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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER

**GLH**

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

## Not Down This Road

By Daphne Chamberlain

About 250 children and adults marched down the High Road last month to "save our library". Organised by parents and governors of Martin School, the march was in protest against moving East Finchley Library into the proposed Waitrose development.

Armed with balloons, streamers, squeakers, badges and a concertina, and banging toy swords against shields and wooden spoons against saucepans, they were impossible to ignore. "I've never seen anything like it in the High Road," said one shopkeeper.

### Too far

The distance between the proposed library site and the school was the marchers' main concern. This journey down the High Road lasted 25 minutes, but, as Chair of Governors Theresa Harrison told *THE ARCHER*, "If you add on time to get ready, we estimate that it will take at least 40 minutes – and that's only one way."

Ms Harrison continued,

"Many children never visit the library until they are introduced by the school. Why should the library be the public service linked with the new development? Surely, if it goes ahead, another Council provision – perhaps including public toilets – could be used instead?"

### Missing out

Esme Girling, aged 9, said, "I don't think they will be able to bring classes down here. It's too far, and they won't risk the danger." 8-year-old Maria Boucema thought that some children would miss out altogether on "all the lovely books" if their mothers were pregnant or too busy to take them.

Not everyone on the

march was connected with the school. Robin Liston of Southern Road believes that "developers are hovering like vultures round East Finchley. We have a perfectly good library already, and they haven't even bothered to find out what refurbishing it would cost." Another non-affiliated adult, Judith Filkin, is concerned that a library at the far end of the borough would be used by a disproportionate number of Haringey readers.

The march ended with a demonstration outside GLH, which was filmed by BBC cameras.

Afterwards, Theresa Harrison told us, "The response was fantastic – absolutely overwhelming."



The head of the protest march reaches East Finchley Library.  
Photo by Diana Cormack

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## Mange Outbreak

By Frank Tymków

I recently noticed a sign in the RSPCA window which concerns local residents, especially dog owners. The Stanley Road playing field (behind the Wilmot Centre and Holy Trinity school) is, apparently, contaminated with Mange Mites!

There are two varieties of this condition, *Demodetic Mange* and *Sarcoptic Mange* (commonly known as Sca-

bies), but it is not clear which type affects the playing fields. *Demodetic Mange* produces symptoms of inflamed skin and bald patches, and failure to effect prompt treatment can result in a dog becoming permanently bald. It is contagious only in the first three days of infection.

*Sarcoptic Mange* is much more serious, and causes skin irritation and scabs, and is contagious, not only in dogs but also humans. Early treatment to your dog by the vet is also essential. Some people in contact with infested dogs may get itchy patches, but these will usually clear up when the dog is treated. This form of mange is threatening the UK population of foxes. Local residents are advised to keep clear of the area, especially dog owners.

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

### Your contributions

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

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

**14 March is the copy deadline for the April issue.**

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**Haringey Council** 020 8489 0000

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Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830  
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*\*Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

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### Animal Welfare

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## Setting the Local Agenda for East Finchley

**The East Finchley Local Agenda 21 Partnership is holding a public meeting on Tuesday 11 March at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale. All residents, traders, community groups, young, old – in fact, all those with an interest in what happens in East Finchley – are invited to attend.**

The meeting starts at 7pm with an opportunity to meet members of the East Finchley LA21 Partnership and residents who are interested in improving the quality of life locally. The Partnership has a strong traffic and transport sub-group and also a very active greening sub-group that raises young trees on its own allotment for planting throughout the area. As the meeting falls during Fairtrade Fortnight (3 to 16 March), Fairtrade refreshments will be available.

At 7.30pm, a guest speaker will give a short presentation. At the time of going to press, the speaker had still to be confirmed but the topic is likely to be either 'Local issues' or 'Fairtrade'. Once the speaker has finished answering your questions, there will be an open meeting to discuss future projects that the LA21 Partnership should get involved with.

This is your chance to have your say about the local issues that matter in East Finchley and also an opportunity for you to

get involved with the Partnership as we all work together to make East Finchley a better place for everyone. If you have any questions or want to find out more about the East Finchley LA21 Partnership, please contact Stuart Gadsden on (020) 8359 4664.

## Smash & Dab

**By Frank Tymków**  
**Our shop keepers have long enough days as it is, what with serving customers, stock management and book-keeping. It can only be made worse if they are called out in the middle of the night over what can only be described as mindless vandalism.**

This was, unfortunately, the case for Top's Dry Cleaners in Fortis Green, when, after 17 years of trading the, 40-year-old shop window was smashed in by vandals wielding a bollard. I only hope that he will not be forced to put up one of those ghastly wire grilles, attracting the other destructive element of our society, the 'Graffiti Taggers'.

## Growing Pains

**By Daphne Chamberlain**  
**Planned extensions and developments at Bishop Douglass School are giving concern to its neighbours.**

Manor Park Road Residents' Association told *THE ARCHER* that, while agreeing that school facilities need improving, they are worried about the commercial aspects. Development plans include a fitness centre, and a focus on weekend activities.

With only 50 extra spaces planned for the extended car park, residents of Hamilton Road and Manor Park Road fear that the traffic in their already congested area will be "almost unbearable".

### Lack of consultation

They are also worried about the potential increase in

late night/early morning functions. "I can take three or four a year," said one resident, "But there will probably be many more than that."

He and his neighbours are disturbed about the lack of consultation. As reported in last month's *ARCHER*, they say that they were not given adequate notice of the development by Barnet, and that green space and trees close to their homes have been demolished ahead of planning permission. They are now waiting for the relevant Council planning meeting to make their protest in person.

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

### Local Planning Applications

#### National Hospital for Neurology, Great North Road, N2:

Demolition of the main hospital building in the Hampstead Garden Suburb conservation area, behind the White Lion public house.

#### 5 Lincoln Parade, Lincoln Road:

Conversion of ground floor to office and provision of three self contained flats at first floor level.

#### The Bungalow, Cherry Tree Wood:

Erection of a new two-storey detached dwelling house with two off-street car parking spaces following demolition of existing dwelling house.

#### 62 Fortis Green, N2:

Demolition of existing double garage and erection of a new single storey garage building with front dormer window and storage area in roof.

#### Signage:

Erection of new free-standing, non-illuminated London Borough of Barnet signage and sponsorship panel at the following places:

Pavement on both sides of the road opposite to 20 High Road, N2.

Pavement on both sides of the road next to 222 and 197, High Road, N2.

Pavement on both sides of the road next to 58 and 57, Fortis Green, N2.

Pavement next to 1 and 2 Cherry Tree Hill, Great North Road, N2.

Outside 15 Fortis Green, N2.

Pavement outside 201 Creighton Avenue, N2.

Pavement at junction of Hampstead Lane/The Bishops Avenue, N2.





## Fire in Fortis Green

By Erini Rodis

A ray of sunshine caused untold damage to a house in Fortis Green one bright January morning.



The aftermath - possessions are placed in a removal van, leaving behind debris from upstairs.

Photo by Erini Rodis

Fire fighters attended for several hours on 24 January and believe that the initial spark was caused by a concentrated ray of sun being reflected off a magnifying mirror and onto some nearby curtains.

The next day the owners, though distressed at having to salvage items from the charred remains of the upper floor, were grateful that nobody was hurt: "Extensive fire and smoke damage occurred to the upper floor, and there's water damage everywhere else. But no-one was in and the pets managed to stay in the kitchen and escape the blaze."

Repairs are likely to take around six months.

## Library Protest at Martin School

By Daphne Chamberlain

At a public meeting in January at Martin School, Infant School Head Pana McGee told the packed hall, "It is desperately important that the library stays in this accessible spot for those who need it." She said that many children, introduced to the neighbouring library through school visits, take part in holiday activities and homework clubs there.

Councillor Phil Yeoman declared that all Labour Councillors opposed re-siting. "This is a very big ward, with a very big disparity between rich and poor. Moving to opposite the Tube station would be detrimental to community spirit."

Adam Fagan, Chair of the meeting, remarked that the field shouldn't be up for grabs either. "If you live at Strawberry Vale, Cherry Tree Wood is a hell of a long way away."

