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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Right on target - a member of Aquarius Archers Club. Photo by John Dearing

There's more than one archer in town...

THE ARCHER explores East Finchley's green spaces - their history and how to enjoy them. See the centre pages.

Library Lends Confusion

At an unusually lively meeting of Barnet's the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 May, the paper on Park House (and adjoining lands) was referred back to the Cabinet just one week after the Cabinet had approved it. The meeting opened with two speakers from Warning on Waitrose putting forward their objections in five-minute speeches, after which each was questioned closely by councillors.

At the earlier Cabinet meeting on 19 May, Barnet Council had promised consultation about the relocation of library services to the proposed Waitrose development. Councillors had received much correspondence regarding the library and Waitrose development proposals, and considered it vital to inform everyone in the area about what was going on in order to dispel rumour. The Cabinet agreed that the consultation, possibly the most comprehensive in Barnet's history, would take place throughout June and July, conducted by an independent research company. The outcome would influence any decision upon the use of the first floor in the development, for which the library is only one option.

Questionnaires were to be sent to every household in East Finchley, and there would be on-street interviews, perhaps including Haringey residents. Plans of the proposed library were to be on view in the existing library for four weeks from 2 June, followed by a further four weeks at the Phoenix. The result of the Consultation was to be reported to the September Cabinet meeting.

However, it appears that this consultation on the provision of library services in East Finchley would make no reference to the Waitrose plan and a previously mentioned feasibility study for upgrading the present library has not yet been seen. In calling (at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting) for the paper to be referred back, East Finchley Ward Councillor Phil Yeoman stated that the consultation should detail a range of options for the library as well as for any future development proposals involving Park House. The decision to refer back was won by one vote.

At the next Cabinet meeting on 16 June councillors may decide to ignore the view of the scrutiny committee and proceed as originally planned. Whatever happens, the library consultation will have been delayed.

The Council are set to vacate Park House by August 2003. It was agreed at the Cabinet meeting that Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, who are looking for a new home, will occupy the premises for 18 months.

GLA U-turn at Henly's Corner

Mayor Ken Livingstone has said that he has no ideological objections to the original scheme for widening the A 406 between Henly's Corner and Brent and Bounds Green and Green Lanes.

Policy reversal

He has previously supported a watered-down scheme, but now considers that the unimproved sections of the A406 are causing major congestion and widespread rat running.

The Mayor and Council representatives agreed that Central Government funding should be sought in the next GLA spending review submission in 2004.

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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 June is the copy deadline for the July issue.

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Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

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Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Health Authority 020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

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Cophall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830
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Phoenix Cinema 020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

**Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

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E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265
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MIND 020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

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RSPCA 0870 5555999

Barnet Invites Public Inspection

Barnet Council has denied accusations of not passing on Government funds to schools. It is one of many authorities facing the same charge from Education Secretary Charles Clarke. The Council claims in turn that the Government miscalculated the amount of money they need and has stated that it is willing to be used as a test case to demonstrate the local authorities' claim.

Barnet Council is inviting all interested parties to review its budget decisions surrounding schools. An independent national expert will be invited to preside over this examination of the books. The Council maintains that it received the lowest possible grant increase (3.5%), and was asked to increase spending on education by £14.5 million, despite only getting an extra £7 million to spend across all council services. It said it increased schools' budgets by the amount the Government expected, but only by increasing Council tax by 22.75% and making

efficiency savings worth £11 million across other services.

The Council is warning that increases in staffing costs, such as national insurance contributions and teachers' pensions, plus cuts in direct Government grants, will lead to teacher redundancies, service cuts and loss of support staff.

Councillor Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Education, said, "Despite sending them detailed papers proving our case, the Government is insinuating that Barnet has the money to meet the funding needs of schools in the borough. This is simply not the case. We have absolutely nothing to hide, and that is why we are inviting people to see for themselves the predicament we are in."

CCTV for N2 in 2005

Barnet Council is extending its range of surveillance cameras to fight street crime. Burnt Oak, Chipping Barnet and Cricklewood are to have them this financial year, followed by Finchley Central and Mill Hill in 2004-5, and East Finchley and Whetstone the year after.

These priorities have been determined by assessing police data on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Litter Picking in the Park

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are holding a litter picking session on Sunday 29 June.

If you would like to keep this valuable green space clean, please meet near the park entrance at the bottom of Summerlee Avenue at 11 am.

Plastic sacks, grippers and gloves will be provided. Children accompanied by adults are welcome and the pick will end at 2 pm.

Dog Show

The local RSPCA branch is staging the Pentland Finchley Companion Dog Show on Saturday 19 July at Victoria Park, North Finchley

Entry in each class is £1. Booking-in commences at 12 noon and judging starts at 1pm. Forms are available in advance from the clinic in Park Road on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.30-7.30pm or at the Registration Tent on the day.

Contaminated Vodka Warning

A highly dangerous substance labelled Kelvenoff Vodka has been discovered on sale in Barnet. It contains high levels of methanol, which causes breathing difficulties, blurred vision leading to blindness, drowsiness, dizziness and abdominal pain.

The effects of methanol poisoning can be delayed for several hours, so anyone drinking this product may not be immediately aware of the danger. Anyone who has consumed this contaminated vodka should seek medical attention immediately.

Barnet Council's Environmental Health Team are concerned that the contaminated Imperial Valkonov Vodka, which they warned against in March, has been relabelled Kelvenoff.

Kelvenoff is to be found in one litre clear glass bottles, with

gold, grey and silver labels. The bottles are marked, "Distributed for K.M.G. 57, Bodana Khmel-nitskogo Str 236039 Kalingin-rad Russia for the EEC.

If you spot it for sale, you should immediately contact the Council's Environmental Health Team on 020 8359 7407.

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Community Services

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

Archer Updates

*After frequent phone calls to the council by Eileen Cannon, a mobile replacement for the café (burned down last November) in Cherry Tree Wood is finally about to be ordered. Having already missed months of good weather Eileen expects to miss out on her best day of the year for trading, the East Finchley Community Festival. Barnet also has a potential developer for a new cafe in the old pavilion.

*The collection of everyday gadgets from 1800-1950, owned by Maurice Collins of Beech Drive, N2, is proving to be very popular. The Weird and Wonderful Contraptions Exhibition at Church Farmhouse Museum, Hendon has been extended until 15 June.

*An inquiry into how paedophile offences by disgraced GP Timothy Healy of Southern Road, N2 remained undetected for so long has found no evidence of negligence by NHS staff.

*The Old European Hungarian Restaurant, 106 High Road, is up for sale.



There's Many a Slip

By Diana Cormack

Exactly a year ago *THE ARCHER* published details of the plans which Local Agenda 21 Partnership had prepared for the refurbishment of the area around Budgens and Iceland stores. Readers could send in a voting form and comments or make their choice after looking at public displays in the Finchley Youth Theatre and East Finchley library.

There was a very good return and, in a close finish, the results were for a serpentine bench at the corner near Budgens, better quality in the current flower beds along the High Road and the addition of trees along the East End Road side. LA21 were pleased with what appeared to have been a successful example of the Council and the community working in partnership. Meetings were anticipated on how to take things forward and use the £35,000 allocated to the project.

Short changed

However, you don't need to be eagle-eyed to notice that nothing has changed so far. LA 21, who are extremely disappointed that it is not going ahead, have been told that the project has been deferred. Many local people feel annoyed that their views have been disregarded, especially as they saw this as a way of improving the look of the shopping area. If our High Road needs regenerating, as Barnet Council maintains in its reasoning for allowing a Waitrose supermarket, why has this improvement to the area not taken place?

