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# THE ARCHER


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October 2004 No. 137  
ISSN 1361-3952

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

## Music Group left out in cold

By Daphne Chamberlain

The internationally famous Finchley Children's Music Group, based in East Finchley for 30 years, has had to find other premises at ten days notice, and their chairperson told *THE ARCHER* that they only found out by chance.

Anna Evans says that when the group's administrator phoned Barnet to confirm their usual booking, she was told, "I'm really surprised to hear from you. Didn't you know that the Wilmot Centre is closed?"

They were then told that the building, which still housed

their pianos, was unstable. Barnet attributed this to vandalism, without explaining why the group had not been informed.

Anna Evans says that Barnet again presumed they would use the Youth Theatre, even though she had already explained last year that it was not suitable.

On that occasion too, they had found out by chance that Barnet was not intending to renew leases for users of the Wilmot Centre, but after a public outcry this decision was not enforced.

### "Treated so shabbily"

Jinny Fisher, whose 17-year-old daughter has belonged to the group since she was four, told us, "Barnet's left and right hands don't seem to know what each other is doing. The music group is a real feather in East Finchley's cap. We have never taken any financial help from Barnet, and we have been treated so shabbily."

For the time being, the group (fresh from an appearance in the BBC Proms) is rehearsing in St Mary's Primary School, N3, where Anna Evans says they are made very welcome. She also emphasised that Barnet's Director of Education has been extremely helpful.

*THE ARCHER* has invited Barnet to comment, but has received no reply.

For further information about the Finchley Children's Music Group, contact 020 8444 8418 or www.fcmg.org.uk.



Photo by Diana Cormack

## All fall down

By Diana Cormack

A huge bough broke off an oak tree growing next to the railings of the children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood. In all it was about 25 feet / 8 metres long and fell leaving the broken end resting on the buckled railings and the heavy branches thick with leaves spreading over the play park, reaching the to edge of the swing area.

Luckily none of the children playing there at the time was in that particular spot. It happened at 4.30 in the afternoon, following a night of particularly high winds on 12 September. Part of the bough, close to

where it had joined the trunk, appeared to have been rotting. When the fallen bough was cleared another bough which was overhanging the play area was also removed from the tree.

## Bogus caller theft

A 70-year-old woman had £600 stolen by bogus callers on Saturday 28 August at about 3pm in St Pancras Court, East Finchley High Road.

A man called at the victim's address stating he had come to clean the windows. When the victim stated that she did not want her windows cleaned the suspect said that he was going to speak to his manager. About

ten minutes later another man called at the address and kept the victim talking for a short while.

Once the man had gone she went upstairs and discovered that £600 was missing. It is believed that while she was kept talking at her front door the other suspect had entered the address through an open window.

The first suspect is described as a male aged about 20, 5ft 5inches tall and the second suspect as a male aged about 24, 5ft 5inches tall.

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PUBLISHED BY  
*East Finchley Newspapers*

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### PRINTED BY

**Eastway Offset Ltd**

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*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.*

### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please send it in to the above address. Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text, email or voicemail.

**14 October is the copy deadline for the November issue.**

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Councils

#### Barnet

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789  
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080  
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

### Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950  
City Airport 020 7646 0088  
London Transport 020 7222 1234  
National Express 08705 808080  
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

### Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111  
Disability Info Service 02084466935  
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265  
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
Rape & Sexual Abuse 02086833300  
Relate 020 8447 8101  
Samaritans 08457 909090  
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

### Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141  
Alcoholics Anonymous 08457697555  
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211  
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777  
Drinkline 0800 917 8282  
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
Health Info Service 0800 665544  
MIND 020 8343 5700  
National Blood Ctr. 084577117711

### OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 02083463511  
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162  
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

### Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000  
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792  
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
St Luke's 020 8219 1800  
Whittington 020 7272 3070  
Western Eye Hosp. 020 7886 6666

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0845 303 0900  
E.F. Community Police Officer:  
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)  
Tel: 020 8733 5562, e-mail:  
paul.carter@met.police.uk



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### Community Services

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

## CRIME ROUNDUP

### Stabbing

A man was stabbed and had his £2,000 watch stolen whilst walking along Edmunds Walk at about 9.30 pm on 30 August. The 46-year-old victim was grabbed from behind by a man armed with a knife, who stabbed him three times in the arm before stealing his Cartier watch and £350.

The victim was taken to Royal Free hospital but his injuries are not life threatening.

The suspect is described as in his mid-twenties and 5ft 9 inches tall. He was wearing blue jeans and a black sports jacket.

### Assault

A 17-year-old male was assaulted and robbed while walking home on Sunday 15 August at 10.20pm in Font Hills. The victim was approached by two males and pushed into a bush. As the victim began to struggle one suspect stated that he had a knife. The suspects then took his Nokia mobile phone and wallet containing £10.

Both suspects then ran off towards the North Circular Road. The first was described as a male aged 18, 5ft 8 inches tall, wearing a navy-blue tracksuit, light blue top and cap with the logo 'New Era' on it. The second suspect was described as a male aged 13, 5ft 4 inches tall, wearing black trousers and black tee shirt.

### Handbag snatch

A 27-year-old female had her handbag stolen on 20 August at 10.15pm in East End Road, Finchley. The victim was parking her car when a car with two men in it pulled up beside her. The passenger got out and opened the victim's passenger side door and snatched her handbag containing her Samsung mobile and purse containing £23. The suspect then jumped back into what has been described as an R registration silver saloon, possibly a Mercedes, that made off at speed towards Regents Park Road.

The main suspect is described as a male aged about 28, 6ft tall and wearing dark clothing and oval shaped sunglasses. The driver is also believed to be male.

### Heath attack

Police are appealing for witnesses following an attack on a 13-yr-old girl on Hampstead Heath on 21 September. The girl was walking home from school along the Vale of Health when she was approached by a man in a balaclava. The suspect then took her into a thick wooded area where he demanded money, bound her hands and covered her mouth and eyes using tape. The victim had her property taken from her and searched, but the suspect took nothing. He then used a knife he was carrying to free her before making off. The girl was not physically harmed.

The suspect is described as a white male, approx 5 foot 8 inches tall and was wearing jeans. The balaclava is described as grey/black. Anyone with information should call the Robbery Squad on 020 8733 6910.

### Double murder charge

Daniel Julian Gonzalez, aged 24 of Woking, Surrey, has been charged with the murders of Derek Robinson and Jean Robinson, who were found at an address in Makepeace Avenue, N6 on the morning of 17 September.

## Barnet joins Cross-Over blitz

**Met officers from five London boroughs are joining forces with Essex, Thames Valley, Hertfordshire and British Transport Police as part of a major operation designed to stop criminals in their tracks.**

Operation Cross-Over is a unique partnership approach devised by officers at Enfield, Hillingdon, Barnet, Harrow and Haringey who have linked up with their bordering constabularies in order to stop criminals travelling cross-border to commit crime.

The scheme will see almost 100 officers conducting Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) checks at hotspots

and main corridor routes in an effort to reduce mobile offenders, targeting a number of key offences including burglary and motor vehicle crime.