In reply, Barnet's Head of Cultural Services, Pam Usher, said that a key objective of the Council was to sustain a "Best Value" library service. The move would supply East Finchley with a brand-new library at no cost, meeting the demands of the next 50 years. Lack of access was the main concern, but the present building has too many small rooms and a leaking roof.

Opinion in the hall was that these problems are not insurmountable, and could be rectified with money from the sale of Park House. Also, if children - and other members of the community - were distanced from the library, access would still be affected.

**Have you seen a consultation survey?**

Pam Usher said that there had been no feasibility study

into improving the existing building, as it was not Council policy to do this for every library, but a consultation survey had been sent to everyone in the area. Only five people in the hall had seen this survey.

Chair of Governors Theresa Harrison demanded a public consultation before the relevant Council Cabinet meeting.

Speakers agreed that everyone concerned was astonished by local reaction, and that the bombardment must be kept up. Protesters were advised to write to Waitrose, Council Leader Victor Lyons, relevant Councillors Peter Davis, Lynne Hillan and Kanti Patel, and to Head of

Committee Roy Goddard, and to get three other people to do the same. Councillor Colin Rogers recommended asking questions, keeping a record, and sending a copy to East Finchley Councillors. (For further information, ring Kath at East Finchley Constituency Office on 020 8883 0411.)



Standing up to protest: (L-R) Kathryn Scorza, Ken Cordeiro, Anne Lalaguna, Jenny Jones, Noel Lynch and John Scott, in front of part of the proposed supermarket and car park site. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Supermarket Stand Off

Local campaigners joined Ken Livingstone's Road Safety Advisor, Jenny Jones in a bid to raise awareness about the effect that a high-capacity supermarket car park might have on the High Road.

The general consensus is that traffic on that stretch of High Road is congested enough, especially during "rush hour" without a high capacity car park adding to the problem.

Also joining them on 24 January were "Warning on Waitrose" campaigner Kathryn Scorza, local Green Party councillor Noel Lynch, Ken Cordeiro, representing residents of Baronsmere Road, and speaking up for vulnerably close Cherry Tree Woods, Anne Lalaguna.

### Think Twice

Jenny Jones was on a Radio 4 programme only the previous evening, urging parents to think twice before using their cars to drive their children to and from school. "A phenomenal amount of people heard it" she reassured, "I am sympathetic that people see it

as a choice and not that they're being forced to do it."

Like lazy car use generally, the idea of a 2000 cars-per-day car park is considered environmentally destructive, not only to the survival of nearby nature sites, but also to the health of everyone who lives nearby.

Proprietor of GLH, John Scott, describes the idea of having the entrance to such a project so close to the bridge as "ludicrous, whichever way cars turn into it will cause huge problems for traffic flow in East Finchley".

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Chinese Dragon Photo by Toni Morgan

## Happy New Year!!!

By Irene Zevallos

**A 15-day celebration has taken place to welcome the Chinese New Year. It's a time to share magnificent food, tradition and even superstition!**

Chrissie, from Malaysia, has been living in London for 28 years. She explains: "it is a season to give, time for charity. New Year celebration is for everybody. We cannot do much during the week here though, because of work; but during the weekend, we have dinner parties with friends and family."

### Poo Woo

On the second day, Chinese pray to all the gods. The third and fourth are for parents-in-law. The "Poo Woo", or fifth day, is for people to stay home and welcome the God of Wealth.

From the sixth to the tenth is time to visit relatives and

friends.

There is a display of farmers' produce on the seventh day. They make a special drink from seven types of vegetables and also celebrate the birthday of human beings, eating noodles and raw fish for longevity and success.

Tian Gong, God of Heaven, is honoured on the eighth day; before offerings are made to the Jade Emperor. From the tenth to the twelfth everybody is invited for dinner.

Rice congee and choy sum (mustard greens) only! ...during the thirteenth day, to cleanse the body. "We don't eat meat during the first day either. We usually have eel with por-

ridge rice", says Chrissie.

### Parades and presents

On the fourteenth day, preparations for the "Lantern Festival" start, where children take lanterns in a parade.

"Ang Paus", which are delicate red envelopes containing money, are given away; especially to children. Perhaps also as a way to make them behave, as they cannot be told off... that would bring tears for the child during the whole year.

Chrissie remembers: "my mum used to hide them under the pillow and my sister and I would wake up in the morning to find them. When we grew older, we used to get them while having tea with the family."

She is married to an Irish man and they have two children, who have been brought up with western ideals mixed with oriental culture, where tradition and respect hold hands and everything has a purpose and a meaning.

## Mothering Sunday

### The Age Old Present Problem

By Diana Cormack

It's Mothering Sunday on 30 March and, apart from the usual box of chocolates, bunch of flowers or going out for a special meal, some people may be trying to think of another suitable gift. This can become even more difficult when, like mine, your mother is elderly, infirm and living in a care home. Most of her visitors come bearing chocolates or flowers and she had enough toiletries at Christmas to last for a year. She can no longer read or play board games, doesn't watch TV and is confined to a wheel chair. So one of the few options left is to buy her some item of clothing.

However, finding something suitable is not always easy. I have had many disappointing trips going to Brent Cross with the following criteria in mind:

- It has to be of a certain mature style as well as having fastenings and openings that her carers can deal with easily.
- The material must be machine washable and need little or no ironing.
- Hopefully it has a reasonable price tag.

### Back in time

Then one day I happened to be in Kentish Town Road where my eye was caught by a really old-fashioned-looking shop. It had large plate glass windows on either side of an opening into which another

display window jutted out. At the end of this were the two glass entry doors. On my way in I was able to see plenty of things that I thought might be right for my mum.

Stepping inside was like going back in time. It is worth a visit just to see what clothes shopping used to be like. You can make up your own mind about which era you prefer. All I know is that when I want something for my mum, I go there first and I've never been disappointed. The shop is called Blustons Fashions, 213-215 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2JU.

It's not very pc, but I have to confess that I call it "the old ladies shop." However, now I sometimes see clothes there that I quite fancy myself!



Children enjoy the snow and a day off school. Photo by Toni Morgan.

### East Finchley Baptist Church

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## Taxi!

**A new deal brokered by the council is set to bring more freedom to residents with disabilities in the borough who find it difficult or impossible to use public transport.**

Until now it has been too costly to include black cabs within the borough scheme which allows disabled residents, using a system of pre-paid and subsidised vouchers, to travel by taxi. Following negotiations with the ALG (Association of London Government) and TFL (Transport for London), Barnet Council has secured an agreement which will allow registered black cabs to be used by residents for the first time.

The new scheme will oper-

ate alongside Barnet's own local mini-cab service and should greatly increase the number of vehicles which disabled people can call upon. TFL has been keen to extend its black cab service into other boroughs but only when they decided to invest more cash did the scheme begin to look practicable for Barnet.

### Transport for London

Barnet was quick to explore whether TFL would agree to include Barnet residents within the current black taxi

scheme and at what cost. The result is that TFL have agreed to bring the scheme to Barnet at an annual cost of £237,000 which they will fund.

Those who take part in the scheme are able to buy vouchers at a nominal fee and pay towards their journeys according to the distance travelled.

Taxicard users will also have access to Freedom Passes. The take-up of these passes and the availability of black cabs in this part of London will both be closely monitored.





## A Balancing Act

By Mal Jacobs

**As a service-orientated country we are in a unique position in that, generally speaking, we only experience bad service. Good service is what used to be, or what will be, but it sure ain't here now!**

Which brings me to the 143 bus saga. All good, mature, patient, prospective travellers on this route will know what I mean. Within 20 minutes of living in the area I was informed by three people about the 143 as more than a myth.

Most of the horror stories I now know, including a few of my own.

A large number of senior citizens live in the area, particularly in East End Road, who are totally dependent on the 143 for medical appointments etc. All the excuses are used to cover a bad service, better known as a disservice to our community. We deserve better and we will get better.

