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THE ARCHER

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September 2003 No. 124 **20p**
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Library gets Grade 2 Listing

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley library was given Grade 2 listed status on 18 August, following a request from a local resident. This means that any alteration to the building must preserve its character and be approved by English Heritage. The building now has legal protection, but can still be refurbished. (Hendon Central Library, already listed, is currently being adapted by Barnet Council.)

Missing our Opportunity?

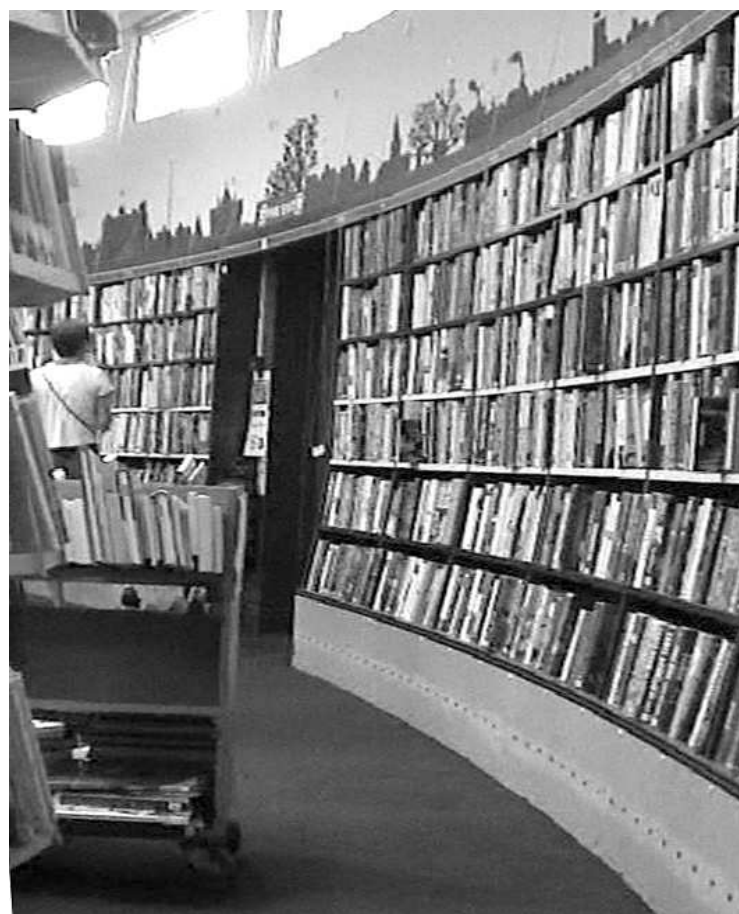
Consultation on the future of the library is starting this month, but several local architects and designers believe that we are not being given a proper choice. They support the option of refurbishing the existing library, but believe that the

Council's proposals do not go far enough. Although they have offered to meet Barnet Council representatives, and have asked that their proposals should be exhibited along with those from the Council, their requests have been refused.

James Elliott, an architectural design director, told *THE*

ARCHER, "My job is converting buildings, and the existing library has great potential. We have an opportunity to refurbish a building we can take pride in, as opposed to building a new one, of mediocre quality, on a low budget. We were reassured by the Council's report that the building is structurally sound. This means we could actually enlarge the library, at a cost which would be covered by the sale of Park House."

Speaking to *THE ARCHER*, Tricia Little, Lead Officer for Libraries confirmed that Barnet Council was not offering the option of extending the building. When told that selling Park House would cover the cost of implementing local architects' plans, she said she could not possibly comment. See page 6 for the alternative plans.



Here to stay? East Finchley Library. Photo by Erini Rodis

Development Threat for Stanley Road Fields

By Diana Cormack

The fears of many local people have come to fruition with the news that Barnet Council is casting its money-hungry eyes on the Stanley Road Playing Fields. Depressingly out of condition through lack of upkeep, the word 'field' bears little relation to the area where play has long since stopped, except if you happen to be a dog out for exercise, and even then only if you want to risk catching mange.

Youth centre to close

Also threatened is the Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, whose imminent closure is understood to have caused the borough "to look at what

opportunities may be available to make best use of the property assets in this locality".

This news came as a shock to Linda Clark, who runs an After School Club there, which is attended by primary school children from all over East Finchley. When she learned about it from a council official, Linda argued that these children were part of the youth of the area. But it appears that they come under the "early years" category, not "youth". Linda was doubly upset as she was told just before the summer holidays, leaving her no time to inform the parents who really need this service and to involve them in some form of protest. However, meetings are being organised for September, though Linda is still uncertain as to whether she can continue to use the Wilmot Centre.

Continued on page 2

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PUBLISHED BY

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Eastway Offset Ltd

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spare time, in all weather,
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or anecdote please send it in to us
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*14 September is the copy dead-
line for the October 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

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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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Check Your Statements

If you have in the past enjoyed a meal at New Efes in Colney Hatch Lane, please be aware that the restaurant has suddenly closed, but not before someone had put in place a scam involving duplicating the credit card payments of many of their customers.

The writer had a meal there on 21 June, paid by credit card. The next statement showed an additional payment, almost overlooked, to New Efes dated 29 June; a further payment for a larger sum appeared dated 25 July. A visit to the premises revealed that the restaurant had been shut down.

At least two others have had similar payments put through their credit cards and there are probably more.

This underlines the importance of checking statements carefully so that immediate action can be taken with your card provider.

Nocturnal Thugs Blight Local Haven

By Erini Rodis

Those good people who clean out litter and drugs paraphernalia in Cherry Tree Woods aren't the only people concerned with the park's nocturnal access.

Gangs have been causing so much grief to famous local residents that violent scraps have been making tabloid headlines. Six teenagers had tried to pin one local celebrity to a car in August, before using the park as an escape route.

Nearby residents are concerned about the noise, abuse and nuisance, especially after dark, but attempts to lock up the park at night have merely led to vandalism and holes in the fence. Concern is now raised as to the safety of the park and the area after dark especially as police have yet to identify any of the culprits.

Watch that Space...

Ten months after it burned down, the cafe in Cherry Tree Wood has still not been replaced. A new kiosk has been on order since the end of May, when a wait of up to twelve weeks was envisaged. So it should be in place by the time you read this, but don't hold your breath!

Development Threat

Continued from page 1

Wasted funds

Two years ago thousands of pounds were spent on improving facilities in order to run the Oasis project there. Teenagers, disaffected with mainstream schooling for a variety of reasons, were to be given the chance to gain educational qualifications with the help of visiting teachers. Now they are to be based elsewhere, leaving the centre underused.

Local MP Rudi Vis has expressed his concern about the future of the Stanley Road playing fields in a letter to Councillor Victor Lyons, leader of Barnet Council, who has replied that Sport England would have to be in agreement with any proposed action. Like

many other residents, Dr Vis wants the few green spaces left in East Finchley to be protected from developers and feels that The Stanley should remain as a playing field for community use.

Do you have any particular memories of the Stanley Road playing fields and the Herbert Wilmot Centre? What do you think should happen to them? Please send your views to *THE ARCHER*, contact details on the left of this page.

Local Planning Applications

Former Red Lion Public House, Elmfield Road –

Demolition of existing building and erection of a three-storey block (plus basement level) to provide eight self-contained flats.

201 High Road –

Change of use of ground floor from offices to showroom with ancillary storage and office areas.

Meze Restaurant 214-216 High Road –

single storey rear extension to restaurant. New entrance for flats at first floor.

100-102 High Road –

Change of use of ground floor from shop (Class A1) to restaurant (A3) at 100 High Road (was Tom's the Butchers).

322 High Road –

Erection of three-storey detached house with provision for off street parking.