Before and After

The Old Barn pre-school playgroup

Children from 2 years of age can be accommodated from Monday to Friday between 9.30 and 12.30 during term time. Based in the Old Barn Community Centre on Tarling Road, it has a large playing area with plenty of activities such as climbing frames and the like for adventurous youngsters. The group is self-funding, so children and adults get involved in many sponsored events. At present the cost is £7 per session.

Any donations, large toys, bikes, plastic tableware, etc. would be welcome. Phone 8349 4613 for details.

Phone 8444 6212 for further details.

East Finchley After School Club

This club is for all primary school children between the ages of five and eleven. It runs from 3.30 to 6.00 pm on weekdays in term time at the Herbert Wilmot Centre, Eagan's Close (next to Holy Trinity School).

Pupils from both Holy Trinity and Martin Schools are collected and taken to the centre. However, the club is open to everyone, providing that someone can bring them along. There youngsters can have a cooked tea with a pudding and drinks and share special occasions like birthdays and picnics. There are computer games, videos and TV to watch as well as activities involving sport and art and craft.

We Told You So!

By Diana Cormack

Drivers may be pleased to learn that Barnet are to consider plans put forward to deal with the daily congestion and long traffic tail-backs which occur on the High Road. If introduced they will be reviewed after six months, but whether the proposed Waitrose plans will have any effect on this is not yet known. The council's traffic policy includes seeking to reduce congestion on the borough's major road network and thereby to reduce the demand for rat-running.

Bus Lane Blues

There have been great problems with the present bus lane that runs northbound from near The Bishops Avenue up to the bus stop just below the junction of the High Road and East End Road. This was introduced in February 2000 "to ensure that the banned entry into Baronsmere Road did not cause unnecessary delays to buses travelling northbound along the A1000 (bus 263) and East End Road (bus 143)."

It has been found that the volume of traffic waiting to turn right at the traffic lights into Fortis Green forces queuing back past the end of the bus lane, preventing traffic wishing to continue straight ahead up the High Road or to turn left into East End Road from making use of the nearside lane. The 102 and 234 buses, which turn right into Fortis Green, are delayed and the use of traffic lights on green is not fully utilised, so northbound queues result. There are also frustrated drivers using the bus lane illegally to avoid delays thereby obstructing the movement of those wishing to return to the nearside lane at the end of the bus lane.

What took you so long?

The proposal is for the bus lane to be shortened and to finish before the 143/263 bus



Northbound gridlock. Photo by Erini Rodis

stop just short of the junction between the High Road and the Diploma Avenue cul de sac. There is also a suggestion that there should be consultation on the scope for introducing an evening peak filter for traffic turning right into Fortis Green. Both these problems, and their solutions, were highlighted by *THE ARCHER*'s front-page article *Avoiding the Issue* in October

2000. Why has it taken Barnet Council so long to come to the same conclusions?

Anger over Fortismere Floodlights

Liberal Democrat Councillors joined with local residents to secure a promise from Jarvis to "start over" with controversial proposals for floodlights for a new all weather football pitch at Fortismere School. In a rowdy public meeting on a Tuesday night in mid May, organised by Haringey Council to explain the proposals for six 15-metre high floodlights, representatives of Jarvis plc (who are the contractors for the Private Finance Initiative scheme) conceded that public consultation had been inadequate and promised to do better.

Around 60 residents attended the meeting to voice their objection to the scheme and many condemned Jarvis for their failure to consult. As angry residents stormed out of the meeting, local Liberal Demo-

crat Councillor Stephen Gilbert challenged the representative of Jarvis, David Evans, to act in an honourable way. Jarvis has now agreed to freeze the application until further public consultation has been conducted.

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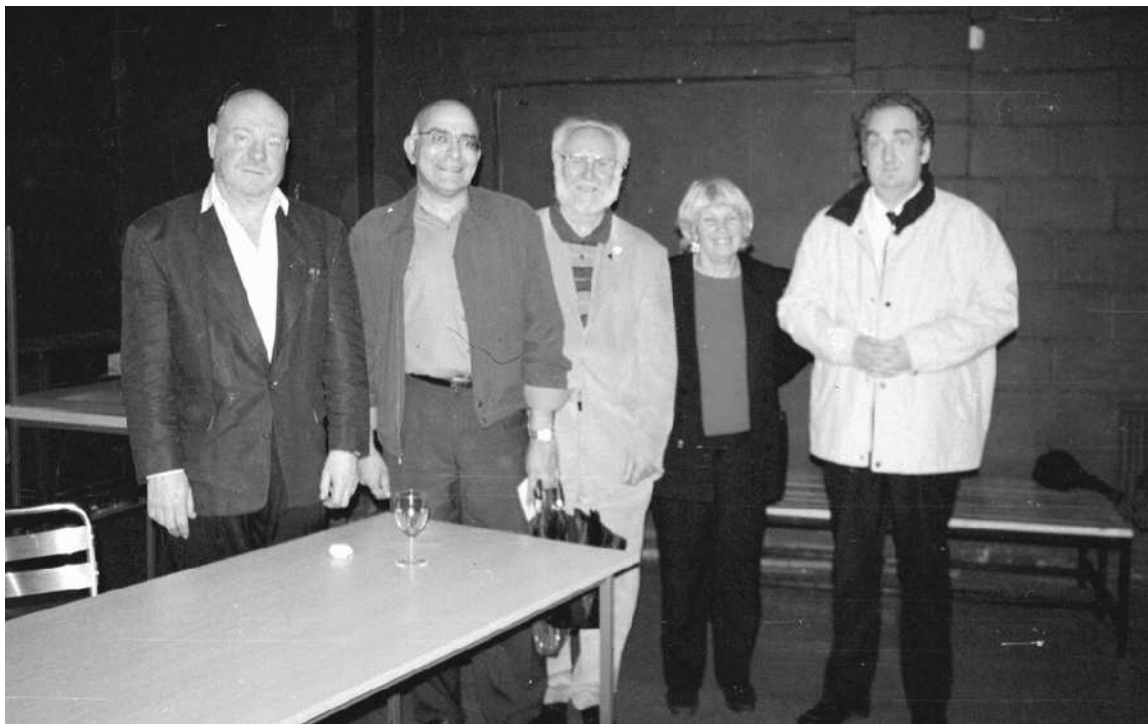
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Ralph Goldswain, adjudicator Aamer Hussein, Keith Martin, Rosemary Fisher and John K Jones at The Bull. Photo by Erni Rodis.

Local Writer Wins Prize

By Daphne Chamberlain

Ralph Goldswain, co-founder of East Finchley Writers Group, won equal third prize in the Barnet Borough Arts Council Short Story Competition, 2002.

First and second prizes also went to Finchley residents, Keith Martin and John K Jones respectively, while the other third prize was awarded to Rosemary Fisher of New Barnet.

There were 45 entries from around Britain and one from Abu Dhabi. The adjudicator was Aamer Hussein, author, London University lecturer and past judge for the Independent's Foreign Fiction Prize. Mr Hussein presented

the prizes last month at the Café Bar Poetry Club in the Bull Theatre, Barnet.

After the presentation, the prizewinners read their stories to the audience.

A twist in the tale

Ralph, who specialises in short stories with a bizarre twist, has had several of them published, but they are generally not quite short enough for *THE ARCHER*. However, he may not be able to resist a challenge.

The East Finchley Writers Group meets on Wednesdays, 6.30–8pm, when Ralph and friends share their work and offer advice and encouragement to others.

Entry forms for the BBAC

Poetry Competition are available now. Please contact 020 8446 7989 for details. Closing date for entries is 20 September 2003.

