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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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where sold

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



A lone policewoman leads the procession towards Cherry Tree Wood.  
Photo by David Glick. See the centre pages for our festival spread.

## Power cut misery

By John Dearing

The Grange estate in East Finchley suffered three days of power cuts towards the end of May, with three power interruptions, each lasting between six and 16 hours.

Senior residential caretaker Tristan Green first knew about it on the morning of 24 May, when an elderly resident of Sycamore House told him that he had no electricity.

This was reported to Barnet Homes who promptly despatched an electrician. However, it soon became apparent that the problem was widespread and the electricity company was called.

Over the next two days, the pattern repeated itself, and the caretaking team found themselves boiling up kettles full of water and making pots of tea for residents affected.

One resident of Vane House had a freezer full of food for his child's birthday party that weekend. He called the helpline and was told he should be all

right for 12 hours as long as he kept the door shut but no information was given about when the power would be restored.

A resident of Sycamore House, who has a new baby, told *THE ARCHER* he became so concerned that he had to move the child to a friend's house until the power was restored.

EDF Energy said they sincerely apologised to 60 customers in the Central Avenue area of East Finchley for the recent power cuts, which were caused by an intermittent fault on the local network, and proved particularly difficult to trace. This can occur when heat generated at the time of the fault reseals the cable.

Finally, on 26 May they were able to pinpoint the faulty section of cable and permanent repairs

were made. EDF Energy encourages people to call the power cut helpline 0800 028 0247 if they have a power cut, as they are unable to monitor the local network remotely. They say that they will give callers their best estimate of time to restoration.

On this occasion, they received 29 calls about this incident and made 61 calls out to customers over the fault period to keep them informed and check restoration of supply. Although they have a vulnerable customers' list, no special needs customers were registered in any of the affected postcodes. They have a partnership with the WRVS, whom they can call upon to provide vulnerable customers with hot food and drink during a power cut.

## Here comes summer?

By Diana Cormack

Young visitors to the East Finchley Community Festival were among the first to enjoy the renovated children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood. Thanks to much hard work put in by the committee of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, who obtained a substantial award from the Living Spaces organisation which was matched by a grant from Barnet, new equipment and a safer surface have been provided in time for the school summer holidays.

However, regular users of the park may still be wondering about the future of the café. As reported in last month's *ARCHER*, a Freedom of Information request to Barnet Council about this then remained unanswered, as did other correspondence on the subject.

In the article, people were encouraged to telephone Barnet and ask what was going on. Many of you did and you let us know what you had learned.

It seems that there were two responses to the invitation to tender for the kiosk, but the preferred tenderer no longer wishes to take the premises. At the time of writing, Barnet Council has told *THE ARCHER* that the kiosk has been offered to a third party on the basis of a tem-

porary letting for the summer. Their performance will be monitored and necessary action will be taken to ensure continuity of occupation if this temporary letting is not converted into one with a longer term. Occupation

will commence on completion of the legal paperwork.

At the festival, well over 300 people signed a petition urging Barnet Council to get the kiosk open on a permanent basis as soon as possible.

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## THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699  
LONDON N2 8JA

WWW.THE-ARCHER.CO.UK

e-mail: THE-  
ARCHER@LINEONE.NET

### Voicemail & Fax:

Editorial/enquiries: -  
**08717 33 44 65**

Advertising/finance: -  
**08717 33 45 28**

PUBLISHED BY  
*East Finchley  
Newspapers*

CHAIR  
*Kevin Finn*

COPY EDITOR  
*John Lawrence*

EDITORIAL TEAM  
*David Hobbs  
Daphne Chamberlain  
Diana Cormack*

SUB EDITORS  
*Frances Loveday  
Ann Bronkhorst  
Pam Kent*

PICTURE EDITOR  
*Erini Rodis*

DESIGN & PRODUCTION  
*Alison Roberts*

ADVERTISING  
*John Dearing*

FINANCE  
*Sue Holliday*

ADMINISTRATION  
*Toni Morgan*

DISTRIBUTION  
*Alison Roberts  
Pam Kent*

LEGAL ADVISER  
*Francis Coulson*

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to thank all the generous  
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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 July is the copy deadline  
for the August issue.**

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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#### 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

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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

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Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

### Community Services

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

## High Road death wish

By John Dearing

**Five o'clock on a Friday evening in the High Road is usually the time for commuters to be trudging up from the tube station on their way home, people starting to queue for fish and chips, or a quiet drink for some, seated outside one of the pubs and cafes.**

However, on Friday 10 June, this humdrum scene was interrupted by the sight of a man repeatedly trying to fling himself in front of vehicles, particularly large lorries. Witnesses said he appeared to be "as high as a kite".

The police were called, and arrived impressively quickly. The man was apprehended for being under the influence of drink or drugs, and taken to Colindale police station. He was later released without charge.

## Recycling goes global

**Barnet's compulsory recycling scheme this week is attracting attention on radio and television stations around the world.**

A radio interview with Barnet's recycling crew was aired on National Public Radio in the USA and there has been other interest from Croatian and Chinese television stations.

The scheme requires all residents to recycle certain materials through regular kerbside collections and is contributing to a recycling rate in Barnet of 25%.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Barnet's cabinet member for the environment, said: "We are contacted regularly by local authorities keen to check on our progress."

## Driveway assault

**A 58-year-old woman was assaulted and robbed on her driveway in East Finchley. The incident happened on Wednesday 8 June at 6.20pm in Aylmer Road.**

The victim had just pulled up in her driveway and was getting personal belongings from the rear seat when two male suspects approached her from behind.

She was threatened then pushed to the ground and both suspects began kicking her. One of the suspects then knelt on the victim's chest and removed a high-value ring and watch.

The victim's husband heard noise coming from

the driveway and ran out to help his wife but was punched in the head. The suspects then ran off and got into a red Vauxhall that made off towards Archway Road.

The first suspect is described as a white male, aged 25, 5ft 8ins, thin build, wearing a light coloured top. The second suspect is described as a black male, aged 25, who was wearing a light coloured top, grey tracksuit bottoms and grey baseball cap.

## School meals are changing

**A pilot scheme to improve school meals is being rolled out across Barnet although not in East Finchley yet.**

Pupils at 18 primary schools across the borough will soon be tucking into homemade food cooked by kitchen staff each day, using almost entirely fresh produce.

Food being dished up will include sausages with Yorkshire pudding, homemade chicken curry with rice, homemade shepherd's pie, homemade banana loaf, freshly baked bread, oaty apple and sultana crumble and freshly made muffins.

The changes follow

meetings between the council and head teachers in response to calls from governors and parents for changes to be made to the menus. The scheme also follows on from TV chef Jamie Oliver's school meals campaign in Greenwich, and in anticipation of soon-to-be-announced Government improvements to school meals. If the pilot scheme is successful, a decision will be made on introducing the homemade meals to more schools in Barnet.

