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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Holy Trinity Church - the centre of controversy. Photo by Erini Rodis

Protests at plan for church phone mast

A plan to install a mobile phone mast in Holy Trinity Church has sparked protests from people living close to the building in Church Lane. These residents claim the mast would be a potential health risk and a threat to the value of their homes.

The Parochial Church Council has agreed that Holy Trinity Church should house a mast within the bell spire. The church authorities say it would improve reception for mobile phone users in East Finchley and provide better access to the new 3G mobile services like music and video.

Before going ahead with the installation, Holy Trinity Church was obliged to consult with local residents ahead of a final decision by the Diocese of London.

Health risk?

Some of those near neighbours raised serious concerns about the proposal and a petition was organised in an effort to get the plan dropped. At the time of going to press they had gathered 122 names.

Bob and Patti Owens, who live opposite the 159-year-old church, called on the Diocese of London to adopt a precautionary approach, such as has been taken by Kent County Council, which has banned the installation of mobile phone masts on its property on health grounds.

The couple said, "In our view, mobile phone base stations and masts should be sited only in places well away from houses, schools and hospitals, until such time as it can be shown conclusively that they represent no health risk."

Campaigners against phone masts claim that some research indicates that exposure to electromagnetic radiation from the masts is a danger to those living nearby but other international studies have found no appreciable risks.

No problem

Revd Laurence Hill of Holy Trinity Church wrote, in a letter to nearby residents, that base stations were already installed in several hundred churches around the country without any problems.

He continued, "Indeed, the installation itself might well reduce the number of aerials required locally, since it is likely that one high aerial in the church would do the job of several lower aerials sited more conspicuously

around the neighbourhood."

Holy Trinity Church, which has few reliable sources of income, will be able to charge an annual fee, said to be less than £10,000, for hosting the mast.

The deadline for comments on the plan has passed and residents must now wait to see if their objections were sufficient to cause the Parochial Church Council to reconsider.

Dixon of ... East Finchley?

By Francis Coulson

Policing in East Finchley is to become more visible and more responsive to the community with the chance of a mini police station opening on the High Road.

This was the message given out by Inspector Nick Davis as he launched the Safer Neighbourhood initiative at the East Finchley Constitutional Club on 28 April.

The Safer Neighbourhood initiative is about three things: first, a visible police presence with a beat officer; second, using police resources not only to combat crime but also to free local communities from the fear of crime; third, involving the community by creating avenues through which local people's concerns can be fed back to the police.

These resources are: one sergeant, one constable and three Community Support Officers. The CSOs have powers of detention and enquiry but are there to act as eyes and ears for the police proper rather than as substitutes for them.

PC Carter will continue his role as community liaison officer. Indeed, the whole Safer Neighbourhood team is intended as an addition to and not a substitute for

current policing arrangements.

Safer neighbourhoods

Currently, East Finchley policing is done from Golders Green and Colindale. The plan now is to open a 'mini cop shop' in the High Road as a headquarters and public access point for the team.

The location for this local police station is expected to be the premises of the recently closed Chivers Brothers' A1 Motors shop.

Finally, the police are seeking to establish a local focus panel, with whom they will meet regularly to ensure feedback of current local concerns. These are not to be confined to 'heavy' crime such as burglary and robbery but include anything which 'makes the locals feel less safe', including graffiti, anti-social behaviour and small-time drug-dealing or drug-taking.

The East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood team can be reached on 020 8721 2845 and 07887 632767.

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**14 June is the copy deadline
for the July issue.**

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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

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Disability Info Service 02084466935
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Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
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Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

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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

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Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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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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Crime Stoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
E.F. Community Police Officer:
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)
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❖ **Credit Union**, Green Man Com-
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❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Com-
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❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Zero tolerance on selling alcohol to youngsters

Barnet Council has introduced a zero tolerance policy against those who flout the law and sell alcohol to youngsters.

Trading Standards officers are in the process of warning all licensees in the borough that they are being constantly monitored and offenders will be prosecuted.

Already this year there have been three prosecutions and seven formal cautions have been issued. If traders are prosecuted for under-age sales the police can apply to

the local magistrate's court to revoke their licences.

There are two reasons for the zero tolerance policy: added vigilance should prevent young people in Barnet from being able to purchase alcohol easily and the spotlight will be firmly on those licensees who turn a blind eye to the purchase of alcohol by young people.

Under-age drinking is a growing problem nationally and Barnet Council is committed to taking preventative measures in the borough.

The Licensing Act 2003 transferred responsibility for licensing pubs, clubs, restaurants and off-licences from the magistrates to the Council. There are four licensing objectives included in the Act: the prevention of nuisance, the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm.

Further details on the licensing policy are on the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk/licensing.

Are you entitled to council tax benefit?

Nearly 800 pensioners in Barnet could be set to receive backdated council tax benefits thanks to a take-up drive by the council.

Letters and application forms have been sent out to 785 older people in the borough, who, the council believes, may be eligible for financial help but are not currently claiming.

Anyone who is eligible may be reimbursed with some or all of their council tax payments for last year, as well as qualifying for the benefit this year.