Long Distance Sparks

By Michael Christodoulou
George Emorfopoulos has been employed at East Finchley Electrical for just over a year now, since coming over from New Zealand to seek work and explore the English culture and sights.

George is a very keen athlete and this year he managed to get a place in the London Marathon, which he completed in just under four hours. By his standards, this was not his best but he was happy to reach the finishing line. This achievement has resulted in his raising £1,800 for the *Lets Get Kids Going* charity.

George was born in Greece but was brought up in New Zealand where he had various occupations ranging from grocer to construction foreman and courier and we hope he will continue to work for us as he plans to be here for a few years yet.

Reiki - it's Love, My Deer

By Daphne Chamberlain

Kajsa Krishni Borang was once described as a "deer's mum". Krishni, who lives in Park Hall Road, is also a Reiki Master.

I had first experienced Reiki, an ancient hands-on healing system, a couple of months before meeting her. Run-down after a stressful time, and unsure what to expect, I lay on a table for about an hour, while my practitioner rested her hands on me in a series of still positions. That was all.

Thinking that there was nothing in this for me, I was stunned by what happened next. At the end of the session, I suddenly felt absolutely elated. The strangers I smiled at on the way home probably thought I'd won the Lottery or had hit the bottle, but there was no hangover. In the following days I was calmer, more able to prioritise and see things in perspective, and much more energetic. Since then I have been learning how to treat myself and others – which is how I met Krishni.



Krishni in the 1970s.

Healing energy

Reiki, a tradition rediscovered by a Japanese after two thousand years, is learned by personal transmission from a Master. Krishni was in an Indian ashram, looking after deer, when she met her Master. The deer became sick, and a fellow Swedish woman visitor introduced her – and them – to Reiki. Like most animals, the deer responded well, and

Krishni had found her life's work.

Reiki, she explains, is channelling healing energy from the universal life force. "For me," she says, "The essence of Reiki is love." Beneficial to giver and receiver, it boosts the body's own healing resources, working particularly well on emotional problems and muscle tension or inflammation. People should not, however, necessarily expect a miracle cure. She advises booking three sessions to begin with, allowing the energy to work at a progressively deeper level.

Krishni, a former psychology student in Stockholm, has also trained in the Alexander Technique, Qigong, massage and acupuncture. She can be contacted on 020 8444 5013, – or visit her website on <http://www.krishni.force9.co.uk>. For a directory of Reiki Masters, see www.reikialliance.org.uk.

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Telephone: 020 8883 8720



Fellow Greens and GLA colleagues celebrate with Noel (left) in truckles bar in WC1.
Photo by Erini Rodis.

A Green A.M. Light for Noel

By Erini Rodis

Noel Lynch, that quiet unassuming man in the bric-a-brac shop, was celebrating a new development with friends and colleagues at Truckles, in WC1 on Friday 9 May.

He has been appointed as one of three Green Party Assembly Members who will be representing the whole of London at the Greater London Assembly. Part of his job is to scrutinise the activities of Mayor Ken Livingstone, challenging as the need arises.

Born in County Limerick, Noel's political career began when he stood as an Independent candidate in Ireland in 1969. He later moved to North London, standing for the Tottenham Green Party in 1990, and going on to represent East Finchley Greens in 1994, 1998 and 2002 after settling here in 1991.

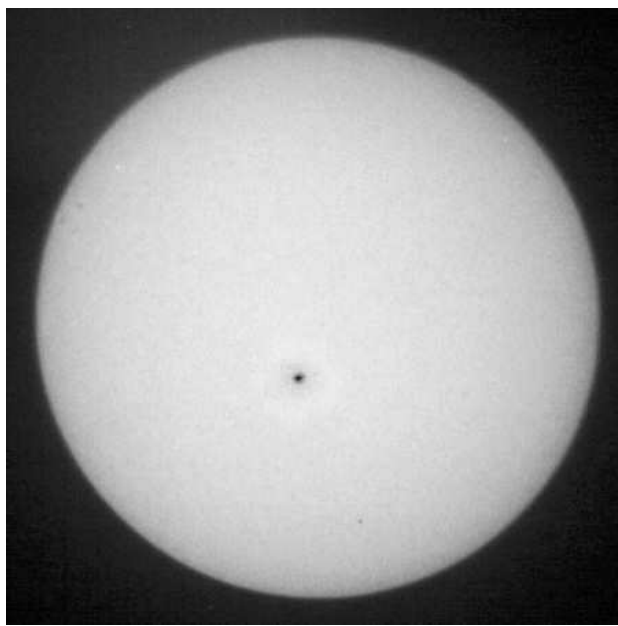
Living by the motto "think global, act local", he has worked for the local advice service and was the one who lobbied Barnet council to set up the credit union. If that wasn't enough he also happens to be one of the four founder members of *THE ARCHER*!

Local Time

"I like to think of myself as a catalyst for local action", he says, announcing the imminent launch of a London-wide Green Party newspaper, "to promote a general culture of self-help and ethical investment." Noel is also looking forward to developing time-banks, "a scheme whereby people donate time to provide services which are not funded, like befriending those in convalescence ... We are great believers in local action," says Noel Lynch MA, "...within walking distance!"

If you have any suggestions, questions, or would simply like to visit the GLA building, call

Carol on 020 7983 4411, or log on to the GLA website on www.london.gov.uk.



Transit of Mercury observed from N2

By John Dearing

In the morning of 7 May 2003, the planet Mercury crossed the face of the Sun. The weather was fine, enabling this interesting event, which occurs about every 10 years, to be observed and photographed from East Finchley.

Mercury could be seen as a small black circle, set against the bright face of the sun, moving slowly across the north-eastern corner, taking a little over 4 hours in all. The picture was taken at about halfway through the event, and also shows below Mercury a fair sized sunspot, dark in the centre, with a slightly brighter ring around it.

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Tree Wardens Take a Bough

By Daphne Chamberlain

Why do nurseries use white plastic to protect their baby trees? Because dark plastic would inhibit root growth. Don't just take my word for this. I heard it from a couple of tree wardens – Pam Kent of Hamilton Road and Ann Hart, Barnet Wardens Secretary.

Encouraged by the Tree Council – a national UK charity – wardens started springing up in the 1990s. When Barnet Council offered their cooperation, about 100 tree-lovers turned up at Avenue House for training. Ann was one of them. She gained a certificate at the end of a course which included tree biology and identification, instruction in planting and care of seedlings, information about threats and diseases, and aspects of law.

This does not give her any special authority. Barnet Council is still responsible for maintaining local trees, but they now work in co-operation with volunteer wardens on an annual programme.

Wardens count trees to ensure a healthy balance, check on condition, and help with work on the ground. Recently they tackled Coppetts Wood, by the north Circular, which was overrun by sycamores. "We never lop trees ourselves," said Ann, "We don't use saws, though we are allowed bill-hooks to clear undergrowth. Barnet provides tools, shows us how to use them, and provides a supervisor to work with us."

Branching out

Most manual work consists of removing undergrowth, mulching, and rearing seedlings. Their particular baby is the Millennium Wood, planted in Lyttelton Playing Fields to commemorate every child born in Barnet in Millennium Year. Wardens tend these little trees, as well as growing others

for general use in their Suburb allotment. Seeds are gathered on annual collecting days.

"We have outings too," said Pam. "We go to places like Syon Park arboretum and the Council's nursery in Cambridgeshire."

Barnet Tree Wardens have been an independent organisation since 1999. They concentrate on parks and woods, unlike the Agenda 21 Greening Group, who are mainly concerned with planting street trees. The group welcomes all tree-lovers. Super-fitness not required! Contact Ann Hart on 020 8883 1710 for details.