ANPR systems instantly scan number plates and match them against information stored in databases to identify vehicles of interest to the police such as stolen cars or those involved in crime.

## Hinz murderer convicted

**A man has been convicted of the murder of Finchley man Andy Hinz, whose remains were found two years ago in bins near St Pancras Way NW1.**

Thomas Hamilton McDowell - a student, aged 27, of Caulfield Court, NW1 - was convicted at Southwark Crown Court on 30 September of the murder of Mr Hinz in July 2002.

On 10 July 2002 an environmental health officer was called to deal with a suspicious item on a pavement beside St Pancras Way, NW1, after a resident complained of a strong smell coming from it. The officer alerted the police when he realised the package may contain human remains. The rest of the body - dismembered into six parts and wrapped in plastic - was found nearby in bins in the gardens of Caulfield Court.

The victim was identified as Andreas (Andy) Hinz, a 37-year-old German rabbinical student, of Windermere Avenue, N3, who had last been seen leaving popular gay pub The Black Cap in Camden on 3 July 2002 with another man.

DI Tim Duffield, SCD West, in charge of the investigation said: "The Crown's case was that Thomas Hamilton McDowell was a predatory psychopath who deliberately lured his victim back to his flat in order to kill him. The jury determined that he was guilty of murder. There can be no doubt that Thomas Hamilton McDowell posed a threat to the public and members of the gay community in particular."

## Police target bail absconders

**Police in London are renewing their efforts to track down those offenders who abuse the judicial system by failing to answer bail.**

A Met-wide operation has been put into place using a range of tactics to trace and re-arrest those who are wanted for or charged with a range of offences from shoplifting to street robbery.

Since the operation started on 9 August, there has been a total of 332 arrests; 195 as a direct result of this operation.

### No hiding place

Deputy Commissioner Sir Ian Blair said, "The criminal justice system and people's faith in it are damaged when it is seen not to be working. If

people bailed by the courts then fail to re-appear they must be found and, where applicable, punished for that failure or remanded in custody...

"People wanted on warrant can expect a knock on the door soon. They can avoid the inconvenience of an unexpected call by police by surrendering at a police station of their own volition.

"All 32 London boroughs will be taking part, with a total of 1000 officers from boroughs, the Territorial Support Group and the Transport Operational Command Unit."





Cllr Phil Yeoman and Ch Supt Mark Ricketts field questions  
Photo by Colin Rogers

## CSAZ meeting

Over 150 people attended the first public meeting to review the introduction of East Finchley's CSAZ, which was launched in May this year.

The Police and Council representatives explained what had been happening so far, and then fielded questions from the hall. Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts and Cllr Phil Yeoman ended up answering most of the questions, which covered a full range of topics, from Anti Social Behaviour Orders to the Mental Health Act. Virtually everyone felt that there had been a worthwhile exchange of views, and most people (including the police) learned a good deal about what people's perception of crime is. The CSAZ team will be holding follow-up meetings to make more links with us, so that the initiative is maintained and everyone can keep up-to-date with progress. Watch this space!

**"We've got to be positive"**  
Local resident Anne Bren-

nan attended the meeting and told *THE ARCHER*, "I think this is a brilliant idea. If something is serious in the community, we have to talk about it. The police are our representatives, and we have to work in conjunction with them. The Inspector seemed to be aware of what people want, and he assured us he would look into things. It's no use just moaning among ourselves. We've got to be positive."

If you want to find out more, phone PC Paul Carter on 020 8733 5562 or Barnet Council's Anti-Social behaviour Co-ordinator, Jeremy Print, on 020 8733 4498, or talk to the police on their 'beat'.

# Will the act disable the library?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Since last year's famous questionnaire, further questions have been asked by the public about the future of East Finchley library. "With no access to the first floor for disabled people, no toilet for those with disabilities, and indeed no toilet for women on the ground floor, will the building cope with the requirements of this month's Disability Discrimination Act?" *THE ARCHER* asked Barnet Council.

A Barnet spokesperson replied, "The Disability Discrimination Act is about making services accessible to people with disabilities, rather than the buildings they are housed in." He went on to say that Barnet is investing considerable resources in the library service, with library staff being trained to offer advice, help and support to the disabled.

Will there be a lift installed to the upper floor? No, - the cost of improving access to the meeting-rooms would be prohibitive, but the library services on the ground floor are accessible.

### Toilet provision?

What about toilet provision? Barnet "will be investigating if the one public toilet on the ground floor can be adapted for use by disabled people".

Will any refurbishment make the interior arrangement more disabled user-friendly? "East Finchley library is currently undergoing refurbishment. We are looking at the

shelving, but plans will need to be approved by English Heritage."

*THE ARCHER* will be keeping an eye on developments in the library.

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## Library Group formed

By Daphne Chamberlain

The East Finchley Library Users' Group held its first meeting last month at the Neighbourhood Centre. In view of the closure of Totteridge library and the uncertain future of South Friern, the Users' Group sees its role as protecting both the library service and its building in East Finchley.

Communicating with the Council has to be on the agenda, and to do this the Group needs to know exactly what it is talking about.

Last year, East Finchley voted to refurbish the existing building\*, and everyone at the meeting felt strongly that this should be honoured, particularly in regard to the Disability Discrimination Act. What do people really need though, and what would be a reasonable current cost? The Group will try to find out.

### Involving the community

Libraries can be important to people all through their lives, and the Users' Group wants to involve as many sections of the community as possible.

So watch out for a direct approach!

Leslie Gilbert has used East Finchley library for 47 years, but he was also at the meeting as a member of Friends of Barnet Libraries. This is a borough-wide organisation, with many connections, and he urged members of the East Finchley Group to join FBL too.

Over 20 people turned up, including Councillor Colin Rogers, and Adam Gee became the Chair and Polly Napper the Secretary. Watch *THE ARCHER* for news of further meetings and activities.

[\* 66% of those who voted chose refurbishment, compared to 29% for a new library; see *THE ARCHER* Feb 2004]

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# The planning application process

By John Dearing

**If an individual or a company wishes to build a house, a block of flats, or a shop, or extend an existing building, or even change its use, they generally have to apply for planning permission to the council planning department.**

Having received an application, the planning department will normally post a public notification in the vicinity of the proposed work, and may send it to the affected people in the locality. This gives them an opportunity to consider objecting to the application. Guidelines describe the permitted grounds for objection.

## Details resolved

After issues of detail are resolved between the applicant and the planning department, with site visits if necessary, the planners may accept or reject the proposal, or they may refer it to the appropriate Area Planning Committee, especially if there have been any objections. There are three such committees for Barnet, and the Finchley & Golders Green committee is the one that covers East Finchley. It holds a public meeting each month (visit the Barnet Council web site for dates) at Hendon Town Hall. The committee comprises a selection of councillors from the main parties and the senior planning officers.

Generally applications that have been referred to the

committee are considered at the next available meeting. In that meeting, the application is presented to the committee by the relevant planning officer, together with a recommendation. There is an opportunity for the applicant and for objectors to address the committee (prior notice is required for this). The councillors may choose to question a speaker, and then debate the planning issues raised by the application. They then decide by vote whether to accept it (with conditions if necessary) or reject it. Exceptionally, they can refer it to the overall council Planning and Environment committee, for a decision. A rejected applicant can later appeal to the government planning inspector, but generally only on the grounds of planning process, rather than the merits of the application itself.