Outside 49-69 Lyttleton Court, Lyttleton Road –

Installation of a telecommunications column/antennae



Highlighting the High Road

By Diana Cormack

The recent report dismissing an appeal made by the Tesco/Esso Alliance to redevelop the Esso filling station between Leopold Road and Church Lane contained some interesting comments. It maintained that the proposals did not fit in with present Government policy that new retail investment should be used to sustain and develop existing centres. It also noted that the newly built block of retirement homes between Hertford and Bedford Roads effectively isolates the northern section of High Road shops from the rest of the "town centre", whose viability is considered to be "fairly fragile". Part of the reason for this was a relatively poor representation by national multiples and quite a high proportion of shops trading in items of relatively narrow and specialist consumer appeal, "such as antiques and the hire of fancy dress."

In fact Martin Henham Antiques is our only antique shop and for more than fifteen years Culture Vultures has been widely known for providing fancy dress requirements. Admittedly businesses have come and gone but, at present, none of the properties in the parade of shops opposite East Finchley Methodist Church is empty. Whilst some reflect modern trends, like the Laser Hair Removal salon, the Healthy Glow Tanning Specialists and the popular 202 hairdressers, others provide necessities. There is HR Dry Cleaners, the HSS Hire Shop and Kents food and wine shop, which is open all hours for the convenience of its customers. Along with the shops down Church Lane and Long Lane, Kents would have been badly hit by the development of the petrol station. Businesses adjacent to the site - Motts Goodwin Insurance, Adtreck Technology and the Top Pizza take-away trade - would probably have felt little effect.

So local traders live to fight another day, but the spotlight is certainly not off their area. Anyone passing along that part of the High Road cannot fail to notice a business that is attracting more and more customers. The Meze Bar Restaurant, with its open frontage and pavement tables, has brought a holiday atmosphere to that part of East Finchley. Alan Dobrin of Alan's Records (see July's *ARCHER*) is delighted with his next-door neighbour's success.

"Maybe it won't bring me many more customers, but it has really opened up this end of the High Road," he said, "and that's got to be a good thing."



Diners enjoy the High Road's atmosphere. Photo by Sue Holliday

High Street Survivor Speaks Out

By Daphne Chamberlain

A Finchley man has brought the case of local traders to the Finchley Society. At a recent meeting, Lawrie Chivers of A1 Motors asked for the Society's support against the growing domination of supermarkets, hypermarkets and multiples.

Lawrie, an electrical engineer who has spent all his life (if you don't count the first six weeks) in East Finchley, described his biggest claim to fame as "surviving 35 years in a very hostile retail environment". He and his brother, Roger, were founder members of A1 Motors, an organisation of independent retailers, who, through co-operating in buying and in joint publicity, keep their prices low - often undercutting multiples, discounts notwithstanding.

Even so, over the last 10 years their turnover has halved. The business rate has gone up by 29% in five years, inflation by 11%, parking permits by 12%, wheelie bins by 12½ %, and insurance by 65%. Out of every £100 through the till, 80% goes on overheads, leaving just 20% for everything else. Theirs is a typical High Street experience.

Lawrie told the Society that the main reason was the proliferation of supermarkets and hypermarkets. While not against supermarkets and multiples in principle, he said that there were too many retail outlets in this country.

"The French invented hypermarkets, but they still nurture local shops and sustain a thriving local economy. If only we could do the same!"

He asked whether a big



Lawrie Chivers photo by Erini Rodis

multiple concern would cook meals, change bulbs or call ambulances for elderly neighbours, all of which have happened in our High Road. Would its staff necessarily have enough knowledge to give customers worthwhile assistance? Social benefits aside, he reminded his audience that local businesses use local banks, local builders, local Post Offices and local window-cleaners.

In turn, the Council should be more aware of local needs. Barnet Council could help more, instead of believing that big business is beautiful. The Finchley Society, Lawrie concluded, is very well respected, with strong lobbying power. If its members agreed with him, he urged them to use their power to influence Council policy.

FORUM REPORT

By Daphne Chamberlain

The July Finchley Forum was held at the Green Man Centre and covered the following topics:

Two-Way at the Tally Ho?

It seems now that Kingsway will become two-way and Ballards Lane will not become pedestrianised. Councillor Kathy McGuirk said that not even Ward Councillors had been consulted.

Parking Killing Trade

Another complaint about lack of consultation came from North Finchley traders, who predicted that parking restrictions would turn the area into a ghost town. "Who is going to park at North Finchley when they can whizz up to Brent Cross for nothing?" One small garage owner calculated that the scheme was costing him £10,000 a year.

The Highways Department replied that local businesses had been sent consultation forms, but very few had returned them. Highways maintained that 450 business bays seemed adequate, but when traders said that people couldn't trek round looking for them, they promised to carry out another survey at a different time of day. A complaint that there were not enough disabled drivers' bays convenient for workplaces was registered.

The Chair, Councillor Leslie Sussman said that he would ask for the six-month review period to be brought forward.

Bow Lane Playing Field

A member of the public reported a rumour that it would remain as a playing field for 10 years, and asked why this was not in the public arena. Councillor Sussman said he would find out.

Glebe Lands Pond

This is allegedly being fished extensively, upsetting the balance of wildlife and encouraging car parking on the grass. The issues of ownership and what can be done were deferred.

Coppetts Close Construction Site

This was said to be excessively noisy, with workers also operating outside agreed hours. The Environmental Health Department has put in a capital bid for acoustic fencing, and residents were advised to write to Barnet Customer Care.

The next Forum will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 1 October, at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3.

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Mayor Climbs Aboard Local Bus Row

Transport for London's recently announced decision not to proceed with a bus route from Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage has sparked outrage from some and support from others but has also led to an eleventh-hour intervention by London's Mayor, Ken Livingstone.

The last-minute involvement of the Mayor has been welcomed by Lynne Featherstone, Lib Dem London Assembly member and Harin-gey councillor. Early in August, an outraged Ms Featherstone, Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee, wrote to Mayor Livingstone, who responded by stating that the decision should be disregarded until he has reviewed the matter himself later in August.

"This is a welcome intervention by the Mayor. I hope that he will now reverse Transport for London's ludicrous decision to red light the Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage bus route," said Ms Featherstone.

"If he really does want to get people out of cars and onto buses, this route meets all his criteria – it would reduce car usage and increase accessibility for people reliant on public transport. It is time Mayor Livingstone put his money where

his mouth is!"

However, the proposed route included plans for road widening. A recent mini-survey was conducted of those most directly affected by the plans – 135 households in Southwood Lane/Castle Yard and part of the Highgate conservation area. Of the households surveyed, 20% responded.

Of those responding, over 80% were opposed to the necessary road-widening suggested by TfL's transport consultants and only 12% were in favour of a bus route in their road.

Commenting on the results, former Highgate Councillor Peter Forrest said, "These results show that the residents most directly affected by the proposed bus service are overwhelmingly opposed to the suggested route. They are particularly worried about the plan to widen their historic road – part of the Highgate Conservation Area – and also fear the inevitable loss of yet more roadside parking spaces further along the route near Castle Yard.

Southwood Lane residents feel very strongly that their road is too narrow for any bus route and that the proposed service should be re-routed, perhaps via Woodside Avenue".

Help Plan Next Year's Festival

The East Finchley Festival is having its annual review on Thursday 2 October, from 7pm at the Green Man Community Centre. With Barnet Council withdrawing arts funding and support to the community festivals, next year promises to be more challenging than usual. Anyone interested in helping to plan the festival is very welcome to come along.

Hail the 382

By Daphne Chamberlain
The 382 – a new cross-country route from Southgate to Mill Hill East – has been welcomed by northern East-Finchleians, who can pick it up at Squires Lane. One satisfied customer reports that it has cut his journey time from Southgate to Strawberry Vale from one hour to 15 minutes. So far, it seems reliable too.