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EST 35 Years



The yellow ribbon around the tree suggests that the new grave in the foreground has an Iraqi war casualty in it. Photo by John Dearing

Our Green Lung Cemeteries

By Daphne Chamberlain

A Holloway woman once said to me, "I'm not ready to go up to Finchley yet". By Finchley, she meant Islington cemetery, which – together with its St Pancras neighbour – has been a feature of our area for almost 150 years.

St Pancras church vestry (now in the borough of Camden) bought Horseshoe Farm in 1854 at £200 per acre, which they upped to £300 when they promptly resold part of it to St Mary's, Islington. That was the start of our enormous green lung, which expanded to nearly 200 acres, as St Pancras and Islington bought up land down to what is now the North Circular. Though St Pancras Court and Strawberry Vale now occupy some of that land, the cemeteries are still big enough to get lost in.

Life and death

If you've never ventured beyond the gates, take a walk inside. It will be on the wild side, but with plenty to interest you – and maybe raise a tear. Look for the grave of a man drowned while rescuing a dog. A stone dog stands guard over it. Track down a workhouse grave which is the resting-place for half a dozen centenarians. You can't miss the vast mausoleum of the Mond family, who changed their German name to Melchett.

(The Lord Melchett of ICI.) To understand inscriptions on some older stones, you may need to understand Welsh. These appetite-whetters, all in the St Pancras section, are only the start of a feast of discovery. Islington chapel, of course, has the memorial plaque to Valentine Bambrick, the VC whose story we have covered in *THE ARCHER*.

Life abounds in these cemeteries. Many types of bird breed here, as well as numerous foxes. To encourage wild flowers and butterflies, some of the grass is cut only in spring. No chemical herbicides or insecticides are used, except when absolutely necessary and in controlled conditions.

Go on – take a lively tour of our 'dead centre' of town.



East Finchley allotments. Photo by John Dearing

East Finchley Allotments

By Daphne Chamberlain

At the end of Plane Tree Walk, beyond Martin School, is the entrance to East Finchley Allotments. Beyond lie 180 secret gardens.

"Isn't it peaceful? Isn't it beautiful? Just like the country!" says the typical visitor. Indeed it is. The plots, each 30 x 100 ft (9 x 27 metres), appear to go on forever. Bordered by Coldfall Wood, the Neighbouring Fuel Lands allotments, private gardens and Martin field, they seem miles away from noise and pollution.

Award winners

Recent winners of Barnet's Best Allotments award, they are leased from Barnet and run by a committee. Many of the plot-holders have worked their land for decades. Some

of them make the trip from neighbouring boroughs, often in all weathers throughout the year. However, the lease now stipulates that Barnet people will be given priority among new applicants.

Sunday Trading

They grow fruit, flowers and a great variety of vegetables, both everyday and exotic. For some the allotment is simply an extra food source, while others welcome the chance to 'go organic'. Flat dwellers enjoy having their own garden, sometimes bringing along the family. On the other hand, for

visitors and those who enjoy a communal rest and picnic, a separate seating area has been installed.

The general public have a chance to see beyond the gate every Sunday, between 11am and 1pm. That's when the Trading Shed is open, selling seeds, fertilisers, etc, and – at the beginning of the year – seed potatoes and onions. A member of the committee is usually on duty.

Anyone interested in leasing a plot should contact Secretary Maureen Phillips on 0777 1683860.

East Finchley's Green Spaces

As property developers look set to concrete over every space in sight, our remaining green spaces become ever more valuable. THE ARCHER takes to the field to review what still remains.

Holy Trinity Churchyard: an Oasis of Peace

By John Dearing

Between Church Lane and Trinity Avenue lies the Holy Trinity churchyard, and through it runs an undulating asphalt path, some 50 yards long, flanked by grave-stones of varying antiquity, many of them leaning at crazy angles (one is said to be made of iron, unusual for this use).

At the Trinity Avenue end there is an iron grille gate that swings in a semi-circular iron grille fence (originally called kissing gates.) This allows pedestrians to pass, but not bicycles nor (in their day) horses. A regular stream of people pass along this path, cutting the corner to East End Road through the Churchyard, on their way to and from the tube no doubt, but few seem to stop in these busy times.

Sitting Quietly

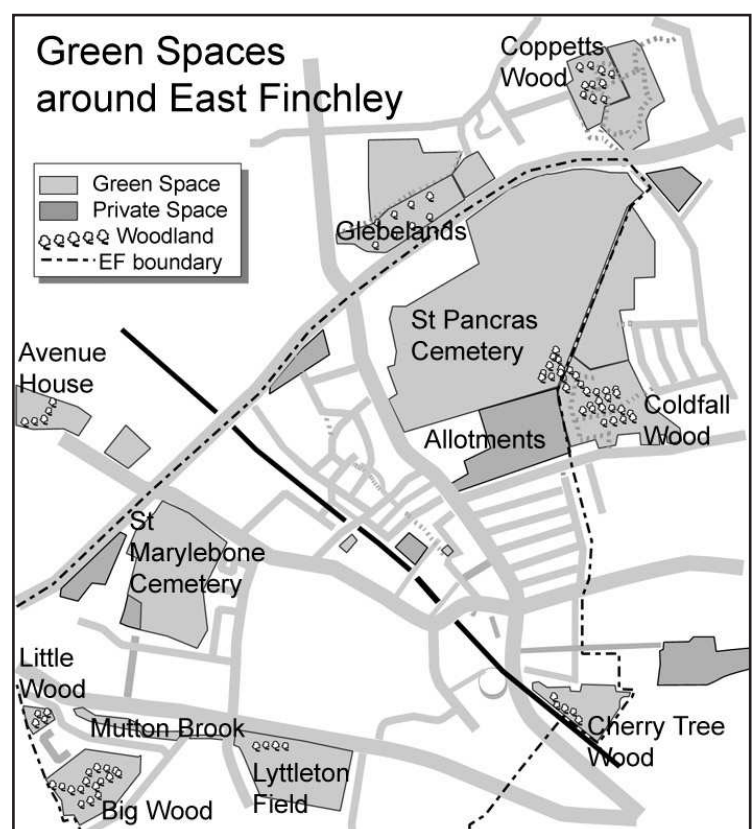
There are a couple of benches, whereupon one may sit and contemplate life, or its passing, perhaps read a paper or even write an article for one! It is an oasis of peace on a sunny spring morning. A few school-boys pause briefly for a meeting of their morning smoking club, laughing at some shared joke, otherwise all is quiet for the most part.

Cherry Tree and Coldfall Woods are the East Finchley green

spaces that most immediately spring to mind, but that would be to ignore the smaller, less obvious places like this little gem.

Scary

At night all is completely different. The Churchyard is dark, with just the occasional glint of a streetlight flashing through the leaves of the trees. With all the gravestones and the wind in the branches, this place is seriously spooky! One needs nerves of steel to pass through on a moonless, cloudy night.





Secrets of Coldfall Wood

By Daphne Chamberlain

Hidden in Coldfall Wood is one of the few surviving remnants of Finchley Common. "We used to call it Lovers' Lawn", said one of my companions on the guided walk.

Our guide, Haringey's Conservation Officer David Bevan, had led us to the western edge of the wood, to a ditch that marks the Barnet/Haringey border. This ditch is what remains of an ancient ha-ha, dug to prevent animals kept on the Common from straying into the wood. On the other side we saw the historic patch of grass.

The evening was a lesson in looking. Coldfall Wood (main entrance in Creighton Avenue) has been voted London's best woodland walk by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, but many of us whizz through it from time to time without understanding why.