This is an example of how much local councillors can directly affect people's lives and emphasises the significance of local democracy and in particular the importance and value of **your** vote in local elections.

# No escape for speeding Londoners

**Traffic Officers from the Met cracked down on speeding in September in a month-long targeted operation of education and enforcement aimed at drivers across the capital.**

The intelligence-led operation was in addition to normal enforcement and took place at areas where excessive and inappropriate speed had been identified or there had been a higher percentage of speed related collisions.

Officers aimed to improve road user behaviour by offering advice to drivers on how to make their journey safer. Officers used mobile and static laser speed detection cameras, taking a high visibility approach with the aim of reducing collisions in the 'hotspot' areas.

Chief Inspector Ian Brookes, in charge of NW London Traffic Operational Command Unit said, "Excessive and inappropriate speed is a significant factor in the frequency and severity of collisions and although in the 12 months to April this year road traffic deaths in London came down by 12 percent on the previous year, those who



Photo by Erini Rodis

speed remain a priority for us in our ongoing work to increase road safety."

George Galli-Atkinson, whose daughter Livia Galli-Atkinson was killed in a road traffic collision in January 1998, said, "The lives of victims and their families can be shattered by a road traffic collision, which in some cases could have been prevented by observing the speed limit. The work of the Traffic Police in operations of this kind is vital in our fight to remove dangerous drivers from our roads and help stop other families being devastated by the loss of a loved one."

Chief Inspector Brookes added, "With the wet weather and nights drawing in earlier, drivers need to take particular care and adjust their speed to the road conditions. If you are

caught speeding you could face a fine of up to £2,500 and three penalty points on your driving licence plus the court has the power to disqualify you from driving."

From the Think Road Safety website [www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk):

- Two out of three accidents where people are killed or injured happen on roads where the speed limit is 40mph or less.
- Seven out of 10 drivers admit to regularly breaking the 30mph speed limit.
- To stop, an average family car travelling at 35mph will need 21 feet more than one travelling at 30mph.
- If you hit a cyclist or pedestrian at 35mph rather than 30mph, the force of the impact increases by more than a third.

## Handy people

**Do you need a handy person? If you are 65 plus and live in N2, N3, N10, N11, N12, N14, N20, EN4 or EN5, you may be able to get one.**

The Barnet HandyPeople, co-ordinated by Age Concern and funded by the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust, Barnet and Barnet NHS Primary Care Trust, carry out a variety of small repairs inside and outside the house.

They don't do gas or electrical work (apart from plugs and fuses), painting and decorating, or roof or conservatory work, and they don't use anything higher than a stepladder. They will do a whole range of minor but necessary repairs, with no charge for work or time. The client has only to pay for any materials purchased.

Clients can be referred by GPs, Statutory Agencies, Voluntary Organisations and the Independent Sector.

For a referral form or further information, contact the HandyPerson Co-ordinator on 020 8203 5040.

## Local Planning Applications

**East Finchley Station, High Road, N2**

Construction of new access road and car parking with associated entry gates.

**Bradbury House, 250 East End Road, N2** (Listed building consent.)

Replacement of two ground floor windows and door to match existing.

**58 High Road, N2**

Change of use from retail (Class A1) to estate agent (Class A2).

**322 High Road, N2**

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

**Land at rear of 332/334 High Road, N2**

Erection of a new one bedroom detached house, following demolition of existing storage building.

**385 - 401 High Road, N2**

Submission of details of levels, refuse storage, landscaping and materials, pursuant to Conditions 4, 7, 11 and 14 of planning permission C05629G/04, dated 14/06/04.

**Viceroy Close, High Road, N2**

Erection of a three/four storey block to provide a total of 9 self-

contained flats with associated off-street parking.

**40A Park Hall Road, N2**

Alterations to roof, including addition of rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion.

**16 Summerlee Avenue, N2**

Single storey rear conservatory.

**21 Howard Walk, N2**

Single storey rear extension. Alterations to roof, including addition of rear dormer window and insertion of side roof-light to facilitate loft conversion.

**1 Prospect Parade, East End Road, N2**

Construction of ground floor extension, and conversion into three self-contained residential units. Conversion of existing store area into new A1/A2 commercial unit, with associated changes to shopfront.

**10 The Bishops Avenue, N2**

Single storey rear extension and additional dormer window on rear roof slope.

**Land adjacent to 1 - 12 Norfolk Close, N2**

Submission of details of lighting pursuant to Condition 3 of planning permission C155 98/03, dated 25/02/04.

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Fund Chairman, Richard Holland with daughters Charlotte & Beth. Photo by Toni Morgan

## The Barbara Bus

By Toni Morgan

**When a member of *THE ARCHER* team mentioned that she was going to the Barbara Bus Open Day at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, it brought back a memory of the time some 20 years ago when I drove one of their vehicles.**

I was working for the Leonard Cheshire Foundation and was asked to drive a 'Barbara Bus' to Heathrow airport to meet a quadriplegic man and his carer who were travelling from Canada. After taking them on a quick tour round London, the vehicle was then theirs to use for the week before I returned it to Stanmore.

So what is a Barbara Bus? In 1968, Barbara Werndly, a patient at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, set up a registered charity, The Barbara Bus Fund. The aim was to provide a means of transport for people unable to use conventional forms of transport. Barbara, the founder, died in September

1995, but the fund has continued and now employs a part-time coordinator to carry out the administrative work. Barbara's nephew, Richard Holland, is Chairman of the Fund and on Sunday he introduced their two new vehicles, named after his daughters, Beth and Charlotte. The Fund has a selection of specially converted vehicles that can accommodate from one to three wheelchairs, plus a varying number of able-bodied passengers.

### Care to drive?

Friends, relatives or carers may drive the vehicles; they would need to be registered with the Fund and should be between 25 and 75 years of age with a clean driving licence. The Fund

does not make a set charge, but they do ask that the vehicles are returned clean, tidy and with a full tank of fuel. If users can make a donation to the Fund it is much appreciated.

Volunteer drivers are always welcome, so if you have some time to spare and meet the above requirements, why not contact the Fund's Co-ordinator, Julia Pryor, on 020 8416 0733 and find out more about their work?

## "The toddletastic way to beat meningitis"

The Meningitis Trust is staging its annual sponsored walk for under-fives between 3 and 16 October. Playgroups, nurseries and families can join the Trust's mascot, Monty the Duck, in waddling to raise funds for the fight against meningitis. Last year, waddlers in the UK and Ireland raised £370,000.

Register online at [www.toddlewaddle.org](http://www.toddlewaddle.org) or call 0845 120 45 30.

## On the buses

### Wheelchair ramps

Since 24 July it has been a breach of contract for any bus to be operated with a faulty wheelchair ramp.

### 603

The 603 bus, which runs between Muswell Hill and Swiss Cottage via East Finchley, has survived its six-month trial period – but only as a school time bus. Even though traffic analysis on the route has shown a move away from cars to buses since its introduction, Transport for London has announced that it will not extend the timetable beyond the present two buses in each direction, morning and afternoon, on school days only. However, the campaign to develop the service continues, with protestors insisting that there has been no proper feasibility study.