Law Service Launch

By Nozizwe Mlotshwa

Barnet Law Service (BLS) has celebrated its official launch three years after it first opened its doors to the public.

The BLS situated in Bell Lane, Hendon, is a second-tier referral service funded by the Government providing free legal advice and representation to people who live and/or work in the London Borough of Barnet. It offers telephone advice, representation and advocacy in areas of social welfare law. These include housing, employment, immigration, welfare benefits, mental health and community care – areas which disproportionately affect the vulnerable in the community.

It has two part-time solicitors – Abiola Adekanmi deals with asylum and immigration while Teresa Harrison deals with housing, employment and welfare benefits. Between them they have handled 100 cases in the past three years, most of them in employment and immigration. They are currently juggling 40 cases referred to them by advice agencies.

Lou Hains, BLS's administrator said, "We are here to fill a gap and support the community

of Barnet, we also direct those we cannot help in the right direction to get the help they need." She said that they are expecting more funding in the near future. BLS does not take debt and consumer cases at present.

The Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Melvin Cohen, was among the local councillors, MPs, representatives of BLS client group and local legal practitioners who attended the official launch on 22 July 2003 at the BLS offices in Hendon, London.



A rare sight - the 143 in East End Road. Photo by Tony Roberts

Public Meeting with London Buses

By Daphne Chamberlain

There will be a public meeting at East Finchley Library at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23 September, when representatives of London Buses will be asked to take steps to improve the 263 and 143 services.

East Finchley's Agenda 21 Traffic Group, who are arranging the meeting, have also invited Barnet Council officers and local councillors.

Hazel Burnett, of Agenda 21, told *THE ARCHER* that the Group had expressed concern over these services to London Buses in March, but the situation still remained the same. The public meeting has been called in the hope that local concern will be taken seriously and concrete action implemented.

Most complaints are about

poor frequency, running in twos, and impractical and potentially dangerous interior design.

Proposed new and/or amended routes serving East Finchley are also likely to be discussed.

This will be an opportunity for everyone in the community to meet the people in charge of our local bus services. Obviously, the bigger the turnout the more weight the meeting will carry. However, anyone who is unable to attend in person, or who has further enquiries, is welcome to contact Hazel Burnett on 020 8444 6824 or at hazel.burnett@freeuk.com.

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Back in June, as part of our feature on East Finchley's open spaces, Hugh Petrie brought us part one of the history of the Fuel Lands Allotments. Here, a little later than planned, follows the second and final instalment of his story.

The allotments can be found behind Martin School and Chandos Gardens.

Finchley's Secret Gardens

Part Two

The allotment act of 1882 stipulated that fuel lands had to be converted into allotment gardens. Between 1851 and 1891 the population of Finchley rose from 4,120 to 16,647. There was insufficient land set aside for allotments (6 acres) for the "deserving poor". The 15 acres of the fuel lands was still being leased to Mr Field. In 1886 William Wightman, of 4 Trinity Road, on the advice of Jessie Collins of the Birmingham Allotment League, decided to campaign for the conversion of the fuel lands into allotments.



The Fuel Lands Allotments. Photo by John Dearing

Much of Finchley was run as a civil parish, with a Vestry meeting held every year at Easter so that ratepayers could ratify the parish accounts and chose new wardens and overseers. The rector chaired the meetings, so the four members fuel land trust were also the local government. Those who owned property got extra votes, so it required a great number of working men to effect change. Wightman demanded the trust comply with the 1882 act, but the trust argued that there was no need. At the vestry of 1887, there were more than 70 applicants for allotments. Some, like Mr Bachelor, remembered their father's plots on the fuel lands in the 1850s. Wightman was no longer a lone voice and a fuel land committee of seven met to consider the suitability of the fuel lands. The trust, which was made up of four committee members, continued to put

up objections.

The East Finchley Allotment League was formed in November 1887 at the Bald Faced Stag. Supporters included the churchwardens at Holy Trinity and Henry Stevens MP. At the Vestry meeting of Easter 1888 (with cheers from the crowd and the call "working men do your duty"), the league managed to block the re-election of one of the wardens and the ratification of parish accounts. In order to ratify the accounts a motion was passed in favour of fuel land allotments. Eventually the stubborn Mr Field quit the land. The very next day, 26 March 1890, the allotments were opened, not only a turning point in history of green spaces of East Finchley, but also for local democracy.

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The film crew in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by John Dearing

Featherboy Settles on Cherry Tree Wood

By John Dearing

Several locations in East Finchley were recently chosen for filming a new drama for the BBC. The production team, the actors and all the associated equipment were to be seen at the Holywood Bowl, Cherry Tree Wood and Park House, on Friday 1 August. They were filming *Featherboy*, adapted from an award-winning book by Nicky Singer. The production company, Childsplay Television, is based in Neasden, and the producer, Peter Tabern, said they needed a bowling alley, and having decided on the Finchley Lido complex, it was sensible to use further locations in the district on the same day. After filming in Cherry Tree Wood, they then used the outside of Park House to represent an anti-natal clinic!

Peter Tabern previously adapted the Clive King book *Stig of the Dump* for television, also produced by Childsplay, and Thomas Sanger, who was seen performing in Cherry Tree Woods, is the child star of both productions.

Featherboy is the story of Robert Nobel – a boy who is the

butt of classroom jokes and victim of Niker, the class bully.

When Robert visits a local home for the elderly as part of a school project and meets Edith Sorrell, an old lady with a tragic past, he embarks on a series of events that will change their lives forever.

According to the BBC Press

Office web site, the adaptation will star Sheila Hancock, Lindsey Coulson, Ronald Pickup, Aaron Johnson and Thomas Sangster.

70 Years since Finchley became a Borough

On 4 October, Finchley will celebrate the 70th anniversary of becoming a borough. Surviving members of Finchley Borough Council will join present councillors and the Mayor and Deputy Lieutenant of Barnet to celebrate at Avenue House.

The Finchley Cinevideo Society is showing a 1933 archive film of the ceremonial procession, to which Norman Burgess, who watched it all as a child, will provide the commentary. Nicholas Pike, grandson of Alderman Pike, Deputy Mayor in 1933, will bring along the casket in which the charter was presented. Also on display will be the charter itself, and Finchley's chain and mace. This exhibition, arranged by the

Finchley Society, will be open to the public from 4 to 7pm.

Information on the Finchley Society can be found at www.finchleysociety.org.uk or call 020 8883 2633.


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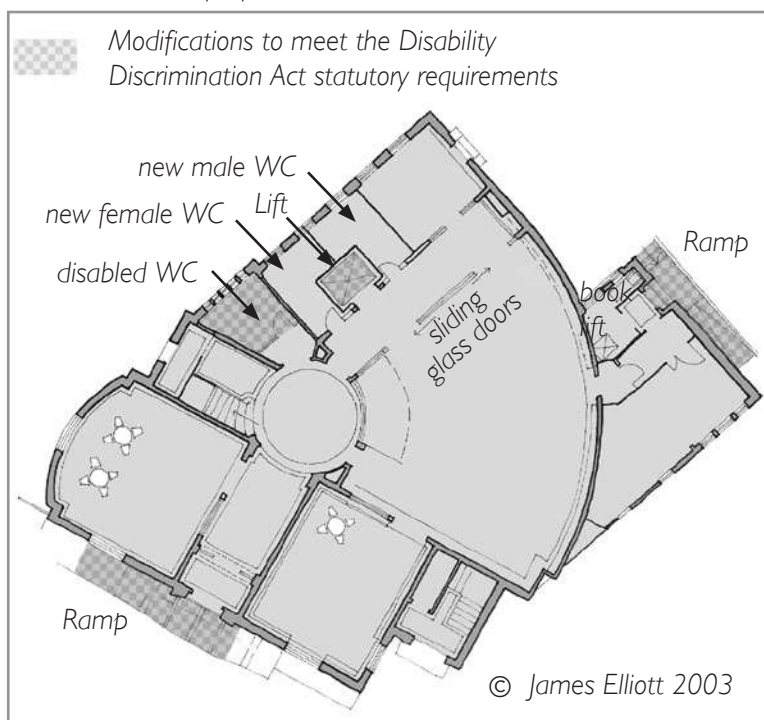