Nigel Hamilton, the council's head of housing, said, "We know that there are a lot of pensioners in the borough who are not claiming what they are

entitled to. In many instances, this is simply because the person does not realise that they are eligible for help. We hope that this mailing will encourage these people to come forward."

The council has been working on the take-up scheme in conjunction with the Pensions Service.

To find out if you are eligible for help, contact the council's housing benefits office on 020 8359 2111 for an application form or visit www.barnet.gov.uk and follow the link to Benefits and Tax.

Society attacks planning cuts

The Finchley Society has attacked Barnet Council cuts in senior planning staff, saying that these will seriously hinder the work of the department.

Posts of planning enforcement officers and the council's conservation manager have been lost.

Stephen Cooper, chair of The Finchley Society planning committee, said, "Owners will be encouraged to make unauthorised alterations, and the number of planning infringements will increase.

"I am amazed at these redundancies at a time when new planning regulations will increase the workload on what is now a reduced staff. Planning seems pointless without proper enforcement, and this requires proper policing."

Mr Cooper has written in protest to Barnet's Chief Executive, Leo Boland.

Parents against phone mast

Parents at Highgate Primary School have got together to protest against the proposed erection of a mobile phone mast less than 400 yards from the school on Aylmer Road.

The phone company, O2, claim that the emissions from the new mast will be within official guidelines, but parents of the 360 children at the school, many of whom live in East Finchley, are concerned both by health questions raised by scientists about such masts and the number of masts already within close proximity to the school.

The new mast will be in addition to the five masts already operating within 400 yards of the school.

A petition has been started to present to O2, and parents are writing to Haringey Council planning department to object.

For further information, contact the parent's action group co-ordinator, Andrea Klein on 020 8883 2194 or AnMaKlein@aol.com

Planning Applications

113 High Road N2:

Change of use from A1 (retail) to sui generis/ B1 Met Police Safer Neighbourhoods units.

Land adj. 60 Lancaster Gardens N2:

Demolition of all existing buildings and erection of three buildings between three and six storeys in height, to provide a total of 120 residential units and 330 square metres of commercial floorspace. Associated landscaping and basement parking for 120 cars, accessed from Lancaster Gardens.

Rear of 176 High Road N2:

Demolition of existing warehouse, and construction of two-storey townhouse with integral garage, with access via Bedford Road. Erection of associated boundary wall and gates.

The Timberies, Church Lane N2:

Construction of ground and first floor extensions to provide shop, office space and staff room, ancillary to existing use.

Ground Floor Flat, 7A New Oak Road N2:

Single storey building in rear garden.

371 Long Lane N2:

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

9 The Leys N2:

Alterations to roof, including raising ridge height. Addition of first floor rear extension. Addition of dormer window to south elevation. Enlarged ground floor bay window.

101 East End Road N2:

Conversion of existing property into two self-contained flats.

55 Leopold Road N2:

Loft conversion, including rear dormer window and rooflights to front.

84 Durham Road N2:

Use as two self-contained flats.

Single storey rear extension.

Loft conversion, including rear dormer windows.

25 Elmhurst Crescent N2:

Single storey rear extension.

Pavement off East End Road near Cranbourne Court, Briar Close N2:

Installation of 12 metre high telecommunications mast, with transmission dish and associated equipment cabinets.



Prescription for charity

The annual charity walk organised by the Oshwal Pharmacists is to take place on Sunday 19 June in Potters Bar. It is open to Oshwal pharmacists, their families, friends and staff. The sponsored walkers will set off from the Oshwal Centre at 10am for a 10km trek through the countryside. On their return they will be welcomed with a hot meal as well as being awarded trophies for the three highest fundraisers in both the under-16 and adult categories.

The charities to benefit this year are The Stroke Association, Arthritis Research Campaign and the Oshwal Association for the UK. As usual, Paresh Shah of CWAndrew Pharmacy, 32 High Road, East Finchley is taking part. If you would like to sponsor him, please call in at the shop to fill in the sponsorship form.

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The future for Long Lane Pasture?

By John Lawrence

A vision for the future of a long-neglected open space could see it turned into a wildlife haven for the enjoyment of local people.

Long Lane Pasture, which occupies a two-hectare site just north of the North Circular Road, could become a true green space once again and reopened to the public.

The site is currently overrun by brambles and rough grass but is kept in some order by volunteers from the Long Lane Pasture Action Group.

The same group is seeking to gain a 99-year lease for the land from Barnet Council and has already engaged the services of internationally renowned wildlife landscape designer Julie Toll to shape its ambitious plans.

Julie was praised for her work in designing a wildlife garden in the grounds of 10 Downing Street.

Her plans for the pasture include creating a pond and a border of plants to attract butterflies. There would be seating areas and level paths for exploring, although the aim would be to keep it as close to nature as possible.

A forgotten resource

A public meeting was held on 28 April at the Sea Cadets Hall in Long Lane to present the site plans to residents and around 35 people attended. Many fully supported the proposal although some expressed concerns about security should the pasture be opened to the public.

