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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.



Crowds follow the procession into Cherry Tree Wood for the East Finchley Festival.
Photo by David Glick

All the Fun of the Fair

Once again the East Finchley Festival was a roaring success.
See the centre pages for our photo spread.

Library Consultation Booked

By Daphne Chamberlain

At the Barnet Council cabinet meeting on 16 June it was decided that public consultation about the siting of the library would now begin in September. Councillor Mike Freer, Member for Value and Effectiveness, stated that it was right to consult both library users and non-users. The object would be to find out what people want from their library service.

Refurbishment estimate revealed

One option would be refurbishment of the present library, the estimated cost of which is in the region of £650,000. This would include overhauling the pitched roof, renewing and

painting some of the flat roof, damp penetration treatment to exposed walls, modernisation of the heating system, rewiring, redecoration, provision of a lift, removal of some interior walls and partitions, new shelving and furniture. It does not include professional fees or ICT re-cabling.

If Park House were to be put up for open sale, the best price would obviously allow expenditure in education, etc. Meanwhile, it will be offered to HGS Institute on a temporary basis.

Consultation question

Several Councillors mentioned the volume of e-mails and messages received from members of the public, and it was asked whether the form of the consultation would allow people to make their own comments. This question was taken back for discussion.

It was said again that using the first floor of the proposed Waitrose development as a library is only one of the possible options, although no other option was specified. No detailed planning application can be considered until after the consultation.

The Controlled Parking Zone was agreed to be a success, but could be reconsidered in future – if necessary.

The specific question of the Waitrose development was not pursued.

Warning on Windows

A warning from Barnet BoroughWatch

Recently there were six burglaries, all on one night in the Borough of Barnet, where thieves stole valuable vehicles by gaining entry to homes through open windows and unlocked doors.

Once inside the home, thieves were able to find the car keys and then steal the vehicle from outside.

Early hours

The majority of these offences were committed

during the early hours of the morning. As always, it is imperative that residents ensure that windows and doors are securely locked, even if they don't own a valuable car.

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PO Box 3699
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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

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East Finchley Newspapers

EDITOR
Kevin Finn

EDITORIAL TEAM
David Hobbs
Diana Cormack
Daphne Chamberlain
Mal Jacobs
Sonia Singham

SUB-EDITORS & PROOF READERS
Frances Loveday
Pam Kent

PICTURE EDITOR
Erini Rodis

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Alison Roberts
Tony Roberts
Paul Northam

ADVERTISING
John Dearing
Toni Morgan

FINANCE
Sue Holliday

ADMINISTRATION
Toni Morgan

DISTRIBUTION
Alison Roberts
Pam Kent

HONORARY LEGAL ADVISER
Francis Coulson

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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 July is the copy deadline for the August issue.

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- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774



Blocked in - residents of Viceroy Close are unable to use their garages.
Photo by John Dearing.

Tipping Misery

By John Dearing

Fly tippers have visited Viceroy Close twice in as many weeks, leaving heaps of builders' rubble blocking the residents' garages. Old cookers, refrigerators, beds and so on, distributed around the Viceroy Close access area, have made it a total eyesore.

Barnet Council Environmental Health officers have visited the area, and are urging the freeholders to clear the mess, but will have difficulty enforcing anything on what is private land, despite it being, in practice, a public car park.

Residents say that there is little anyone can do unless there is a gate placed across the entrance. This is unlikely to happen before there is a resolution to the planning application to develop this area, which has been outstanding for over two years, and shows no signs of being either accepted or

refused, despite the guidelines on planning authorities to the contrary.

A Worthy Home for Preloved Items

By Erini Rodis

If you balk at spending £20 for the council to cart your old furniture off to a landfill site, then here's a possible alternative.

The *Kings X Furniture Project* is an organisation that takes surplus large furniture and distributes it to otherwise

unfurnished homes.

By recycling unwanted domestic goods in this way they are not only passed on to people who really need them, but the amount of bulky goods which would otherwise go to landfill or incineration is reduced.

Based in Tottenham Hale, the project is staffed mainly by volunteers. This keeps costs down, so a donation towards running costs would be appreciated...call Austin on 020 8493 0900 for details of the scheme, or to get something large very conveniently picked up!

Flytippers will be Prosecuted

A man who dumped bags of rubbish in an Edgware street has been ordered to pay £300 costs and given a conditional discharge.

He was prosecuted after officers from Barnet's Environmental and Neighbourhood service found documents in the rubbish relating to an address in the same road. The resident of that address had asked the accused to put the bags in a council skip, but instead they were just dumped.

Councillor Brian Coleman said, "I hope this case serves as a warning to anyone who thinks they can abuse Barnet's streets. They can be sure that if we hear about it, we will track them down and prosecute."



Changed Plans at School

By Daphne Chamberlain
Bishop Douglass School has abandoned its original plan for a sports hall and community centre because it would have been inappropriate for the site.

The scheme, which was backed by New Opportunities Funding, would have entailed extensive hall lets, a fitness club and a youth centre. However, the school had reservations about its suitability for the area. These doubts were reinforced by a petition and feedback from neighbouring residents, who feared increased noise and traffic.

Scrapping the plan meant the loss of New Opportunities Funding. However, the Department of Education and Skills has agreed to give 100% funding for a new school sports hall, to be open to the public for no more than 10% of its total hours of use. It will continue to be available for small community groups.

Outgoing Head Mike Kelly invited neighbouring residents to a meeting at the school last month, where they viewed the plans. Work on the sports hall is due to begin this August and finish next May, while the science block should be completed this September.

Care for the community

The revised arrangements will still provide extra parking

space, which should help to relieve congestion in the roads. Angela Murphy, due to take up her post as Head in September, told residents that staff and pupils would park on school premises.