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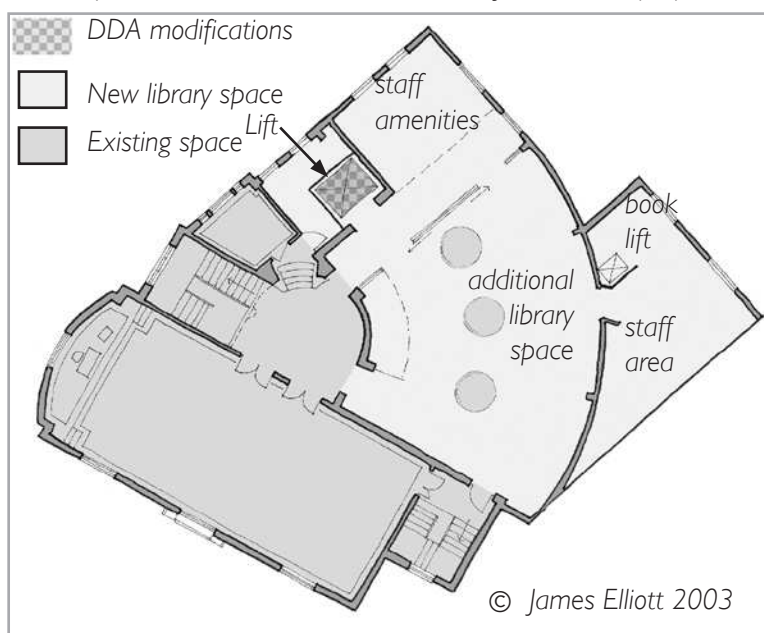
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Front view of the library showing proposed extension taken from James Elliott's extension proposals



Ground floor plan of the library showing modifications to meet the Disability Discrimination Act, taken from the James Elliott proposals



First floor plan showing modifications for the Disability Discrimination Act and newly created library space, from the James Elliott proposals

Proposals To Extend Library Rejected

Local architect, James Elliott, has drawn alternative plans for the future of East Finchley Library that provide for modernisation and enlargement of the existing building and facilities. This proposal goes well beyond the remedial works soon to be presented to residents as part of Barnet Council's consultation on the future of the Library. Mr Elliott claims that the costs would be easily covered by the proceeds derived from the sale of Park House at market value, which Barnet Council has already confirmed is planned to be disposed of.

Unfortunately these plans will not be included in the public consultation and so are reproduced here, in simplified form for your perusal.

Under Mr Elliott's proposal the ground floor of the existing library will remain broadly as it is, except for the provision of disabled access, upgraded public toilets, disabled toilets and a lift to the first floor.

A new first floor extension will increase the library space

by 40% and will add new staff amenities and a staff area. Finally a new roof, partly glazed, will provide natural light. The whole proposed development will, as can be seen from the photographs, be in keeping with the existing building's character although, in light of the recent Grade 2 listing (see page one) any such work would require the blessing of English Heritage in addition to other planning approvals.

Mr Elliott, having kindly allowed *THE ARCHER* to publish this extract preview, left, from his plans, will launch his full proposals in Maddens at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 September, and they will be on display in Chorak from 3-10 September, and afterwards in Alan's Records.

THE ARCHER will, as always, be interested in your views on this controversial subject.

Presidential Delight at Listing

Bill Tyler, President of the Finchley Society, has reviewed the plans for the East Finchley Library extension, created by James Elliott.

He told *THE ARCHER*, "I feel sure that the Society's planning committee will welcome this proposed extension. I am delighted that the library is

listed, because it is a distinctive building in East Finchley, and a modern intervention to extend the library can be done in sympathy with its new status.

It would ensure continued use of the library, rather than it becoming redundant—and consequently a building at risk."

Consider Your Options Carefully

By Daphne Chamberlain

Every household in East Finchley should receive a library questionnaire through the post. If you do not receive one, ring Tricia Little on 020 8359 7776. When you get one, consider your options carefully.

Ms Little has told *THE ARCHER* that there will be only one vote per household, not one per resident. There might be space on the form to record that opinion is split, but she has been informed that only one vote will count. Only the votes recorded on questionnaire forms will be considered. In other words, letters or other expressions of opinion will not be considered.

Doing Nothing?

The option of doing nothing apparently does not mean what it says. When *THE ARCHER* queried this, knowing that the building does not at present meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, the reply was that various adjustments would be made to the ground floor.

Refurbishment

When asked whether refurbishment would mean automatically implementing the Council plans on display, or whether other plans would be considered, Tricia Little could not comment. As reported elsewhere in this edition, the official line on enlarging the library is that it is not an option. The suggestion that it could be done by selling Park House met with "no comment".

First at Last?

THE ARCHER has been told that a great many East Finchley residents have not received their August-September copies of Barnet First, which included a contact number to ring for information about the consultation. Apparently these were sent out in bundles by streets. We have been assured that the questionnaires will be sent to individual addresses.

Council plans will be exhibited in the library from 8 September for six weeks, during library opening hours. From 20 October until 28 November, the exhibition moves to the Phoenix. Here the display will be open from 4-9pm every day. The Phoenix is being used for display only, and has no view on library proposals.

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Lifelong Learning

By Ann Bronkhorst

Learning, training, education...daunting words, for some people. For others they suggest hope for a change of direction, a challenge, a new chance.

So you're an adult – maybe retired – with a regular window of time (Tuesday evenings, say, or Thursday afternoons) and you're looking for the right course. You leaf through college brochures, timidly attend Open Evenings and tackle the weighty *Floodlight*, out now at £3.95 and covering 40,000 part-time courses.

Where to go?

Well, locally there's the Institute, with four venues, and Barnet College, with five. Southgate College is near the North Circular while City and Islington has twelve centres on or near the Holloway Road. There's the Working Men's College in Camden and the Workers' Educational Association with centres all over London. You could venture right into town to Birkbeck or the Mary Ward Centre, both near Goodge Street and Russell Square.

Further afield

A Freedom Pass makes it easier to choose a centre that's not local and/or a course involving visits such as Birkbeck's one-term *Discovering* courses: galleries, museums, architecture. Plenty of walking is entailed!

If you want to build up your fitness there are dozens of exercise classes, many targeted at the over-sixties. At City and Islington there's 'Chinese Exercise for Mind and Body' and a range of keep-fit classes for over-sixties – even one for the over-fifties, 'Large and Lovely'. And over-fifties of all sizes can do sports and recreations at Whetstone (Barnet College). At the Mary Ward Centre a well-established over-sixties programme includes debating, line dancing and bridge. Locally, through the Institute, over-sixties can 'Sit and Be Fit', with

a chair-based class to improve balance and mobility.

Comparing centres

It's useful to compare similar courses at different centres. Soft furnishing courses are offered at Southgate, City and Islington and Barnet but some last ten weeks and some thirty. 'Beginners' Modern Greek' at Barnet will take you thirty evenings; maybe you'd prefer to 'Get By in Greek' at the Institute in a mere five evenings. Just for women who love gardening Barnet WEA have five short courses, three based in students' own gardens while at Barnet College a six-month course leads to the RHS General Certificate in Horticulture – for keen amateurs of both sexes.