Some of my experiences are:

- Frequent half-hour waits, several three-quarter-hour waits, several between one and one-and-a-quarter hour waits.
- Shoppers left at Tesco for two hours when buses were diverted
- Three occasions when half-full buses ignored signals and drove straight past
- Countdown sign went from 14 minutes to three minutes in a four-minute period
- Bus waited at East Finchley station, ignored the bus stop queue and drove off
- Wrong destination on front, customers had to leave bus

halfway into journey

- Boxing Day, no buses at all
- Drivers not using lowering step

### A Bus Guide to Read at the Bus Stop

- 1) Allow an extra half-hour (at least) for appointments
- 2) Don't read the timetable – it could cause you stress
- 3) Don't look at your wrist-watch
- 4) Don't give up, there is always the night bus
- 5) Always wear good walking shoes
- 6) If you have just missed one, don't worry – there is always tomorrow
- 7) If the Countdown isn't working properly, don't panic – it never is
- 8) If you thought it couldn't get worse, think again.
- 9) Don't speak quickly to anyone at the bus stop, there is plenty of time.
- 10) Take a book
- 11) What must be the worst service in London deserves a mention in the Guinness Book of Records.

Of course it isn't just the 143. *THE ARCHER* is inviting readers to form a 'Bus Action Group' that in future will monitor bus routes and represent users. For more information and contact details see 'THE ARCHER Bus Campaign' below.

## THE ARCHER

### Bus Campaign

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Our local buses, particularly the 263, 143 and H3, have figured prominently in the columns of this paper during the last couple of years. If only they were a bit more prominent on the streets!**

London Buses Customer Services have told me that the only way to improve services is to complain about them. Some of us have done this individually, but perhaps the time has come to form an organised action group.

For this to be effective, our complaints and comments must be detailed and specific, recording dates, times and circumstances. This campaign

is not just about regularity, but also about comfort, safety and convenience, and about recording appreciation where it is due. So – how do our buses affect your lives?

If you are interested in taking part, please contact *THE ARCHER*, by telephone voicemail/fax on 08717 33 44 65, by e-mailing [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), or by writing to POBox 3699, N2 8JA.

## Russ's Corner

The late Russell Saczek was honoured at his favourite watering hole, Maddens, on 22 January this year. Russell, who passed away last autumn, (reported in the October 2002 edition of *THE ARCHER*) had regularly taken his position at the end of the bar in Maddens, which has now been formally recognised as 'Russ's Corner'.

Close friends joined Russ's partner Geraldine, and hosts Kieran and Margaret Madden, for an informal ceremony. Russ's close friend, Francis Coulson, made a brief speech, after Geraldine placed a plaque above the bar where Russell used to sit. Whilst emotions were running high, the ceremony was intimate and touching and sealed, needless to say, with one or two toasts. Russell may have physically left this world, but his presence at Maddens is now permanent.



Geraldine looks on as her partner Russ is honoured. Photo by Frank Tymkow.

There'll always be a spot for him in Maddens. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Cats... and Dogs too

### Cat Owners Roll Up - RSPCA Spring Offer

**During March and April you have an opportunity to have your cats and kittens health-checked, then given a neutering voucher for the unbelievable price of £3 for males and £5 for females.**

Bring your pet along to our clinic in Park Road (next door to the Duke of Cambridge) on

Monday or Thursday evenings between 6 and 7.30pm. Our vet will examine the cat then, all being well, you will receive your voucher to take to a local veterinary practice where an appointment for the operation to be carried out will be made.

This year we are extending our neutering scheme to include

dogs and puppies. They will be catered for during May - so, owners, keep your eyes open for details in the April *ARCHER*.

Any queries, telephone 020 8444 8366.

John Larimer's

### IDDY BIDDY FILE

#### Fairy odd

Why is lemon juice mostly artificial ingredients, but washing up liquid contains real lemons?

#### Down the pan

Why buy a product that it takes 2000 flushes to get rid of?

#### Sponger

How much deeper would the ocean be if sponges didn't grow in it?

#### Seeking a cure

Why do we wait until a pig is dead to "cure" it?

#### Squeaky clean

Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?

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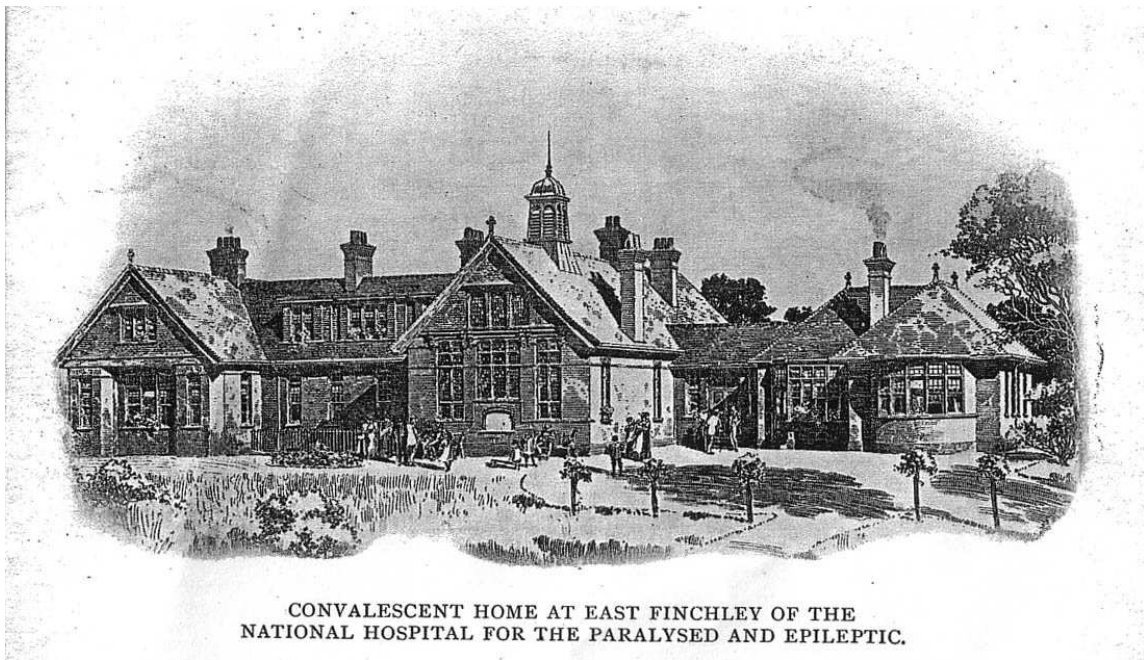
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CONVALESCENT HOME AT EAST FINCHLEY OF THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC.

## The National Hospital

By Alison Stein  
Part 2, 16 June 1897

### Duchess opens 'Country Branch'

**On a bright, rather chill afternoon, visitors assemble in the spacious central hall of the National Hospital's newly built 40-bed 'country branch'. Many have come from King's Cross by special train to this pretty village.**

It is Diamond Jubilee Year, and the Duchess of Albany, Queen Victoria's widowed daughter-in-law, is to perform the opening ceremony.

Visitors admire the richly coloured interior of the building, and the watercolours of fruit and flowers, donated by well-wishers, which adorn the walls. The grounds have been laid out with wide lawns, herbaceous flower borders, shrubberies, a fruit and vegetable garden, and specimen trees - cypress, poplar, fir, holly, and pine. The trees are newly planted, and the visitors can only imagine how beautiful they will be in 100 years' time.

It looks more like an attractive country house than a branch of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. Yet all this is purpose-built; designed, as the dedicatory plaque puts it, "for the benefit of a class of patients inadmissible to any other convalescent home in the kingdom". All the patients' accommodation is on

the ground floor, to be accessible by wheelchair, with no stairs to pose a hazard to epileptic patients.

### Fresh air and flower gardens

In the years since it opened its first convalescent home in East Finchley, The Elms, the National Hospital had attained an international reputation in both the medical and surgical fields. It now needed a larger country branch, where patients who had been confined for months to the wards of the Queen Square Hospital might recover faster in fresh country air.

The Hospital had made many friends in East Finchley, and the village was easily accessible by train, essential as physicians from London were to make frequent visits.