The answer is in the coppicing, or management. Like most of us, Coldfall needs help to look its best. "Fall" in the name means "managed", and this ancient wood was coppiced for centuries for heating and furniture. Right up until the 1930s, in fact.

How can we date that so accurately? The hornbeams, some of them 700-800 years old, give the game away. Left to



David Bevan divulges the secrets of Coldfall Wood.
Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

themselves, they have a single trunk. When they are cut back, several pole-like trunks grow from the same stump. Analysis by the 'ring' test shows when this happened.

Into the light

Then, for 60 years, Coldfall Wood was in a dark age. A canopy of leaves from the oaks and hornbeams shut out light, meaning bare earth beneath, until in 1990, the Haringey Con-

servation Unit started coppicing again. Thickets of undergrowth and new wild plants and trees show where they have worked.

We were shown dog-violets, Spanish bluebells, wavy bittercress, garlic mustard and yellow-flowered strawberry plants, as well as the rare and ancient wild service tree. If you're lucky, you might see a woodpecker or a tree-creeper, birds encouraged by the new environment.

"Coldfall Wood", said David Bevan, "Is very special. Half the other ancient woods listed in 1940 have disappeared." Watch out for his next guided walk.

All of a Quiver

By Diana Cormack

Did you know that there is a reservoir in East Finchley? If you walk to the end of Southern Road you come to a wire fence and a gate which is locked most of the time, except when the huge expanse of green beyond it is occupied by aficionados of the ancient sport of archery. The grass beneath their feet grows on land which belongs to Thames Water Board and which covers an extensive collection of water. Presumably the Victorians, who constructed it in 1895, were carrying out their custom of making things look like something else, just as they did with the pumping station opposite on Woodside Avenue which represents a steam ship.

From 1923 there were tennis courts on the land, both grass and clay, but their costly upkeep and a decline in membership of The Aquarius Lawn Tennis and Social Club after the second World War brought about the introduction of archery in 1966. The tennis section became defunct, though four of the courts remain; overgrown and having become a nature reserve, providing homes for all sorts of wildlife.

The area adjoining, opposite Tetherdown School, has been taken over by humans in the form of gardeners. Their thriving allotments are living proof of their hard work. A few years ago that could also have been due to the availability of manure provided by horses which used to be kept nearby. These have long since disappeared and the field is now covered by the Greenfield Drive estate.

There appears to be little danger of building on the rest

of the land, so The Aquarius Archers Club, one of the biggest in London and the Southern Counties, can continue unchallenged. Except, that is, for the matches which they regularly hold against other clubs.

On target

Some club members have gone on to county and country status. Beginners' courses are run, even for children from around the age of eight. The club, which is open all year round, weather permitting, has its own clubhouse on site with kitchen and bar facilities, a pool table and darts and can be hired out for events. Relevant details can be obtained by phoning club secretary Alan Lake on 8440 1558 or the clubhouse on 8883 7212, email info@aquarius-archers.fsnet.co.uk or visit www.aquarius-archers.fsnet.co.uk or write to Fortis Green Covered Reservoir, Southern Road, East Finchley, London N2 9LN

See photo on front page

Woodland Battle

By Anne Lalaguna,

Secretary, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

Cherry Tree Wood is a very popular public park as well as a unique green space containing valuable fragments of ancient woodland, which have probably been in existence since pre-historic times. At the beginning of the last century the local authority bought it and added tennis courts and a playground, and many more people came to enjoy the park. Unfortunately this had a detrimental effect on the woodland areas, a process that continues today.

The woodland is dominated by Oak and Hornbeam, but you can also find Ash, Birch, Field Maple, Cherry and Sycamore. The Oaks range mainly from about 100-150 years old. Wildflowers include wood anemones, Arum lilies and bluebells. Dog mercury, lesser celandine, dog violet, foxglove, cow parsley and enchanter's nightshade. There are many wild birds including, blue tit, robin, wren, blackbird, greenfinch, chaffinch, nuthatch and tree creeper as well as greater spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker; not to mention owls, bats grey squirrels and foxes.

Friends undeterred

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are dedicated to encouraging an interest in the preservation of the woodland and they work alongside Barnet and Countryside Management Service. They are taking an active role in implementing the Woodland Management Strategy, now in its first year, and designed to encourage a

natural regeneration of the trees and wild flowers in the Wood. They have planted indigenous oaks and shrubs and a wild flower meadow and created a quiet area with picnic tables on the site of the old putting green. They raised the money to buy the 'Millennium Bench' and also organise 'Litter Picks' and encourage irresponsible dog owners to clean up after their pets. Finding ways of preserving ancient woodland while keeping a very popular local park clean and safe is a challenging task. It is a continuous battle against litter and vandalism, as well as the long-term dangers posed by global warming and the ever-present threat of developers. They remain undeterred, the preservation and regeneration of such a valuable green space is vital to the health and well being of our community.

Application forms to join FOCTW are available from the Park-Keeper's office on the Tennis Courts.

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At the Fuel Lands allotments. Photo by John Dearing

East Finchley's Secret Gardens

Part One

By Hugh Petrie

Behind Martin School and Chandos Gardens are two different allotments. East Finchley Allotments (12 acres) was first rented from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on Lady Day 1916 by the East Finchley Allotment Association, until 1930 when the local council bought it.

The Fuel Land (15 acres) was granted to the poor of Finchley in 1811 with the enclosure of Finchley Common, and rented at best for a dole of winter fuel. An allotment act (1832) allowed Fuel Lands to be converted to allotments; but the rector, the churchwardens, and the overseer, who controlled the rent and dole, resisted an application made in September 1846. Landowners were often worried that their labourers would become independent and "saucy", and expend their energies on their allotments. In 1847 Thomas Reader White became the new rector, and with him ten acres of the fuel lands became allotments.

But by 1857 the land reverted back to meadow and

was rented at best on short five-year leases. The land was not suitable for gardens, argued the churchwardens and overseers, and possibly it wasn't. In 1873 the land was rented at £56pa, however with the rector suffering an enfeebling insanity, a verbal agreement was reached whereby one of the churchwardens, Mr Fields, was able to rent the land at £37pa, the rent it had in 1857, a "regrettable" situation that did not go unnoticed by others in the Parish.

Allotment league

The 1882 allotment act made the conversion of Fuel Lands into allotments compulsory where there was a demand. Mr Field was still the tenant (at £46pa), and the wardens and overseer ignored

the law. But around 1883 William Wightman, a stonemason, and founder of the Finchley Allotment League moved to East Finchley, and he wasn't a man to be ignored.

Scraping the Barrel

By Mal Jacobs

Have you ever wondered how the UK pension compares with other countries in Europe? In the table right, up to 2002/3 the figures are all shown in English pounds for easy comparison and the last column shows values applied to UK average weekly earnings of £411.

In future, if we are using euros, it will be easier and let's hope that the EU will eventually impose a uniform pension for senior citizens of all countries in the union. As we are at the very bottom of the barrel, we can't do any worse!

Country	Percentage of Average Earnings	Applied to av UK earnings
Luxembourg	83% of career average earnings	£341.13
Italy	83% of last 5 years earnings	£341.13
Portugal	80% of last 5 years earnings	£328.80
Greece	80% of last 2 years average earnings	£328.80
Germany	65% of average earnings	£267.15
Belgium	60% of average earnings	£246.60
France	50% of last 10 years earnings	£205.50
Spain	50% of last 8 years earnings	£205.50
Denmark	40% of average earnings	£164.40
Holland	Flat rate equal to minimum wage	£180.00
Ireland	Flat rate (actual amount)	£106.00
UK	Flat rate equal to 17.63% av. earnings (act. amount)	£72.50

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

A coffee afternoon organised by the Holy Trinity School Association raised £135.00 In May children (and parents) took part in the National Walk to School Week. A team of boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Tag Rugby Festival organised by Finchley Rugby Club. They acquitted themselves very well, reflecting their training by Robin Jacobs. Many of the juniors are now practising for the Barnet Primary Schools Athletics Meeting to be held at Cophthall Stadium, which is organised by their head teacher Duncan Mills.