A part-time gardener will 'soften' the car park area and frontage with landscaping, and although an electrical sub-station has to be installed at the junction with Manor Park Road, residents were assured it would be safe.

The meeting agreed that social events at the school would finish by midnight, with everyone out of the building and away from the immediate area by then. The school also agreed that building work would not start before 8am.

Angela Murphy pledged to continue Mr Kelly's work in 'turning round' pupil behaviour, emphasising that all complaints would continue to be taken seriously.

Both Heads stressed the importance of good community relations, and it was agreed that Bishop Douglass would host regular meetings with its neighbours in future.

Waste Watching

By Erini Rodis

Delegates in Avenue House tucked into a breakfast of croissants, scrambled eggs and lashings of tea and coffee on 3 June while guest speakers provided information on "why it pays to be green".

Run by the Waste Watch Business Network, the free breakfast was held to inform businesses about implementing simple cost saving ideas that will also benefit the environment.

Delegates were asked to imagine the scenario of a business required to reduce environmental impact and were asked to choose quick and low-cost savings from a range of waste reduction, energy and water efficiency actions. The idea was to get them thinking about environmental initiatives that could easily be introduced into their work places.

Best green practice

Waste Watch Business Network is a membership based not-for-profit waste minimisation network that has been running since 1998. Its aims are to help its members reduce waste disposal costs and improve their overall environmental performance. Their services include waste minimisation surveys; a helpline for advice on environmental issues; recycling and purchasing discounts and regular newsletters and seminars. For more information contact Victoria Howse on 020 8745 4117 or victoria@wastewatch.co.uk, or visit www.wastewatch.org.uk

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Whetstone Farmer's Market is a local source of fresh, organic and unusual foods. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Barnet Stalls on Market

By Daphne Chamberlain

Why is Barnet in danger of losing its Farmers' Market? London Farmers' Markets are threatening closure unless trade picks up, while markets elsewhere are holding their own.

I spoke to the stallholders, who all told very much the same story. Initial response was very good, but then the customers disappeared. Takings on one stall have dropped by 80%, and another now has one person serving instead of two.

All but one of the stallholders stand regularly at other markets, which they say are much better supported. There may be a slight downward trend everywhere, one told me, but nothing like here. Others are still busy, and have many more regular customers.

Use it or lose it

So what is the problem? Is it the venue? Some would prefer a site in a busier area, but others are happy with the main road, and one was particularly appreciative of Barnet's signs.

Is it the day? That probably can't be changed. "Anyway," said one, "If people could come at the beginning, they could still come now."

Has it been the weather? "Well, Whetstone has certainly lived up to its name," but then "all markets are affected by weather."

Most of them agreed with the London Farmers' market representative, who would like parking restrictions relaxed to allow them an earlier opening – at 10am.

Glimmer of hope

Meanwhile, there is a glimmer of hope. Trade has picked up slightly in the past couple of weeks, and they are just coming into the summer fruit and vegetable season.

Last week I saw wild rabbit and pheasant, fresh eggs, buffalo's milk cheese, fresh fish you can order, hand-made bread, honey straight from the hive (the beekeeper is there only once a month), and some 'different' plants. The Farmers' Market is at High Road, Whetstone, almost opposite Waitrose, at 11am every Friday.

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Photo by Tony Roberts

Hungry for Hungary?

By Diana Cormack

By the time you read this The Old Europeans will be no more. At the end of June, after fifteen years in business at 106 High Road, John and Elizabeth Kertai are closing their Hungarian restaurant and moving to Bridgewater. However, they are not retiring, but are planning to open another restaurant down in Somerset serving continental style dishes.

John left Budapest for London after the Hungarian revolution in 1956. He came to the High Road property after one of his sons had been using it as an outlet for his bakery business. With few Hungarian restaurants around, the ambience, décor and, of course, the food, often accompanied by authentic live music, soon

earned The Old Europeans a London-wide reputation, with listings in many a gourmet guide. Unlike some restaurants, the dessert menu was always as strong as the main course, with authentic and delicious Hungarian specialties. The proof of the pudding was in the eating, for eighty per cent of the clientele were

regular customers.

John told *THE ARCHER*, "We'll be sorry to leave East Finchley; it's a friendly place."

He has been a long-term friend to *THE ARCHER*, for he was one of our original advertisers.

At the time of writing there are plans for a Thai restaurant to open on the premises.

Just for the Record

By Diana Cormack

Passers-by may have been puzzled when the sign above The Bargain Centre at 212 High Road was changed to The Green Party. Rumour has it that when the original sign collapsed, Noel Lynch, who ran a bric-a-brac business in the front part of the premises, just happened to have another one handy! Since taking up his seat as Green Party member on the GLA Noel has given up his shop, so there is due to be yet another sign above it and this time it will say "Alan's Records."

Backroom boy

Though he is giving the place a new look Alan Dobrin is no newcomer, for he has been selling records from the back room there for the last nine years. During this time he has built up a wide reputation, having custom-

ers from all over the world, including famous names like Jarvis Cocker, Corner Shop and Bitty McLean. Whatever you like, you should be able to find something amongst Alan's collection of 10,000 records and 3,000 CDs, which date from the 50s to

the present day.

Words and music

The space he vacated has now been filled with second hand books, the range of which is difficult to describe, though *from literature to witchcraft* has been suggested. These are the responsibility of Gerry Ingram, who has contributed pieces to *THE ARCHER* over the years. Gerry is careful about the books he chooses but you'll have to go and browse to see if his choice is to your taste.

Alive and kicking

Alan, who originally came to East Finchley for only six weeks, told *THE ARCHER*, "We're here to keep vinyl alive and kicking."

But Alan is also helping to keep the High Road alive by bringing in people to visit his shop.

The shop is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 12.00 noon to 6.30pm.

