackle airport in Iquitos. It wasn't yet midday but the heat was intense. There were two buses waiting to take us to base camp, provided by the university of the Amazon region of Peru. We set up our hammocks and received our food: pasta, rice, beans, tinned tomato paste, tinned mushrooms, tinned peaches and porridge. We had to purify the river water and drink that. We acclimatised for a few days and met the three Peruvian students who were joining our group. There were sixty English kids in five groups of twelve, each with three Peruvian students.

**Sailing up river**

My group began with two weeks on a research boat. We sailed upstream from Iquitos deep into the rainforest. The channel narrowed; the wildlife was spectacular as we were granted special access to restricted places. We studied river dolphins, manatees and macaws

from canoes at dawn and dusk, and bats and primates on land at midday and midnight. The crew were also skilled guides, helping us spot the animals - parrots, toucans, eagles, piranhas, cayman, snakes, iguanas, tree and poison dart frogs, monkeys of all kinds, huge butterflies and anteaters.

We stopped at a town on the way back, had a night out at its club, then swapped over with another group and were speed-boated back to Iquitos.

We drove to an entry point and faced a six mile hike in. We each had about 35 kilos to carry. It took seven hours to get to the wooden house where we were

staying. After recovering we set to work with our professor, who took us out to catch lizards. We did more bat-netting as well as studies on praying mantis, butterflies, six-inch caterpillars and enormous ants. We gave a good chunk of our kit to the couple who had put us up - and supplied us with home grown exotic fruits - so it took us half the time to walk out.

A minibus carried us back to base camp. We wrote up the science, had a day out in Iquitos and visited a local village to plunder their shop and play the children at football. Then we flew back to Lima for our flight home.

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❖ **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

❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Mobday 13 & 27 Jan, 10 & 24 Feb at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.

❖ **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

❖ **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

## An Evening With The NLC

It was clear from the queues of people waiting to go in and the merry buzz of conversation that this was a popular and long-anticipated event.

7 December had finally arrived and St James' Church, Muswell Hill, was packed with people eager to listen to the North London Chorus' performance of Handel's Messiah.

I was not disappointed. The joyous sacred music was pleasing to the ear from start to finish, and the acoustics were commendable. The elegance of the building coupled with the lively atmosphere added to a thoroughly enjoyable night.

The performance was filled with energy from beginning to end, engaging my ears with sounds from the harmonious Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass (SATB) choir to the diverse sounds of the strings, or the bare but beautiful harpsichord, all displaying true virtuosity.

Watch this space, as I am sure the NLC's chairman, Jeremy Pratt, will be busy organising more events. Rumours of a Brahms Requiem next summer have surfaced and I shall be in line for a ticket as soon as this is confirmed!

## Art Show for World Water

By Erini Rodis

Local artist Mari I'Anson, is currently showing works in a joint exhibition with other Finchley artists at the newly opened "Bertold Gallery" in Hendon Lane, which was opened in September this year.

The exhibition's theme is water - the aim being to raise money for the charity Water Aid, an organisation which campaigns for the provision of safe domestic water in some of the poorest parts of Africa and the Indian sub continent. Linda Samuels, who runs the gallery, started life in Africa and has made Christmas cards based on some of the landscapes.

The works are an eclectic mix of landscapes, snap shots and memories, with colours evoking thoughts of warmer climes and uncomplicated lives around the Thames, Venice, and the South of France, alongside more exotic locations.

## Book of Life

By Daphne Chamberlain

*Finchley Remembered*, a book produced by the Finchley Society and with a lot of local appeal, was launched at Waterstone's, North Finchley, in November. Laila Thomson, the store's assistant manager, told *THE ARCHER*, "I fell in love with this book at first sight, and it's already selling extremely well".



Finchley Society members at the launch. Photo by Toni Morgan

The Finchley Society's president, Bill Tyler, after revealing that the idea for the book surfaced 10 years ago, commented that "great things are achieved through perseverance".