Group spokesperson Ann Brown said she was 80% confident of gaining a lease on the land although there were still a lot of hoops to go through.

She said, "It would be wonderful if we could restore this land to public use again. We would like to see people return here to fly kites or to have picnics. It's a lovely local resource which has been forgotten for



Looking northbound over the land. Photo by Erini Rodis

too long."

Barnet Council has indicated that it is prepared to hand over the site to the voluntary group but a final decision is not expected to be made until later this year at the earliest.

The action group is calling on Finchley residents to show their support for the wildlife plan by registering as a friend of the pasture. This can be done by contacting Ann Brown on 020 8346 5011.

Your festival line-up

The East Finchley Community Festival is the longest-standing free festival in Barnet run entirely by volunteers. Great music on two stages, food, beer, craft and charitable stalls all make for a great day in the park.

This year the festival takes place on Sunday 26 June 12noon-6pm at Cherry Tree Wood.

The full programme for the festival day itself will be confirmed at the beginning of June but, in the meantime, here are the highlights of festival week:

Saturday 18 June

Festival Football at Martin School Field, 11am-4pm

The annual football competition between local primary schools takes place as part of the school's summer fun day. The winning team gets to lead the festival parade.

Saturday 25 June

Festival Workshop at the Green Man Community Centre, 12noon-5pm

A super fun day for families at the Green Man including bouncy castles, face painting and a workshop for those preparing masks and costumes for the festival parade.

Saturday 25 June

Volunteers Party at Cherry Tree Woods, 6-11pm

Invitation-only event to thank our team of volunteers. Live music, bar and BBQ.

Sunday 26 June

Festival Parade, leaving from the Green Man at 11.15am

The parade will make its way along the High Road. The arrival at Cherry Tree Wood for 12 noon marks the start of the festival.

Sunday 26 June

The Festival, Cherry Tree Wood, 12noon-6pm

The main event: music on two stages, world food, more than 60 craft and charitable stalls and a beer tent.

For more information call 020 8883 4916 or e-mail festival@eastfinchley.co.uk.

Changing fortunes of Long Lane Pasture

1912: Pasture purchased with public funds for recreation purposes

1980s: Pasture still an open space but falling into serious neglect

1995: Shut to the public and used as a depot by the Highways Agency during redevelopment of the North Circular

1999: Identified as a potential Millennium redevelopment project by local campaign group Church End LA21 Partnership

1999: Diggers sent in by property development company Fairview Homes after being given permission by Barnet Council to investigate the land for housing

1999-2002: Long Lane Pasture Action Group fights housing development plans

2002: Conservative-controlled Barnet Council promises not to develop the pasture for housing

2005: Long Lane Pasture Action Group presents plans to turn the land into a wildlife haven open to the public

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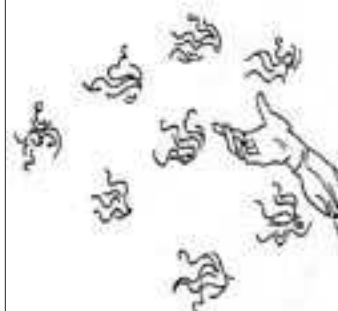
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GLH House inaugurated

By Kathryn Scorza

East Finchley-based car firm GLH has had double cause for celebration recently. Firstly, the long-wished for move from the Portakabins into the brick built comfort of number 12-18 High Road was finally achieved in April, and GLH House was officially inaugurated with champagne and the unveiling of a brass plate.



John Scott at the inauguration of the house. Photo by Michael Mandell.

Staff from the company's former Aylmer Road office have also moved in, so everyone is now under one roof.

Refurbished and wired with the latest computer systems under the direction of Bernard Case and Dominic Anthony, the new offices are a hit with employees.

"Before, you didn't see some people from one staff award to the next," said Joanne Bickstaff, longest-serving staff member and first-ever winner of the *Staff member of the Year* award.

Michael Mandell, sales manager, feels the move has been a real boost. He said, "The dynamics are superb – it's

bright, clean and airy."

Saying Thank you

The evening of the official opening was also chosen for the 23rd annual staff awards dinner at the Highgate Golf Club. Started in 1983, and clearly popular with employees, the Staff awards have evolved into a major annual event.

"It is a nice way for us to say thank you to our staff," said managing director John Scott.

Bernard Case and Dominic Anthony jointly won the title of Manager of the Year. *Staff member of the Year* was won by Stuart Selley, an East Finchley resident. The Accounts Department won the Divisional Department Shield, and Best

New Employee was Andy Bell. Further awards went to Jane Clark, Engin Bassar, Matthew Doran, Ashley Fiander, Carriane Lally, Kevin Bridgen, Gio Fetta, Joseph Norman and Nikara Garcia.

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Join the cycling breakout

Keen cyclists are invited to join the 'Suburban Breakout' from East Finchley on Sunday 10 July.

The ride is run on behalf of the Cyclists' Touring Club and Audax UK, the long distance cycling organisation, by local cyclist Nick Bloom, who hopes to encourage local riders by showing how quickly you can get out of London by bike.