### 134

It's official: – Despite rumours to the contrary, the

134 will not become a bendy bus.

### Easy bus

Easy Jet announced recently that they were planning to start a commuter bus service between Hendon Central and Milton Keynes. Future plans include further link-ups within the northern Home Counties, and a service between Hendon Central and Luton airport.

Details available at [easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com).

## Car disappears, but was it the orange stickers?

Local resident and businessman William Stone told *THE ARCHER* that his car and various personal effects were taken, possibly stolen on 15 July. The car was a 1991 white Mercedes 190, in very good condition and of some value.

It had been parked on East End Road, opposite his shop, since late June. The Road Tax had run out at the end of June. Mr. Stone had been out of the country and returned on 8 July, when he immediately paid the Road Tax, but being unwell for a period he had omitted to display it on the car. At about 4pm on 15 July, he went out to place the new tax disc on the car and found that it was missing. Subsequently his neighbours told him that an orange sticker had been placed on the car, apparently on behalf of Barnet Council because of the lack of tax disc. The vehicle was last seen at around 2.20pm that day.

He contacted Barnet Council and was told that they had no record of this car at all. He contacted the police, the DVLC, the London Central Vehicle Tracing Department, Camden Council, and many, if not all of the car breakers and towing companies in the area, to no avail. Officially, the car is recorded by the police as stolen.

Mr. Stone has expressed little confidence that the council properly controls the identification and disposal of cars not displaying a current tax disc. He has also speculated that the car may have had an orange sticker placed on it illegally, as a prelude to being stolen. He is concerned that the process of placing an orange sticker on a car means that it becomes vulnerable to illicit towing, and blames the law that enables this.

*THE ARCHER* has contacted Barnet Council, who have reiterated that they have no record of ever identifying the car for removal. They have supplied information about their Abandoned Vehicle Process, and it is clear that there are numerous checks built in to prevent problems such as this.

Unless the car is found, it seems likely that the actual facts will never fully emerge, but if there is a moral, it is not just to pay your road tax, but also to display it.

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# Say it with flowers

By Ann Bronkhorst



Display by Jennie Mann at the flower festival. Photo Ann Bronkhorst

We can express ourselves by various means – through words, movement, music, art . . . and even plants and flowers. At the All Saints' Flower Festival last month I saw how a theme, *Our World*, could be interpreted in many imaginative ways. All Saints' Church in Durham Road drew in gardeners, flower arrangers and perhaps some theatre designers who have

missed their vocation! With more than 22 displays filling the church only a few can be mentioned here.

The 'worlds' of children were much in evidence. One display of children's paintings and flowers was called 'All I ever needed to know I learned in kindergarten'. Scribbles nursery, Hertford Road, contributed paper flowers made and painted by the children. All Saints' Early Church created an evocative beach scene: sand, pebbles and a Punch and Judy show. Holy Trinity School's Reception class made four mini-gardens: cottage, desert, water and rainforest, accompanied by poems from Years 5 and 6. One touching arrangement was by Mia's Wish, a charity set up in memory of a baby girl to help develop hospital facilities for bereaved parents.

## Inventive

Some displays were remarkably detailed and inventive. One packed a wealth of information on herbal healing into a small space, with essential oils, books and pots of many different herbs. An 'English Garden' showed a familiar scene: deck-chair, garden tools, a trug of vegetables. As someone said, it was as if the gardener had "just popped indoors for a cuppa." Nearby, 'The Teddybears' Picnic' had a family of bears relaxing in a setting full of witty details – grapes hanging from a mini-pergola and tiny honey jars.

Colour and design were often used dramatically. The text 'Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam' was complemented by gold and white

flower arrangements against a dark backdrop scattered with a few stars. Sri Lankan spices, carvings and richly-patterned fabrics were combined with red, purple and white blooms in another colourful display. Jennie Mann, the florist, contributed a stylish arrangement of linked transparent bowls and flower heads subtly illustrating the *Our World* theme.

Sheila Waring, the main organiser of the Flower Festival, was delighted with the enthusiasm of those involved. "People have brought in what's important to them," she said. During the three days of the Festival many people visited All Saints' and found there not only flowers but also an insight into a community.



Not quite Cheltenham, but great fun. Photo by Kevin Finn

## Festival success

By Kevin Finn

The Muswell Hill Street Festival adapted to its new venue at Cherry Tree Wood to great effect, producing a well-attended success for all involved. The festival was held between noon and 6pm on a cloudy, blustery but dry Sunday, 12 September.

With some 80 stalls a broad range of international representing local charities cuisine and plenty of fun and and voluntary organisations, games for children, there was,

surely, something for everyone. A good-sized sound stage had performances from bands playing everything from good old fashions Rock through to jazz funk and Ska Punk. Not all the music was to everyone's taste but I'm sure there was a healthy audience having a great time throughout the day.

## On the donkeys

Some brave but inspired events were the donkey derby and the dog show. The former allowed volunteer adults (recruited from the attending crowds) to race in the donkey-powered traps while everyone else had the opportunity to make a modest wager on the 'tote'. To say that the donkeys were frisky might be an understatement; I believe I may have witnessed the first outing of a new breed of thoroughbred, such was the enthusiasm to run. The crowds massed on either side of the course to secure a suitable vantage point for this popular attraction.

## Doggy do

The dog show was both amusing and charming. The light-hearted event was hardly on a par with Crufts, but everyone enjoyed watching the various collections of bewildered yet excited pets strutting their hearts out for their proud owners. I don't think I have ever seen such a variety of sizes and shapes in a single 'class', but it was excellent fun.

## Trek no problem

I was concerned that the residents of Muswell Hill might find the trek to East Finchley too daunting to attend; but judging by the volume of pedestrian traffic entering the event from the Muswell Hill end, I need not have worried. The organisers, The Hornsey Trust, put on a great event, which I hope will return for many years to come.



A lucky winner in one of the Dog Show classes. Photo Kevin Finn

## Roller-coaster ride at the library

By Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

This summer, from 24 July to 4 September, children across the country took part in the Nationwide Reading Roller-coaster summer reading scheme every Saturday. Locally, this took place at the East Finchley Library, with over 120 participants.

Children taking part could read absolutely any six books they wanted, fiction or non-fiction. They would then report back to the group after they had completed each book, talk about what they had liked, or didn't like, and recommend books for each other.

Popular books included the children's penny dreadfuls *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snickett, the *Horrid Henry* series by Francesca Simon, and *Lion Boy* by Zizou Corder. Meanwhile, old favour-

ites such as *Artemis Fowl* and Dr. Seuss were still going strong in the top ten recommended reads.

Children's efforts were rewarded with a set of stickers for each book they completed and told the group about – the stickers adding to a 'reading roller-coaster' scene in their folders. The scheme also included arts and crafts when the children made a roller-coaster poster for the children's room. Computers were regularly used to write and read reviews on the kid-friendly website ([www.readingrollercoaster.org.uk](http://www.readingrollercoaster.org.uk))

The website also contains book quizzes as well as facts and tidbits about favourite authors.