How East Finchley Welcomed Ethnic Cuisine

By John Dearing

If you lived or worked in East Finchley in the 1950s or 1960s you could have eaten out at the Black Bess, Ron's, the Manhattan or the Empire cafés, or fish restaurants, the Enterprise or the Venus (which later became Peter's and is now the Poseidon). These establishments would have served largely traditional English dishes.

Eastern and western promise

In 1970, a foretaste of the future came from the Chinese community with the opening of the China Garden restaurant (now the Mandarin) at 152 High Road. East Finchley's first taste of food from the Indian sub-continent came in 1975 when the Shilalipi Indian restaurant opened on the site of what is now Gertie Brownes free house. At about the same time, the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain (who also, arguably, serve ethnic food) opened on the corner of Huntingdon Road and the High Road.

Many readers will no doubt remember with affection the Nicola Stage Tavern, open from 1976 to 1988, which would have been the first introduction to Greek cuisine (and Greek music and dance) for many people.

Surprisingly, given the presence of an Italian community in London from the turn of the last century, it would seem that the first Ital-

ian restaurant in East Finchley (except, perhaps, for the earlier Ferdenzi Cesari café), the Trattoria Casalinga, opened as late as 1975. Later it became the Villa Borgese, moving from 82 High Road to 114 (now Bar XL) in 1988.

Increasing competition

Competition for the Asian pioneers came in 1981 with the Quality Tandoori, and 1989 with Shanghai Shanghai.

More recently East Finchley has been able to dine at The Old Europeans Hungarian restaurant and the newly opened Mezes Bar (2003).

Mention should also be made of our first ethnic shop. This was the Mahavir Sweet Mart, started in 1972 by the Sheth family, originally from Kenya, which is still going strong. They specialise in Indian sweets and savouries.

Most of the information for this article came from the Post Office and BT directories, so all dates are approximate. The help of the Barnet Archive is gratefully acknowledged.

Too Sexy for my Pub?

A karaoke night held on Whit Saturday at The Five Bells public house on East End Road raised £120 for the charity Lupus UK. This is in addition to the £50 raised there at Easter by both adults and children taking part in such events as table football, egg and spoon and sack races.

Organiser Sippy Azizollah would like to thank Eddie Goodman for his support and encouragement as well as all those who attended and gave their time and money, with a special mention for pub manager Pat O'Shaughnessy. On a bet of £50 before he would perform, nearly £64 was collected to persuade him to sing "I'm too sexy for my shirt." This was over half the amount actually raised, proving perhaps that Pat is too sexy by half!

OBITUARY

The Archer is saddened to reort the death of NORAH WHITE, who died suddenly on Sunday 22 June after a short illness.

Norah had lived in East Finchley for 58 years. She was an active lady, always willing to help others, especially the elderly. Norah greatly enjoyed her scrabble, bingo and soap operas. She will be sadly missed by all her friends and family.

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Fish and Chips

By Diana Cormack

Fish and chips has long been regarded as a traditional British meal. You went to the chippie and that's what you got. But gradually things began to change. Saveloys and sausages, chicken and pies, mushy peas and gherkins were added to the menu.

Many people will remember Peter's Fish Bar at 102 High Road, now the Poseidon Fish Bar and Restaurant, where, according to the present owner Stelios Andreou, there has been a fish and chip shop for over thirty years. He has only been there for not quite two of those years, yet in that time he has brought about changes which would probably amaze the original owner.

Your meal might consist of hamburgers or doner and shish kebabs. You can spice up your dish with curry sauce. All very international and a long way from the basic battered meal for which the British have become known all over the world.

Casting wide

Now, instead of the traditional fried fish, customers at the Poseidon restaurant can choose to have it grilled. Some things don't change though, for cod is still the most popular fish. There is a wide range to choose from, including Dover Sole, Sea Bass and Sea Bream

with all the fish being of high quality and delivered fresh daily from Billingsgate.

"People will travel far for good fish," Stelios told me and said that some of his clientele come from places as far as away as Gants Hill and Watford. He named well-known customers such as Stanley Baxter, Martin Bashir, Steve McFadden and other members of the cast of EastEnders.

Friday fryday

It may be a hangover from the Roman Catholic tradition or just a good way to start the weekend, but Friday is still the busiest day. Last year, unbeknown to Stelios, the shop was visited by someone from the Good Eating Guide. This resulted in an award of distinction for excellence, with a certificate of outstanding achievement for maintaining very high standards of traditional quality and customer service. Obviously Stelios and his staff have no need to fish for compliments!

Allergy Attack

By Daphne Chamberlain

Allergies can be fatal. They can bring on anaphylactic shock, in which blood pressure drops dramatically, tissues swell and the throat closes. If treatment is not administered immediately cardio-respiratory arrest causes death.

The most common allergens are peanuts (groundnuts), tree nuts, dairy produce and eggs, fish and other seafood, wheat, and soya. Whether eating out or preparing meals at home, people with severe allergy reactions face potential problems.

Check it out

As spokesperson for the Anaphylaxis Campaign, a national charity with over 7,000 members, advises always checking out a restaurant, preferably beforehand. Ask to speak to the chef. If he or she shows uncertainty, be very wary. Tell them clearly what the allergy is. If there is a language barrier, write down the offending food in the other language. Whenever possible, have a witness.

Ask how the food is prepared. Cross-contamination – e.g. using the same knife, or re-using an oil which has been used for the allergy-causing food – is dangerous.

Check, when your order arrives, that ingredients have not been substituted. It has been known for flaked

almonds, for example, to be replaced by peanuts.

There is no legal obligation for caterers to list ingredients, but if they give you wrong information which triggers an allergic reaction, that is a criminal offence.