It's a 100km (or 66 mile) ride via Potters Bar into the rolling Hertfordshire countryside and back. Sixty riders took part last year, representing a wide range of age and ability.

It's not a race, and it's not a charity ride. You can think of it as a personal challenge. Ride with others or on your own, flat out or steady.

Pedal power

Anyone can take part on any bike, tricycle, tandem or recumbent, although under-18s need parental consent. Although most of the route is on quiet country roads, there are

also some nasty roads to cross, and there will be busy traffic on the way back through Barnet and Finchley.

There aren't any mountains around here, but that doesn't mean it's flat. You can take a break on the way at one of the many pubs along the route, so long as you are back within the time limit of seven and a half hours – that's only 13.5 kph (under 9mph) including any stops.

You do have to look after yourself on the day and follow the route sheet as there's no pick-up if you get tired or break down. If you finish within the time limit you can buy a medal or badge.

For more information, contact Nick on 020 8365 3806 or ask at Bike and Run on the High Road. You can also download an entry form from www.saddle sore.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

Not given in vain

At the end of April, the National Blood Service hosted a special lunch in the New Connaught Rooms, Covent Garden. Held about every five years, it was one of their regional events honouring those people who have made 75 or more donations of blood to help others. This could have been achieved not only through the normal blood donation procedure, but also through a process of blood platelet collections, which is slightly more complicated and counts for more towards the personal total achieved.

Local donor honoured

One of the 90 guests was Ian Cormack, of Cherry Tree Road. Ian, who is a regular blood donor and has experienced both procedures, was presented with an engraved Edinburgh crystal commemorative plate for his efforts. Donors who had achieved totals even higher (there was one of over 1000!) were given a crystal decanter.

Another event to celebrate those who regularly donate blood is to be held on 14 June, when the National Blood Service is to host World Blood Donor Day. This date commemorates Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO blood system. With the theme *celebrating the gift of blood*, people all over the world will be encouraged to attend events highlight-

ing emotive stories of those whose lives have been touched by this in some way.

New blood

The demand for blood never stops and every day the NBS needs to collect up to 9,000 donations of blood, yet only 6% of the eligible population are blood donors. One donation can help save more than one life and donors can give blood three times a year.

If you are between 17 and 60 years old, in general good health and interested in becoming a donor you can find out more at www.blood.co.uk or call the National Donor Helpline on 0845 7 711 711

The next blood donating session to be held locally will be on Friday 29 July. The NBS mobile unit will be open 1.15–4 pm and 5.15 – 7.30pm outside East Finchley tube station.

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Judo star aims for Olympic glory

By Jonathan Blackstaffe

Children often dream of sporting glory. Scoring the winner at Wembley or competing in the Olympics are the fantasies for many. Such dreams usually end up biting the dust, but one East Finchley boy stands a better chance than most of making his a reality.

For Jean-Rene Badrick, 15, resident of Falloden Way and a member of Willesden Judo Club, is already being talked up as a possible Olympic gold medallist for Britain. He is also receiving an increasing amount of both television and newspaper attention.

Jean-Rene's record makes this sort of pressure almost inevitable. Along with a host of other medals, he has won two British titles in his age group and represented his country on more than 20 occasions.

Talented athlete

Now, under the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, he has been given the benefit of a £10,000 grant.

The scheme, which has a total budget of £1million, has been designed to enhance Britain's hopes of success in the 2012 Olympics, for which London is

of course bidding to be the host.

The money will provide Jean-Rene with access to top-notch facilities, coaching, medical advice and sports psychologists.

Jean-Rene, who has been practising judo since he was seven, is reported as having said, "I got into judo because I wanted to learn how to defend myself but now it's an important part of my life."

Indeed, not only is the East Finchley teenager one of 100 talented youngsters deemed worthy of such assistance, he was also deemed worthy of an audience with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell (surely enough to inspire anyone to Olympic victory).

So, the stage is set and the audience's breath is bated. Now, Jean-Rene Badrick just has to take that prize out of his dreams into reality.



Young rugby team's success

By Wendy Devine

A youth rugby team with players from East Finchley has tackled its way to its best result in a tournament this season.

The Under-12 side from Finchley Rugby Club made it to the semi-finals of the prestigious 2005 Sudbury Mini Rugby Festival in Suffolk.

They eventually claimed third place in the competition after narrowly losing to a side from Diss in Norfolk.

All teams from Finchley, including U8s, U9s, U10s, U11s and the U12s, played well in the visit to the event, arranged by club chairman George Loureda and fixture secretary Gareth Byers.

Most of the players and their families travelled to Suffolk by coach from their base in Summers Lane, North Finchley, enjoying the Essex and Suffolk countryside on a warm, sunny Sunday in April.

The U12s played four matches in their group, winning their first one against Bury St Edmunds in impressive style before narrowly losing to Ipswich, then being soundly beaten by an impres-

sive but tough Romford side, who eventually went on to win the tournament.

Loyal parents said the U12s were unlucky to lose to Diss in the semi-final and pointed at some questionable refereeing. One East Finchley parent was heard to say to the hapless, bespectacled ref at the end of the game: 'Should have gone to Specsavers!'