Martin Schools

For the second year running Martin Infant School received from the Department for Education an achievement award for the improvement in its SATs results compared with similar schools, echoing a DfEE inspector's recent comments on the continuing improvement in mathematics.

Reception class children visited the Natural History Museum, which inspired them to make models of dinosaurs. Year 1 went for a trip on the Regents Canal on the Jenny Wren. They also visited the animals in Paradise Park. Year 2 went to Woodside Farm in Dunstable.

The Globe Theatre Players gave a performance of *Rumplestiltskin* to the infants and held workshops for them.

After many months Martin School Field is now back in action having been dug up and re-seeded. The children can now use it at every opportunity, weather permitting, with playtimes and lessons taking place on the grass.

Martin Schools have a new PTA Committee. The Martin Schools' PTA Annual Summer Fun Day will take place on the schools' premises, Plane Tree Walk, East Finchley (close to East Finchley library) from 12.00-3.00 pm on Saturday 14 June. The PTA looks forward to seeing you there.

YOUNG ARCHER

The birds have flown

Last month's *ARCHER* had a lovely photo of a baby pigeon. It was one of a pair that had hatched and grown in a flowerpot on the fourth floor balcony of childminder Lizzie Joyce. Three little girls she looks after wrote about this.

Here is what seven-year-old Georgia Glick of Year 2 in Holy Trinity had to say: "I went to visit Lizzie. On her balcony she had some eggs. They were very big. They were in a flowerpot. After a few weeks they hatched and out came two birds."

Lizzie helped five-year-olds Jada and Charlotte, from the reception class in Holy Trinity School, to write this about them:

"When we visited Lizzie she found on her balcony two eggs in a flowerpot. The eggs hatched. Out came two squabs, which are baby pigeons. They were yellow and a little black. They looked like little ducklings. They have now grown up but remain in the flowerpot, and everyone thought only flowers grew in flowerpots!"

(The birds have flown away now, but maybe they will come back to visit).

Clever Clogs Corner

A young pigeon is called a squab. Do you know what these other young creatures are called?

1. swan
2. hen
3. duck
4. eagle
5. goose
6. owl
7. fox
8. elephant
9. frog
10. moth

Answers:

1. cygnet
2. chicken
3. duckling
4. eaglet
5. gosling
6. owlet
7. cub
8. calf
9. tadpole
10. caterpillar



New Dental Practice Increases Choice in East Finchley

By John Dearing

Four months ago, Darren Freedman with his partner Adam Motamed, opened the East Finchley Dental Centre in the High Road. The premises previously housed an insurance broker, but, ironically, prior to that it was a sweetshop! Their patient list is steadily increasing and they hope to open a second surgery there, eventually.



Dentist Darren Freedman settles into his new surgery.
Photo by John Dearing.

Creative challenge

Darren graduated in 1991 and worked initially in Liverpool, both in dental practice and community dentistry. He returned to London in 1997 to complete his degree – he has a Masters in oral diseases and special needs dentistry.

He met Adam when the latter took over the practice in Kilburn in which he was working. Last year they decided to set up a new practice and eventually decided upon East Finchley, influenced apparently by *THE ARCHER*, to which Darren had been introduced by a friend!

He explained that setting up a new practice is quite different from taking over an existing one. There is no cost of 'goodwill', but the patient list has to be built up from scratch. He relished the challenge of learning about practical issues, such as building regulations, finance, employing people and marketing. He regarded it as a creative

opportunity and feels that the risks were worth taking.

Informed choices

Darren chose to set up the new surgery as primarily NHS, because he felt it would attract patients who would not otherwise get effective treatment; being unable to get access to NHS treatment is a major reason of poor dental health. However he pointed out that there are treatments that are only available privately, and in an area like East Finchley it is important to be able to offer that choice. Darren feels strongly that the decision about treatment should be made jointly, as a process of informed consent through knowledge of the alternatives. He is not enamoured of the traditional approach, where the dentist decides the treatment. On the windowsill in his surgery is a cartoon of a gingerbread man in a dentist's chair, and the dentist is saying "The diagnosis is gingivitis", which rather says it all!

Double Anniversary for GLH

By Diana Cormack

The Greater London Hire Company is celebrating two anniversaries this year, one being the fifty years since a car hire business has been operating from the site opposite East Finchley tube station and the other being the twentieth occasion of the annual staff award presentations.

In his after dinner speech at Highgate Golf Club, John Scott, managing director of GLH paid tribute to his staff, saying that since 1970 GLH had never closed and had become an integral part of East Finchley. Fellow speaker and former employee Carl Lomas felt that the company was special because it is like a family of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters. Carl has been honoured by the Queen for his work in which he trains unemployed people who have motorbikes to become couriers.



Tracy Worth presents an award. Photo by Ian Cormack

Congratulations

The awards were presented by Tracy Worth, who organises the National Courier Awards, and former footballer and GLH worker Steve Whitworth. As well as being capped for England and playing for Leicester City, Steve was also a player/coach for Barnet.

The assembled company were delighted to learn that earlier this year John Scott himself had received two awards. He was made a Freeman of the City before becoming a Full Liveryman of the City of London. So congratulations all round at GLH.

Going Continental in East Finchley

By Femke van Iperen

With the summer around the corner there is an opportunity to go continental at the new Meze Bar Restaurant in the High Road, tucked away just before the library.

Parisian-café-style large sunblinds frame the entrance to a stylish bar. A smiling owner, who is never too proud to help out his staff by emptying tables, will tell you he will do his best to get you drunk tonight on the food.

It's hard to imagine that this restaurant only opened a week ago. An April Friday evening at 7.30 and it's full, with people queuing.

An outburst of taste

Begin your evening with a starter of olives, raw vegetables and grilled pitta bread and discover the extensive menu, which offers a good range for meat lovers and vegetarians alike.

The first set of Meze included Zeytin Yaghi Bakla – fresh broad

beans cooked in olive oil and dill, Dolma – scrumptious vine leaves stuffed with a mixture of rice, onion, pine kernels and herbs, and Tarama – fresh cod roe paste with smooth creamy olive mixture, but be warned – leave space for main course and fresh fruit after.

Thirsty work

You might need a top-up of that cool imported Turkish Efes beer or some reasonably priced wine, as the next hot starters are even larger. Hellin – goats cheese cooked on charcoal grill, Borek – freshly fried pastry stuffed with feta cheeses and parsley, grilled king prawns and other tasty dishes – 'çok Guzel', as they say in Turkish.

There are 14 main dishes to choose from, priced from £7.45,

ranging from Chicken Shish to Iskender, a preparation of cubed lamb on pitta bread and yoghurt with a 'secret recipe sauce'. Or pick from five meat-free options such as Vegetarian Mousaka.

If there is anything negative to say about this friendly, family-run bar, it would be that the acoustics could do with some damping – you had to raise your voice to cover the loud buzz of the place, as tables kept on filling up during the night with a relaxed crowd of mixed ages.

If you fancy fast food, forget this restaurant. But visit Meze to enjoy a lingering evening.