It proved difficult to find a suitable site, but eventually the Ecclesiastical Commissioners released a 3-acre field adjoining East Finchley Station on a 999-year lease. Funds

were raised, building work began, and the grounds were laid out. A rubbish-filled pond turned out to be a deep spring, one of the sources of the River Brent, so it was drained and reshaped to become a feature of the landscape garden, with weeping willows, ferns, water-lilies and carp.

Trees were planted to screen the Home from the station. All was optimism and confidence. A new chapter in the history of East Finchley and the National Hospital was about to begin.

## Glebelds' Endangered Wildlife

### Territorial Take Over

By Erini Rodis

**The Glebelds Nature Reserve in North Finchley is under serious threat due to a lack of funding, according to the Green Party. They accuse Mayor Ken Livingstone of failing to give adequate support to protect London's wildlife and green spaces.**

This site, which lies just north of the North Circular Road opposite Strawberry Vale, is also a known breeding ground for slowworms, and a feeding area for a colony of pipistrelle bats. The ponds are also host to one of the largest colonies of great crested newts in the whole of London.

Complaints from organisations around London have led Darren Johnson, Leader of the Green Party Group in the London Assembly, to question the allocation of moneys in the Mayor's "Bio-diversity Strategy". It has been revealed that while £372,000 has been allocated for trips to London Zoo, only £51,000 is being spent on implementing the Mayor's other 71 proposals.

Mr Johnson commented, "The Glebelds Nature Reserve is home to the rare Red-Crested Newt, one of the Mayor's favourite creatures. As part of his legal responsibility for safeguarding green space and wildlife in Barnet and the whole of London, he should do

more to protect it."

In transpires that Barnet Council has given the go-ahead for Barratts to develop three nine-storey blocks of flats to replace the existing Territorial Army Centre building. Totaling over 100 flats, a third of these will be social housing.

The Coppetts Wood Conservationists, who in their twenty-year involvement have managed to register Glebelds as a legally protected site, are concerned by the effect that six hours of daily shade will have. Reptiles will be particularly sensitive to the change in temperature, and whole colonies might be forced to move.

Considering the site is being sold for a reported £3.5million, the Greens have got some negotiating to do.

Cllr. Darren Johnson is undeterred: "The Green Party wants children to be able to enjoy London's wildlife on a local and regular basis, rather than as just a one-off trip to the Zoo to find wildlife in captivity."

## The Bald-Faced Stag Part II

By Hugh Petrie

**I finished the last part with an error, and so I start with a correction. William Shaw rebuilt the Stag around 1886, including upstairs rooms for use as a Masonic lodge. By 1890 the publican was a Frank Price, whose wife, Margarita, was from Brussels. Simply put, Shaw was there for less time than I assumed.**

### Beer and skittles

From 1898 (and through the 1900s) William Russell was landlord. CO Banks, the antiquarian, wrote that Mrs Selina Russell, "was a popular hostess", and "made the house". It became known for its skittles alley and pleasure gardens. After Mr Russell died at 40, Selina continued in the house and, incidentally, married CO Banks.

In late 1913, Frank Bluett Jones held the house, by which time the house was described as a hotel. The Great War saw most

of his custom march away. In 1915, in the London Bankruptcy Court, Jones was described as a former landlord owing £2,130. In March of 1916 Jones challenged conscription, giving evidence before a tribunal that he had to care for his aged parents and invalid sister. He had been able to house them 'up stairs' at the Stag, but now worked in the city, sending 30 shillings to his family in Hampshire. He was granted a months exemption to sort out his affairs.

### A poetic pint

After Jones came the

Masons, William and Florence that is, who ran the house until 1924, followed by various others. Interestingly my brother Gerard pointed out that the Bald Faced Stag has a place in poetry, thanks to Fleur Adcock. In the last verse of her poem Bogeyman (1974) Adcock considers where she will be in twenty years time with a selection of various fates including "sipping Guinness in the Bald-Faced Stag, in wrinkled stockings?" Has she been in the bar recently?

### HELP is HERE 4U

#### Finchley Christian Fellowship

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The Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road East Finchley  
Enquiries - 020 8805 2867

## Holy Trinity Church

Church Lane N2

Sundays: The Parish Communion 10 a.m.

Children including toddlers & babies are very welcome at all services in this multi-ethnic church.

Contact: The Revd. Laurence Hill

Telephone: 020 8883 8720

## Doyle's Boys

In response to the appeal to what has happened to John Doyle and his boys (February 2003), *THE ARCHER* has received an anonymous voicemail informing us that the gentleman on the far right of the photograph is Peter Norman, who is currently living in Australia as a builder. Are there any more clues as to the whereabouts and identity of the rest of 'the boys'?



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## GARDENING

## Spring Beauty

By Zena Robson

It's Hellebore time! And I love 'em! No better sight than a whole crowd of them with daffodils (sounding like that Lakeland poet now!) lighting up the beautiful dark purples and spotty pinks. They have a tendency to hang their heads so you need to get down there and lift them gently to appreciate their real beauty. Visit a spring garden soon so you can see them in their massed ranks. Benington Lordship near Stevenage would be a good choice where they have open days when you can buy some of their specimens - but be warned, get there early or be crushed in the scrum!

It's a good time to lift and split any herbaceous stuff you didn't get around to last autumn. Keep the younger outer growths and discard any knobbly old bits from the middle, then simply replant with appropriate spacing, water in and mulch.

## Thanks very mulch

Talking of mulch, if you don't do this regularly, start now. Spring is a good time to apply a 5-6cm layer over the soil once it has warmed up enough. It will keep the moisture in and help to suppress some weed growth. It needs to be well-rotted to do the soil good and you can take your pick from a certain place in Crews Hill between mushroom compost (remember it has lime in it so is no good around Camellias etc.), horse and cow manure. Their nutrient content is variable but they really help to improve soil structure and all the good guys in the way of earthworms and micro-organisms will thank you for it.

Once your early-flowering shrubs like Forsythia have finished, get out there with the secateurs and give them a good thinning out and cutting back. But restrain yourself! Don't start hacking into the later stuff! You know what will happen - I can hear you now "D'you know, this bloomin' thing has done nothing again this year" - I wonder why!!

## Goodbye and Good Gardening

It is also time for me to sign off. I'm hanging up my trowel, metaphorically speaking, so these are my last ramblings for you. I hope that I've been entertaining *and* informative and that you have enjoyed reading my bits and pieces as much as I have enjoyed writing them for you.

Happy gardening and I wish you all a successful season of growing this year.

## Garden Blues

By Pam Smith

I've had a dose of Coleus, it's really very sore.

I've only just got over having Physalis once more.

Last week I caught Cytis and a painful Cornus too,

I felt as ill as if I'd had a bout of Asian flu.

Someone's given me Lycisteria, my head is spinning round,

And what with my Gasteria, I'm rolling on the ground.

So give me a shot of Vaccinium and put me in a cell,

And maybe in the morning I'll have Nemesis as well.

And when I've lost my memory and feeling so much better,

Don't remind me of what I had, not even in a letter.



Coldfall crocus By Tony Roberts

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Cherry Tree Wood in snow Photo by Toni Morgan

## Our Library

By Mal Jacobs

What a wonderful day it must have been on 15 October 1938 when the new East Finchley library was officially opened by Alderman A T Pike OBE JP - and it is still vivid in some people's minds.

The whole community coming to the one place for one thing....*learning!* Learning to read, think, speak, and dream about life itself. The use of a library then was to borrow books, read newspapers and as a reference point. Talking was in whispers, as silence was golden in 1938! Within 12 months many found themselves in foreign lands, learning something new... *war!*

## Evaluation

Nowadays, libraries incorporate computer usage and hire tapes, CDs, videos, DVDs plus speaking books. (Of course, senior citizens don't get any concessions!) Imagine having a business since 1938 that in 2002 saw around 490 people per day using it. To maintain this success it should be time to re-evaluate it. Some things are obviously lacking:

- A 'What's On' A4 sheet showing what the daily events are

for this week and next

- A self-explanatory indicator board showing position of toilets, music room, children's library etc.
- The tea-room disguised as a machine upstairs? Many London bookshops now have tea or coffee in the main area
- The pink leaflet on 'Libraries' does not show access via stair - no lift.
- A lift should have been installed years ago as a matter of need.