In its fifth year, this is part of the National Reading Scheme, aimed at getting kids interested in books at an early age, and using precious resources like our local libraries. The initiative will continue in East Finchley with the Orange-sponsored Chatter Books in October, run by Rachel, the children's librarian who also facilitated the Reading Roller-coaster.





Station forecourt. Photo by Tony Roberts

## Blood donations thwarted

By Diana Cormack

**Despite the adverts on television, it seems that some people are still unaware of the vital service that blood donors provide for their fellow citizens. This lifeline is given freely by individuals, often at one of the mobile units of The National Blood Service. In East Finchley this unit usually parks for the day on the concourse outside the tube station.**

Regrettably, the session scheduled for 6 August had to be cancelled at very short notice, so short in fact that people with appointments were phoned that day, while those who just turned up saw a blood service van instead of a mobile unit and learned that their efforts had been in vain.

### Coned off

According to the National Blood Service based at Colindale, the reason for this was that although cones had been put in position to ensure there was a place for the mobile unit, these had been removed and motorists had left their cars in the space provided. So, with nowhere for

the large mobile clinic to park, there could be no donations.

### No penalties

Although station staff cone off an area used for picking up or dropping off customers, London Transport say that they have no way of issuing penalties to perpetrators, nor were they able to tell me who, if anyone, could do so. Whilst the Blood Service believed that once the cones were put out the situation was being monitored, a station manager told me that they haven't enough staff to do that. Another donating session on 17 September was almost abandoned, but the driver managed to park with great difficulty.

### No notice

Surprisingly, there is no notice indicating what the coned off space is to be used for. The station does not have one, so I suggested to both parties that this might be a solution to the problem. A representative of the NBS said that she would contact London Transport and that "hopefully" the station could be supplied with notices.

There were many young people donating blood and it would be a shame to discourage them, as well as other donors, by cancelling sessions. Future sessions are scheduled for Fridays 3 December and 7 January.

## Threat to East Finchley Advice Service

**The legal advice sessions provided by the East Finchley Advice Service are threatened with closure, owing to a shortfall in funding from Barnet Council. The service is a non-profit making charity that provides first stop legal advice free of charge to all comers.**



Manager, Terry Stone, with client. Photo by Garth Morton

On Tuesday evenings, between 7pm and 8pm, the centre is staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers comprising solicitors, barristers and an administrator. It has been said that access to the legal system should be open to all, irrespective of their wealth, and this is exactly why these free legal advice sessions are so vital. If you are unsure of your rights in law, then a legal advice session lawyer will be there to help you. The service will do its best to help whatever your legal problems.

### Lost funding

Over many years these sessions have made a difference to thousands of lives. Now Barnet Council, who provide the core funding for the centre, will not be paying the £900 additional indemnity insurance which is required to keep the legal service going.

During the day, the EFAS provides advice free to all on a vast range of topics, but as the Manager Terry Stone, its sole salaried employee, stated, "We also need to keep the evening legal advice sessions going. Normally, ten to twenty people attend each session with questions that require an expert legal opinion, which we cannot provide in the day. The evening, also, may be the only time when working people can seek help."

The centre has engaged the services, through the London Advice Services Association, of a fund raising specialist. The challenge is that the funding required is core in nature and this is less easy to find than short term project funding. Therefore, if Barnet Council does not step in to save the day, this very valuable service may well be lost forever.

## Institute seeks building money

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute is appealing for £4-6 million toward the cost of building their new headquarters on the former Neurological Hospital site, next to East Finchley station. Some Suburb residents have received letters asking for financial assistance.**

### Costs have doubled

Institute Principal Fay Naylor told *THE ARCHER* that delays in obtaining planning approval have increased costs from six million to an estimated 11-13 million pounds. Octagon Developments have bought the site for two blocks of flats and the Institute HQ, but the Institute has to bear its own building costs.

Ms Naylor said that plans will go ahead in any case, as two banks have already guaranteed a mortgage, but that the Institute has never been in debt and wants to continue that tradition. It has seven million pounds available itself, but needs to raise the remainder. Fundraising plans are in hand, but she is hoping for individual donations, with donors of larger amounts being given the opportunity to name specific rooms – or even the Institute.

### Public transport links

The new building, which will cover about 40,000 square feet, will be three storeys high plus a basement car park. When

asked about car parking, Ms Naylor said that green spaces policy allowed them only 30 spaces, but that many of the Institute's users were not drivers anyway. She hopes too that the proximity of the Tube and buses to the new building will encourage more students to use public transport.

The Institute is delighted with its temporary accommo-

dation in Park House, which it refurbished at its own expense. Ms Naylor hopes that when this year's lease is up, an arrangement can be made to rent it for another couple of years – which is how long the new building is expected to take. The Thomas More, Muswell Hill and Central Square annexes will not be absorbed in the new building, and will continue as they are.

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## Feat of clay

*Ten-year-old Amelia Li, of Elmshurst Crescent, is a great Lord of the Rings fan. Here she writes about what happened after she read something about it in a newspaper this summer:*



Amelia Li with her winning entry. Photo by Erini Rodis

**“When I first found out about the Lord of the Rings Convention I was very excited especially as it was being held at Alexandra Palace. This was the first Lord of the Rings Convention to be held in England. I had to go!!!**

“There were going to be lots of fun things, such as Q and A sessions and workshops where you could learn to speak and write Elvish, Hobbit dance, make Hobbit feet and talk about the film. There were also competitions – fancy dress, short films and, what appealed to me most, the art competition.

### Fierce fun

“I got down to it straight away, bought some clay and some paint and decided I was going to make a Cave Troll! He is very fierce, very ugly and would be fun to make. (I also had to convince my mum to pay for the tickets!) I spent about five days making my model and I couldn’t wait to go. We got tickets for the last day of the convention. We had to bring my model to Alexandra Palace on Saturday morning where it would be judged on Monday.

“On the Saturday, driving to Alexandra Palace to drop off my Cave Troll was really weird as there was a procession of people dressed up as characters from the trilogy. There were Orcs, Elves and Hobbits, Uruk-Hai, kings and lots more (and they were adults!).

### First lady

“On the Monday I got up very early and dressed up as Lady Arwen, feeling very happy to be going. I had waited a long time! My Cave Troll was on display at Alexandra Palace and was going to be judged later that

day by Alan Lee and James Howe, concept artists for the Hollywood movie, who gave us quite an interesting talk and told us how they got their ideas.

“At last, the moment came. I held my breath. ‘The winner of the under-tens art competition ... AMELIA LI,’ (me). Wow, I just couldn’t believe it! I went up to the stage and collected my prize, an autographed copy of *The Art of the Two Towers* and a first prize certificate. What a day! I was walking on air. I shall remember it forever.”

## New headteacher for Infant School

By Diana Cormack

**Pictured is Kevin Anscomb, the new headteacher at Martin Infant School. Mr Anscomb, who lives with his wife in Crouch End, took up his post at the start of the new academic year.**

He was previously deputy head of a special school for children with learning difficulties in Wandsworth, where he worked for eight years.