Show and tell

Follow the same guidelines at home, and be scrupulous about checking ingredients of anything each time you buy. Manufacturers can – and do – make changes, and that extra ingredient could be lethal.

When entertaining, always ask your guests whether they are allergic to anything. Young people, in particular, can feel awkward about making a fuss or drawing attention to themselves.

People with severe allergies should carry medication at all times, and make their companions aware of this.

Useful websites are www.allergyaction.org and www.anaphylaxis.org.uk. The Anaphylaxis Campaign can be contacted on 01252 542029.



Fresh tomatoes, paxamati bread, slices of halloumi cheese and a portion of makaronia dou founou are accompanied by bowls of black eyed beans with spinach, raw onion and vegetables, or a mixed salad topped with yoghurt and Calamata olives. Be generous with the oil and lemon... Photo by Erini Rodis.

Middle Eastern food in East Finchley

By Erini Rodis

What is Greek food? Is it all kebabs in pitta? The meze, like the Spanish tapas, is a recent arrival on our High Road and consists of many delicacies for sharing. Or do you think of mousaka? This classic layered mince and potato dish is labour intensive to make and chronically mispronounced! So please let the stress fall on the last syllable; it should be: mou-ssa-kah!

When I was young 'exotic' food included Yorkshire pud and toad-in-the-hole, just because we didn't have them at home! Shops like Continental, which has been run by four Cypriot families since the sixties, supply 'exotic' foods, like Greek yoghurt, olives, taramasalata, houmous and tatziki, as everyday foods.

Same difference

The culinary overlap in the eastern Mediterranean means that many recipes are similar but with different names: for example Greek *dolmates* = Turkish *dolma* = Cypriot *koubebia* = stuffed vine leaves! *Feta* goat's cheese (great in salads) is from mainland Greece, while *halloumi*, (delicious sliced and grilled) is Cypriot.

Turkish cuisine includes deep-fried meatball *kofte*s. The Lebanese have *gadeifi*, a sort of spun pastry surrounding the same honey and crushed nuts filling as *paklava*, which is made with *filo* pastry, which in turn is used to wrap a number of delectable fillings, both sweet and savoury.

To give a salad a Greek twist just add the juice of a freshly cut real lemon, a little salt and a generous amount of extra virgin olive oil. Or drizzle this concoction over a fresh hunk of *koullouri* bread and eat it alongside a plateful of *louvi* (black-eyed beans with spinach), or *fasolia* (white kidney beans) stewed with celery. Round

it all off with a little Turkish/Greek coffee (it's all grown in Nicaragua anyway) for a sense of gastric fulfilment...

If we are what we eat, then how many different cultures we becoming? Who cares? As my late Auntie Evrou, who could tell how ripe a watermelon was just by tapping it, used to say, "Now hush, and eat!"

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Zoolaski. Photo by Alison Roerts



North London Performing Arts. Photo by Erini Rodis

If you went down to the woods...

Saturday 21 June saw the start of yet another successful East Finchley Festival. The boys and girls enjoyed their football event at Strawberry Vale on Saturday; they also enjoyed the best of the weather.

Sunday's event started with a grand parade from Strawberry Vale to the main venue at Cherry Tree Wood. The theme of year's parade was 'The Green Man', which inspired a number of attractive costumes.

At the main venue there were many stalls - offering produce, games or simply giving information. There were lots of activities for children, including face painting, drawing, story telling, fairground rides and a bouncy castle.

Heavenly aroma

A wide array of food stalls sent wonderful smells floating across Cherry Tree Wood. This year there seemed to be even more stalls, offering a good variety of snacks and beverages. As always, the beer tent did a roaring trade. Many people relaxed on the grass with a cool beer to enjoy the music from the newly named 'ARCHER' stage. Unfortunately there were a few technical hitches with the PA system, but it didn't appear to spoil the atmosphere and, hopefully, had nothing to do with the new name!



Above: The many food stalls provide fuel for a picnic in the park.
Photo by Erini Rodis

The Festival Organisers would like us to say a special thank you to Antigua Joe, who stepped into the breach with an impromptu acoustic set when the PA failed. At the other end of the park, an equally enthusiastic crowd enjoyed music and performance art on the low stage.

Here's to next year

East Finchley is extremely fortunate to have such an event, where we can sit in the sun,

eat, drink and chat to friends whilst enjoying the entertainment around us. On behalf of the people of East Finchley we would like to offer our thanks to the many dedicated volunteers and generous individuals and businesses who have helped make this great event possible. With your continued support, we look forward to many more fun summer weekends in Cherry Tree Wood.

Competition winners:

Guess how many words on the page - Sarah Ebner of Baronsmere Road came closest to the correct total of 1122.

Treasure Hunt - Martin Earl of Leslie Road found Archie's arrow. Congratulations to both!



Children sit transfixed in the storyteller's tent. Photo by Alison Roberts



Teresa Harrison & Oliver on the Martn School stall. Photo by David Glick

Below: Training on the green with the Territorial Army
Photo by Alison Roberts



Above: The procession passes The Phoenix. Photo by David Glick
Left: The game must go on - basketball in the park. Photo by Erini Rodis



Above: The procession advances down Summerlee Avenue. Photo by David Glick. Top left: enjoying the festival. Photo by Alison Roberts. Left: Margaret Donnachie & Tilda. Photo by David Glick



2-year-old Kalli with painted face. Photo by Erini Rodis





Chinese dragon in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by David Glick



Buzz Junkies. Photo by Alison Roberts

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Lawrie Chivers smiles over Danny Thurgood (who holds the trophy shield) and Brijesh Pujara. Photo by Hugh Petrie

Good Times...

On Saturday 14 June Martin School PTA had their annual Fun Day. The field of Martin's School was meant for children's memories. Adults made themselves busy: painting faces, tattooing with henna, barbecuing, serving fruit cocktails. In front of the bookstall a child was lost in a volume, while in other parts of the field, older children cooled off in a water fight, and younger children played on the bouncy castles.