### Primary sources

An anonymous benefactor also had a hand in this project, donating £500 towards the cost of professional editing. He received an inscribed copy from Mr Tyler, as did the editor, Lynn Bresler, and artists Mari I'Anson and Peter Marsh.

The originator of the idea, David Smith, told *THE ARCHER* that the book is primary source material, the recording of local history through people's personal recollections.

Quite a few of these recollections are about East Finchley, and they make fascinating reading. In fact, attentive readers may well recognise some of the contributors and contributions from *THE ARCHER*'s past pages!

## GARDENING

## Winter Fragrance

By Zena Robson

So after all that Christmas excess, it's time to get out and about and walk it all off. As you go, hopefully you'll come across some choice winter-flowering specimens in some neighbours' gardens that will waft their scent across your slowly-turning-blue nose.

Specials are the upright Mahonias, with their holly-like leaves and yellow fragrant flowers that remind me of lily-of-the-valley. Next there's the smaller evergreen known as Christmas Box, botanically *Sarcococca*; tiny flowers clustered along the undersides of stems but boy, do they put out a wonderful pong. But for me, the real stunner is the winter-flowering shrubby honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*. It flowers on bare stems and the scent can knock you over. Its size and unprepossessing leaves for the rest of the year make it a back of the border shrub but all you need to do is snip off some of the branches to bring indoors and the house will be full of its scent – much better than those smelly, smoky candles!!

The non-smellies have charms of their own. *Jasminum nudiflorum*, the winter flowering Jasmine, puts out its starry yellow flowers but it will need some support, as although often used where a climber is needed, it does not have the capacity to climb at all. If it needs a tidy, wait until it's finished flowering and take out some of the old twiggy growth. Then there's the Cornelian cherry, *Cornus mas*, which is covered in small, mimosa-type puffy yellow flowers that light up its bare outline. The early flowering Viburnums are meant to be scented but I must always have a cold when I have a sniff! The wonderful sight of the spidery flowers clinging to the witch-hazels, *Hamamelis*, is something else to stop and admire, but boy, are they slow growing! But we gardeners are nothing if not patient!

For ground cover, heathers and conifers come into their own now and to be perfectly honest, it's about the only time that I appreciate them (sorry, conifer-lovers!). For me, the sight of the peeling red bark on a *Prunus serrula*, or *Acer griseum* shining in the sun is a far prettier sight.

Well, I've waxed lyrical and hope that I've whetted your appetites for the delights that await you, so now to the more practical bits. I'd be staying off the lawn for a wee while even if we have a few days of fine weather and you think about getting out to mow; resist! All that autumn rain is still sitting there and you'll do more harm than good, and don't be tempted to wield the secateurs just yet either – a mild spell will stimulate growth that will be killed off in the first frost. However, if you are a Wisteria owner, you might want to do some winter pruning to make sure you have established those flowering spurs.

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

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life and a riotous Youth Club for church members. Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.  
Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>





**LETTERS - Memories of the squadron****The Spitfire  
Dear Ms Chamberlain**

I have just read your very interesting article regarding 393 Squadron ATC.

You mentioned that a Spitfire was outside Park House where the ATC met in 1940. In fact, this Squadron was 1825 not 393. They (393) were installed on the Rough Lots behind the old Finchley swimming pool, now the leisure centre.

You mentioned Mr R Pledge of Summerlee Avenue. He was my father, who later became Flight Lieutenant Pledge and was, for a while, Adjutant of the Squadron. The Spitfire was originally in front of the first home of 393 in Hendon Lane and later moved.

When my father was Adjutant I was part of a team of girls providing them with refreshments. I am the proud possessor of an ATC badge superimposed with a large W for Woman. I was actually 11 when the war started in 1939. My husband - Graham Waugh - was one of dad's cadets in Hendon Lane in 1940 and learnt radio communications and use of a Buzzer. I too learnt the Morse Code at an early age.