Before forward planning can be done, it is essential to have correct information to know who and what the planning is for! That information is not known, so it is impossible to plan an overall strategy to

make full use of the space and facilities available.

A customer survey and suggestion box are two excellent ways of staying ahead of likes and dislikes. Libraries are for the living and should be 'user friendly'.

Money spent in libraries has to be viewed as an investment for us and future generations. A customer survey earlier would have revealed what people want and don't want. Popularity is hard to beat, so as we have a good library, in a good position, for a good community, let's keep it, if that is what the people want. Make sure that the vision that was there in 1938 is maintained today.

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## Regular Events Sport & Fitness

- ❖ **Badminton** on Wednesdays. Call 020 8349 0170
- ❖ **Body Control Pilates** classes. Call Deanna Wisbey 020 8883 7029
- ❖ **Counselling and psychotherapy service** at the Green Man Centre. For details phone 8346 0194
- ❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), has monthly meetings & rides. Call 020 8440 9080.
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217

## Dance, Drama, Art & Music

- ❖ **Adult Line Dancing**. Call Footloose 020 8440 8530/ 8216 5633.
- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Barnet Schools Music Centre** call 020 8359 3111 for details.
- ❖ **Broadway & West end Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.
- ❖ **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 10 & 24 March 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
- ❖ **Private singing lessons**, all levels Contact Anouschka 020 8444 82 05
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London**, Contact Stephen Kelsey, 020 8883 3365

## Clubs & Social

- ❖ **All Saints Beer and Wine Circle** Call Richard Baldwin 020 8883 7081
- ❖ **Bingo**, Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm
- ❖ **East Finchley National 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
- ❖ **Single Solution** over 30s night. call 020 8802 2326/ 8363 2328

# Events at the Phoenix Cinema

## Thursday 13 March at 8pm

### Stacey Kent & Her Musicians

The leading jazz diva returns to the Phoenix after her sell-out success last November with more classics from the American songbook. Tickets: £15, £12, £10 - on sale now.

## Sunday 23 March at 1.30pm

### Nicholas Winton: The Power of Good

An exclusive presentation of this award-winning Czech documentary by Matej Minac about the "British Schindler" with introduction by his biographer Vera Gissing, some of "his children" plus, possibly, the man himself.

## Sunday 23 March at 4.30pm

### Cipher: Pandora's Box

Jewish Jazz musician Theo Travis and partner Dave Surf are creators of new sound tracks for silent films. They present their latest creation live with the silent classic by Pabst, following a highly successful UK tour.

## Sunday 30 March at 2pm

### Maureen Lipman: The Pianist

Maureen Lipman introduces a special screening of this highly acclaimed film by Roman Polanski. Plus discussion. Tickets: £10 full and £8 concession. Special Friends offer: £1 off (excludes Stacey Kent event). All proceeds go to the Phoenix Fast Forward Fund. Bookings are now open.

## Early Bird Screenings

Every Wednesday we present an early matinee with screenings finishing at 3pm.

## Film Workshops

For children and teenagers: see JAF Brochure or website, [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) for details. To reserve places, contact the box office on 8444 6789.



# School's Outstanding Success

**Holy Trinity School, East Finchley, has just received a brilliant start to the New Year. The Ofsted report of their inspection in November is very good news on every page.**

Headteacher, Duncan Mills, said "We are very proud indeed of what has been achieved by the staff, pupils and Governing Body. The quality of teaching was highly praised and so was the support given by classroom assistants. Over half of lessons taught were judged as very good or excellent. Ofsted said, 'This is an extremely positive picture'. The children rose to the occasion very well and the Inspectors commented on the very friendly and inclusive ethos of the school. They said it was rare indeed to see no instances at all of poor behaviour.

### Making the grade

In its report Ofsted now considers Holy Trinity School to be 'a very good school with some outstanding features.' In comparison with all schools, standards in the core areas of English, Mathematics and Science achieved at Holy Trinity are either above average or well above average. When compared to similar schools Ofsted rates the school as consistently 'well above average' across the board! Pupils also receive praise with behaviour, attitude and personal development and relationships being rated as 'Very Good'.

Sylvia Duthie, Chair of Governors, commented that she was hugely proud of all that had been achieved and she particularly praised the leadership of the Headteacher, which Ofsted had singled out as outstanding. She was also thrilled that the work of the Governing Body had been considered excellent. "It's apparently as rare as hen's teeth for Ofsted to give Governors such high praise", she noted.

The school has now to work on plans for building a library as the development of their computer suite has left no space for a proper library facility. They also have plans to develop an outdoor area for the Reception class. So pleased were the Ofsted team that they had little else to add as to what the school needed to do to improve.

One very successful team (L-R): Sue Bissell, Jodi McFarlane, Caroline Kinahan, Sava Sheppard, Fiona Hamilton, Jackie Sawyers, Melissa Cadwell, Lisa Davies, Sarah Howard, Alison Holding, Maureen Bourdon, Catherine Corr, Elaine Montgomery, Debs Pothen, Gillian Morgan, Duncan Mills Photo by Erini Rodis

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

The school has been granted a Lottery Award of £4,910 to go towards the development of a school garden/ quiet area for the children to use. The project, which will be in conjunction with the outdoor classroom planned for reception class, will start in the summer term.

The children thoroughly enjoyed a production of *The Selfish Giant*, by Oscar Wilde, performed in the school hall by The Image Theatre Group.

Police Constable Walker visited each class to involve children in Personal Safety lessons.

A new prospectus of Holy Trinity School is now available. More details can be found on the school's website, for which thanks are due to former pupil Alex Duthie. See the results of his hard work on [www.holy-trinity-school.co.uk](http://www.holy-trinity-school.co.uk).

### Martin Schools

The theme for corridor displays in the junior school this term is journeys. Each class has chosen a book about a journey, famous, courageous or imaginary and covering all the continents, to draw and write about.

Year 6 organised a Bring and Buy Sale in aid of the Blue Peter Appeal for providing clean water in Tanzania and Uganda. Despite the snow, many parents and children came and helped to raise £175.

Year 3 visited the British Museum as part of their studies on the Ancient Egyptians and have been writing about it as well as making beautiful masks.

Last term fifteen boys and girls had cricket training from professional players under the Middlesex Academy's *Awards for All* programme. This term they showed the skills and team spirit which they have developed in a two day tournament with other schools. The children received certificates and medals and the school was given £500 worth of cricket equipment.

Staff have started a range of new lunchtime clubs which include chess, netball and sewing. Already the school has choir rehearsals, computer art club and school council as well as activities in the den and Teamy after school every night.





## Your Waitrose Letters

### Voting plans

Having heard about the proposal of a new Waitrose in East Finchley, I was wondering if members of the London Borough of Barnet Planning Committee ever have to stand for re-election. If so, would this be their manifesto regarding the future of East Finchley?

1. Kill off local businesses and community services by encouraging unnecessary new supermarkets to be built.

2. Promote extreme traffic congestion on local roads that were never

designed to cope.

3. Refuse to invest in the local library to promote access for disabled people and maintain access for primary school children.

4. Consider selling off playing fields that are the only green space for many local children.

5. Do their best to destroy a vibrant community and leave a legacy of factors causing significant harm to the health of local people for years to come. Would you vote for them?

**Dr Mike Solomon**  
Bedford Road N2

### Firmly in favour

I have considered the various opinions expressed within the pages of your excellent newspaper and they have helped me come to a decision in favour of the new development.

The concept of a reasonable-sized supermarket, modern library and community room at the centre of all East Finchley's public transport links is nothing short of brilliant and may even encourage people out of their cars.

Being totally dependent on public transport, it will be of enormous benefit to me (and others) to have a good local supermarket on a direct bus route and to be able to combine this with use of the library (the present one being out on a limb). Who knows, maybe I might even combine this with some shopping on the High Road, something I have no reason to do at present.