Despite the disappoint-

ment, all players and parents enjoyed a great day out and are already looking forward to the beginning of the new season in August.

Chairman George Loureda is looking for new players to join the club, particularly in the Colts section, who are the U18s and U19s. If you are interested, please contact him via email on georgeloureda@camden.gov.uk.

Mini marathon marvels

By Jonathan Blackstaffe

It could be said that the London Marathon separates the men from the boys. Well, if that's the case, Barnet has some very grown-up boys (and girls).

For Barnet has been announced as placing third amongst boroughs in the 2005 London Mini Marathon.

The Mini Marathon, run along with the main event on Sunday 17 April, comprised the last five kilometres of the full course.

Jostling amongst more than 1,500 of London's youngsters were 48 entrants from Barnet.

Front of the field for Barnet's boys was Niall Fleming, a leading borough athlete and winner of his 11- to 12-year-old boys age group.

The borough was rather pleased with the young runners'

achievements. Jill Stansfield, Director of Children's Services, said, "What a fantastic achievement! I would like to congratulate all our young runners for their efforts, especially Niall who is making a name for himself as an athlete to watch in the future."

So, congratulations to the council's sports development team which focuses on getting young people involved in sporting activities to enable them to lead healthy and active lifestyles and, most of all, to the kids who competed.

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Tuning in to Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

London Radio visited Finchley a couple of months ago for its lunchtime *Round Your Manor* series but reporter Maxwell Hutchinson came prepared to be unimpressed.

After looking at photos of Finchley past and present, he had written us off as "a sad story of an interesting suburb being eroded by poor quality buildings, bad planning decisions and urban neglect".

"Am I right?" he asked Bill Tyler, President of The Finchley Society.

"We battle for better architecture and planning", Bill told him, "But it's a hard struggle. Developers seem to have the whip hand."

A depressing start, but studio presenter Robert Elms looked on the bright side. Reeling off the names of Peter Sellers, David Jason, Norman Wisdom, Ronnie Barker, Charlie Chester, Eric Morecambe, Terry Thomas, Spike Milligan and more – all born in or residents of Finchley – he wondered what was so funny about living here.

However, what really mattered to Elms was the old open-air Lido. That was where – "like most of London" – he spent the long, hot summer of 1976. While he lamented its closure, Maxwell Hutchinson mourned the loss of cinemas.

Art deco star

He raved about photos of

North Finchley Gaumont, showing "one of the finest Art Deco cinemas in the whole of London, with a wonderful, wonderful restaurant - like the Atlantic Bar and Grill behind Piccadilly Circus". This was the cue for Elms and Bill Tyler to praise the Phoenix on the High Road, the oldest cinema in the country still operating.

Talk roamed on about the Naked Lady statue at Henry's Corner, our own statue of the archer on the station, the former mental asylum in Friern Barnet, Finchley Common, highwaymen and Turpin's Oak, and the number of good pubs to eat, with Bill Tyler supplying historical detail. He also had several good words to say about the artsdepot – "architecturally absolutely monstrous, but with a lot going on there".

The programme was broadcast opposite East Finchley station, which emerged as the star of the show. Calling it "marvellous, modernist, absolutely beautiful Art Deco", Hutchinson conceded that Finchley was not as dull as he had expected. In fact, he told us, he was definitely being won over.



Terry Stone of East Finchley Advisory Service (right) is handed a giant cheque for £1,000. Photo by Erini Rodis

Charity trust money for community project

By Terry Stone

Ladbrokes Charitable Trust has donated a grant of £1,000 towards East Finchley Advice Service's new project to help former recipients of the service to build and develop skills, break away from poverty, and make a positive contribution to the community in the process.

East Finchley Advice Service now wishes to deliver a volunteering project specifically for former users of its service and focus on increasing opportunities to progress them into jobs.

This project will target local people from local housing estates who have been out of work for lengthy periods: disabled people, lone parents, members of black and ethnic minority communities, and

people with experience of mental health problems.

East Finchley Advice Service, based in Church Lane, plans to recruit up to 10 local volunteers and offer them a structured programme of training, including office routines, dealing with the public, welfare rights and legislation, IT and advocacy skills.

People with no employment experience or who have been out of work for long periods

tend to have low self-esteem and low expectations. It is expected that volunteers' confidence will be boosted as they move from being at the "receiving end" of services to a position of providing a service that is needed and valued locally.

The aim is to provide volunteers with the necessary skills, experience and knowledge of the world of work, as well as the confidence to move on.

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Saturday June 25th Fidelio Piano Quartet. Acclaimed group of young players in works by Haydn, Brahms and a new work by James Francis-Brown

Sunday June 26th Thamyse String Quartet. A return visit of this popular Quartet in works by Haydn, Brahms & Britten

Monday June 27th East Finchley Open local artists exhibition open evening - admission free.

Wednesday June 29th Duo: Matsumi Hatano & Takashi Tsunoda, a recital of English Lute Songs.

Thursday June 30th Margaret Wolfit, daughter of Sir Donald, in a dramatized performance based on the journals and letters of Octavia Hill.