The Meze Bar Restaurant is at 214-216 High Road, N2 9AY. Tel: 020 8883 5060/ 8883 3544

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- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** open daily from 2pm. The Green, Kings Avenue, N10. Tel: 8883 1178.
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- ❖ **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**, Monday 16 & 30 June at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
- ❖ **Private drum tuition**, beginners welcome. Contact Eddie 8444 8376
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church 020 8455 2403
- ❖ **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 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
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613
- ❖ **Hampstead Social Group**, membership late 30's-late 40's Call David Morris, 020 8455 0477
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **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 Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professional and business people, Details Eric Dalton 8340 0822

Proms at St Judes

By Femke van Iperen

The Proms concerts will begin, as usual, in the idyllic church of St. Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb. The St Judes Proms, which provides a range of concerts by internationally renowned and local artists and the cream of the younger generation, donates money to the North London Hospice, which cares for terminally ill patients, and Toynbee Hall, which provides opportunities to disadvantaged families and young people in the area of East End London.

The festival programme which begins with jazz singer and broadcaster Stacey Kent and her band, includes John Lill (piano), Christopher Maltman, (baritone) and the London Community Gospel Choir. Robert Max will conduct Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Sarah Williamson, runner-up in 2002 Young Musician of the Year, will be soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the Barnet Youth Orchestra. At the same concert, Classic FM's Henry Kelly, a patron of The Proms at St. Jude's, will narrate *Peter and the Wolf*. The Prom's concluding *Last Night of the Proms* includes Poulenc's organ concerto and the usual flag-waving.

Lunchtime concerts, which provide a platform for talented young musicians, are free.

Art for all

The Proms supports a range of in-house and commissioned art. Local artist Shizue Takahashi will have her work shown as postcards. Another local artist, Ellen Gilbert, whose line drawings show the musicians in rehearsal, appear in the 2003 souvenir Proms programme.

The work of both these artists is available at Garden Suburb Gallery, Hampstead Way.

The Proms is involved in a joint project with *Monart*, a local art school, and paintings will be on display in the local branches of Starbucks. Monart will hold a workshop for youngsters in the Proms marquee on the afternoon of 21 June. Space will be limited – so book early.

The Proms has launched a competition for an illustration for the front cover of next year's programme and leaflet. A prize will be awarded to the winner and the work of the short-listed finalists will be on display at the Garden Suburb Gallery. Any artists, please take note and phone 020 8455 8687 for further information on the competition. Phone the same number for information on the concerts and events and to receive a Proms brochure.

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, concerts are from 13–22 June. For programme details or tickets phone 020 8458 4166 or book online at www.stjudes.org

Home is where the Art is?

2.4 Project is a unique home art installation to challenge or confirm notions of the middle-class family and domestic space; it is set in the home of the Wade family.

Both are visual artists and academics, married for ten years and with two young sons. For the past two years their work has concentrated on and around the family space, exploring issues of domesticity. *2.4 Project* forms a natural progression for their work.

Their house, situated in East Finchley, will be defined as an art object and be open to the public once a week for a period of six months to observe them as they go about their normal family activities.

Some of the weekly openings will be supplemented with performance, displays of visual art

(moving and still) and constructed soundscapes designed to question issues within the contemporary middle-class home.

The audience is invited to be passive observers or to participate in the goings-on.

The official start for the *2.4 Project* is September 2003, but as part of the East Finchley Arts Festival the public are invited to a one-off preview on Sunday, 22 June 11 am till 6 pm.

For further information please contact Eti and Daniel Wade on 020 8444 0695 or email twopointfour.project@btopenworld.com Supported by Arts Council UK.

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>

Phoenix Summer

Compiled by Femke van Iperen

Film Club

The Phoenix has been running its Bull/Phoenix Film Club summer term since 8 May, so, film-fans – get ready for some action if you haven't gone along to any film meetings yet!

This year's 10 weeks of informal evening classes will have screenings, discussions and workshops plus outings, guest speakers and visits to cinemas. The meetings are open to anyone interested in exploring film that bit further. The Term's themes include:

- Three Continents, three directors: Visconti, Ang Lee and Souleyman Cisse.
- One Era, three Genres: 1950s melodrama, epic and b-movies.
- Other Cinemas: documentary and animation.

The Film Club meets Thursdays 7.15–9.30 pm at the Bull Arts Centre, High Barnet. Session: £6.50; term: £60. No need to pre-book. Check website or call Ruth Mulandi at the Phoenix.

Phoenix Films

The film line-up for June is available on-line at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk and includes:

Etre et Avoir – A documentary by Nicolas Philibert exploring the world and lives of young children in contemporary France.
Nicholas Nickleby – a new, adaptation of the Dickens classic.
Whale Rider – see *Bringing up Baby* for details
Blind Spot – Hitler's Secretary – A documentary about Hitler's long-standing secretary by Austrian film-maker Andre Heller.
Good Bye Lenin – A German comedy which explores the break-up of the GDR and its impact on East Germans.

* *Early bird matinees run every Wednesday at 12.30 pm. Screenings end at 3pm. Tickets are £4 for all with a free tea or coffee.*

* *For Friends benefits visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/members or email us at friends@phoenixcinema.co.uk*

* *Box Office 8444 6789*

Bringing up Baby

Introducing special screenings for cinema-starved parents with young babies, offering the chance to socialise with other parents, catch up with the film-world without the need to find a babysitter and maybe chat about something other than babies - fascinating and miraculous as they are!

These screenings will run once a month at 11 am. Babies up to one year old can be brought along, admission is reserved to parents with babies only. There will be easy storage of prams and buggies, a baby-changing unit and bottle-warming facilities as well as the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely tea or coffee, home-made cake and chat.

Next, on Tuesday 17 June, is *Mrs Dalloway*, starring Vanessa Redgrave, an opportunity for all those who enjoyed *The Hours* to get to know its inspiration.

Centenary Celebrations

Fortismere Secondary School Muswell Hill will hold its annual summer fair on 5 July, noon to 4:00pm. The fair will be opened by Steve Pemberton, better known to TV comedy fans, as "Tubbs" from the BBC's *League of Gentlemen*.

Fortismere School celebrates 100 years of education on its site, formerly home to Tollington, William Grimshaw and Creighton schools.

Under cover

The main objective this year is to raise funds for a centenary covered walkway between the North and South wings of the campus, which will provide shelter to students and staff moving between the two sites.

Activities taking place on the fields of Fortismere's campus include bungee run, beat the goalie, rodeo bucking bronco ride, scuba diving sessions in the pool, tennis coaching and games for younger children. The fair features numerous stalls for bargain hunters with tombolas, new and used books, CDs and videos, plants; sports equipment, toys and second-hand jewellery. There will also be a wide variety of food and music on offer.

Access is from Twyford Avenue and Tetherdown Road.

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2
Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm
for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome

Letters to The Editor

Small is beautiful

Dear Sirs
There is no doubt that a retailer such as Waitrose would improve the shopping facilities in East Finchley. However, there is no need for the large supermarket proposed and, indeed, the original intentions of Waitrose were to purchase the land and buildings belonging to the Council and develop a smaller supermarket on that site.

A smaller supermarket would be the ideal compromise; improving the shopping facilities in East Finchley but not attracting increased traffic into the area. People wishing to make a large supermarket shop would go to the larger Waitrose in Mill Hill East or North Finchley.

May I therefore suggest that the Council dispose of their buildings to the Waitrose developers and, with the sale proceeds, refurbish the library in its existing position. In this way, everybody is happy; Waitrose have the supermarket they originally wanted, a Victorian shopping parade is retained, the library is retained and refurbished and there is no huge increase of traffic volume into the area.