I have no hesitation in suggesting the development will be in the long-term interests of the East Finchley community: socially, economically and environmentally.

One reservation though; I should like to think that an accommodation can be reached with GLH so that access to their minicabs can be maintained on the site, which is opposite the station.

**Tony Roberts**  
Sedgemere Avenue N2

### My favourite store

There are plenty of supporters of Waitrose and the new library. I and friends/acquaintances would like to have an upmarket large supermarket which would give us more choice of good foods than is now offered by the smaller food stores. We would also use the library, it being larger and with a car park.

At present I have to travel to North Finchley or Brent Cross for Waitrose, my favourite store, with parking. The buses aren't much good!

It would be an improving addition to East Finchley Village and encourage locals to come to our own local shops.

**Michael Brown**  
Howard Walk N2

## Clear the Site... and Stack those Shelves

By Neil Parkin, Huntingdon Associates

**Loyal readers of THE ARCHER will by now be fully engaged - on both sides - in the titanic struggle for or against the advent of a Waitrose outlet on the sunny uplands of East Finchley. Tempers clearly run high at this prospect, but as ever with matters of planning and environment, much can be gained from a closer study of the proverbial nuts and bolts of the development process which, to hitch up to a second metaphor, are my daily ciabatta and dressing.**

Compulsory Purchase Orders (or 'CPOs'), for example. To British town planners with sufficiently long memories, these are familiar tools in hands of local authorities and development agencies and the government itself as a means of ensuring that several, in themselves laudable, things can happen. A CPO can be used to remove obstacles in the way of realising approved and duly adopted parts of a Development Plan, such as an Action Area, as they used to be called. It can expedite site assembly, obtain a route for a new highway, help to regenerate outworn housing or acquire a site for community use. Where some form of public/partnership has been established as a means of implementing a comprehensive redevelopment of some kind, then the CPO is the usual mechanism to speed site assembly. So far so good.

### CPO Enigma

What is rather puzzling to me about the CPO(s) currently being inked by LB Barnet for what is now being called the "Waitrose" site is that, to my knowledge, their status is fragile indeed, specifically:

CPOs are intended to be used as a means of progressing an approved element of

the adopted Development Plan (the Barnet UDP, for example). Not much evidence that Waitrose - or its clones - has ever formed part of any long-held, published Grand Design for the regeneration of East Finchley;

Under the terms of a typical CPO, existing residents displaced by the development need to be re-housed in suitable accommodation, not necessarily on site but re-housed nevertheless. This presumably applies to any current residents on site above the High Road shops, but I have so far seen no mention of this provision being made;

What of the existing businesses on site? In confirming any CPO, the Secretary of State always needs to be satisfied that due weight has been given to objections made on the grounds that it would be difficult for the current occupiers to find alternative accommodation.

Not to forget the Trojan Horse of a "Library" dragged unconvincingly on stage as the justification for the CPO. Pretty sad stuff.

This is only a start. I can see our best planning lawyers already contemplating the rich harvest of fees to be garnered, as Waitrose gets serious.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## Don't Stop the Music

**Welcome to the sound of silence, welcome to the revenge of the anally retentive, welcome to the end of music. Explanation time? Well, yes, what has slipped through unnoticed in all the excitement about 24-hour pub openings is the threat to live music.**

The new licensing act means that anyone who plays or sings or dances is going to have to have a licence and pay a fee. No longer will a pub be able to bypass the law by limiting the number of players to two, or the local folk club be able to book the back room of the Rat and Cat for their monthly meeting and the bloke in the pub who plays the piano will be banned too unless he's licensed. The only exception will be church services.

At the moment, licensing is down to the local magistrates who dish them out for pubs, concert halls, bars and anywhere else that wants to put on music. It's not just music that's licensed by the local bench, it's also pubs, bars, restaurants and anywhere else that booze is sold. This is about to change and it is 'goodbye' to the bench and 'hello' to the local council and that's the problem.

### Licensed to kill

Magistrates enforce the law; local councils enforce the will of politicians and pressure groups. If the local residents do their usual thing under the 'my wife and I are trying to get some sleep/we never go to the pub' Act (2003) then the pubs will shut and those that are open will be silent. It will be the last hurrah for the petty minded with their 'I don't know much about music, but I know I don't like it' and the end of music in pubs and most other places. Why? Because councils worry about votes. If the local council thinks there are votes in refusing licences to any pub with live music then there will be no live music; or if it decides that it is a money-spinner then only the wealthy venues will have any music.

The new licensing act is about control; about money, not music, and will be used to stop anything that the complaining classes dislike. These are the people who would have taken the Cavern's licence away because they didn't like the Beatles and ensured that the Stones never got rolling and make sure that the next big thing will not come up from the gutter with attitude but will be marketed and manufactured to be as antiseptic as possible. Keep music live, kill the bill.

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## Waitrose letters continued

### Questionnaire questioned

As most of your readers will have received and filled in the Councillors' Questionnaire to residents regarding the proposed Waitrose scheme, we wish to draw attention to two of the questions, the answers to which are open to being cynically twisted to appear to show support for building a Waitrose where none may have been intended.

We are personally against the Waitrose scheme. But we strongly agree that a full, independent, representative and balanced measure of the views of the wider population of East Finchley is needed. We gather that response rates to this survey have been high.

#### Leading questions

While there will be good information here, Question 11 is leading ('If Waitrose could be persuaded to modernise the existing library instead of relocating it, how would this make you feel about the new development?'), and we therefore argue that no sound conclusions can or should be drawn from it. A questionable scenario is posed which makes it sound as if Waitrose would make all the decisions, not the Council, and permission to build a supermarket should not be linked to restoring an unrelated public building in this way. We have encountered widespread criticism of this question, and of Question 4, which poses a hypothetical question ('if Waitrose were built, would you use it?'), which has nothing to do with whether the supermarket should be built. However, attempts could be made by those pushing the scheme to argue that a positive answer demonstrates support for building it, despite a negative answer to Question 1 ('What do you think about the proposed Waitrose?').

This survey has begun the process of consultation and as the first attempt to put numbers on the opinions of East Finchley residents, will be the focus of a lot of attention. All the more important, then, to join the call made at the Council Policy Conference on 13 February for the Current Administration to enter into full public consultation before any decisions are made and before a planning application is received, and to offer an extended period of consultation once the application has been lodged.

**Yours sincerely**  
**Rick and Kathryn Scorza**  
**Durham Road, N2**

### Injection of Life

You asked for a response from East Finchley residents in favour of the proposed Waitrose development. I am wholly in favour for the following reasons:

1. Waitrose is a quality supermarket whose parent, John Lewis, is a thoroughly honourable business. If they say that they will spend money to improve the area, they will.

2. Like many of my neighbours, I use a car to drive to supermarkets. A local Waitrose would obviate the need for car journeys.

3. A spanking new Waitrose would enhance the area. Years ago we had a Sainsburys, a Freeman Hardy & Willis, a Boots, a Comet (which was a Freeborns furniture store before that) and a fabulous garden shop called Gibbs (now Corys chemist). East Finchley is dying and needs an injection of life.

4. The proposed site is a complete eyesore as it presently stands. Both the minicab site and the ghastly Park House would not be missed. One look at the Waitrose in Holloway Road, Islington, should convince the

doubters that supermarkets can be architecturally pleasing.

I do have some sympathy for the shops, but solicitors, travel agents and surveyors don't need shop premises - just offices. Similarly, a minicab stand could be operated from anywhere. Waitrose might be prevailed upon to incorporate some of the displaced premises within its new building.

5. It has been suggested that a vast increase in traffic would result. I believe that with proper traffic management, residents would not notice much difference. We locals wouldn't need to use our cars to travel to other areas to shop and if the proposed new Tesco is built opposite the library the 'shopping' traffic would, I believe, even out between the two. Anyway, we already have parking restrictions in force.

6. Waitrose will need staff - local staff. This will be a benefit.

7. The existing library is a lovely building and should be preserved. If it does not currently meet statutory requirements and upgrading is deemed too expensive, why not impose a condition on Waitrose that they pay for the upgrade instead of a new library?