Friday July 1st Three Poets: Fleur Adcock, Jill Bamber & Alan Brownjohn read a from a selection of their works.

Saturday July 2nd London Mozart Players David Juritz Conductor/Soloist Mozart, Purcell, Hanson, Grieg & Piazzolla

Sunday July 3rd Finchley Children's Music Group. Musical Director: Grace Rossiter in a programme of music by Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Sallinen, Tippett & Hanson.

All events at All Saints Church, Durham Road, East Finchley, N2 at 7-30pm

Tickets: London Mozart Players £14; Concessions £10; Children under 16 £1

All other events except East Finchley Open £10; concessions £8; Children under 16 £1

Box Offices: **Coral Travel**, 50 High Road N2. 020 8444 7268

Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10. 020 8883 5631

Visit our website www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

Finchley Society history talk

John Heathfield will tell a meeting of The Finchley Society history group of his work and approach to local history in a talk at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at 8pm on Wednesday June 15. Entry is free and non-members are welcome.

John is a well-known local historian who has written extensively about Finchley. He is about to publish a new book on the district in World War 11, written in co-operation with Percy Reboul, another well-known historian.

Common ground

The society history group is studying the enclosure of Finchley Common and its effect on Finchley and seeks help. Anyone interested should contact Tony Roberts on 020 8883 5954. Another project is photographing local shops for a survey planned for a repeat every two or three years. Anyone interested in helping should contact David Marcus on 020 8346 1734

By-gone Finchley

On Thursday 30 June Derek Warren will show slides of early

20th Century Finchley and its surroundings in Avenue House at 8pm. Entry is free and non-members are welcome.

Derek is a member of the society's archive team. He is familiar with the area and also

has an extensive knowledge of the local wildlife and environment.

Information on The Finchley Society and how to join from 020 8883 2633 and www.finchleysociety.org.uk.

Golden age

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Church Farmhouse Museum is hosting an exhibition from 30 April until 4 September which traces the history of the museum and its collections.

From transport to Troika pottery and from gadgets to ghost stories, this celebration of the museum places particular emphasis on its past exhibitions, many of them based on the private collections of local residents and virtually all unique to Church Farm.

Built around 1660 but with many Victorian alterations and additions, Church Farm is Hendon's oldest surviving dwelling, now listed Grade II.

For nearly 300 years the centre of a busy hay and dairy farm, the building opened as a museum for Hendon in 1955, and then became the London Borough of Barnet's

museum in 1965.

The next half-century

Pam Usher, Barnet's Head of Cultural Services, says that for the past half-century Church Farmhouse Museum has played a unique part in the heritage of the borough, entertaining and informing hundreds of thousands of visitors: "The next 50 years should be just as successful; come and join us as we embark on them."

Church Farmhouse Museum, at Greyhound Hill, Hendon, is open Mondays to Thursdays 10am-1pm and 2-5pm, Saturdays 10am-1pm and 2-5.30pm, and Sundays 2-5.30pm. Admission is free.



Tuning a lute. Photo by Erini Rodis

A flourishing ancient craft

By Sheila Armstrong

In a quiet orderly workshop in the heart of East Finchley, internationally famous Stephen Gottlieb makes his lutes. Using yew or maple, he stretches and glues the wood, taking about six weeks to complete one instrument. He works to commission about a year ahead and restores as well as makes them. He also occasionally makes furniture and jewellery boxes.

Originally trained as an architect but able to play the guitar and always keen on making things as a boy, Stephen decided to become a lute maker in 1972.

That was in the early days of the Early Music revival when lutes were no longer made or even played much. With Crafts Council grants, Stephen visited historic collections of musical instruments around the country to gain information about how they were made. As the last one had been finished in the 1760s no one really knew.

A nobleman's instrument

The lute was fashionable before keyboards were made and the keyboard may be said to have been part of its demise.

It was a nobleman's instrument, its gut-made strings played with the fingers not a plectrum. Its music was written in tablature not the usual musical notation and this also contributed to its decline.

Stephen's superb craftsmanship has been very much part of the revival of lute playing and he probably knows just about all there is to know about the instruments. He is to be honoured for his skill and knowledge by being made the Master of The Art Workers Guild next year.

Japanese lute player Takashi Tsunoda already has two of Stephen's instruments and he is collecting a new baroque lute from him in June. He will also

be playing at the East Finchley Festival with singer Matsumi Hatano when the internationally-acclaimed Early Music duo give a concert on Wednesday 29 June in All Saints Church, Durham Road. (Tickets from the box office at Coral Travel on 020 8444 7268).

Stephen Gottlieb can be contacted on 020 444 5367.

A beacon of hope

By Jonathan Blackstaffe

How do you do justice to a life devoted to helping others in just a few hundred words? A few hundred words just isn't sufficient. Indeed, even a few thousand words might not suffice for Jack Shapiro, 88, of Brim Hill.