The Squadron was very competitive. I have fond memories of going to White City on a Sunday, when ordinary events weren't played, and the Squadron coming home with numerous prizes.

I well remember Mr Bryson who was a very important person in East Finchley and one officer called Marr and another called Trott. I did actually meet Mr Whitmore recently who moved down this way but has since died.

My brother, who lives in Summerlee Avenue, has lots of photos of the officers and cadets of the Squadron.

**Many thanks  
Joan Waugh****West Parley, Dorset**

PS. Your picture of the *Bald Faced Stag* in 1910 shows East Finchley Congregational Church where I was married in June 1954.

Send your correspondence to:  
"Letters Page", The Archer, PO  
Box 3699, London N2 8JA.  
(Letters may be edited for space)

**393 Squadron****Dear Sir**

I am always delighted to receive *THE ARCHER* and to be able to keep up to date with the latest topics of East Finchley. Our family lived in Church Lane from 1937 throughout the war years. In 1952 I moved to Gloucester.

I attended Martin School (my teacher in 1937 was Mrs Dolling), then moved on to the Alder School until the age of 14; the teachers at that time were Headmaster Mr Thomas; Deputy Head Mr Cowling; and teachers Russell, Palmer, Clarke, Harrison, Holt (woodwork teacher), Mrs Calvert, Mrs Druse. At the Alder most of the time was spent in the air raid shelters; spending the whole of the day awaiting the all-clear siren to return back home and await the all-night bombing. I would like to mention the names of some school friends - Peter Down (who I am in contact with), Bonna Kirk, Bob True, Donald Burgess, Bill Dwyer, David Norris, Betty Glass, Joan Hammond and Pat Kirby.

I notice in the November issue of *THE ARCHER* mention of the 393 Squadron ATC. I was a member during the early part of the war. On first joining the Squadron it was based in a house in The Bishops Avenue from where we moved to Park House. The OC at the time was Flight Lieutenant Piper, Adjutant FO Casey. Another officer was PO Edgar Cattle who was the proprietor of the undertakers, situated on the corner of Lincoln Road. Edgar was a very much respected local officer in the East Finchley Salvation Army. Also on the staff was a Mr James who was a teacher at Finchley High School and, as mentioned, Mr Bryson.

My best wishes and thanks to all the volunteers.

Yours sincerely  
**Bramwell Holland**  
Gloucester

**“The Spitfire Was in my Garden”**

By Daphne Chamberlain

**A lot of you remember that Spitfire opposite the station (see November issue), but Maureen Betts told us it was actually in her front garden.**

It was already in residence when Maureen and her family moved into Park House immediately after the Second World War, and she thinks it stayed there for a couple of years.

She remembers the Air Training Corps Squadron meeting in a very large wooden hut in the Park House grounds. “You went up to it along the footpath at the side of Cherry Tree Wood. Park House was divided into two flats. We had the upper one, with a view over the station platform, and our friends, the Bowmans, had the ground floor. A similar house, where Mr Puckey the dentist lived, was where GLH is now, and the gardens behind were massive. There were about four allotments there too.”

Maureen Bowers, as she was then, was 11 or 12 when her family moved in, and not particularly interested in planes. “It’s something to tell my grandchildren though.” Does she have any memories of the Squadron? She giggles. “Let’s say I don’t remember them, if they don’t remember me!”

In fact, Maureen knows a

lot about East Finchley, where she has spent all her life. During World War II the Bowers lived in Oak House, which used to stand in Oak Lane. In the basement of this home was the local ARP

centre, and in the garden, she remembers, was a hut. This one was used to test gas masks against the effect of various gases. An uncomfortably topical note on which to end.

**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.*

**May I Have This Dance?**

By Stephen Woolley

**Except for the silly old fools who have yet to grow up, it remains a young culture - and difficult to comprehend.**

I refer to the heavy metal, rock or whatever you call it, exploding in my eardrums as I entered the *Constitutional Club*. Apparently a young adult birthday party was on. Such primitive music - on at volume from a disc jockey playing to dancers, who jumped up and down without the aid of skipping-ropes. The one exception, a girl near me, was holding a wineglass and a burning cigarette, so obviously her knees could only gesture to the pandemonium on the maple floor.