In one corner two girls played at make believe by the hedgerow with nothing more than imagination. The fancy dress competition was won by a walking sweet corn; the many girls dressed in witch and fairy costumes unable to win through magic. Finchley fire brigade brought an engine, and for a while the sirens wail echoed off Coldfall woods, on the distant blue-sky horizon across the bee busy fields of allotments.

...and good sports

The back of the field was taken up by five-a-side football. Teams named after cars, in honour of the sponsor, A1 Chivers, played for a shield. The final was between the 'Volvos'

and the 'Rovers'. The Volvos, weakened by a late substitution, were no match for the Rovers. One of the Rovers singled himself out with a degree of elegance unusual at his age. Danny Thurgood with dexterity, command, and confidence, scored five goals. The game would have been his if Brijesh Pujara had not made the victory 6-0 in the last moment. The Volvos, though losing, played to the whistle as if there was still a chance and left the field, without signs of ill feeling or disappointment, as good sportsmen. When all these children have grown they will remember the summer fun day; Martin School Field is made for memories.

Holy Trinity Church

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Sundays: The Parish Communion 10 a.m.

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Brookland School Through to National Chess Finals

Brookland Junior School's champion chess players have just notched up another victory by getting through to the finals of the National Schools Chess Championships held in Rutland at the end of June. A record number of Brookland players – 42 – attended the semi-finals at Pontins in Norfolk in mid-June. Out of the school's seven teams – more than for any other primary school in the UK – two teams, Brookland Under 11 'A' team and Brookland Under 9 'A' team both made it through to the finals.

Brookland head teacher Heather Blackmore said, "I am absolutely thrilled for the children and delighted at their successes, which are due in no small part to the enthusiasm and dedication of our chess coach, John Fleetwood. We also receive wonderful support from parents who ferry the children to tournaments, help with extra practice sessions and do not seem to mind the ignominy of being beaten by their young sons and daughters on the chessboard!"

All the right moves

John Fleetwood said, "Brookland has been doing phenomenally well and to get so many youngsters to such a high level is a real achievement. The school has got some really excellent young players and they seem to be on a winning streak, so we are keeping our fingers firmly crossed for the finals."

Ms Blackmore confesses that she herself is not a chess player but greatly enjoys watching matches and believes that chess has huge educational value. "I believe chess teaches the children so much about the need for team-

work, about competition and how to cope with both winning and losing. It also improves their powers of concentration and helps them appreciate the value of strategic thinking. The UK finals will be our next big challenge."



Cartoon by Jake Eisman-Renyard

YOUNG ARCHER

Friends

What is a friend? You probably have plenty of them at school, around where you live and at any clubs you might belong to. One of them will be your best friend and some of them could be friends with you for a very long time. But most of them will be about the same age as you.

However, an old age pensioner called Pam Smith has written the poem below called *My Friends*. It is not about the old people she knows; it is about some children who live in her road.

My dictionary says that a friend is "a person whom one knows, likes and trusts." Some children nine and ten-year-olds in Holy Trinity School wrote these descriptions:

- "I think a friend is someone who helps you and is kind to you." (Cicely King)
- "A friend is someone who cares for you and stands up for you." (Alex Sakuru)
- "A friend is someone who cares for you, understands you and comforts you so you know you're safe and protected with love. They listen to your problems." (Evan Coleshill)
- "A friend is someone who looks after you and plays with you." (Edward Amery)

My Friends

By Pam Smith

My friends are the children who live in my street
They all say "Hello" whenever we meet.
There's Carina and Luca and Caterina too
Tom and Chloe and a dog named Boo.
There's Matthew who lives next door you know
He always smiles and says "Hello".
There's nothing they won't do for me
Because I am their friend you see.
When we meet they call out "Hello Pam!"
They knock on my door to see how I am.
In winter when we had the snow
They cleared my path all in one go.
They had the day off school you see
And decided to come and call on me.
In summer when the flowers are big
The children come and help me dig.
The aphids have arrived this year
The poor roses are covered I fear.
I needed ladybirds to come
And eat the aphids one by one.
I hadn't any on the plants
All I had was a lot of ants.
The children went up and down the road
And brought me back a lovely load
Of ladybirds of every size.
Along the road I heard their cries,
"Here are some more. Oh, come and see!"
They were bringing them, just for me.
I thank God for my little friends
And that is where my story ends.

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Diamond Day

By John Dearing

Gladys and Donald Rowe celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on Saturday 14 June with a gathering of friends and relatives at their home in Homefield Gardens. Visitors included their daughter Dorothy, their two granddaughters and one great granddaughter. Then they were off to a party in their honour at the Homefield Gardens hall, which was specially decorated for the event

60 Years Together

Donald was born in Church End 85 years ago. He joined the army in 1939, serving in the Artillery in Northern Ireland for two years, before going to Liverpool. Gladys was born in Knotty Ash and went to the same school as Ken Dodd. She used to go to the NAAFI dances on Monday nights, and there Gladys and Donald met. They were married in Huyton

in 1943, but were not together long before the war called and Donald was involved in the D-Day landings in Normandy. Re-united in 1945, they lived briefly in Temple Fortune, before returning to Finchley, settling in Sedgemere Avenue, where they lived for 43 years.

Commuting

Donald spent most of his working life in stationery and office furniture sales,

commuting to town, while Gladys worked at a variety of activities including 12 years in the Women's Voluntary Service doing meals on wheels and 8 years as the afternoon cashier at The Phoenix.

THE ARCHER and all its readers congratulate them both and wish them all the best for the future.



Donald and Gladys Rowe celebrate 60 years together. Photo by John Dearing.