Weird and wonderful

Many course titles sound intriguing. I think I'll pass on 'Belly-dancing' (Mary Ward) and 'Balloon Artistry' (Southgate) but 'Weather for Outdoor Activities' (City and Islington) would prepare me for 'Fitness Walking' (Institute). Back indoors I could trace my ancestry at Southgate or plunge into Birkbeck's 'Heaven or Hell: the London Underground of the Literary Imagination'. Weird and wonderful or plain practical, the courses are astonishingly varied.

Do something

Most fees are reasonable, usually with discounts for over-sixties, and local libraries have lots of information. So, as it says on the cover of *Floodlight*, don't just sit there, do something!



Helen Mortimer (right) introduces her August class to the Internet. Photo by Erini Rodis

Stay Local at the Green Man

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Green Man was one of East Finchley's vanishing pubs, but you can still drop in to the community centre on the same site for a bit of what you fancy.

Computers

You will find a range of computer courses, for absolute beginners to the more advanced. At that stage, you can be tested for the ECDL (European Community Driving Licence – computers, not cars). Or an inter-active resource called Cash Crescent could help you make the most from your money. These Learn Direct courses, starting from the first week in September, run on a drop-in basis. You decide the time and number of hours to study. Call Helen Mortimer on 020 8815 0703 to arrange your programme.

Literacy, Numeracy and English

Barnet College courses resume on 22 September, with classes in literacy (Mondays)

and numeracy (Tuesdays) – both 9.30-11.30am, and English as a second language (9.30am-1.30pm Wednesdays and 9.30-11.30am Fridays). When I helped out at another adult literacy class, one of our most enthusiastic members admitted it had taken her three and a half years to get up the courage to enrol. Once she had gained confidence in reading and writing, it really did open up a new world for her. Enrolment at the Green Man is on Monday 8 September, 9am-5pm. For more information, call Sharon on 020 8226 4169.

Tai Chi

Mind and body work together, and the Tai Chi / Chi Kung class, 1.30-3.15 on

Mondays, starting 22 September, offers a gentle workout for both – including anti-arthritis exercises. The class includes senior citizens and people with disabilities. You are welcome to go along to a class to see if it suits you, without commitment.

Colombian Dancing

Feel like partying? Try Nelsy's dance classes, which cover all Latin-American rhythms. She doesn't mind if you have two left feet. Ten-week courses, 8-9pm Tuesdays, start on 9 September. Call Nelsy on 020 8444 2012 for details.

The Green Man Centre, at the High Road end of Strawberry Vale, is open to everyone.

Filler File

Little boxes

Why are they called apartments, when they're all stuck together?

Brickbat

Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished? Shouldn't they be called builds?

Plane view

When two airplanes almost collide why do they call it a near miss? It sounds like a near hit to me!

DIY

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

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Barney Needs a Home

Usually the RSPCA is looking for new owners for unwanted or abandoned animals. This story is a little different.

Barney is a big, cuddly teddy bear who was given to our branch by one of the committee.

At our Summer Fair we had a competition to guess his name. The lady who was successful decided he was too big for her flat and gave him back. We raffled him at Finchley Carnival and, you've guessed it, the winner gave him back as she had no room for him.

Loveable

Barney is big, loveable and lonely. He would like to live on someone's bed. We do not want him to be friendless any longer – so who will make a donation to our clinic in exchange for Barney?

Send your offer with name, address and phone number to the clinic in an envelope marked "Anne Lewis". We are open Mondays and Thursdays 5.30–7.30pm or, if closed, push it under the door in Park Road N2 (next to the Duke of Cambridge which is now being demolished).



Barney, a disconsolate bear. Photo By John Dearing.

YOUNG ARCHER

Save Our Library!

Local schools are to be asked to give their views about the new library proposals as part of Barnet Council's consultation process.

Earlier this year children in Martin Infant School did some writing about why they like going to East Finchley library, which the school uses every day. Here are some of the reasons written by six year olds in Year 2:

I love going to the library because they have wonderful stories there. I don't want to move the library because there will be lots of busy roads to cross. I like doing stuff with Rachel.

By Libby

I like going there because you get brilliant books and it's very, very, very, very good. I don't want it to move then we have to walk a long way.

By Bernadette

Please don't knock our library down. I really love the library because they have videos, playstation games, DVDs and books. It is peaceful and Rachel tells us brilliant stories.

By Jake

Please don't shut down the library because I want to read more books and I really want to read all of the books because I want to see what happens.

By Ho

I really love to go to the library because you get lots of books and I go to the club. It will take me a long time to get to the library if it moves.

By Salim

At the same time Martin Junior School children wrote to Barnet Council. Here are some extracts from their letters:

I am very upset you plan to knock down the East Finchley library. If you knock down the

library where would I get my Indian films? Please reconsider.

By Saffa in Year 4

I am writing to ask you not to knock our library down because it is a lovely building and everyone uses it for reading, going on the Internet, studying, borrowing videos and DVDs. It would be stupid to turn the library into another block of flats. There are already so many flats in East Finchley and it would ruin our field, which has only just been re-planted.

By Alice in 50

I'm writing to tell you how much East Finchley library means to me. I have been going to the library for as long as I can remember. I go there to do my homework and it has an excellent range of books, tapes, CDs and videos. When I was little I used to go there and have a story read to me. Most books are quite expensive; the library has most of these books on loan. Please don't destroy the library. If you do, how will children learn? You'd be surprised at how much we learn from books.

By Nicole in 6H

Clever Clogs Corner

Did you know that the word *library* comes from the Latin word *libraria* meaning a bookseller's shop? The French still use the word *librairie* in the same way.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Popportunity Knocks

Once upon a time when cats were cool and mice were extremely worried, you needed talent, luck and the unhealthy interest of some dodgy sven-gali to make it as a pop star. Now all you need is luck, talent and the desire to be humiliated on prime time television by Simon 'Big Trousers' Cowell. Why? Because Pop Idol is back. There are alternatives, but going to fame school in some crumbling Victorian pile in Highgate, just doesn't have the low rent appeal of Peter Watermelon, 'Big Trousers', 'Foxy?' and Nicky Chapman being unnecessarily cruel. You see, when it comes to search-for-a-star-for-the-twenty-first-century the closer you get to car-crash TV the better and nothing comes as close as Pop Idol.

Last year's collection of wannabes and won'tbes threw up in a very meaningful sense of the word the combined talents of Gareth'n'Will'n'Darius, gave us a wheelbarrow full of low rent number ones, gave Jordan the chance to cure Gareth's stutter, Darius the chance to pose on television and Will the chance to prove he has real camp potential.

Bigger, better

This year it is bigger, better, more prime time and competing head-to-head with fame school. It has an 'official' newspaper, a web site and sad contestants chasing 15 seconds of fame by yodelling 'Like a Virgin' while treading grapes. It's still got 'Foxy?', Watermelon man, 'Big Trousers' and Nicky Chapman, it's even got the interchangeable Dec and Ant and Ant and Dec, but now it's got so much more.

Take a chance

The way I see it is through the bottom of a glass and from there what Pop Idol offers is a weird mixture of Opportunity Knocks with Dec and Ant and Ant and Dec replacing Hughie Green and non-celebrity Big Brother without Davina McCall. Don't scoff, it's the chance for people who haven't been born with silver spoons in their mouths to have a crack at fame and for the rest of us to waste a couple of hours every Saturday night. And it's even got Gareth's kid sister! What other car crash TV show can match that?

Food for Thought

By Paula Allison

If you ask me what my hobby is, my answer would have to be digestive pleasure or, in other words, eating. I've spent many pleasant hours at The Local Cafe in the High Road where I have indulged myself. The staff are extremely efficient and polite, and there's no pressure to eat and go, as is the case in other eateries I've visited. The atmosphere is relaxed, and the meals I've eaten there are easy on the eye, stomach and purse.