I made for the nearest pub and, over a beer, the paradox brought me back to my teenage years and an RAF hangar, where a kindly WAAF called “One, two, three”, as I attempted the basic steps of the waltz. I tried not to tread on her toes with my leather boots (rubber-soled on a concrete floor).

**Golden days**

“If you hope to have a good social life, you must learn to dance.” I, for one, soon accepted this mature advice, being based near a big town with so many girls.

Therefore, taking lessons from wherever they came, most of us soon had some adroitness in circling round to pleasing music and singers with golden vocals, which made many fall in and out of love many, many times.

Today, it’s presentation without substance, vocalised mediocrity made designer-melodious by electronic engineers. How nice it is sometimes to walk into the Windsor Castle on Karaoke Night and hear a singer from the Big Band era. And how many readers will remember with nostalgia the dance halls in and around Finchley: - the Finchley Dance Hall, the Arcadia, the Royalty, the Drill Hall and the Athenaeum.

And in the final analysis of romantic venues, how many residents of Finchley owe their very existence to a simple phrase; “May I have this dance”?

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# THE ARCHER

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## What has happened to the Art Film Makers?

By Femke van Iperen

**Independent film is increasingly being strangled by under-funding. So what does the future hold? Where better to discuss the issue than between the art deco panels of the Phoenix, widely known for its support of film culture and normally-hard-to-find independent movies.**

On 24 November, a specialist panel consisting of the Head of London Film School Ben Gibson, British Film Institute's Helen de Witt and Ken Loach's producer Rebecca O'Brien tackled the obstacles that filmmakers often face. Special guest was Kitty Cooper, whose late husband Charles Cooper was honoured with the event. Their Contemporary Films, UK's pioneer in independent foreign, art-house and specialist films, rescued the Phoenix from collapsing in the 70s.

When host Mr Gibson took off his black hat and carefully positioned the microphone, no one seemed surprised as he kicked off with, "Good Afternoon Comrades". Introducing the discussion with his concerns about the lack of cultural input and minimal funding for innovative newcomers, he said, "This has been a frustrating cycle for me, and I am very depressed about the whole thing", and added, "Commercial, commercial, commercial" might have been the motto of the last years", before condemning the audience tendency to view entertainment as the rival of art.

About the current status of low-budget film versus profit-making, producer Ms O'Brien

was equally pessimistic: "The big problem of the last years is that everyone is aiming high to compete with the American market, whilst low-budget films can never be seen in the cinema. We are missing a generation of art filmmakers; the successors of [UK Film Directors] Sally Potter [The Piano], Peter Greenaway [The Cook, the Thief, his Wife and her Lover] what happened to them?"

### Active support

But not all was doom; BFI's Ms de Witt had a more optimistic view to offer, "... We do have some talent here and some smaller movies are getting the media coverage they deserve. There is a growing underground cinema and there are rising audience numbers at London Film galleries with exciting new programmes."

Ms de Witt also told *THE ARCHER* her own aspirations for improvements: "It's important for people who love cinema to have their own vision, to devote to it their own voices and pockets but also to write letters to the press on the issues that are not covered."

The message of the day was loud and clear: get active and support independent film: its survival will determine the future of cinema.



Tark Butler beside his paintings - photo by Toni Morgan

## Local Artist holds Exhibition

By Toni Morgan

**At a recent exhibition at his home in East Finchley, artist Tark Butler showed a collection of his paintings including vibrant Mediterranean scenes, atmospheric cathedral interiors, stations and still life.**

A steady stream of visitors during the day were

able to purchase original paintings, limited edition prints and cards. Those of you who saw his earlier exhibitions will be pleased to hear that he is planning to make this an annual event - watch *THE ARCHER* for dates.

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