Another Clean Sweep

In May THE ARCHER carried a request from the RSPCA clinic in Park Road, for a volunteer cleaner.

The appeal was rapidly answered by fifteen-year-old Charlotte Lea-Robbins, of Park Hall Road. She was looking for a service to do as part of her silver medal in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Having successfully completed the bronze section when she was fourteen, Charlotte is a year ahead and cannot go on for the gold award until she is eighteen.

Charlotte, a former pupil of St James CE Primary School, Muswell Hill is in Year 10 at The Mount School in Mill Hill. She enjoys netball, ice-skating at Alexandra Palace and attends Majorie Millons ballet classes in East Finchley. Charlotte loves cats and she has three of them. She also has a hamster, which probably has one of the cleanest cages in the area.



Turan Turan shows Noel Lynch an air-bag restraining device. Photo by Erini Rodis.

Our Community Fire Station

By Erini Rodis

It's not all helmets and hoses at the Fire brigade in Long Lane, as Green Party London Assembly Member Noel Lynch found out when he visited in early June. Noel was appointed to the Fire Brigade Authority in mid May and met station commander Turan Turan for a tour of the changes inside the art deco building.

The station's *mobilising* system – the shockingly loud bell – has been replaced by a clear woman's voice to inform them of a call-out, just like on the tube... and thanks to strict health and safety guidelines visitors are no longer allowed to slide down the fireman's pole.

Getting technical

On the *appliance* (which we tend to call a fire engine) breathing apparatus with gas and radio attached have been made 'intrinsically safe' – which means they can work in hostile environments. A *rapid intervention kit* now includes a combination tool with a 3 ton cutting capacity – ideal for opening lift doors or cutting open car wrecks. Airbag restraining devices allow the bag off sideways instead of in a fire fighter's face, and all

of these, plus water hydrants, need to be checked and maintained on a regular basis.

Prevention

Operations have become more focused on community fire prevention than emergency response. "It's great when someone who has done a rescue turns out to be a child who's followed a plan they learned at school" says SDO Alan Payton, "It's great to

bring them in and thank them for that – and it's the icing on the cake for them."

Free alarms

As part of a London-wide initiative, Mr Turan says he will "supply a smoke alarm to any elderly person who doesn't already have one, and we'll fit it free of charge."

For details including where to fit it, contact the station on 020 7587 4753

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- ❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), has monthly meetings & rides. Call 020 8440 9080.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** open daily from 2pm. The Green, Kings Avenue, N10. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Step/Aerobics classes**, Sundays at Bar XL. Phone 0789 0033 968.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm
- ❖ **Tennis Club** off Southern Road. Call 020 8440 6953
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- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Monday 14 & 28 July at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
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- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church 020 8455 2403
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Clubs & Social

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- ❖ **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 Childbirth 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 Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian Merryweather 8444 3251
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- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, 020 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, 020 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professional and business people, Details Eric Dalton 8340 0822

Family Funday for Inca Trail

By Daphne Chamberlain

Francesca Cassini and Simon Parr are inviting us all to have fun at The Five Bells, which could help send them off to Peru in September, which would mean that the National Deaf Children's Society will benefit by over £2,500.

Last autumn, Francesca joked that she would only consider a camping holiday if it was at somewhere like Machu Picchu (4,800 metres up in the Peruvian Andes). Next day, they heard about a sponsored trek from Cusco to Machu Picchu.

One of five walking and five cycling treks organised each year by Classic Tours for The National Deaf Children's Society, the trip entails four days walking at altitude.

For a self-confessed couch potato this could be tough, even though LA Fitness Centre have given them free membership to train. "We've been doing weight-training and the treadmill," says Francesca, "But we're glad to be going with a team of porters. Together with a doctor, the porters will be our only backup."

Help for deaf children

Nights will be cold and the days hot, but their incentive is to reach the mountaintop on the last day in time to see the sun rise. Simon, an artist and healer (creator of the Harmony Stones), plans to paint their journey from photos he will take on the way.

Simon and Francesca, who live in Sedgemere Avenue, need to raise £5,000 for the trek. Just under half of this will cover the cost, while all the rest will go to the National Deaf Children's Society.

They have booked The Five Bells, East End Road from 4-8pm on Sunday 27 July for a family fund-raising day. Plans include a raffle, an auction, Tarot/palm reading, face reading, graphology and face painting, with experts giving their services free.

Simon and Francesca can be contacted on 020 8365 2134.



Anyone in this photo fancy meeting the gang in Melbourne? The Alder School Choir, in 1952. Photo courtesy of Brian Timms.

Aussie Reunion Update

By Brian Timms

THE ARCHER's long bow is drawing together Finchley exiles for a reunion in Australia. A swag of mates from the Martin, Alder and Manorside schools in the 1950s have surfaced since this paper promoted the 20 October Melbourne get-together. "When I got the article about the reunion, (sic) thought I'd write straight away," said Melbourne's Hazel Astley, once of the Spooner family of 50, Leopold Road.

And so it has continued since November's appeal, with word spreading even to New Zealand, home of ex-Alder pupils Kevin Kench and Tony Harrington. Hazel will be in England for a daughter's wedding, and Kevin and Tony are unable to make the trip across the Tasman, but currently lined up are Shirley Crane and Carol Carnie (Perth), Donald Carnie (Melbourne), Derek Woolley (Ballarat) and Brian Timms (Moruya). Also there on holiday will be Joyce Aristidou, once of the Leslie Road Stevens family, flying in from her home in Cyprus with ex-Finchley friend Gill Rowsell.

Sadly, Bryan Joy, ex-Holy Trinity and Alder, died in March. His widow, Ann, may possibly be there.

Are you there, mate?