The prestigious annual Beacon Prize awarded Mr Shapiro "highly commended... for his philanthropic achievements." Other nominees for a Beacon Prize, an annual awards scheme designed to recognise and showcase individuals who have made exceptional contributions to charitable or social causes, included Bob Geldof and Jamie Oliver.

The Beacon Fellowship says that Mr Shapiro was nominated for his contribution to the work of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and as a founder member of the British Tinnitus Association as well as for the formation of self help groups and their help lines in Northwest London.

According to Mr Shapiro, who describes himself as "profoundly deaf," he had been, "in activities of a communal kind since the end of the [Second World] War," when he helped Holocaust-surviving children relocated in London.

A big noise

Then, one morning in 1970 he awoke to the sound of a "marshalling yard in my garden". Except there was no marshalling yard.

Having been told by the medical community there was nothing they could do for him, Mr Shapiro decided to prove that there was plenty he could do for himself, as well as others in the same

unenviable position. He started by refusing to treat his deafness as a handicap. "It can be a blessing sometimes," he says.

Since then, Mr Shapiro has been making a big noise in promoting the cause of the aurally challenged. And as a result, tinnitus, once an occasional footnote in medical texts, now has a whole library of research dedicated to it.

Thanks to Mr Shapiro's endeavours the lives of the thousands of tinnitus sufferers have improved immeasurably, as the Beacon Fellowship has gratefully acknowledged.

Twinning supper

The Friends of Montclair, the American town twinning society in Barnet, enjoyed a successful 'galloping gourmet' supper.

More than 30 members and guests went to different hosts' houses around the borough to have various courses of the supper, with a final get-together for tea and coffee and a raffle in the home of the chairman.

The next social function will be a tour of a wine museum, with tastings. Anyone interested in becoming a member can ring the membership secretary on 020 8361 8978.

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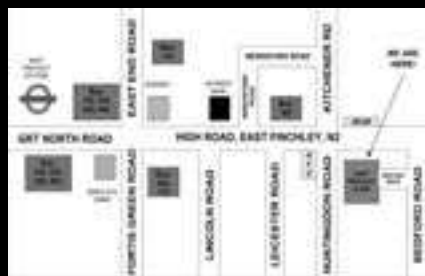


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YOUNG ARCHER

Father's Day

By Diana Cormack

Every year, sometime around 20 June, we celebrate Father's Day. This year the day that gives us a chance to show dad how special he is falls on 19 June. That makes sense because it is a Sunday when he probably won't be going to work.

Mother's Day in this country is also always on a Sunday. This is because it comes from a very old British tradition connected with the church and its correct name is Mothering Sunday. Father's Day has its own connection with the church, but it is not as old as Mothering Sunday and it did not start in this country.

Like many of our newer special days, it began in the United States of America. A woman called Sonora Louise Smart was the eldest of six children. When their mother died, their father took on the task of bringing them up. While she was listening to a church sermon on Mother's Day, Sonora decided that there should also be a day to honour fathers. After all, her father had been wonderful to his children. She began to talk to local people about it and, just one year later, her hometown of Spokane in the state of Washington celebrated the very first Father's Day.

That was in 1910 and Sonora chose 19 June because it was her father's birthday. In 1924 the US president, Calvin Coolidge, proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Over the years it grew more and more popular in the USA and became a permanent national day six years before Sonora died in 1978. By then this day devoted to good fathers had spread to many other countries, including Great Britain. Now, 95 years since it began, it has become a tradition.

So, on June 19 this year, remember that we are able to celebrate this special day because one woman was so grateful for all that her father had done.

Father's Day jokes

When does a daddy become a mummy?

When he's a dead pharaoh.

Son: Dad, can I have 50p for being good?

Dad: All right, but I wish you could be good-for-nothing.

Daughter: Daddy, do you think I'm vain?

Dad: No, you're not vain dear. Why do you ask?

Daughter: Because most girls as pretty as me are.

Child: Dad, there's a man at the door collecting for the new swimming pool.

Dad: Give him a glass of water!

Fun and games at play time

By Helen Drake



Children at Martin Infants School enjoying the new equipment in the playground. Photo by Helen Drake

"If play times, particularly lunch times, are happy times, then children learn better and are more productive in the afternoons," says Stephanie Williams, a teaching assistant at Martin Infant School.

Together with Janine Waterman, acting Deputy Head, Stephanie has devised a playground strategy based on six different zones, with play equipment being rotated on a daily basis.

Generous gift

With the £350 donated by the East Finchley Traders Association at Christmas, Stephanie has been able to resource three of these zones: construction, creative and ball games.

In order to decide what to buy with the money, a meeting was held with the school council to come up with ideas. From a large and very imaginative wish list, two members of the council helped Stephanie narrow down the options into several affordable items.

The wooden building blocks bought for the construction area have gone down very well, as have the chalkboards and dry-wipe boards for the creative zone. The children also wanted a large bubble maker, which Stephanie expects to be a huge hit in the warmer weather.

A different ball game

"We want to rotate football with other ball games so that every child gets a chance to play a ball game they like," Stephanie says, and so a treasure chest of soft sports equipment (containing games such as skittles) has also been purchased.