8. Finally, I fail to see how a new shop would destroy the 'village' feeling of East Finchley. If we took it to our hearts, just as we have all the other businesses, it could well become a valuable asset to our community and should be welcomed.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**David R Padbury,**  
**Summerlee Avenue, N2**

### Jam Tomorrow?

As I sat in traffic on Monday 3 February, taking 45 minutes to get from Highgate to East Finchley, a journey that usually takes 10 minutes, it made me think how this would be the norm if the new Waitrose proposal goes ahead.

Today's traffic was due to a particularly bad accident at Henley's corner. This can be endured as a one-off occasion but not on a daily basis.

**Keren McConnell**  
**Leopold Road, N2**

### What village atmosphere?

I would like to point out that I am a resident living in East Finchley, and my views only contain my thoughts on the issue from a 'local' point of view.

What quality retail food outlets do we currently have in East Finchley?

The answer is simple, none, unless Budgen's has suddenly become a 'high' quality food outlet in which case I apologise!!

Unfortunately for us, our high street is uninspiring. I never normally want to spend any more time than I have to there because many of the outlets are unappealing both in appearance, and in the service they provide. I think our local council should invest some money in new shop fronts for the street, which would help to face-lift most of the wrinkles it currently possesses.

The introduction of a new Waitrose supermarket would be a foundation for a chain reaction of up-market retail outlets opening in the area to revitalise an image that needs to be brought into the 21st century.

The library would also be considerably better, both in size and facilities, as well as being new, and would accommodate all the needs of the local people who go there, including the disabled.

I have taken a close look at other high streets in other areas, and I am

## Labour Questionnaire Results

I would like to thank everyone who returned questionnaires. We carried out this consultation because of the complete failure of the Tory council to do so. We believe strongly that the voice of our local community should be heard. Your views really are important to us and it has been extremely interesting and enlightening to read all the comments submitted.

The response rate has been very high, reflecting the strength of feeling on both sides. We sent out Waitrose Questionnaires to the 5700 households in East Finchley ward and to date have received 1350 back. That's a 23% response rate. An average (non-traffic) council consultation usually gets a response of between 10% and 15%.

As councillors we believe strongly in the economic regeneration and sustainability of East Finchley's town centre. On the basis of your responses the majority of you, like me, don't believe that these Waitrose plans support that end.

The questionnaires showed that 60% of respondents oppose the plans, 82% are worried about the traffic implications and many of you also expressed concerns about the impact on current shops in East Finchley the impact on Cherry Tree Woods and particularly concerns about relocation of the library. However, only 33% of respondents do most or all of their shopping in East Finchley, 49% already drive to another town centre or complex to do their main household shopping and many commented that they would prefer to have sufficient choice to be able to do that in East Finchley. Overall people were worried about the appropriateness and scale of the suggested Waitrose site. No attempt has been made by the Tory Council or Waitrose to answer or address any of these problems.

So it is clear that while a majority of you are opposed to the Waitrose plans, very many of you are concerned about the viability and vitality of our town centre. A case needs to be made for economic regeneration and support of local businesses. I can't support this Waitrose proposal but will be pressing urgently for cohesive plans for the economic regeneration of our town centre, held in scale with the needs of our local community, plans which must undergo full examination by and consultation with local people.

**East Finchley Councillor, Phil Yeoman**

(Under planning law, Cllrs Alison Moore and Colin Rogers, who both sit on planning committees would be barred from voting on this issue if they expressed an opinion beforehand. They will of course take your views into account.)

#### A Note on Figures

Figures are expressed in % values, but because not everybody ticked a box for each question these will not total 100% for each question. The figure for each box represents the percentage of all respondents who ticked that box.

#### 1. What do you think about the proposed Waitrose

	%
strongly support	16
support	13
neither support nor oppose	10
oppose	14
strongly oppose	46

#### 2. Do you currently shop in East Finchley

yes	81
no	8

#### 3. If the answer to question 2. is 'yes' do you:

do all your shopping in East Finchley	6
most of your shopping in East Finchley	27
some of your shopping in East Finchley	47
very little of your shopping in East Finchley	12

#### 4. If Waitrose was built would you use it

very often	7
often	23
not much	32
not at all	24

#### 5. Do you currently drive to another town centre to do your main household shopping?

yes	49
no	43

#### If yes would the new store mean you would:

drive to the new shop in East Finchley	14
be less likely to drive at all	16
not affect where you shop or how you get there	30

#### 6. The proposed development would include 149 parking spaces, which is likely to generate incoming traffic from surrounding areas. How concerned are you about this:

not at all concerned	17
concerned	22
very concerned	60

#### 7. The proposed development would be next to Cherry Tree Woods, would you be concerned about the impact upon the park:

not at all concerned	20
concerned	21
very concerned	57

#### 8. How often do you use the existing library:

not at all	29
up to twice a year	19
about once a month	29
weekly	22

#### 9. What do you use the Library for (tick all relevant boxes):

loaning books	63
study space	14
music library	27
internet access	6
the community hall	8
don't use the library	17

#### 10. How would it affect you if East Finchley library moved from its current building to above the proposed Waitrose (opposite the Tube).

**Would it be:**

very convenient	12
quite convenient	8
not make any difference to you	39
cause you some inconvenience	18
cause you major inconvenience	21

#### 11. If Waitrose could be persuaded to modernise the existing library instead of re-locating it. How would this make you feel about the new development.

much more enthusiastic	11
more enthusiastic	15
not change your view	63
less enthusiastic	2
more hostile	5

#### 12. Do you live:

nearest the proposed Waitrose	34
nearest the existing Library	52
not very near to either	12

We are still collecting questionnaires and will continue to do so until the end of March. Please send in yours if you would still like to do so. Questionnaires were hand-delivered to every household in East Finchley, but if you didn't receive one and would like to, please call the Labour Party office on 020 8883 0411. Final results will be posted in the window of the Labour Party office at 38 Church Lane.

### Make up your mind

(Copy of letter sent to Councillors Alison Moore, Colin Rogers and Phil Yeoman)

#### Dear Councillors

Re: Waitrose in East Finchley.

In a letter I have just seen from 'Warning on Waitrose', it is claimed that "some or all of the Councillors were active in getting the development proposal off the ground in the first place" and even that "Phil Yeoman stated that he is pro Waitrose".

Since this scheme is so clearly inimical to the interests of our local community, I trust that there has been some misunderstanding - I cannot imagine that any of you

would support opening a large store for the benefit of Highgate residents and at the expense of the East Finchley residents whom you represent. Indeed, in your shoes I would regard these assertions as verging on the libellous.

I hope, therefore, that you are able to reassure me that all three of you are indeed well aware of the strength of feeling in East Finchley in favour of supporting our local shopkeepers; and that you will be making a very clear public declaration of your hostility to the proposed Waitrose development. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Yours sincerely**  
**Denis R Johnston**  
**Lincoln Road N2**





## Letters to The Editor

### Sylvester, aka Tom, aka Wildebeest

Sir,  
Although I left East Finchley over two years ago and now live in the sun some 2,000 miles away, I enjoy *THE ARCHER* still. It's good to read about old friends, neighbours and recently – cats...

Yes cats; although the story is a sad one. In a recent issue I read that a very dear old friend, the exceptionally large and fierce black and white tomcat of Lauradale Road, who had many names, had died at the grand old age of 20.

Wildebeest was *my* cat - well 'my' in the sense that he lived with my family in Fortis Green Avenue for a year.

One rainy day back in 1986 he presented himself to the Haringey social services department in Wood Green where my wife was working. She fed him and let him move into the office where he lived quite happily for two years sleeping on the filing cabinet marked "Displaced Persons".

But Tom, as he became known, had an attitude problem. Whenever the mood got him, he would glare and he would hiss and he would lash out a paw and let fly a spit that cracked like a rifle shot...

There were rifle shot spits too many and eventually startled staff insisted he should go. So in 1988 we brought him home to Fortis Green Avenue and, because of his wild spirit, we named him "Wildebeest".