We are, of course, still seeking other mates in Oz. One, Jeff Voyce, is elusive. "Jeff's definitely down there," said ex-Martin and Alder pupil Robert Ogle in a phone chat from North Finchley, after reading the *ARCHER* article.

If you know of anyone else,

please let us know. If you're on holiday here yourselves, or make a booking for fun and nostalgia.

Contacts are Shirley Crane, (wanderers@wn.com.au) or Brian Timms, (briantimms@hotmail.com).

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Another one Bites the Dust...

Once upon a time when men were men and speed cameras hadn't been invented, there was something that united all drivers. It wasn't a love for Ferraris or Porsches, it was the great universal joke called Skoda.

So, petrol-heads, cast your mind back to the days of the Skoda Estelle, a joke of monumental incompetence made from recycled Russian tanks. Here was a bad joke that belonged to the unfashionable bit of the 1960s but was still being bodged together in the 1980s. It was slow, had bad brakes, went round corners like a drugged camel on a skateboard and had all the charm of a dead cockroach. It may have been modern once, but once was enough. The man in charge of the joke once told me he commuted down from Milton Keynes at eight o'clock every morning in his Estelle 'Sport' just as fast as the Porsches and BMWs. Sounds good? Yeah, well only if you forget that by eight every morning that part of the M1 has more in common with a car park than a road.

But the joke was more than just a joke, it spawned jokes, jokes like these: how do you double the value of a Skoda? Fill it with petrol; how do you treble the value of a Skoda? Fit wing mirrors and fill it with petrol. And, of course there was the Skoda convertible, or as we used to called it, a skip.

You see, for every Skoda there was a joke, there was one about the tyres, one about the engine and well... generations of stand up comics made entire careers out of the joke. And then it all came to an end.

Firstly the Czechs had a velvet revolution, secondly they discovered real cars and thirdly Volkswagen bought the joke and changed it. Remember the one about the parking attendant grovelling to the car owner and saying 'I'm really sorry sir, but someone's put a Skoda badge on your new car'? Yeah, fine, but not a patch on 'How do you manage to get a Skoda to do 100? Push it off a cliff' or 'First prize is a Skoda...second prize is two Skodas'.

But it gets worse. The Skoda Fabia has just become a rip snorting four-wheel-drive rally car and I mean a proper rally car like the Ford Focus and the Peugeot 206. No jokes, no smart remarks, the joke's on us now and if someone gave me a Fabia or Octavia I'd just say thanks.

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

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Letters to The Editor

Noisy Crowded Road

Dear Editor,
In last month's article on the noisy North Circular road, the reporter ends by saying this will continue until the NCR is thoroughly improved. Perhaps the reporter should know that the NCR attained its unenviable reputation for noise, after large tracts of it were improved!

In East Finchley, after the completion of our section to six lane standard, we shall enjoy more noise, vibration and pollution. Oh yes, and 47% more traffic along our High Road. That's progress?!

Yours etc.

Colin Rogers

Ward Councillor, East Finchley

Waitrose - the political dimension

Dear Editor

There is clearly no point in repeating the arguments for and against Waitrose; my view is that the arguments against the development far outweigh the benefits.

What bemuses me is that the process of land assembly by Waitrose obviously started a long time ago in discussion with Barnet Planners in order to test the water. As so often is the case, and I have no reason to doubt otherwise here, the Planners will probably have said that provided certain planning criteria are met, there will be no objection in principle to an application for a supermarket on the site. From here, Waitrose simply had to work the scheme up, ensuring that the political water was being tested with Council Members. Clearly, if the initial meeting with the Planners had met with very strong arguments on planning grounds against the proposal, it is unlikely the idea would have been progressed.

The only real issue is the recommendation of the Borough

Planning Officer: to approve, refuse or simply to set out the pros and cons and leave the recommendation to elected Members. The latter would clearly be the weak option. A recommendation for approval which is then overturned by the Council would be a disaster and would be highly likely to be overturned at Appeal. But such an outcome would play into the hands of Members who would be able to protect their political credibility by having the decision removed from them.

The only way to ensure that the development does not go ahead is for a recommendation of refusal by the Planners to Committee. Will they have the conviction to do so, or will the political pressure be too great?

Sweetener

As to relocating the library, this is a rather transparent palliative to sweeten the Council into approving the development. The library is where people are used to having it, occupies an attractive building and refurbishment is possible provided funds are available. There are many avenues for such funding, one surely is planning gain from other developments but in this case not Waitrose.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Kersley
Leopold Road, N2

Takeover

Dear Sir

There is a simple solution to the Waitrose controversy - Waitrose should be enabled to take over the existing Budgens premises.

If Barnet Council has the power to evict businesses through compulsory purchase orders, could it therefore not force the eviction of Budgens?

The parade of shops opposite the tube station would survive, the village atmosphere would be preserved, the area would not be blighted by months of building work

and East Finchley would gain the standard of supermarket it so patently deserves.

Yours sincerely
Mike Walsh
Baronsmere Road, N2

The Elusive Detective

Dear Sir

I telephoned the police recently to speak to a Detective Constable at Colindale Police Station on 020 8200 1212 with regards to one of our clients.

The operator at the Police Station asked me which department the detective worked for. I informed the operator that I had no idea which department, but said that his name should form part of their database.

I was informed that they do not have a database for the names of their personnel. I was amazed. This facility could easily be installed without any high costs to the taxpayer. I was put through to several departments before I was connected to the Detective Constable's extension, to be confronted with his voice mail. This was most frustrating as it was important to speak to this Detective Constable urgently. I had no alternative but to contact his direct superior. This experience has occurred on several occasions and, I believe, needs addressing.

Terry Stone, Manager,
East Finchley Advice Service

Evidence

Dear Archer.

Thank you for maintaining the debate on Waitrose's plans to erect a new supermarket near the entrance to Cherry Tree Woods.