## Drug arrest in Finchley

**Following a police operation in North London a massive haul of cocaine was seized from an address in Finchley.**

Hector Holguin-Rojas, a 33-year-old cleaner, was arrested on Thursday 16 June at his home, and appeared at Brent Magistrates Court the following day charged with possession with intent to supply.

Scotland Yard said that

40kg of cocaine with an estimated street value of £1.6 million were discovered following a search of the premises.

A 20-year-old woman was also arrested at the address and bailed to return to Colindale police station.

## Planning Applications

**Lonsdale Care Home, 2 Tarling Road N2**  
Demolition of existing building, and erection of 11 houses and a three-storey block to provide six self-contained flats.

**Land between High Road and Strawberry Vale N2**

Installation of a 10-metre high street works monopole

**61 East End Road N2**

Removal of Condition 16 (the development shall achieve the "very good standard re. BRE Eco.homes") of planning application C00014AD, granted 07.03.05 for "residential development comprising three 3 bedroom houses in a two-storey building, and nine 2 bedroom flats in a three-storey building. Provision of 15 associated car parking spaces accessed from Juliana Close, and entrance gates."

**48 Fortis Green N2**

Conversion of basement into a one-bedroom self-contained flat. Provision of three car parking spaces. Single-storey conservatory at rear

**40 Fortis Green N2**

Conversion of property into four self-contained flats with three car parking spaces.

**30 Baronsmere Road N2**

Formation of new detached cycle store at front of property.

**Ground Floor Flat, 84 Durham Road N2**

Single-storey rear extension.

**48 Huntingdon Road N2**

Conversion from three flats into one dwelling house.

**KFC, 154 High Road N2**

Installation of internally illuminated fascia signs and a projecting sign. New shopfront and new gates to yard.

**63 Park Hall Road N2**

Single-storey rear outbuilding extension, to be used as a garage/shed.

**4 Stanley Road N2**

Alteration to roof, including side dormer window to facilitate loft conversion. Single-storey rear extension.

**NatWest, 85 High Road N2**

Relocation of ATM and ATM light fitting from Beresford Road to front elevation on High Road. Installation of new condenser machinery at rear to replace existing.

**385-401 High Road N2**

Installation of various illuminated signs to all elevations (13 in total) and two non-illuminated signs to east elevation.

**172 High Road N2**

Conversion of existing upper first and second floors and rear ground floor to provide three self-contained flats.





## Top of the shops

East Finchley resident Guy Swillingham is celebrating the publication of his new book *Shop Horror: The Best of the Worst in British Shop Names*.

Guy, who lives in Leslie Road, said: "The book is a loving celebration of the quirky British habit of giving pun-based names to shops. From the Vinyl Resting Place second-hand record store to Battersea Cods' Home fish and chips shop, they're all in *Shop Horror*."

Guy, 33, has travelled throughout the UK looking for the best funny shop names. This quirky quest has taken him on over 4,000 miles through 340 cities, towns and villages across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. He returned with a photo collection of more than 600 shop fronts.

### Amazing Grates

Despite shop-hunting across Britain, Guy says there's no place like home. "I've seen every funny shop sign in the country, but I'm particularly proud of East Finchley. Amazing Grates on the High Road is a wonderful name and I'm delighted to include it in my book."

Other neighbouring areas do well too. On and around Ballards Lane you can find Barber-Q barbers, Beyond The Fringe hairdressers and The Cod Father fish and chip shop. Guy, who also works as a TV producer, attributes this large number of funny shop names to the owners.

"There is such a high concentration of clever shop names in

Finchley. Shopkeepers here have shown great inventiveness and wit when it comes to business names. Some are funny because they are clever, some are funny because they are silly but, either way, they are all very amusing."

Guy hopes that readers of *THE ARCHER* will help him in his ongoing task to find even more funny shop names.

"If anyone sees a pun-based name, please do let me know via my website [www.shophorror.co.uk](http://www.shophorror.co.uk). They can also buy the book there."

*Shop Horror: The Best of the Worst in British Shop Names* (Fourth Estate, £10) is available now.

## Attention blue badge holders

Changes are being made to the Blue Badge Scheme in Barnet. The council's Assisted Travel Section will no longer be sending out reminder letters to badge holders when their badge is due to expire.

Holders are advised to check the expiry date of their badge and to apply to the council for reassessment at least six weeks before the badge expires.

Application forms for a Blue Badge are available by telephoning 020 8359 4131.

## Oh deer!

By Erini Rodis

On the Saturday night of the last Bank Holiday, a Leopold Road resident had to take a second, sober look through her kitchen window to be sure what was standing outside. A fully grown female deer, standing about waist high, was gracing her garden pond.

With her house already up for sale, Maggie Broderick was delighted at the sudden garden makeover.

Sadly this transformation was somewhat short-lived as the deer was chased away by Charlie, the family cat.

"The deer must have seen the pond and stopped for a drink, but where did she come from? She was so graceful and ended

up leaping over fences towards Church Lane."

We are now wondering where this creature got to and if anybody else has seen it in the heart of East Finchley?

Maggie also warned that wild animals should never be approached but do instead call the RSPCA on 0870 55 55 999, especially if they are in distress.



Charlie with the award. Photo by John Dearing

## Best in London

By Sue Holliday

Congratulations to everyone at the Meze Bar in the High Road. What an achievement after just two years to win the best restaurant category in the Living in London competition.

The competition was run by LBC Radio and The Independent newspaper and winners were chosen by the public.

When I visited the Meze Bar on Friday 17 June, the day of the results, owner Charlie Salcuk could still hardly speak. He just grinned from ear to ear. The gold award was already in pride of place over the bar for all to see. However Charlie did go on to tell me that he could not have done this without all his staff from the person who does the washing-up to his wife Aysel and that he was also very grateful to all those who

took the effort to vote.

Aysel revealed that at the awards ceremony, held at the Café de Paris in central London, they already knew that they had won at least bronze. The tension built as their category was announced, the bronze, then the silver and finally gold going to The Meze Bar. Charlie was just so full of pride he could hardly speak.

Aysel also told me that three of their waiters have been with them from the start and both she and Charlie were pleased for them as well.

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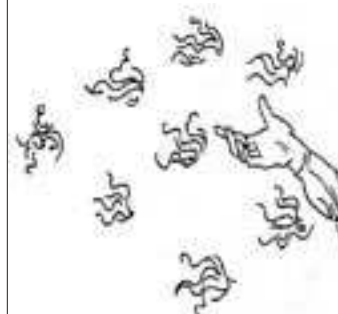
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## Walking the walk

By Ann Bronkhorst

Saturday shoppers looked puzzled as 20 people peered up at Victorian brickwork and Edwardian gables or appraised modern conversions and tower blocks. Local resident Bill Tyler was leading an architectural walk around East Finchley on 4 June. His time as President of the Finchley Society has given him particular knowledge of the area's development. Roughly following the High Road, with some detours, the group was shown a wide range of historic and recent buildings in their contexts.