Best in town

One of my favourite meals is the Spaghetti Bolognese, which I think is easily the best in town. The portion size is enough to keep anyone going for the rest of the day, and at just £3.95 is great value.

The Manager, Niyazi Ozturk, told me that this year is his twelfth year of management of The Local Cafe and a friendlier and more hard-working manager I have yet to meet.

With a varied menu ranging from *Sunday roast* through *Kleftiko* to *fish & chips*, there is sure to be something to satisfy most people. If four people opt for the Sunday roast they will benefit from a free bottle of wine too!

Going back for more

Oh, by the way, you might like to taste the sweets on the menu too. I've tried a few, and I'm definitely going back for more. Enjoy!



The Journey Continues

Farewell to a Friend

By Kevin Finn

On 30 July, *THE ARCHER* lost a great friend, a local band lost its drummer, the Catholic Church lost a dedicated worker, a family lost an inspirational member and the world lost a great man. I have only known Mal Jacobs for a little over a year, but in that short time he has had a profound impact on me and many others. Mal was a regular contributor to *THE ARCHER* and wrote with a primary focus on issues affecting older members of society. His most enduring trait was his continuous optimism, signified by a bright, bubbly and cheerful outlook, and a very infectious laugh.

Mal was born in Essex in 1932 the youngest of a family of four boys and a girl. He was brought up and educated in a catholic environment where he developed a deep faith that guided him throughout his life, manifested by a caring, joyful outlook that others were innately attracted to. As a young man he set up a carpentry, building and design company, but his greatest passion was music. He was a skilled drummer and went on to become a professional musician playing the 'Big Band' circuit.

After extensive travel around the UK, Mal moved to Australia where he joined his parents and two of his brothers. He continued with his musical career, opening a drum shop and travelling the world doing what



Mal in London, Spring 1998.

Photo by long time Californian friend Terri Davidson.

he loved best, and admitted to being happiest in 1970 whilst in California, USA. He returned to the UK in 1986 and subsequently settled down in East Finchley in 2001.

Mal was involved in a number of projects with the church in London and Essex. As well as his involvement with *THE ARCHER*, he was also well known in Maddens Ale House

where he was a member of the Jeremy Currie Trio, a local jazz trio that entertained for fun.

Mal died from a heart attack on 30 July 2003, a shock to all that knew him, and he certainly looked and acted as one considerably younger than his 71 years.

Mal's wish was to be kindly remembered as someone who tried to leave the world a better place than he found it. As for me, I'm saddened by his sudden loss, but grateful for the privilege of meeting such a wonderful person.

Malcolm Bernard Jacobs
23/3/1932—30/7/2003

Thanks Karen

THE ARCHER would like to thank Karen & Stuart March of INTERental.com, who were so helpful in arranging a mini bus to transport friends to the funeral of Mal Jacobs in Essex.

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One of our regular contributors, Mal Jacobs, passed away at the end of July. The following article is Mal's final submission. You may well have views on what he says, and, if so, *THE ARCHER* will be pleased to receive them. - Editor.

It's in the Mail

By Mal Jacobs

It used to be called the Postal Service, but is now referred to as No Service for many seniors living in rural and suburban areas. It is just another item to add to the growing UK casualty list, prompting the question, "Can we run any service efficiently and effectively in this country?" Sadly, the answer seems to be "no".

It appears that the Post Office is to cut overheads by cutting jobs, closing as many outlets as possible (ignoring any public opposition) in order to be profitable. However, the Post Office is not involved with coffee or materials; it is supposed to be providing a public service. Some of its customers are frail or elderly people, those who live in remote areas with little or no public transport, who need and demand a decent postal service. Most people, of course, know we have to progress but why not explain what is afoot in full and do some proper forward planning. Some humble suggestions for the masters from me are:

1. Install ATM machines, stamp machines and other automated services for use when a post office closes
2. Operate a mail order service to buy stamps, air letters and other products available post-free!
3. Install automatic vending machines in pubs, shops etc to sell post office merchandise and essential products
4. Put letter boxes near bus stops, phone boxes,

shopping centres and in more user friendly locations

5. Arrange with National Express etc. a tie-up to get same-day service to major cities
6. Implement user-friendly hours for shoppers and open all day Saturday similar to all other shops
7. Ready-stamped tourist postcards in all post offices throughout Britain so the sender merely puts address, message and posts the cards
8. Automatic weighing machines outside post offices to send parcels or letters worldwide using the outside stamp machines at the post office. These could be installed in a separate booth outside all post offices
9. Better consultation is required with the RNIB for future ideas like keypads with poor vision in mind
10. Offer two new same-day services - pigeon post and a roadrunner. The pigeon will be faster but the runner will have the advantage of being able to speak the message.

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- ❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), has monthly meetings & rides. Call 020 8440 9080.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** open daily from 2pm. The Green, Kings Avenue, N10. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Step/Aerobics classes**, Sundays at Bar XL. Phone 0789 0033 968.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm
- ❖ **Tennis Club** off Southern Road. Call 020 8440 6953
- ❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217

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- ❖ **Barnet Schools Music Centre** call 020 8359 3111 for details.
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- ❖ **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 8 & 22 September 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
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- ❖ **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

Full Marks for the Phoenix

By Sophie Leighton

A recent survey into local independent cinemas by the Liberal Democrat Group at the Greater London Assembly reveals the problems of attracting funding to match the facilities offered by the larger multiplex cinemas. Fifty percent of these small cinemas (independents and those with a capacity of less than 850 seats) report a drop in attendance, as against a 66 percent increase at the large cinemas.

Only 24% of the 34 cinemas that responded received any public grant, despite their vital role in providing a diversity of film choice, provision for those who cannot or prefer not to drive to out-of-town centres, and their social and economic contribution to their communities.

A place to meet

The survey shows that a much higher proportion of small cinemas have a bar, a café, or gallery, which suggests that a place where people can meet and talk is a major priority. While 61% of the larger cinemas are running a form of 'kid's club', it is the small cinemas – 31% of which are currently providing this – that seem to be uniquely well-placed to establish long-term links with their surrounding communities and be responsive to local interests and needs.

Well ahead

The Phoenix, which contributed to the survey, seems to be well ahead here. It has revived the Saturday morning film club tradition with its 'Freddie's' film club for 6–11-year-olds; this is now well established, with a quarterly newsletter, and starts with an optional film activity session, followed by a film at mid-day.

The most recent initiative to run throughout the summer holidays was the 'Screens for teens', piloted with funding from 'North London connections', which provided transport to films for 13–19-year-olds across Barnet, along with free courses in film-making. Thought has also been given to parents' term-time needs, with an 'Early bird' matinee screening every Wednesday, finishing at 3pm to fit in with the school run. For 6–19-year-

olds, there is a regular range of workshops in filmmaking and animation. At the other end of the age spectrum, there is also the 'Bringing up baby' series, a valuable opportunity for these parents to get to a film!

Cultural strategy

The Greater London Assembly is currently formulating a cultural strategy and it is hoped that the final version will tackle the question of support for small cinemas in recognition of their vital community role.

It should also consider ideas to increase awareness, such as ticket promotions and advertising on public transport, in order to attract the potentially wider audience for which the independent programming policies of cinemas like the Phoenix are eminently suited.

New Season at NLC

North London Chorus meets every Thursday in East Finchley. The new term begins on Thursday 4 September, 8 pm at Martin School. The programme for the term includes works by Bach and Rutter. For more information please call 020 8349 3022.