I want to comment on your response to K. Goaman's letter, printed in *Archer* May 2003:

1) 'Balanced reporting' requires a recognition that powerful organi-

sations already have a huge media bias in their favours through PR and advertising, as well as the advantages they have through the employment of large teams of lawyers.

2) You argue that there are more people in favour of the Waitrose plan than would appear from the letters you receive, because those against it are more 'vocal'. The only way to gauge opinion would be a compulsory survey of the entire neighbourhood - with the full facts presented. Many people are unaware of the scale of the proposed supermarket, and of the proposed demolition of many houses. East Finchley Councillor Alison Moore carried out a survey of public opinion, which showed a three-to-one majority against the supermarket (Press 15 May 2003). Perhaps this needs reporting in *THE ARCHER*.

3) If those who oppose the plan are more passionate and articulate, then that is good evidence that their opposition is based on DEEPER NEEDS than those of the less vocal in their approval of the scheme.

4) As you recognize, *THE*

ARCHER is funded by small local businesses. Why, therefore, is it not clearly opposing a scheme that will definitely destroy or displace some of our favourite local businesses?

5) A point that has been neglected is the increased impoverishment of the area as a result of a large additional supermarket. At present, profits go to a diverse collection of small shops. If Waitrose wipe out competition from small local businesses in the area, the profits will be concentrated further in the hands of big business.

Yours sincerely,
Mo Dodson
Southern Road, N2

Editor's response:

The results of the Labour Party survey were published, in full, in our March edition. *The Archer* is supported (not funded) by local businesses - large and small. However, as a community publication, our responsibility is to the whole community. We strive to represent the views of all - and to report the facts without bias.

What's On...

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

Fortismere School Summer Fair 12 noon to 4pm on 5 July. The fair will be officially opened by Steve Pemberton ("Tubbs" from the BBC's *The League of Gentlemen*), admission £1 adults, 50p children and concessions, free for under-fives.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Open Gardens Day, Sunday 13 July Call 020 8455 0455 for full details.

Kenwood Summer Evening Concerts, Saturdays from 5 July to 30 August and Sunday 24 August. For details visit <http://www.picnicconcerts.com/concerts/> or contact English Heritage

Pentland Finchley Carnival & Companion Dog Show Saturday 19 July at Victoria Park, N3. Pedigree & novelty classes entries from 12 noon, judging begins 1pm Further details from annelewis@hotmail.com and Dunlop Pet Shop, 1 Long Lane, N3. Entry £1.25 per class or 6 for £6. All profits to RSPCA East Finchley branch clinic.

Wild Thyme presents an all female production of **Hamlet** at 8pm (except Sunday - 4pm & 7.30pm) every night from 2 - 12 July Upstairs at The Gatehouse, Highgate, N6. Box office 020 8340 3488. Tickets £10 (£8 concs) Tuesday - Friday & matinee, £12 (£10 concs) Saturday & Sunday.

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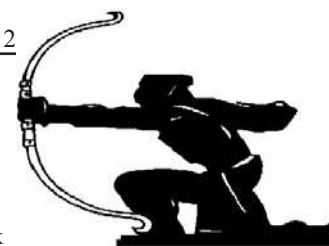
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Pension Credit

By Mal Jacobs

Why is it that we in the UK make a simple thing so complicated?

Against the best advice from the experts (claiming the system is too complicated and unworkable) the new widely criticised Pension Credit scheme is due to arrive in October this year. It goes without saying that we, as mere seniors, never get consulted on any of these issues that concern our welfare.

The main points seem to be as follows:

1). A single person with an income of less than approximately £135 per week (including interest on savings) will be eligible for various savings credits that range from 20p to £13.80 per week.

2). A married couple with a combined income of less than approximately £201 per week (including interest on savings) will be eligible for various savings credits that range from 20p to £18.60 per week.

3). Income from capital below £6,000 is disregarded.

4). The assured rate of interest on savings above £6,000 will be abolished.

5). The £12,000 upper capital limit will be abolished.

6). The Pension Credit is likely to be payable on capital up to £36,000.

7). Those seniors with over £6,000 in savings/capital will benefit more under the Pension Credit scheme than under the current Minimum Income Guarantee scheme.

Too simple?

The new single person pension (including Minimum Income Guarantee) will be £102.10 per week.

The new married couple

pension (including Minimum Income Guarantee) will be £155.80 per week.

For once, this looks like something good for seniors (even though it requires means testing a further five million). Under the current system more than one third of seniors eligible for the Minimum Income Guarantee don't apply for it. That leaves £1.8 billion unclaimed!

Means testing is an extremely unpopular method to use in its present form, and the claim forms are always 'non user friendly', so it's no wonder over one third of eligible seniors don't apply. UK governments have known about this for decades and done nothing about it, so the new Pension Credit is expected to have an even lower take-up figure. You may ask, "So what's new?"

Naturally there are no leaflets available yet to give the necessary details on the new system. It seems that the method used in the USA to raise all the limits considerably and for the government just to pay £1 for every £1 you save is a far simpler method to use, but maybe that's just too simple!



Dunkin' Duncan! Holy Trinity's head gets the wet look. Photo by Lizzie Joyce

Stocking Up

Holy Trinity Primary School's Annual Summer Fair was held on a glorious afternoon last month. The stalls, run by staff and parents, attracted many family members and friends to the playground. Amongst the traditional tombola and other prize winning activities, hair braiding proved to be very popular as did a make-up stall. The children flocked to have their faces painted, but also getting it in the face were head teacher Duncan Mills and head of governors Sheila Duthie.

They were just two of the victims who were willing to be trapped in the stocks and have wet sponges thrown at them for the sake of school funds. It obviously worked, for in just two and a half hours, the Holy Trinity School Association managed to raise a staggering £3,500!

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