### Community minded

An experienced teacher, Kevin has always had a special interest in the education of young children and says that one of the things he wants to do at Martin’s is to build on the community aspects of the school.



New headteacher, Kevin Anscomb. Photo by Diana Cormack

## YOUNG ARCHER

### If at first you don’t succeed...

By Diana Cormack

**The female star of the British team at the Olympic Games 2004 just has to be Kelly Holmes. As we all know, with a world of sports fans watching and waiting, she won two gold medals.**

But Kelly herself watched and waited at the end of her first medal attempt, for she did not know if she had actually won the race until the results came up on the stadium screen.

Kelly has had to wait a long time to achieve her fantastic results. Over the years she has suffered many injuries and setbacks, with people thinking that she would never be a big star. However, Kelly believed in herself and she never gave up. She had the will power and determination to follow her dream, which we all saw come true for her in Athens this August.

It reminded me of a story I was once told about a king who was inspired by a spider. His name was Robert Bruce. In 1306 Edward 1st of England was trying to take over Scotland and Robert was leading the Scots in their battle against him. Things were not going well and Robert was hidden away in a cottage, wondering what he was going to do next. He noticed a spider up on the ceiling and watched it try six times to fix its web onto a beam.

“Now shall this spider teach me what I am to do,” he said to himself, “For I have also failed

six times.”

At the seventh attempt the spider succeeded, so Robert decided that he would gather his followers together again and carry on with the struggle for freedom. After many years and many battles, he finally defeated the English at Bannockburn.

The old saying “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try and try again” doesn’t make it clear that you may have to try more than three times. Hopefully, Kelly Holmes’ long struggle and eventual success will inspire many young people and teach them to never give up.

## A school to be proud of

By Diana Cormack

**The new academic year at Martin Junior School got off to a flying start with the publication of their Ofsted report. Last June a team of inspectors were at the school for a week observing lessons, looking at planning and paperwork and holding discussions with all members of staff. This intensive inspection also involved pupils, parents and governors.**

Being a community school serving a culturally diverse population, with over 60% coming from ethnic minority families, there are many pupils for whom English is a second language. Throughout the report there is praise for the progress such children achieve as a result of the continuing help, understanding and support they receive. Another aspect is reflected in the inspectors’ judgement that, “the school is a racially harmonious, inclusive community in which all pupils are valued highly. Pupils’ relationships with adults and each other are good and have a positive aspect on learning.”

The report contains many good and some excellent comments on teaching and learning, with praise for the teachers’ knowledge and planning and the positive impact this has. The important and effective role of

teaching assistants is recognised; so is the praiseworthy provision made for the Gifted and Talented pupils as well as for those with Special Needs, which ensures their ability to contribute fully to all aspects of school life. “Good quality resources greatly enhance the learning environment for all abilities,” say the inspectors.

The Ofsted team admired the quality of relationships both within and beyond the school. “The very good relationship the school has developed with its parents is very effective and supports pupils and their families well.” The wide range of after school activities and educational visits impressed them. So did the

pupils whose “good attitudes and behaviour result in a keen interest in all that they do. They respond well to instructions and show a willingness to learn.”

Good leadership and management by the head, staff and governors was also highlighted in the report. These are delighted with the report and feel it is very good reflection of the school. Headteacher Maggie Driscoll said, “It is lovely to have what we know endorsed by the Ofsted team in such a positive way. We are extremely proud of our school and will work together to ensure that it continues to provide the highest quality of education and support for every child.”

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





# East Finchley's religious heritage

## Part 7 - Music in the woods

By Ann Bronkhorst

A local map of 1894 shows a semi-rural Durham Road backing directly onto Coldfall Wood and, extending eastwards into the woodland, a newly-built All Saints' Church. Coldfall Wood was owned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who gave some of the land for the new church. In 1892 it was consecrated as 'a Chapel of Ease in the Parish of Holy Trinity'. By the end of the century All Saints' had its own parish, vicar and rapidly growing congregation.



All Saints Church, Durham Road. Photo by Alison Roberts

### Expansion and development

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was celebrated by the purchase of an organ. Gradually the building was enlarged by a chancel, a Lady Chapel, a north transept and vestries. In 1935 a parish hall was built; now housing has replaced the hall and, inside the church, other changes have taken place.

### Major alterations

After the last war a new organ, made by the great Alfred Hunter, was acquired from a bombed church. In 1977 what are described by the Victoria History of the Counties of England as 'High Church fittings' – the Stations of the Cross and a Rood over the chancel screen – were installed. A major re-ordering of the building took place in 1990, creating a large area for meetings, art exhibitions, and so on. The Rood screen now divides that area from the main body of the church; above is a gallery for the Hunter organ and the choir. Luckily the remodelling did not damage the famous acoustics.

### Music-making

Geoffrey Hanson, church organist and director of the East Finchley Arts Festival, cannot explain the excellent acoustics. Father Hardy, the

vicar, himself a musician, believes that the 'sweet spot' for musical performance lies just in front of the chancel steps. Certainly music has flourished in All Saints', from rehearsals by local choirs and orchestras to commercial recordings. The first London performance of Britten's Noye's Fludde and the foundation of the Finchley Children's Music Group took place here. Among the renowned musicians who have performed at All Saints' are James Bowman, Jennifer Bate and the London Mozart Players.

### A parish church

For all the specialised music-making, however, even the tone-deaf would be welcomed at All Saints'. Coldfall Wood has been banished beyond Creighton Avenue and housing now surrounds the church, but for over a century it has been a much-loved parish church in a changing East Finchley.

§  
*This is the final article in this series. Inevitably there has not been space to cover all the historical and social information available about local buildings serving faith groups. There is plenty of scope for readers to do some research of their own! My thanks to all those whose help and information made the series possible. AB*

## Landmine action

This year's Landmine Action Week will be 1-7 November. It will mark the halfway point for states which signed the Ottawa Treaty in 1999 to clear all their mined areas. For further information, including help in organising local campaign events, call Clare Argyle on 020 7820 0222, fax 020 7820 0057, or e-mail [clare@landmineaction.org](mailto:clare@landmineaction.org).



**What happened in March 1918 at Martin School? Why did the entire school, plus mounted police and flags, assemble for this photo?**

The photo belonged to one of the pupils, the late Nellie Margaret Coombes of Leopold Road, and was sent to The Finchley Society Archives by her daughter, Hazel Astley. Hazel, who now lives in Australia, is one of the East Finchley Aussies who keep in touch with life back here through the pages of *THE ARCHER*. If you can tell us any more about this picture, do let us know.

## RSPCA news

By Mary Atkinson of East Finchley RSPCA

### An early warning for 5 November

Fireworks will be let off at the end of this month and during November. Your pets may be frightened, so keep them indoors during the evenings. Why not give extra protection by having them micro chipped for £10 at our Clinic? (Open Monday to Thursday 6.00–7.30pm at Park Road, opposite the children's playground). Then, if they take

off, you have a better chance of being re-united with them.

Another tip for Bonfire Night. If you have been building up a bonfire, check underneath before you light it. Small animals, particularly hedgehogs, often burrow into such places for shelter.