East Finchley Takes Art

By Daphne Chamberlain

Geoffrey Hanson always thought that the East Finchley Arts Festival would take 10 years to become established. This year was only its seventh and there was less money available, which unfortunately meant no schools programme. So why is the Artistic Director a happy man?

"Audiences were up, there was a nice feeling to it all, and our bucket collections raised £508 for the North London Hospice."

There were one or two disappointments of course. Why did the National Youth Jazz Orchestra not pull in its usual audience? Geoffrey also felt that the organ recital deserved more listeners,

but overall, he reported enthusiastic support. He reported performances as excellent, and The Finchley Children's Music Group may be repeating their Songs of War and Peace in Paris this October.

Local artists

Local artists exhibited throughout the Festival in All Saints Church, Durham Road, where I heard Hugo Williams, Jane Kirwan and Fleur Adcock reading and talking about their poetry. "Fleur Adcock! How did you get hold of her? We studied her at school," someone said to the organisers. Fleur happens to be a long-time local resident, and

always worth listening to.

The family

The poets' theme was the family, which seemed appropriate for a festival where the accent was on youth. Young performers, artists and writers need all the encouragement and support they can get, which includes funding.

Anyone interested in the arts must hope that next year's funding is not reduced. Public support keeps Geoffrey happy too. If you have suggestions for next year or can help in any way, or if you would like to become a Friend of the Festival, please ring Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

REVIEW

Hamlet with a Twist

By Claire Osborne

Throughout the Elizabethan period it was unheard of for a woman to appear onstage, let alone a woman playing a male role such as *Hamlet*. The audiences were forced to rely heavily on their imaginations in order to depict lavish costumes, extravagant scenery and most noticeably, the correct sex. Although in 1821 women began to appear on the stage, Wild Thyme, Finchley's medium-scale theatre company, took this to a new extreme.

The director Stephen Jameson's intention was to have a multicultural cast of solely women perform his production of *Hamlet*. It was workshopped at the Central School of Speech and Drama one year ago as merely an experiment but was hailed as a success and taken to the Gate Theatre.

The decision to cast single-sex versions of Shakespeare's plays is certainly popular at the moment with the Globe running all-female versions of *Richard III* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Redressing the balance

Jameson insists that using an all-female company for his performance has no sexual implications nor political slant, and instead was used to redress the balance, allowing women to both create and perform arguably the greatest play ever written.

In an interview with Mark Rylance, Jameson claimed "it

is possible for young actresses to train at drama school for three years and graduate only having played Nerissa and half a Titania. Not every male student will play Hamlet, but there are a damn sight more attendant lords who have something to say for themselves than women in Shakespeare's plays". Consequently Wild Thyme gives women the chances they may not have otherwise had.

Illuminating

The sensibility and humanity that women bring to the play provides an extremely illuminating quality whilst the passion and commitment they have for the text is astounding. It is like seeing *Hamlet* being performed for the first time. Jameson believes that the reasoning behind this is that women are speaking the lines and exploring the characters for the first time without being overloaded with the weight of history and expectation.

Seeing *Hamlet*, a play with 21 male and only two female roles is certainly a new experience, one which Wild Thyme embellishes and serves full justice to.

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.
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>

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

Doesn't add up
Dear Sir,
I was intrigued to read of Steven Norris' mathematical wizardry as to the supposed cost of crime in London. I have my own version: Subtract the alternative Tory London Assembly budget cuts from the past two years from the national Tory 20% cut to public spending across the board, and divide it by the amount of white wine and canapés consumed by our GLA member Brian Coleman. And you have your answer. 150 police officer cuts in Barnet and promises on crime are as worthless now as when Coleman promised extra coppers when he was elected in 2000. Who are you kidding Mr Norris?
Andrew McNeil, Author: 'World of Crime' (1968) Beresford Road, N2.

Talking Turkey
Dear Sir,
Haringey Council complacently defends its schools' poor record on pupils studying French, German and Spanish by highlighting the large number of local schoolchildren studying Turkish.
It would be interesting to know how many of those studying Turkish already have this language skill by family background. Their

understandable proficiency in Turkish has little to do with the quality or range of European language teaching in Haringey schools.
One is reminded of the failing secondary school, Hackney Downs, whose best GCSE results were also in Turkish – a subject it didn't even teach!
Yours faithfully, Peter Forrest Deputy Chairman Political Hornsey & Wood Green Conservatives

Stain on our reputation
Dear Editor,
Did anyone catch the reference to East Finchley by Brian Sewell in his recent series *The Naked Pilgrim* on Channel 5? He was walking about a church, and relishing the space and the light, in his usual manner, then suddenly broke off to complain about the stained glass in the windows, being "late Victorian, as bad as any in Tooting or East Finchley"! I would have emailed him to complain, had it been a BBC programme, but felt rather at a loss, as it was Channel 5.
Does anyone know of Brian Sewell's visits to the area? Was

he being precise and accurate in his critic of our ecclesiastical glass, or was he merely making a general and sweeping statement? I make no claims on the quality of our stained glass, but it might be nice to have someone so pompous say something nice about the area.
Pete Eiseman-Renyard Fortis Green, N2.

Sign for sore eyes
Dear Editor,
The Garden Suburb Residents Association is quite right; the new turquoise street signs in Barnet are a 'monstrosity'.
Not only are they totally not in keeping with other signs across the borough they are also distracting to drivers and in some areas are more dominant than other more important road signs. Since the erection of the 'Church Lane' sign at the junction of High Road, East Finchley there have been more violations of the ONE-WAY system than ever before.
Whoever thought these were either tasteful or useful is living in cloud cuckoo land.
Get rid of them.
P Kelly High Road, 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)

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.



Research Notes
By Stuart Rising of Durham Road
A survey of a cross-section of Barnet UK Independence Party supporters has produced some interesting results. It shows that the average UKIP activist is of noble demeanour, tall, distinguished, of equable temperament, totally fearless, and attired in subfusc elegance with a lofty disdain for modish claptrap.
He is happily married, fond of children although unlikely to suffer fools gladly, likes country sports and amusements, and does a good deal of gardening. He has taken part in at least one Himalayan climbing expedition and has a morbid fear of barometers, text messages, blow-up dolls, focus groups, and cheap jewellery. He keeps an average of 2.63 (recurring) domestic staff.
It is possible that some sampling errors may have crept in, and the results are being checked, but the final "identikit" is unlikely to differ markedly from the provisional one.
Oddly enough, an ad hoc Grauniad Readers' Outreach Team has been working on an "identikit" of the same subject. It finds that the average UKIP supporter is a squinting, bald, hunch-backed dwarf, who is semi-literate, holds extreme Fascist views, is a heavy smoker, takes baths once a month and wears a dirty vest with a large swastika on it but is too cowardly to reveal it.
He frequents public bars at closing time, drinking up any dregs he can find and occasionally wears women's clothes. (He is, of course, in extremely rare cases, a woman).
He habitually fails to pay his fare on underground trains, using considerable cunning to accomplish this.
His ambition is to be a hangman.
The discrepancy between the two "identikits" is striking. It is thought that some subjective non-scientific element may be involved.

Positive Thinking

By Sippy Azizollah

Remember back to when I was a kid at school, I wasn't one of those to go breaking rules. Staying out of trouble on the right side of the line A goody goody girl in a class of 39. The teacher took me to one side and told me "You've got to fight sometimes to win." And every now and then his words come back to me over and over again.

Positive thinking's gonna get you what you want your animal instinct's gonna lead you to the top Here's a lesson in survival, what I'm telling you is true I'll teach you all the rules and then you'll know what to do.

1969 is a year I won't forget I spent too many hours playing second best The world was my oyster, but I couldn't reach the pearl suppose I was still playing the goody girl. My tutor took me to one side and told me, "You've got to fight sometimes to win". And every now and then those words come back to me over and over again.