### Pubs, lanes and trains

It seems that routes and transport shaped East Finchley, from the carters moving hogs, hay and manure and pausing for a drink at the Dirt House, now the Old White Lion, to the role of the railway in "putting us on the map" in the 19th century.

Ancient lanes like The Causeway and The Walks remain, as do a handful of the pubs for which East Finchley was once notorious. One of Bill's group, John Sparrow, is a descendant of the innkeeper at the Bald Faced Stag in 1851. Lost ways of life were evoked: trolley buses; coalyards and dairies where Diploma Court now stands; an imposing Congregational church behind Budgens; the old market site, obliterated by a landmine; shops in the front rooms of cottages. But one shop, Andrews, has traded as a pharmacy for over 100 years.

### Decorative details

Bill pointed out interesting architectural details and praised the rich decoration of even quite modest Victorian and Edwardian buildings. At the north end of Deansway the group discussed



The Walks, the remains of an ancient route along the western edge of Finchley Common. Picture by Ann Bronkhorst

'Tudorbethan' styles and Voysey's influence. The Nova dental surgery, converted from a public toilet, pleased Bill but he was scathing about some other recent buildings. At least, he said, the "no frills" council housing facing the High Road was unobtrusive. After admiring the "fine facade" of the Methodist church, the striking Baptist church (now flats) and the listed Library, the group headed off for a drink at The Windsor Castle in The Walks, appropriately one of

the oldest parts of East Finchley. As John Hajdu of the Fortis Green Association said when thanking Bill Tyler: "What a marvellous way to spend a Saturday morning!"



Bill Tyler in The Windsor Castle. Picture by Ann Bronkhorst

## Thank you, Finchley Society

By Daphne Chamberlain

**I was delighted to receive an invitation from The Finchley Society to speak at their meeting in May. The topic, of course, was THE ARCHER, which my friends will agree I'm always happy to talk about, and I really enjoyed the evening.**

While spreading the word to the parts of Finchley the paper doesn't always reach, it was also great to find several N2 residents there. Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome, and for showing so much interest. The society does an enormous amount on behalf of Finchley, and in the coming months we will be featuring various aspects of its work.

## Finchley museum on the airwaves

By Daphne Chamberlain

**John Keats put his poetry on to paper with a concoction of soot, gum and spirits. Two hundred years ago, everyone did. His friend Dr Henry Stephens eventually created ink, a blue-black fluid sold at three old pence a bottle, which was snapped up all over the world.**

There is a museum dedicated to Stephens in Avenue House, East End Road, and this has inspired a play by writer Shelley Silas.

She said: "I live in south London now, but I grew up in Golders Green. I actually lived in Regents Park Road for 12 or 13 years, and often went to Avenue House grounds. I'd seen the plaque about Stephens, but hadn't taken much notice."

"Then, when I went to my aunt and uncle's 50th wedding party in Avenue House, I became fascinated. As I found out more, I knew I had to write a play about Dr Stephens. I'm thrilled that it's getting air-time, and more people will know about his work."

### Tribute to

### Norman Burgess

The late Norman Burgess was a force behind establishing the Stephens Collection, and

Shelley paid tribute to him and his widow, Betty. "Norman was so helpful to me last year, when I visited the museum, and I'm so sad he won't hear the play."

Shelley, who writes for radio and theatre, also researched at the London Archives, and spoke to Henry Edmunds, a descendant of Stephens.

Her 45-minute play has a sub-plot about a present-day illiterate prison inmate, who learns to write and discovers poetry. Keats is in there somewhere too. You can hear it on BBC Radio 4, at 2.15pm on Thursday 28 July.

The Stephens Collection at Avenue House - manned by volunteers - is open 2-4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and on other days for special events. Tel. 020 8346 7812 or see [www.avenuehouse.org.uk](http://www.avenuehouse.org.uk) for further details.

## Ripples of history

**The second meeting of The Finchley Society's local history group on Wednesday 15 June was so well attended that additional seating had to be fetched. John Heathfield, the main speaker, likened researching local history to a stone thrown into a pool, ripples extending in all directions.**

He illustrated this with the story of Thomas Reynolds, a compositor from Spitalfields who in 1839 went to a Methodist teacher training college, then got a job in a school in Whetstone, supplementing his income by running a newspaper shop. He also wrote for the Barnet Press, and wrote reports of council meetings in verse. He went on to explain the importance of indexing collections and allowing indexes to be put together to obtain the complete picture; clear indexing with no fudging. He mentioned the excellent pioneering work of local historian C O Banks, much of which is located at the London Metropolitan and Barnet Archives, but often is not readily accessible because of the lack of a proper index. The talk was followed by a discussion about what members of the audience considered the three

most important things to have shaped Finchley. John Heathfield pointed out that the range of suggestions and opinions indicated how much knowledge already existed in this group. Finally, John Donovan of Friern Barnet History Society was invited to explain how that Society came into being. He explained how the Society had been precipitated into action by the Friern Barnet Hospital development, and was now undertaking a whole range of activities, having already reached over one hundred members. Oliver Natelson stressed the importance of making any research you are doing widely known - to avoid unnecessary duplication, or being pipped at the post when publishing. For further information on Finchley local history group contact David Marcus on 020 8346 1734.

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# Last buzzer for Fortismere headteacher

By Paul Chapman

**Andrew Nixon retires at the end of this term from Fortismere Secondary School after nearly 25 years as headteacher. Mr Nixon was appointed in 1983 when Fortismere was formed from the merger of Creighton School and Alexandra Park School, Rhodes Avenue, where he has been head since 1980.**



Andrew Nixon. Photo by Paul Chapman

"The work is becoming more entrepreneurial with a large budget of £7.5m per year and 170 staff," he said. "The school is the biggest business in Muswell Hill."

In terms of its development, Mr Nixon reflected that "in the past the fabric of the school had been rundown" but now ambitious plans are prominently displayed outside his office for a new performing arts centre.

## Provision for learning and sport

The school buildings have already been transformed, especially in the past few years. School Technology status was granted in 1997 and a new science block built in 1999. More recently, Mr Nixon highlighted the new learning centre and improved sports facilities that are now available. The learning resource centre, with a library and sixth form building, was finished in 2002.

An impressive new county-standard sports hall, tennis courts and new artificial pitch have been completed in 2004. Standing next to the sports area near South Wing, Mr Nixon emphasised the importance of sports provision in the curriculum. He added that "obesity is not a problem here," point-

ing out that the students need to walk across the extensive campus.

## Recipe for success

The last inspection report was very positive about the leadership of the school. It is regularly oversubscribed with most pupils living less than 1.5 miles away. There is now a popular sixth form with about 400 students.

Mr Nixon said: "The success of the school depends mainly on having good staff and colleagues to do the actual work. I'm just the public face. It is also important to have a broad curriculum."