### Autumn sale

Don't forget the Autumn Sale on Saturday 9 October from 11am–2pm at the Clinic. Have

a light lunch, buy a raffle ticket and look for a bargain in books, bric a brac and clothes. Also sign the petition for restrictions on fireworks and upholding the Animal Welfare Bill.

The RSPCA had a very welcome donation of over £13 raised by the 8th West Finchley Guides who organised a sale of cakes which they had made themselves. Let their effort encourage others.

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❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie. 020 8883 5269  
❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** open daily from 2pm. The Green, Kings Avenue N10 Tel: 8883 1178  
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❖ **Bingo**, Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm  
❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Sophie Spence 020 8444 1890  
❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at the Old White Lion. Contact Lillian on 020 8444 1793.  
❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people, Rene & Reuby Hyams, 020 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee 8958 7878  
❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251  
❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613  
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❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276  
❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.

# Retreat to the East

By Dawn Powell

**The Retreat, situated in Fortis Green, is the latest addition to East Finchley's long list of beauty salons. But, according to the owner Zainab Siddiq, it's very different from the others.**



Photo by Erini Rodis

She says, "I offer services that are unique in the sense that they're of very ancient Indian origin." One such service is steam therapy, which is a hair treatment. Zainab explains: "Steam therapy is very good for the hair. The ingredients come straight from East; I don't buy them here. I mix them here, but I get them from the most authentic source possible."

As well as ancient Eastern treatments, The Retreat offers a tribal Australian healing massage – a massage that only 10 people in the world are qualified to do. It's very deep massage that isn't complete until every nerve in your body is released.

**Ancient... and traditional**  
Zainab recognises that there is also a need to provide more

traditional hairdressing services. She has kept all the staff from *Roger of Finchley*, the previous establishment, and is still offering the same services (such as a shampoo and set).

It's important to Zainab that her salon is a place where people can be in their own world. She chose East Finchley for her new venture because, for her, it has a very 'village like' feel to it. She says, "It was a breath of fresh air after living in cosmopolitan cities [Zainab has previously lived and worked in New York]. It was tucked away and it fitted into my philosophy of creating a place where there was tremendous service."

The Retreat, Hair and Beauty by Zainab, is at 5 Fortis Green, N2.

## What's On...

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

### 10 October - VRH Charity screening

Join Volunteer Reading Help at 11am at the Phoenix Cinema for a Charity Film Screening of *Spellbound (U)* - a documentary about a ferociously contested children's spelling bee held in the USA. It follows eight of the 10 million children who took part, highlighting their widely varying backgrounds, their successes and disappointments.

Tickets (Adults £8, Children £5, Family £20) must be purchased in advance by cheque, payable to VRH London NW. Send to: VRH London NW, Suite 101, 254 Belsize Road, London NW6 4BT with your name, address and ticket details. Contact: Liz Cooper 020 7372 7523.

### 16 October - Bric-a-brac sale

Do you have some clutter you need to get rid of? Why not join us at the Green Man community centre, Strawberry Vale from 1.30 until 4.40pm. £5 per table. Contact Carole 020 8883 9895 or Sandra 020 8442 0473 Or why not simply browse? You may find the bargain of all time. Refreshments available.

### 29 October - East Finchley Library Coffee Morning

Join us for regular coffee mornings at East Finchley library 11am until 12 noon. Fri 29 October - Richard Strauss: His Life and Music by David Moldon

### 4 November - Fireworks Display

Following last year's successful collaboration between Martin Schools' PTA, The Green Man Community Centre and the East Finchley Festival, there will be another firework display (weather permitting) on the Martin School Field, Plane Tree Walk, High Road, on Thursday 4 November at 7pm. With good food, hot and cold drinks, and spectacular fireworks, this is a community event not to be missed!

## A bird's eye view

By Sippy Azizollah

**The other week I bought a bright yellow baby budgie to keep me company. I called him Lemmy, as he was pure lemon in colour, with two thin white stripes on his tail.**

After he'd settled in I went out for a while, leaving my TV on to keep him company, as I didn't want him to feel lonely while I was away. But on my return, when I called to him and whistled, a stony silence prevailed.

I couldn't see him in his cage, but when I turned round there he was – sitting on a box in front of my TV, watching the Olympics! Every time there was cheering or applause, Lemmy flapped his wings and chirped wildly, as if he knew what was going on.

Feeling extremely relieved, we got him back into his cage and repositioned it, so that he could watch the rest of the Olympics in comfort.

Sadly for me, I had to take him back to the pet shop, as I was allergic to his feathers. It was an all too brief encounter, but I do hope that someone will give him a good home (in front of the TV?).

## FILMS & CINEMA

# Banish those winter blues at the Phoenix

By David Howes

**November is an odd month for movies. Christmas is not quite here, so all the studios hold back the slew of feel good movies (about dysfunctional families who just happen to resolve all their problems in time for turkey and eggnog). So what do we do on these cold winter nights? Buy an early edition of the Radio Times and dig in? Hopefully, you'll head down to the Phoenix, where you might be pleasantly surprised to find quality films still exist on these dark evenings.**

### Comme Une Image

Bringing us to our first film, *Comme Une Image*, or 'look at me', if your French, like mine, was picked up through *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. This film centres on a young woman's struggle to feel beautiful, at least in her father's eyes, at a time when the term itself is seemingly defined as no more than a dress size of ten.

She is Lolita, struggling in a world in which she should be seemingly ignored. Struggling with a father whose only acknowledgement is a habit of calling her my big girl, and who married his second wife straight off the catwalk.

This is a world populated by the self-absorbed – the writer doubting his abilities, the singing-teacher afraid of a flat note – people who know everything about what they'd do if they were someone else, but can't handle walking in their own shoes.

*Comme Une Image* is a mature film, intelligently flesh-

ing out a subject matter through punchy and witty dialogue, and subtle character nuances... see it before it's remade into a Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks melodrama.

### The Educators

From France we head in to Germany, and *The Educators*, where three young radicals determine to shake up the world through breaking in to affluent homes, and rearranging furniture and leaving anti-materialist slogans.

What starts out as an exploration of the need to revolt when everything's been done before, deftly becomes part thriller as a returning homeowner, who is swiftly kidnapped to a cabin in the hills, disturbs their night-time anarchy.

As actions become increasingly criminal, dynamics of the group are explored and motives questioned, as revelations come thick and fast in this intelligent and slick film, looking at the inconsistencies that make us who we are.





# Happy Birthday

By Sue Holliday

"Happy birthday, dear Lawrie, happy birthday to you" were the words that rang around the Constitutional Club on the evening of 4 September.



Lawrie Chivers celebrates his 65th birthday with partner Jane.  
Photo by Bettie Cude

Lawrie had invited a large number of friends to help him celebrate the milestone that was his 65th birthday. As he said to me, "I just love a party."

Our MP, Rudi Vis, gave a speech to welcome us all and to praise Lawrie for all of his good works in the community. Then the party really began with dancing and singing. A lot of the music was from the 60s, 70s and even the 50s, and all evening the dance floor was full of people really enjoying themselves; I left at about midnight and they were still dancing.