Yours faithfully
I A Rennie
High Road, N2

If noise annoys

Dear Sir,
If any of your readers like myself are tired of being plagued by the greatly increased noise of aircraft flying over the area, sometimes one every 2 or 3 minutes they may be interested in a phone number at Heathrow which registers complaints: 0800 344844

I have contacted air traffic control and the relevant part of their reply is quoted below:

"Please be assured that the flights you are experiencing have nothing to do with the part-privatisation of NATS

in 2001. Aircraft flying into and out of Heathrow follow routes laid down by the Department for Transport. The only significant change in recent years has been that early in 2001 the DfT scrapped the previous policy that aircraft normally departed westwards into the prevailing wind. This was in order to even out the noise distribution between departure and arrival flights – but it is still subject to the prevailing weather conditions, when winds are strong. You may be able to find more information on this from the DfT website: www.dft.gov.uk."

Frank Gordon

PS The DfT said there had been no changes

What a joke

Dear Editor

I write in response to last month's hilarious letter from Victoria Doran outlining how a Waitrose will help turn East Finchley into Muswell Hill.

I share her dismay at having to share the pavement with working class people, some of whom as well as being unsmiling, are very scruffy indeed. Perhaps we can chase them away waving our affordable ciabatta?

I also feel her shame at living, not in Muswell Hill, but in diverse East Finchley. Diverse in that not everyone is a barrister or lecturer.

As for Ms Doran's dusty vegetables which disintegrate, I would like to re-assure her that this is a natural process. I would warn her to be wary of any fresh produce which displays an unnatural shine or fails to deteriorate over time.

Yours sincerely
Martin O'Donnell
Strawberry Vale, N2

Don't cut standards

Dear Editor

I write in wholehearted support of Headteacher Paul O'Shea in urging parents of all East Finchley's Schools to lobby our MP, Councillors and the Chief Education Officer about the level of education

funding this year.

At Holy Trinity School we have struggled to set a budget, paring to the bare bones what we can spend on the curriculum, in order to avoid cuts in staffing. It is probably even more difficult in a very small school to find cost savings than it is in our secondary schools. Wherever cut-backs occur, we are jeopardising the quality of education we can offer our children.

We are proud of what we have achieved in our recent Ofsted report, we do not want to see high standards eroded. Please protest.

Yours sincerely
Mrs S Duthie
Holy Trinity School Chair of Governors

Double the chaos

Dear Sirs

Everyone speaks only of the Waitrose development. The HGS Trust and the HGS Residents Association have voiced major objections and have declared the Institute's new plans on the Neurological Hospital site to be an 'over-development'.

A new 47,000 sq ft five storey high Institute building with two six storey blocks of imposing flats, a stone's throw from the Waitrose scheme, seems forgotten. Please do not forget that if the overdeveloped new Institute is built on the Neurological Hospital site as well as the two blocks of flats you can expect delays and chaos at all times on all approaches to the High Road particularly near the station. Edmunds Walk is already a major car park, drop-off point and collection point, and the Institute is not yet here. The Institute offers only 20 car park places for the average 600 users whereas Barnet's Whetstone Head Office has 700 average staff and 230 car places!

Think about the traffic and parking problems that these TWO developments will cause! Write your letters of objection NOW.

Charles Adams
Edmunds Walk, N2

Send your correspondence to:

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

Cheers!

Dear Sir,
Good to see that an East Finchley pub is the only pub in Finchley to be included in the latest edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide!

Madden's 130 High Road, and its "long dimly-lit interior" is once again voted a thumbs up by the

drinking fraternity. Mention of not only good beer, but the food that's brought in from next door!

Madden's (with whom I have no connection) are on 020 8444 7444 (an easy number to remember, even if you've had too much to drink!).

John Grove.
Virtually Finchley
finchley@grovesey.co.uk
www.finchley.grovesey.co.uk

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.



Special Offer

By L.C. Ward

Isn't a loss leader something which is put on special offer in order to induce people to buy other products once they have been tempted into the store? If so shoppers of East Finchley, which is the better deal, a huge supermarket (with free, though empty, library space on top) or a free library space (with a huge supermarket underneath)?

Despite the majority of locals showing themselves to be against the idea in a questionnaire earlier this year, Barnet Council proposes to hold a major consultation exercise on the future provision of library services in East Finchley. This will cover a much wider area and involve people who would not be affected if the library were moved from its present site (or be particularly bothered whether traders in the High Road were put out of business). Surely this is underselling those people who have given their opinion and who want the present library to be up-dated and the plans for a totally inappropriate superstore to be shelved?

Permission has not yet been sought for these plans, so I am at a loss to understand how the exhibition of the new library can be mounted, seeing as it is to be supported both physically and literally by the building of the supermarket. From the start, these two projects have been linked, yet now the smoke-screen of the new library is being used as a cover. Which comes first, the supermarket or the library?

Barnet Council, who claim to be putting the community first, talk about the proposed development being at the heart of the shopping centre when it is actually on the way out to Highgate. They reckon new supermarket shoppers will regenerate the High Road by visiting local shops, whilst admitting that East Finchley is not actually on the list for regeneration. Have any councillors bothered to visit the site to see how wrong they are, to visualise how much worse our traffic problems would be, to realise that we are not the same as Ballards Lane or Coppetts Wood and to understand why we do not want their Trojan Horse in our High Road?

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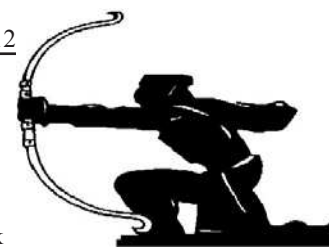
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Sleeping bags al fresco at last year's camp. Photo by Kate Chapman

If you go down to the woods today

You probably won't see the Woodcraft Folk – they're usually to be found at Martin's School on Friday evenings during term time.

The Woodcraft movement started in South London in 1925 taking its philosophy from the work of the American writer and naturalist Ernest Thomas Seton who worked with young people teaching them the skills needed for living in the open air, close to nature. Apart from the annual ten day summer camp – this year at the Gower Peninsula in Wales – opportunities to get close to nature are pretty limited in London, so whilst the East Finchley group are outdoors as often as weather permits for games and walks, the programme includes lots of indoor games, crafts, drama, singing and dancing. This is a parent-led group so the adults as well as the children find themselves learning new skills and making new friendships! If you'd like to find out more about the Woodcraft Folk phone Claire Johnston (8444 1693) or look out for their stall at the East Finchley Festival.

East Finchley Festival

Saturday 21 June:

Football competition, parade workshop and craft activities at The Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale.

Sunday 22 June:

Live music and entertainment on two stages from 12 noon to 6 pm. World food, drink and lots of stalls, activities and fun for the family in Cherry Tree Wood.

For more information visit www.eastfinchley.co.uk/festival

MUSWELL HILL BOOKSHOP

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72 FORTIS GREEN ROAD, N10
020 8444 7588

Church End Festival

By John Dearing

After a two-year break, the Church End Festival returned to the gardens of Avenue House on 11 May. It was run by the Avenue House Estate Management Trust, whose vice chair Janet Durrant said that she was pleased they were able to hold the festival this year, after the problems with the handover of the estate to the trust by the council. Janet, who is also the trustee manager of the estate, was a little disappointed with the weather: it started off dry but rain towards the end of the afternoon made an early closure inevitable.



Nevertheless, there was a good turnout, and people enjoyed a variety of stalls raising money for charities such as *Guide Dogs for the Blind*, *Mencap* and the *National Lifeboat Trust*, as well as for Avenue House. There was amongst others, a bouncy castle, swings, bric-a-brac stalls, a tombola, potted plants, face painting and refreshments of many kinds.

Let us hope that this is the first of many such events to be held here.

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