Mr Nixon plans for an active retirement, which includes mentoring and other support work in education. He said: "It has been a delight to have been headmaster at Fortismere and to be involved in education in the community."

The search for a permanent replacement headteacher to take the school forward is continuing. David Jones, who was headteacher at Philip Morant School in Colchester for 15 years, has been appointed to take over as interim headteacher from September.

# Wella done Kelly!

By Diana Cormack

**An East Finchley hair stylist has reached the UK finals of the world renowned Wella Trend Vision Award 2005. Kelly Leach, creative director of the High Road's 202 salon, had to prove just how creative she was when she took part in the London Regional heats of this prestigious competition, held in May.**

The competitors' styles had to reflect a theme chosen from the following four: being naïve; being constructive; being rebellious; being in love. But before any cutting or styling was involved, each had to produce a mood or storyboard reflecting their creation.

## A 60s mood

Kelly chose "being rebellious" and felt that the 60s was a time when a defiant yet creative generation had brought their bold, brash new ideas to the forefront. So her board was made up of pictures that gained global coverage during that era, with the change in music represented by groups like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, the fashion revolution depicted by Twiggy modelling, along with designer Mary Quant's styles. Notorious personalities such as Christine Keeler and the Kray twins were included and, of course, there were Vidal Sassoon hairstyles, which changed the world of hairdressing forever.

After Kelly had cut, coloured and styled her model's hair, she had to show her board to a panel made up of six judges eminent in hairdressing circles, who wanted to know how the style she had created related to her chosen theme. She must have been impressive, for Kelly came top out of 800 of our best young hairstylists!

This win takes Kelly through to the UK finals to be held at the Wella World Studio, London in early September. She will be



Kelly Leach at work in the 202 salon. Photo by Diana Cormack

up against 19 others fighting for prizes, which will include an exclusive photo shoot, £1500 of Wella training vouchers plus the opportunity to represent the UK in the international final in October against winners from all over the world.

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The Guild is non profit making with a number of bursaries available.

## French farmers say "Oui" to Whetstone

**By Daphne Chamberlain**  
**Twenty-one stalls on High Road, Whetstone, on 19-21 May did not mean that the weekly farmers' market has returned. This was a one-off friendly invasion by the French.**

French farmers' markets have been established for some time in other parts of the country and organisers PB Organ Ltd told *THE ARCHER* they are hoping to hold another one over the first week of September.

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# Festival magic

The people of East Finchley came together for a truly successful community festival on Sunday 26 June. Warm weather, excellent entertainment and an amazing atmosphere made sure it was a festival to remember.

The main event at Cherry Tree Wood was kicked off with the arrival of the festival parade from the Green Man Community Centre where parents and children had spent the previous day at a costume workshop ready to transform themselves

into pirates and princesses.

Here, *THE ARCHER* brings you the best pictures from the festival to capture the magic of the day. Congratulations once again to all the organisers and volunteers who made the event such a success.



Happy-Go-Lucky Dancers. Photo by Erini Rodis



Martin Schools' Guided Tour. Photo by John Dearing



Who needs Kenwood? Photo by David Glick



Never too young to party. Photo by Toni Morgan



Jugglers - photo by John Dearing

## "Where is The Archer being read?"

Competition Winner: Mr M Archer (no connection!)

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Answers:                           | 5 Dallas, Texas        |
| 1 New York (Grand Central Station) | 6 Venice               |
| 2 Sri Lanka                        | 7 The Pyramids, Egypt  |
| 3 Taj Mahal                        | 8 Cyprus               |
| 4 Tsar Kolokol, Moscow             | 9 South Africa         |
|                                    | 10 Peru (Machu Picchu) |



Enjoying the sunshine. Photo by Toni Morgan



Headline act, The Apple-Lips Brothers by John Dearing

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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>



Love, peace and ice-cream. Photo by David Glick





Mr and Mrs Timms with The Archer's Diana Cormack and Pam Kent. Photo by Toni Morgan



Storytellers tent by John Dearing



Baa staff by David Glick



Antigua Joe - photo by David Glick



The procession enters the park. Photo by David Glick

## Eastfinchleyclinic

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Above left: Two dogs by Toni Morgan  
Above right: Yoga display - photo by Erini Rodis  
Left: Crowds gather round the acoustic stage. Photo by Erini Rodis

**Congratulations to the festival committee for another festival success!**





# Archie at 65

By David Tupman  
Archie, East Finchley station’s famous statue, is 65 this July and gives an exclusive interview to *THE ARCHER*



Archie - photo by David Tupman

**The Archer:** Are you really 65 years old Archie – you look so much younger?

**Archie:** Oh yes, I was unveiled on 22 July 1940 by my dear old friend Eric Aumonier the famous sculptor though I was recast in 1957 and touched up in 1996. £245 – that’s all I cost all those years ago. Eric did other sculptures, you know, for London Transport, but none are as distinguished as me. I am twice the size of a typical chap and do you know I’m very international in make-up.

**The Archer:** International, Archie?

**Archie:** Yes, I’m made up of six hundred weight of beech built around a steel support and covered in five hundred weight of sheet lead. The beech came from Czechoslovakia and the gold for my gilt features is from South Africa. I am proud to say my bow is of English ash which was bent by steam and coated in copper and gilt.

**The Archer:** You are a mine of information Archie, what else can you recall?

**Archie:** I have seen so many things in East Finchley – the Blitz and that frightful land mine in Chapel Court, the destruction of the Congregation Church where Budgens now is, the end of the routemaster buses. I loved them all. Oh yes just imagine the times before all that traffic, graffiti and the funny old red brick McDonalds building.

**The Archer:** Is it true that you are a trainspotter?

**Archie:** If only I hadn’t lost my spectacles in the 1987 gales. I do love trains. We used to have steam train excursions to Southend – yes from East Finchley! I’ve seen them all on the Northern Line; the 1938 electric stock with its red livery, green interiors and comfy seats was my favourite. You could open the windows,. you know. They tell me the new trains with that women’s ghastly voice are a trifle hot. I am glad I don’t have to travel with my lead coat – I’d die!

**The Archer:** So Archie, you seem very chippa, what is your recipe for looking so good at 65?

**Archie:** Quite simply, I put it down to an outdoor life and I haven’t put any weight on since 1940. Holding this bow for 65 years has certainly kept me fit. Between you and me, I do have to admit to a bit of rust in my inspection plate, and the occasional bout of vertigo, but I mustn’t grumble.