We were lucky with the weather and those who wanted a quieter evening sat in the garden or the marquee and enjoyed conversations with friends.

Lawrie and his partner Jane had also organised a buffet fit for a king.

Jane presented Lawrie with a very large cake (but not with 65 candles), and Lawrie thanked the steward of the club for all the effort behind the scenes that made this evening so successful, and presented each of the bar staff with a bouquet of flowers. Such a lovely touch, I thought. But that is Lawrie Chivers – a kind and thoughtful man.

Once again, Lawrie, many happy returns!

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.



## Pavement disrepair

By Garth Morton of Church Lane N2

**The condition of pavement repair in East Finchley is bad and seems to be getting worse. Today, utility companies along with everyman and his dog seem to be digging up our roads and pavements. When it comes to returning them to an acceptable condition, however, it seems that pavements are the poor relations of the roads getting scant care and no attention.**

In this litigious society, it seems foolish that those responsible for the maintenance of public footpaths should leave themselves open to damages claims from people who suffer injury through trips and falls. Perhaps it is more cost effective, when the price of paying such damages is balanced against the financial burden of keeping our streets in proper condition, to let our pavements lie in this poor state of repair.

It would seem counter productive, in an age when every politician from Number 10 down is encouraging us to drive less and walk more, to force the pedestrian to negotiate such badly broken pavements. Surely this state of affairs gives a truer reflection of the seriousness with which politicians take the pedestrian in relation to the car driver. As soon as we step out of our cars, we become second-class citizens. That's all right, you might say, as we drive most places and walk only short distances. This, however, is the problem and part of the reason we are becoming an obese nation living in an ever more polluted environment.

An even more pressing concern resulting from the state of our pavements is that those with mobility problems and the elderly may be seriously restricted in their movements, if only because they fear the possible consequences of a fall. This might be especially so in winter, when it may be impossible for some people to find a sure footing on uneven ground, especially with ice under foot. The demographics of our population shows an increasing percentage of elderly people, therefore we would be wise to address these concerns.

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## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## A question of class

Well, it looks as if it's about to happen at last. The wild-eyed legislators have voted to ban hunting with dogs. So, unless we get a serious U-turn, from July 2006 your average fox will be able to sleep in peace without worrying about packs of mad dogs ripping him to shreds. All the animal lobbyists are celebrating victory after nearly 80 years. And me? Well, I'm not celebrating for the foxes, because it isn't about foxes, it's about class.

Hunting has a long tradition amongst our ruling classes. The Normans gave us the New Forest, not for trees and birds, but as somewhere the king could hunt. Medieval gamekeepers could kill poachers without worrying about the consequences because poachers were poor and kings, lords and barons were both rich and in charge. Most of the country wasn't for the people; it was for the elite to hunt on. They saw it as sport and training for war, not as a means of putting meat on the table. Over the years these ancestors of today's Countryside Alliance managed to drive bears, wolves and wild boar to extinction. Nice one? I don't think so.

### Unspeakable

Once they got their hands on firearms and an empire, these clowns set about extending the concept of slaughter as sport to lions, tigers and anything else large or small and furry in the name of empire and 'the British way of life'. Back home they picked on the poor old fox. Same bunch, public school educated toffs who held the rest of us in contempt, on horseback pursuing the uneatable in the name of fun.

Now, it's our turn. Time to tell them that they can't claim that they have 'democratic rights' to ride roughshod across the country behind a pack of hounds. It is our turn to remind them that the idea behind democracy is that what the majority want, the majority gets. Most people find the idea of killing anything for fun disgusting so why should the hunting brigade be allowed to continue doing it? Besides, I love it when the ruling classes have to face the modern world. Most of us don't really like them or what they do, any more than the peasants they drove off the land, in order to hunt poor, unsuspecting creatures, liked it back in 1066.

## A true tale for Hallowe'en

By Diana Cormack

**Twenty years ago, when my daughter was a baby, we had a family holiday in Brittany. There were fourteen of us. Both adults and children spent an enjoyable week in a converted manor situated well off the beaten track, surrounded by beautiful countryside. On our last night together we decided to take a stroll through the narrow lanes that criss-crossed the area.**

Unlike British farmers, the Bretons still allowed their hedges to grow high upon grassy banks crowded with sweet-scented flowers. Though I could no longer see them, their smell filled the night-time air. As I slowly breathed in and out, enjoying their fragrance, I seemed to have taken a step back in time. There I was on one of my childhood holidays in Wales, running back over the fields trying to get to my grandparents' cottage before it got dark.

### A dawn visitor

My grandmother was particularly fond of me. Everyone said that I was her double, not only in looks but in mood as well. She would have loved to see me get married and have children before she died, but it was not to be. As I pushed my daughter's

buggy back towards the manor I wished so much that my adored grandma had lived to see her. How proud she would have been to know that my only child bore her name.

I woke early the next morning. A light breeze was playing with the curtains. Gradually I became aware of a familiar smell, one that made me feel calm, loved and secure. Then I realised that it was the scent particular to my grandmother. I felt her presence so strongly, but I did not look, I just lay and enjoyed her being there until I drifted back to sleep.

### Gone

When I awoke in the full light of day, she had gone. But I knew the reason for her visit. She had come to take a look at her great granddaughter who lay sleeping in her cot at the other side of the room.





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Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk)



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Do you regularly play for or support a local team? Or would you be interested in reporting on sport in East Finchley?

*THE ARCHER* is currently seeking a sports reporter, so if you fancy trying your hand at writing or would like to see your club's fixtures and achievements in print, then please get in touch.

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The Club's winning team with their opponents before the match. Photo by Toni Morgan

## Muswell Hill bowlers triumph

Muswell Hill Bowling Club members Liz Baker, Joan Jupp, Pat Ellis and Sylvia Richards beat a team from Southgate in the finals of the North London Fours competition. The North London & District Women's Bowling Association finals were held at Muswell Hill Bowling Club as Liz Baker is this year's North London President.

The win rounded off a successful season for Joan Jupp, who a week earlier won the club's Ladies Championship.

Another club member, Grace Fensome, was in the team which won the final of the North London Benevolent Triples on that day. Local hairdresser Sandra Williamson and Grovelands Club team-mates

Bobby Stone and Sheila Burgess defeated Finchley in the final of the Ladies Triples.

Muswell Hill Bowling Club has had several other notable successes this season, having won the Carruthers Shield, the Friary Park Coronation Cup, the John Debenham Trophy and the Pat Hicks Trophy. Well played, Muswell Hill Bowling Club!

## Hallowe'en Hamper

By Diana Cormack

Having already raised over £3,000 for Lupus UK since the start of the year, Sippy Azizollah is continuing with her fund raising campaign into the autumn. At the end of this month she will be raffling a hamper, courtesy of Budgen's in the High Road.

Helped as usual by Rosie Townsend and other staff at the store, Sippy will be there from 10am-5pm on Saturday 30 October.

### Joint venture

This will be a joint venture for Budgen's, for whom October is also CLIC awareness month when they will be supporting the charity aimed at Challenging Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood. You can support one or both charities while popping into Budgen's for your Hallowe'en goodies. Who knows, you might win yourself a treat.

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