He slowly settled in with us and our two cats. All was harmony for a time but then he disappeared when we went on holiday during September 1989. I found him sunning himself on a wall on the corner of Fortis Green Avenue and Lauradale Road.

We could not entice him back and that corner became his favourite haunt for the next 13 years. Indeed he became king of the corner. Other cats kept their distance while dogs dropped tails

and crossed the road. Once I saw a man pick up his dog and hurry past Wildebeest.

We were glad to learn that some people in Lauradale Road had given him refuge. They also gave him a new name, Sylvester. Thank you, Martin Page, for caring for him for all these years.

God rest you, Sylvester, aka Tom, aka Wildebeest, in that great happy hunting ground in the sky. I'm sure that I'll meet you again some day and when I do there will be a glare and a hiss and a lashing out of a paw and a rifle shot spit...

Yours Paul Savill,  
The Algarve, Portugal.

### 'Who's counting?'

Dear Editor

If Margaret Cartwright of Leicester Road (December issue) believes East Finchley is 'overloaded' with Estate Agents she should be grateful she does not live at our nearest neighbours in Muswell Hill or Finchley Central.

In East Finchley, between Creighton Avenue and the tube there are approximately just over 100 shops, of which only five are Estate Agents.

If you compare this with the roundabout alone at Muswell Hill, out of approximately 20 shops there are six Estate Agents - without the others in Muswell Hill Broadway and Fortis Green Road. Whilst in Finchley Central between only Station Road and Hendon Lane, out of 35 shops there are ten Estate Agents!

All communities need a fair balance of shops and businesses to keep the area alive and healthy and, as someone who has worked locally for 15 years, I believe that East Finchley has a balanced and far better community spirit than many other London areas.

I commend *THE ARCHER* and the volunteers who work on it for giving East Finchley some of that special identity.

Yours faithfully  
(name and address supplied)

### Good Samaritans

Dear Editor

We hear so much in the media about the uncaring attitude of passers-by when they see anyone lying hurt in the street through accident or whatever, that perhaps my recent experience will be of interest and put this in a new light.

Just recently I had a very bad fall on the ice on the corner of Fairlawn Avenue and Fortis Green. My wife was with me and we were both overwhelmed by the help and kindness from perfect strangers, both pedestrians and passing motorists.

One stopped and called an ambulance, another covered me with a blanket and supplied a pillow for my head, another called the doctor. The ambulance arrived within 15 minutes and I was taken to hospital with head injuries.

My purpose in recording all this is to show the caring and kindness of so many people - it has given me a huge lift and restored my faith in the kindness of people around us.

Len Willcocks  
Park Hall Road, N2

### Belt up

Dear Archer,

Regarding the article in the February issue, about the person who fell out of a wheelchair, suggesting that the Council is responsible and should put things right. Perhaps you should mention that wheelchairs should be safe for the user, and the user should at all times **fasten firmly their safety belt/lap strap**. If the user is not using their lap strap, they may fall out and be responsible to injury to others. They are also advised to have insurance.

This advice is given to all clients issued with NHS wheelchairs, and in that case assessments are always made to check suitability and safety and advise on safe use. There are lots of people who privately purchase wheelchairs which may not be either safe or suitable. It is also the case that some users of privately purchased battery-operated wheelchairs are a positive hazard to themselves and others.

Sue Bentley

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.



## The East Finchley Gold Rush!

By J. J. Patrick

**East Finchley seems to be a magnet for Developers these days: compulsory purchase orders, demolition orders, destroying Conservation Areas, - you name it, we've got it in spades (or perhaps we should say diggers!).**

Take the former Neurological Hospital, hidden away just behind East Finchley Station. Did you know that the Home and its grounds are part of a designated Conservation Area? The building itself has important historical associations, and the grounds contain many exceptionally fine trees (with tree preservation orders on them). Government planning guidance ('PPG 15') states that by law planners must pay special attention "to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area". So what happens? Developers put in an application to demolish the Home, and to build all over the site. And what do the Council Officers do? Instead of saying "You know perfectly well that this is a Conservation Area, and the point of a Conservation Area is to CONSERVE it, so NO, you can't build all over it, and don't waste your time and ours by trying it on", they actually encourage the Developers, by negotiating with them. And do these plans "preserve or enhance" the Conservation Area? You must be joking! Have a guess as to how many trees would have to come down, and how much concrete would be spread over the landscape!

Here's a suggestion: use the existing building for something of benefit to the Community that doesn't cause havoc by producing more parking (any ideas? Retirement Home? Sheltered Housing?) and preserve the lovely grounds for us all. The Council could do it; it is a CONSERVATION AREA (remember?) and they can refuse permission for anything that *harms the site*.

Must Barnet's planners give way to *every* gold-digging Developer who stakes a claim? Come on, Councillors! Put on your Sheriff's badges and stand up for the law and for East Finchley! And hustle those stray planning officers back into the corral!

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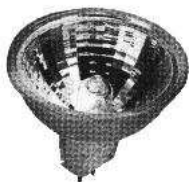
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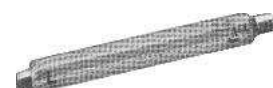
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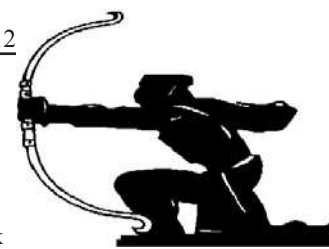


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# THE ARCHER

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## Parakeets Reach Kenwood

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last year we told you how hundreds of parakeets were living wild in Southeast England. Now we can bring you more news of these descendants of 'escaped exotics' - now listed as British indigenous birds.

### Exotics in N2

THE ARCHER's Tony Roberts recently spotted two of them in Kenwood. Head Ranger Jake Williams confirmed that a pair was first sighted there about two years ago. He told me, "We can't be certain, of course, but we think there are now about four. They are no problem to us at all. They don't appear to be disturbing the balance of nature. As they are fruit and nut eaters, the main part of their diet is probably wild berries."

### For the birds

Some people, being born sceptics, still insist that the sightings are all of

woodpeckers, but Mr Williams has an answer for them. "You can identify them by their sound - they squawk! Also, they tend to flock, whereas woodpeckers are mostly solitary birds." Doubters who are out and about this summer could visit Richmond, where there is apparently a large flock.

However, it would be much more fun to spot the Kenwood residents - maybe on one of the walks, talks or other events being planned for that part of Hampstead this year. Contact the Kenwood Estate Office on 020 7973 3893 for details.



Photo by Tony Roberts

## Jason... Who???

By Irene Zevallos

When you wait for a person to interview, you might know what to expect, depending on his/her profession. But, what happens when it is a comedian you are going to meet?

Jason Harley a 32-year-old comedian from Liverpool, has been in London for 13 years (two in East Finchley), has a full-time job in a drug company, a mortgage, a car... like most people. He started doing comedy two years ago, after a workshop in the City-Lit.

He has been pretty active from the start, performing in different locations besides London. "Another comedian and I performed in the Half Moon, Putney. We had a Sunday evening show, but, after a while, they decided to change it for folk music nights. So, now we are performing at The Torrington in North Finchley, every Friday night, for as long as we can..."

It is difficult to imagine how someone starts doing comedy, so I asked for any background in the family... "My dad is funny, with a plain-black sense of humour. He would sometimes say things he might not laugh about, but people would turn around and say, 'Hey!'... My dog is also funny, maybe I got it from him!"

### Making 'em laugh

What if you are telling jokes and nobody laughs? "Well, that happens, at first I used to keep going, but as you go along, you learn to stop for a second, realize something is not working and change your way a little, to get to the public".

"The venue is very important. You need a stage, good lighting and the people facing you. It can be hard when you perform in a place where the bar is next to you, or your voice mixed with music or other noises".

At the end, he tried to convince me to do a five-minute gig in his show... no thanks! Anyway, he said he would help writing the material - as he takes most of it from real life - and even offered to play a tape with laughs, just in case... But the writing-side seems safer, or at least that is what I want to believe...

For more information about Jason and his show, contact The Torrington, on 020 8445 4710

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