**The Archer:** Thank you so much for talking to us. Happy Birthday.

**Archie:** The pleasure was all mine. We are both East Finchley icons – here’s to the next 65 years!

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Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

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# YOUNG ARCHER

## Singing together

The English Pocket Opera Company visited Martin Junior School to introduce Year 5 to the world of opera. Later on in the term, after working on it in class, the children joined in an actual performance. Here is a report of that event, written by *Michael Elliot-Garcia*:

When my class, 5J of Martin Junior School, went to the Millfield Theatre to perform I was extremely excited about the whole thing. When we got there we were shown around the theatre and then we had to practise singing “Robin Hood”. Unfortunately it was very hot inside the theatre and I was wearing warm clothes. After we had practised singing we went through the whole thing with other schools. At first I wasn’t

one of the main characters but Louis felt uncomfortable in the wig he was wearing as the clown Faddeo. So, after we had lunch, me, Olivia (Columbine), Kiwanda (Paliaccio) and Jordan (Harlequin) went to get changed and put on our make-up. I had a blue and yellow, frilly costume and a spectacular blue, yellow and orange spiky wig. When I came back I received an unexpected visit from my mum. After a little while waiting,

the play finally started. There was a lot of loud singing, which hurt my ears a bit. We then ate ice-cream at the interval. When it was over, it was our turn to perform. At first me, Olivia, Kiwanda and Jordan had to make a picture and then the whole class performed. After the play I had a picture taken with the real Faddeo. At last, after a very tiring day, I went home after a very enjoyable experience.

## What a scorcher!

**Held on the hottest day of the year so far, the 2005 East Finchley Festival five-a-side football tournament was hosted by Martin Schools as part of their Summer Fun Day on Saturday 18 June.**



Some of the winning players show off their medals. Photo by Iwona Susi.

Martin Infant School fielded four teams who battled it out to the final. The winning team was the *No Stars* from Year 2 - Ben, Dominic, Hamish, Conor and Vivek.

Six teams from Martin Junior School played three games each, with the winners eventually being class 5J - Kieran, Michael, Jemal, Andrew and Callum. The two winning teams

received their medals from Councillor Alison Moore and were invited to join the Festival parade on 26 June to receive their trophies from Rudi Vis MP at the Festival.

## Young Archer summer competition

**If you enjoy writing or drawing, why not show us how good you are by entering our summer competition? You could also win a small prize!**

Because it’s his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, we’re basing it on Archie, the statue at East Finchley tube station. The competition is open to readers of up to sixteen years of age and there are three categories (you can enter all three if you want to). They are:

- A story of no more than 400 words involving Archie in any way you like.
- A poem about Archie.
- A cartoon strip of Archie with up to six pictures in black and white.

The closing date is 8 September. Please remember to include your name, age and contact details. Post your entries to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email them to the-archer@lineone.net

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

Six chess players from the club, run by John Fleetwood, have done very well to win through to the National Chess Championships at Pontin’s holiday camp in Norfolk. There will be a full report in next month’s issue.

The Holy Trinity School Association organised a highly successful Summer Fair, which raised £2,437.00. They also held a fashion show selling half-price designer clothes to raise money for school funds. The evening was a great success, with mums modelling the clothes.

Fun events to make the children more aware of how to lead healthier lives and of the many aspects of healthy living are to be included in a PSHE focus week.

Year 4 had a great day out at the London Transport Museum. Year 6 are getting ready for the annual visit to the Isle of Wight.

### Martin Schools

The school raised more than £220 by making and selling cakes (iced by Helen Barney and Jo Filippone in the office) for the Starlight Foundation. This charity provides treats and grants wishes for terminally ill children throughout the country.

Twenty-seven cricketers from Years 4 and 5 watched England play Bangladesh at Lords.

Year 6 learned a lot on their educational visit to the Imperial War Museum.

The Infant School is supporting the Pebbles Project, which is setting up crèches and schools in the impoverished townships of South Africa. The infants are collecting suitable small gifts to be packed in a shoebox and sent on to the children overseas.





## GLH zooms ahead

By Kathryn Scorza

If you had walked across the road from East Finchley tube station 50 years ago you would have found a car hire business just as today. But rather than jumping into a GLH minicab, you would have found the limousines and be-suited and be-capped chauffeurs of Wilds Car Hire.

Cyril Wilds (pictured) established the business before the war from lock-up garages on Trinity Road, to cater for weddings, funerals and private hire, and bought 14 East Finchley High Road in 1953.

In 1968 the newly founded Greater London Hire moved onto the site, and in 1969 John Scott (an East Finchley resident off and on since 1947) took over the fledgling minicab business, which had been started by

Cyril's son Nigel as demand for chauffeured cars diminished.

John and a partner were based in one Portacabin with a driver who doubled up on the phone. "The three of us ate, slept and worked in shifts". In 1969 the annual turnover was £2,000.

Starting in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, GLH covered an ever-widening swathe of North London, and opened a City office in 1989.



Cyril Wilds with his son Nigel in 1948.

### A local business

In 2005 the East Finchley office alone has around 60 staff (excluding drivers) many living in East Finchley. Over the years, the solitary Portacabin was joined by others, and this year the much-planned move into the house was finally realised, when the previous tenants moved out. During this expansion, GLH has always retained the feel of a local business - indeed 10 per cent of the entire turnover is walk-in business from the station.

On 2 May the company took over Mastercars of Kings Cross, strengthening its presence across the whole of London to a fleet of around 300 vehicles. The sizeable GLH motorbike and van fleets are based at a despatch office in the City, although despatch services are also available in East Finchley.

Managing Director John Scott estimates that today, a little over 35 years after it was founded, GLH is the second largest car hire firm in the capital - no mean feat for three men in a hut!

## Balancing your diet with your daily dose

by Simone Baroke

Many of us take regular medication, and the older we get, the more pills are added to our daily 'cocktail'. Over prolonged time periods, many common prescription and over-the-counter drugs can drain your body of nutrients.

They can inhibit absorption and metabolism or increase their rate of excretion, which could then lead to further ill health. So why not take action by making some simple adjustments to your diet?

According to the British Medical Journal, more than 40% of elderly people suffer from folate deficiency, which can cause anaemia, poor memory, depression, heart and blood vessel disease, and also increases the likelihood of developing certain forms of cancer.

Commonly-taken medication that has shown to deplete folate levels include aspirin, HRT, antacids (for example Pepto-Bismol, Gaviscon, milk of magnesia), Metformin, Glucophage, diuretics, anticonvulsants (for example Phenytoin), antibiotics, Methotrexate, some cholesterol-reducing drugs and histamine-2 blockers (for example, Tagamet, Zantac).

If you are taking any of these drugs regularly, it would be wise to increase your folate intake. Good sources include broccoli, spinach, Brussels sprouts, beetroot, beans, eggs and mushrooms.

Impaired mineral absorption is also a very common problem, especially where calcium is concerned. This can significantly contribute to the brittle bone disease osteoporosis, as well as to high blood pressure and muscle cramping. If you regularly take antacids, steroidal drugs (for example,

cortisone or Prednisolone), proton pump inhibitors, thyroxine, stimulant laxatives (for example, Senokot or Dulcolax), histamine-2 blockers, anticonvulsants and loop diuretics, you should take extra care to consume foods high in calcium. These include cabbage, broccoli, beans, dairy products, sardines, nuts, seeds, whole grains, dried apricots and figs.