Positive thinking's gonna get you what you want your animal instinct's gonna lead you to the top It's a lesson in survival, and I'm telling you it's true. I'll teach you all the moves and then you'll know just what to do.

Now here I am at forty-nine, I've fought long and hard with both fists flying I've seen all my options as clear as day I'm taking every chance because I know

That positive thinking's gonna get me what I want my animal instinct's gonna lead me to the top. It's a lesson in survival, and I'm telling you it's true I've learned all the moves and now I know just what to do.

Archer Bridge



by Mike Graham
One of the great, albeit infrequent, pleasures of bridge is extracting an enormous penalty from opponents who have bid too much. In a pairs event, close doubles can yield +200 and +500 and a top score. Pairs who like to double, and I speak from experience here, accept the occasional -730 as the price that must be paid for their approach. Indeed, if you do not concede the odd 670 or 730 it could be argued that you are not doubling enough.
In teams, however, these close doubles are very inadvisable; +100 as against +140 is a loss of only one imp (international match point), no disaster. If you double, you score +200 and gain two imps; but if the contract makes, you stand to lose up to 11 imps. Team-mates (well, mine, anyway) tend to be rather unsympathetic to these results.
However, when you think the enemy contract could easily be two or more off, doubling becomes an exceedingly attractive proposition. In the

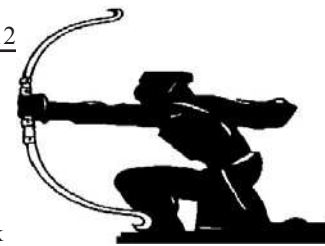
following hand, from a league match, my brother and I extracted a huge penalty:
A take-out double
Penalty pass. With a strong possibility of four trump tricks, this is a stand-out.
Two Diamonds Doubled and assumes that partner knows what she is doing – she quite likely has seven clubs. The defence was merciless. Ace of hearts and a diamond switch; Andy, my brother, won and reverted to hearts. After

Dealer North		♠	K1063		
NS Game		♥	42		
		♦	KJ10753		
		♣	5		
♠	J87	N W E S		♠	954
♥	AK653			♥	108
♦	2			♦	AQ986
♣	AJ86			♣	K94
		♠	AQ2		
		♥	QJ97		
		♦	4		
		♣	Q10732		

The bidding was:

N	E	S	W
2♦	Pass	Pass	Db! (1)
Pass	Pass (2)	3♣ (3)	Db! (4)
Pass (5)	Pass	Pass	

The pair we were playing against often open weak twos with only a five-card suit but with a four-card club suit in reserve. This possibility, together with the penalty pass, convinced South that partner had clubs. She was wrong
East-West are now playing for penalties.
Eminently correct. We all know players who would bid Three Diamonds here; but North has heard a penalty pass of getting his heart ruff Andy led the ace of diamonds; declarer ruffed and I discarded a spade. South now tried ace, queen, and another spade, but I ruffed and led a fourth heart. Andy ruffed and played a diamond, ruffed and over-ruffed; another heart was ruffed by East with the king of clubs and I was left holding A8 of trumps over South's Q7. South had come to three tricks, for down six. A penalty of 1700.



“Very Nice, What Is It?” Art Exhibition at Chorak

By Erini Rodis

Fortis Green resident and artist Malcolm Griffiths is to stage a solo exhibition at Chorak Gallery and Patisserie throughout October.

Malcolm, who was a contributor to *THE ARCHER* during its formative years and was initially responsible for its look and feel, has now established himself as a professional fine artist – producing abstract expressionist acrylics on canvas.

Marbled colours, with titles like *Enter the fray*, *Cat Mind* and *Disturbing Search*, are shaped into curiously beautiful, ethereal, cloudlike images, to evoke “... the inner turmoil between domination and submission... which is caused over time by repeated actions

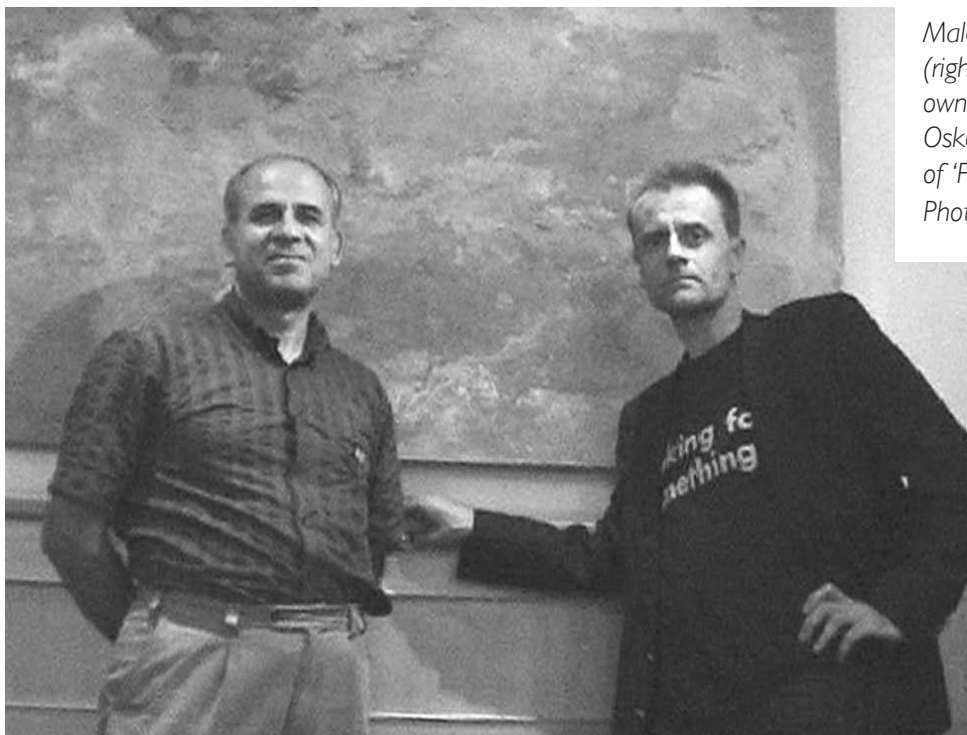
or inactivity”.

“There’s no predetermined subject matter,” states Griffiths, “What happens when paint is applied might not be what you envisage – I allow the canvas to talk back and direct... you can either develop what’s there and accept it, or start again, which is frustrating. Like life, sometimes it’s OK to just let it be.”

Publicised by the likes of *Time Out*, Griffiths’ involvements have included a group staging by the ArtMarkit Society in Balham, work with the Candid Arts Trust in Islington, and is currently showing at the

recently opened ‘Sum Gallery’ in Crouch End until September 30. Griffiths is enthused at the prospect of showing at Chorak’s. “Not only is it an art gallery where one can sit and enjoy a snack... but the gallery’s owner, Javad Oskooee, has been an advocate of promoting local artists for the past 11 years.”

Malcolm Griffiths’ “Very Nice, What Is It?” exhibition will be on at Chorak, 122 High Road, from October 1 to 31. Opening hours: Mon-Sun, 8.30am - 6pm. A selection of Malcolm’s work can be viewed online on his website: www.malcolmgriffiths.com



Malcolm Griffiths (right) with Chorak owner Javad Oskooee in front of ‘Fending After’
Photo by Erini Rodis

No. 1, Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Here’s an answer to John Prescott’s southeast housing problem: tree houses.

This desirable dwelling has magnificent views over woodland, allotments and a cemetery. In estate agents’ parlance it’s “deceptively spacious” and chain-free. Access is by rope so prospective buyers need to be agile. Can’t get a foot on the housing ladder? Try the housing rope instead.



Photo by Ann Bronkhorst

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