Good hydration is equally important. As we get older, our body becomes less efficient at registering when we are thirsty and many older people end up chronically dehydrated without realising it. This is a potentially serious problem, which can cause kidney damage, impaired mental function and it also stops your body from excreting toxins efficiently.

Take special care if you are on diuretics (water tablets) as they can severely dehydrate you. Try to drink two litres of fluid a day, even when you are not feeling thirsty.

Simone Baroke is a Nutritional Therapist and practises in Finchley. She can be contacted on 020 8883 0915.

## Farmers' markets

Farmers' markets will be coming to Alexandra Palace grounds on 3 July, 10 July, 24 July, 31 July, 7 August, 14 August, running from 10am-3pm.



The GLH Board: (back l-r) Michael Mandel (Sales Manager), Peter Ross (Passenger Division Manager) (front l-r) Neil Michaeloudis (Finance Director), John Scott (Managing Director), Ross Gibbons (Director)

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Motoring excess-ories

We live in weird times, times when every child has to be protected from the world outside by two tons of pollution for that 200-yard trip to school and where unfeeling greenies condemn parents for caring about their children's environment. But what makes it so bad for the caring, sharing parent at the wheel of an urban tank is embarrassing knowledge that some people out there are so stupid they think that Range Rovers were designed for crossing muddy fields, not Sainbury's car park. Do not worry, help is at hand.

At last someone with enough intelligence to realise that the average tank commander is stupid, vain, arrogant and cares nothing for the planet has solved the clean car embarrassment problem. Yes, it's here at last, spray on mud for your suburban destroyer.

No more will your Strange Rover look too clean outside the school gates, now a few squirts of instant mud and you too can pretend you've been somewhere more adventurous than Waitrose. A true first for mindlessness, a great chance to demonstrate stupidity on the roads of London and a whole new low in motoring accessories.

Ever since some German bloke called Benz stuck an engine in the back of a cart, drivers have been doing their best to flash up their cars and done it with all the taste of a pig with a hangover.

In the 1920s the rich and stupid could have an entire car made to their own spec, right down to having a solid gold teddy bear as a mascot. In the 1950s there were blinds on the windows and stickers announcing where you went on holiday, in the 70s it was paint jobs and by the 80s your average bloke was sticking expensive wheels on cheap cars and thinking he was a pretty cool dude.

But that's nothing compared with today's low-rent extras, and I'm not talking about tyres or sound systems, I'm talking smug.

I know that every child is 'special', but why does every smug parent have to announce it by sticking a "baby on board" badge on the back? Do they think I care? Why the "small person on board" sticker? Is the driver trying to warn me that they are too short to see over the top of the dashboard? Or are they smugly announcing the growth of their children and will it be replaced with a 'teenager taxi' sticker when the kid starts getting drunk and crazy on Friday nights?

And then there is the 'mother-to-be on board' badge. What does that mean, and what is medical science up to? The last time I saw one it was on the back of a Golf driven by a bloke. Now if he is going to give birth I want to know about it, but the rest of them should stick to announcing their pregnancies somewhere other than the back of their mud sprayed Strange Rover, it really is an accessory too far.

## Police rise to new heights

Five of the highest peaks in the British Isles were conquered by a team of 20 officers from the Metropolitan Police in June, nine of whom were from Barnet. They were raising funds for a cancer charity, Sebastian's Action Trust. On Monday 6 June, they left Barnet to travel to Scotland. On Tuesday morning they climbed Ben Nevis (1344m) then travelled to the Lake District where in the early evening they climbed Scafell Pike (978m).

Having completed this they motored down to Wales and at 3am on Wednesday morning they climbed Snowdonia (1085m), enjoying a magnificent sunrise as they did so. Later on in the day they caught a ferry over to southern Ireland and on Wednesday evening began the climb of Carrauntoohil (1040m) in the Macgillycuddy Reeks.

Having completed this there was no rest yet; driving up to the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland they climbed Slieve Donard (850m) on Thursday morning, completing this and the whole challenge by Thursday lunchtime. The group then drove back to Dublin for a much-needed bath or shower, then

sleep, before returning home on Friday.

### Breathtaking

Detective Constable Simon Hunt, one of those taking part, said afterwards: "What a fantastic experience, I'd do it all again if I had the chance. I have seen some breathtaking sights and views as we made

these climbs. Mind you, we had exceptional weather that made it a lot easier. There were people of all levels of ability taking part and everyone got on really well. We are well on target to achieve our goal of £10,000 so if anyone reading this owes us money, can we have it now please?"

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## Regular Events

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- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm. An "ageing well" class for older people.
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga classes** Tuesdays 8-9:30pm at EF Methodist Church. Experienced teacher. Call Rosalind 8444 8134.

### DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. Creative writing, poetry and prose. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 11 & 25 July at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages. Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events: Call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280 www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

### CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Thursdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Sophie on 8444 1890
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people. Contact Rene & Reuby 8883 0448 or Sylvia 8958 7878
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



Asagi Nakata is playing "Nocture in C#Minor by Chopin" on the piano. Photo by Betti Blatman

## Young performers show their class

By Betti Blatman

**I felt privileged to attend the North London Festival's Prize Winners' Concert on May 22. It was a wonderful experience watching and listening to such highly talented and gifted children perform with so much dedication and commitment.**

Rachel Douglas, chair of the North London Festival, introduced 25 prize winners ranging across dance, modern dance duet, piano, piano trio, recitation, recorder, violin, vocal trio and voice, all of whom provided an extremely entertaining evening.

When Asagi Nakata, aged nine, played *Nocturne in C# Minor* by Chopin on piano, she held the audience enraptured until the last note was played and the applause for her performance was deafening. She was the only winner presented with two cups and is pictured at the piano surrounded by her

cups and beaming widely.

Justine Smart, aged eight, enthusiastically demonstrated her dancing skills in *The Tennessee Wig Walk*.

Christina Scott, aged 15, sang *Ava Maria* by Schubert with a voice like an angel.

Sara Medina, from East Finchley, runs the piano section and the calibre of her students shows how inspirational a teacher she is.

The cups and trophies were presented by Geoff Hanson, composer and organist at All Saints Church in East Finchley and Director of East Finchley Arts Festival.

## Keep fit and dance

**Dance is a fabulous way to keep fit and healthy and have lots of fun at the same time. If you have a sedentary job and need to get moving, if you are retired and looking to stay fit or if you are young and wanting to learn some new steps, there are classes and special dances for you.**

J & B Dance teach ballroom and Latin American dance every Wednesday at St Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley Central. Beginners' classes are at 7.30-8.45pm and improvers at 8.30-10.30pm.

The group also holds Saturday night dances and Sunday tea dances at Christ Church in High Road, North Finchley.

For details, contact John on 02084440280 or visit the website at www.jandbdance.co.uk.

## What's On...

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

**Thursday 7 - Sunday 17 July:**

**Wild Thyme Productions** present *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, North Road, Highgate, N6. Evening performances 8 pm, weekend matinees 4 pm. Box office 020 8340 3488.

**Saturdays from 9 July:**

**Concerts at Kenwood:** Saturday 9 July - *The Summer Prom with Hayley Westenra*, Saturday 16 July - *Grease* a Musical Concert, Saturday 23 July - *Ibrahim Ferrer* (a Cuban musician), Saturday 30 July - *Will Young* plus support and Saturday 6 August - *Jools Holland with his R & B orchestra*. See www.picnicconcerts.com for details.

**Sunday 10 July**

**East Finchley Methodist Church** presents *Masterpieces for Clarinet Trio* at 8 pm. Members of Red Baroque Catherine Morphet (clarinet) Bryan Fairfax (violin) Caroline Soresby (piano) perform a programme ranging from exotic to classical and gypsy to jazz. Free admission, with a collection in aid of The North London Hospice.

**Monday 18 - Sunday 31 July:**

**Night of Fire**, an exhibition of Craig Johnson's photography (see Shot in the dark, above), at the Harris Fine Arts Gallery, 710 High Road, N10. Free entry. Tel 8445 2804.

**21 July - 11 September**

**Children's Summer Funfair** at Alexandra Palace, 12 noon - 7pm. Admission free.

## Local historian makes it prime time

By John Dearing

**The Channel Five documentary series *World War 1 In Colour* was broadcast on Thursdays during March and April this year between 7.15-8 pm, peak viewing time for television.**

East Finchley residents who watched it may have noticed the familiar face of Peter Hart, known locally (among other things) for his involvement with the East Finchley Festival, both behind the bar in the beer tent and on stage with The Fabulous Applelips Brothers.

Peter is the oral historian in the sound archive at the Imperial War Museum,

and is an expert on World War One. He appeared on three of the programmes, speaking about the war in air, the Battle of Jutland, and Gallipoli.

### Brought to life

The programmes featured an innovation, whereby much black-and-white film of the time was rendered into colour by a new computerised process.

The interviews were filmed in an old house in Islington that has lots of dark wood panelling, and apparently is often used when producers want to add gravitas to their programmes.

Peter has been interviewed as an expert in previous documentaries, such as the detailed series about Jutland, last year. He will be appearing in an edition of *Battlefield Detectives* about the same topic in Sep-



Peter Hart. Photo by John Dearing

tember, and in a documentary about Gallipoli being produced by Turkish television.

Peter is better known as an author, and his latest book *The Somme* is published on 1 July. Previous books include *Jutland*, written with Nigel Steel in 2003, *Bloody April* published in March of this year, about the conflict in the air during the Battle of Arras in 1917 and *Gallipoli*, written in 1994, translated into Turkish and reprinted recently to accompany the upcoming documentary.

As a consequence, he has received several consignments of copies of the Turkish translation, which he has passed on to our local Turkish community via the Meze Bar in the High Road!

## One World

By Helen Drake

**Have you ever eaten Makayabu? It is an aromatic fish dish from the Democratic Republic of Congo and was one of the delicious edible contributions to the International Evening at Martin Schools on Thursday 16 June.**

Staff, children and parents, many dressed in their national costume, sampled an array of food from around the world, including chick pea curry and Bombay aloo from India; fried plantains from the Caribbean and Africa; Bulgarian banitsa; Dutch liquorice; sushi from Japan; and baklava from Greece - a diverse combination not available on any restaurant menu.

The evening opened with a carnival atmosphere as the Junior School Steel Band took to the stage led by Barnet music teacher Alfred Totesaut, a veteran of the Notting Hill Carnival. A change in cultural direction was provided by the Junior School rock band who, in their set, gave an edgy performance of "Should I stay or should I go"

by The Clash, and a version of the Kate Melua song "Crawling up the Hill", sung by Year 5 pupil Laura O'Driscoll.

Kevin Anscorb, headteacher of the Infant School, commented on the "relaxed, joyful atmosphere" of the event.

The International Evening was a fitting finale to a Multicultural Week held in both schools. Teacher Julie Taylor, one of the organisers of the week in the Infant School explained: "Parents were invited in to the school to read stories either in their home language or to tell a story about a different culture. Each class has been doing cross-curricular activities culminating in a special assembly where the children will present their work to each other."





Maisy with some of her young fans. Photo by Helen Drake

## Maisy visits Children's Bookshop

By Helen Drake

**Jacqueline Wilson, Anthony Horowitz, and Michael Morpurgo (the outgoing Children's Laureate) are just some of the well-known authors who have already made an appearance at the Children's Bookshop, Muswell Hill, as part of this special year celebrating more than 30 years in the business.**

On Saturday 21 May it was the turn of the character Maisy, much loved by small children everywhere, with the enormously popular character The Gruffalo appearing on Saturday 18 June.

"Meeting an author is great for parents but meeting an actual character means much more to children under four," said Kate Agnew, daughter of Lesley Agnew, who has run the bookshop for over 10 years.

With the rise of corporate bookselling, why is the Children's Bookshop still thriving? "Our range of picture books is broader than the chains. We also concentrate on individual books rather than just the characters you can buy everywhere," said Kate. "We only employ staff who are genuinely interested in the books and who know the titles and the characters."

Whereas most of the big chains purchase their stock

through central buying, stock at the Children's Bookshop is purchased by its shop floor staff so they are very knowledgeable about the range.

Indeed, staff are given days off solely for the purpose of reading new titles so they may offer a better service to customers and can talk people through the books.

Horrid Henry fans will be pleased to know that Francesca Simon will be signing books on 9 July, and Malorie Blackman, author of *Noughts and Crosses* will be appearing on 23 July.

The Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop, believed to be the longest-running children's bookshop in the UK, won the "Best Bookshop" category of the LBC Living London Awards 2005.

For information on forthcoming events contact the Children's Bookshop, 29 Fortis Green Road, N10 3HP on 020 8444 5500.

## RSPCA news

**The RSPCA Spring Fayre held in May raised £140 for clinic expenses. The charity thanked everyone who supported the event.**

The next event is the Companion Dog Show to be held on Sunday 17 July at the Pentland Carnival in Victoria Park, Long Lane. Anne Lewis, of Manor Park Road, has organised this since 1993, so this is her thirteenth year at the helm. All her assistants are RSPCA volunteers and all profits from the show and our stall go to the clinic expenses.

There are 16 pedigree and novelty classes for all dogs from six months of age. Entry costs

£1.50 per class or six for £7.50. Forms are available at the clinic in Park Road, Animal Aid and Advice in the High Road and at Dunlop Pet Shop, Long Lane, Central Finchley. Entries are taken from 12 noon and judging starts at 1.30pm. News has just been received that our MP Rudi Vis had added his voice to a campaign calling on the Government to ban private owners from keeping primates (apes and monkeys to you and me) as pets.

## Letters to the editor

### Treehouse reassurance Dear Editor

One of your readers wrote about the site of the TreeHouse School for autistic children in Woodside Avenue in June. I would like to reassure all readers that in fact the foliage and wildlife have sprung up again in the past few weeks, and that we are concerned to preserve as much of the green meadow as possible.

We expect to start construction of our permanent building early next year. The temporary building is in the centre of the site to enable construction to take place at the back of the site behind us, and it will then be removed.

We have really appreciated the understanding and support of local residents through our application for planning permission and subsequent move to the temporary building.

We hope that people will bear with us during what will obviously be a disruptive time of construction. The outcome will be an attractive site that preserves the open green aspect across the lower part and provides a much-needed service for children with autism in North London.

**Christine Asbury  
Chief Executive, TreeHouse**

**Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",  
The Archer, PO Box 3699,  
London N2 8JA or e-mail  
the-archer@lineone.net.**

## OBITUARY

### Leonard Bruce Archer

By Miranda Newton

**A funeral service for Bruce Archer, former president of the Design Research Society, was held at Holy Trinity Church, East Finchley.**

Although he was born south of the river, Bruce spent almost all his adult life living in Highgate and East Finchley.

He was born in November 1922, the son of a serving soldier in the Scots Guards. After the war, he worked as an engineering designer, designing jigs, tools and later process plant. Work included involvement on the Routemaster bus, and precision tobacco processing machinery for Gallaghers. In 1950 he married JoAnn, forming a long and very happy marriage.

Bruce became a member of the Institution of Engineering in 1950 and in 1951 was awarded its national prize for the best thesis on design. That same year, the drab post war scene was galvanised by the Festival of Britain Exhibition. Bruce was deeply impressed by the modern arts, science and technology on show and, most importantly, industrial design. He realised that this discipline offered an opportunity to be both artist and engineer.

From 1957, he lectured at the Central School of Art and Design and began writing articles for Design magazine, promoting what he called a "rational approach to design". He was one of the first to promote design as a serious subject

for study.

In 1961, Bruce was invited to lead a research project in the Industrial Design Unit at the Royal College of Art where many hospital necessities were designed that went into widespread use. Amongst these were the *Kings Fund* hospital bed, the standard mobile medicine trolley, electro magnetic smoke control doors and a soiled dressings receptacle.

Bruce became a professor at the Royal College of Art, heading the Department of Design Research and stayed working with the college for 25 years. In the Thatcher era, he campaigned to get design and technology into the school curriculum. In 1976, he was awarded the CBE.

After retiring in 1988, he remained active as president of the Design Research Society and involved himself with Diabetes UK and the Parson Woodforde Society.

It meant a lot to Bruce that in the past 10 years he lived in an extended family of three generations here in East Finchley. He received superb and unstinting care from the Middlesex Hospital, from Haringey Carers and district nurse service and from St Anne's Palliative care team. He died at home with his family, according to his wishes.

Honest, kind, generous, and scholarly, he will be sadly missed.

## A school week to talk about

By Diana Cormack

**Everyone at Martin Infant School enjoyed a week full of events designed to encourage the development of the children's ability in speaking and listening, and so extend and enrich their learning potential.**

Staff and parents prepared a series of activities that helped to develop the infants' social skills, extend their comprehension abilities, improve their listening and attention capabilities and practise their use of expressive language.

For example, pupils used key communication skills to help blindfolded friends negotiate an obstacle course and they learned to dance by listening to instructions and interpreting the moves in time to the music (plus they had to be in synch with everyone else.) There were tongue twister games, charades, mime, hidden musical instruments to identify, maths shopping games and even geography activities, which involved mapping directions.

Throughout the week, a volunteer group of parents, all talented artists and musicians, provided an on-going theme by working with the children on an interpretation of Peter and the Wolf. As well as acting out the drama in small groups, the

youngsters made storyboards and produced puppets, clay models, collage work and drawings to go on display as part of a superb end of the week show.

This was a full performance of Peter and the Wolf by parents, introduced by drama teacher Vicky Levy and performed by Sarah Down on piano with Catrin Dillon reading the dialogue. The infants sat enthralled and involved, joining in silently by miming at appropriate points.

They were also much taken by an amazing animal which had appeared overnight in their assembly hall. It was a huge wolf, big enough to allow children to go into its stomach and find the quacking duck. Tribute for this must be paid to David Aronsohn and to other parents involved in the production - Katrin Aradi, Helen Drake, Caroline Galletti, Lou Hains, Cecilia Holmes and Lisa and Phillip Vallentin.

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## Shot in the dark

By Diana Cormack

Some readers might recognise the name of Craig Johnson from the poems he had published in *THE ARCHER* when he was a teenager. Since those days in the mid-nineties, Craig has gone on to gain a degree and has studied many aspects of print and journalism as well as learning a great deal about the world of media and communications.

Craig still writes poetry, but he has also developed another aspect of his creative ability, which has little to do with writing.

At college Craig became interested in photography and one aspect of his work in that medium has got him noticed both here and in the USA. Taking photographs of lights at night is not unusual, but doing so through the windscreen of a moving car is certainly innovative.

Using a digital camera, he creates pictures with a surreal effect, which stimulate the imagination, rather like trying to identify shapes in the clouds. It is hard to believe that these intriguing swirls of light and flashes of colour spring from such mundane scenes as the

traffic lights at the Bald Faced Stag or the vehicles along East End Road.

"I like picking up on things that aren't there, seeing things on the flip-side," Craig said. "It's all a matter of perception."

### Night of Fire

Still a resident of East Finchley, Craig uses a lot of local scenes in his photography, though you may not recognise many of them as such. You can see some of his work at an exhibition entitled 'Night of Fire', which is to be held at the Harris Fine Arts Gallery, 710 North Finchley High Road, N10 from 18-31 July. Entry is free on Monday-Saturday from 9.30am-5.30pm, Sunday from 11am-5.00pm. Tel 8445 2804.

Visit Craig's website at [www.pritphoto.net](http://www.pritphoto.net) for other news of this young talent.



East Finchley High Road as you've never seen it before. Photo by artist Craig Johnson.

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Strawberry Vale, The Grange, Long Lane area and Deanery Close.

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## A mountain to climb

A local woman is packing her backpack for a charity trek through the Himalayas.

Justin Mead will be raising money for Voluntary Service Overseas by camping and walking for a week at high altitude through the mountain range.

She expects to face contrasting conditions, with daytime temperatures in the mid-20s Celsius but night temperatures falling well below freezing.

Justin, of Long Lane, said: "I am approaching retirement age and have never done anything like this before, so I'm quite excited."

The challenge takes place in August and she is aiming to raise £2,500 to support the work of VSO in running health, education and farming projects overseas. She can be contacted on 020 8883 6834.

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