A second donation given to Martin Junior School has been used to buy a good quality bench for the school field that will benefit the community in years to come and gives parents somewhere to sit on sports day! It has an inscription thanking the Traders Association for their generosity. Look out for it when you come to the Martin Schools Fun Day on Saturday 18 June from 12 noon to 3pm.

Dance festival

By Betti Blatman

When Whetstone-based dance teacher Nicola Goode approached The North London Festival of Music and Drama and other local dance schools to request that dancing be included in the event, she had a very positive response.

So, for the first time, competitions were held at Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road on Sunday 15 May, with Laura Symonds as adjudicator.

Lasting from 2pm until 9.30pm., the competitions continued with only a short tea break and I enthusiastically watched competitors aged from four to 21 perform a wide variety of song and

dance. After each section, winners were announced and medals presented.

At the time of going to press, a prizewinners' concert was scheduled for Sunday 22 May at United Reformed Church in Muswell Hill to show a cross-section of the performers and winners of this year's festival in dance, drama, singing and music.

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

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity School

The new headteacher, Tim Bowden, will take up his post in September.

The Tag Rugby Festival arranged by Robin Jacobs was going really well until rain stopped play. It will take place at a later date. The school entered two teams for Finchley Rugby Club's Tag Rugby Festival.

Year 5 went to Millfield Theatre to join in the singing at English Pocket Opera Company's production of I Pagliacci, which they have been studying this term.

Year 1 enjoyed a visit to the Geffrye Museum.

The HTSA Summer Fair is at noon on Saturday 11 June.

Martin Schools

The Open Afternoon, when both schools welcomed people in to see them in action, was a great success.

Year 6 are having basketball training sessions with Barnet Bulldogs on Friday afternoons.

Class 5J visited Millfield Theatre to perform in an English Pocket Opera Company production (see next month's Young Archer for a pupil's report).

In a road safety project, all the children are taking part in a survey on how they come to school.

Four junior boys have achieved great success in various karate championships, which included an international meeting in Germany.

The infants were entertained by the sounds of Sousafun, two men who made music from a variety of instruments, including vegetables!

Martin Infants new deputy headteacher, Katie Dawburn, will take up her post in September.

Reception children had a lovely visit to London Zoo.

Year 2 visited Highgate Wood.

Parent and school administrative assistant Helen Matthews is doing the 26-mile Moonwalk to raise money for breast cancer on 18 June. If you want to sponsor Helen, please ring Martin Infant office on 8883 1455

Summer Fun Day at Martin Schools starts at noon on Saturday 18 June.



Good nutrition keeps the brain ticking

By Simone Baroke

Getting older inevitably means losing your marbles, right? Surprisingly, a direct correlation has been observed between mental functioning and nutritional status in older people.

As discussed in last month's article, our nutritional requirements increase as we get older. Instead of having three big meals a day, we should eat more frequently, and we also need foods of much higher quality.

Ignoring these changing demands can play a big part in premature memory loss and the development of dementia. The brain, being a highly sophisticated piece of equipment, is very sensitive to shortages in nutrient supplies.

Apart from water, the brain is made up almost entirely of fat. Now, before you rush out for pork pie and chips, let me tell you that this is not where you find those precious, brain-building fats. To feed your brain, you should eat plenty of fish, especially oily types (sardines are great for the brain!) nuts, seeds and unrefined plant oils, such as hemp and linseed oil.

Raw materials

The primary fuel used by our brains is glucose, a simple sugar derived from the digestion of sugary and starchy foods, such as bread, pasta and potatoes. The brain needs a constant and steady supply.

Too little glucose, and we start to feel dizzy, irritable, and faint. We lose our concentration and our temper, as well as memory power. Too much glucose, on the other hand, is damaging to the brain. This is why we should avoid sugary foods and refined flour products such as white bread.

The best way to keep our brains supplied with an optimum amount of fuel is by eating meals and snacks containing a combination of protein, whole grains and (good!) fats. Beans and pulses yield excellent brain fuel.

Fruits and vegetables contain powerful protective substances called antioxidants, which guard our

brains against damage. Low antioxidant intakes have been linked to dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Mushy peas won't do – go for fresh, green and brightly coloured fruit and veg.

If you want to keep your grey matter in top shape, don't just rely on completing your weekly crossword, but also make a conscious effort to supply the right raw materials.

Simone is a Nutritional Therapist and practises in East Finchley and Finchley Central. She can be contacted on 020 8883 0915 or 07950 054754.

A life on the reservoir wave

Do you have a future champion sailor in the family? You might be surprised to learn that living in landlocked East Finchley isn't necessarily a disadvantage.

Just half an hour's drive away in the upper Lea Valley is Fishers Green Sailing Club where budding young Ben Ainsleys and Ellen MacArthurs train each Saturday. They sail Cadets, small two-person dinghies designed for seven to 17-year-olds.

Among the Fishers Green sailors are Louise Latham, aged 12, from Chandos Road, and Rebecca Longman, aged 14, who lives in Barnet.

Both Louise and Rebecca won places in the Royal Yachting Association's East Zone Cadet Squad, which has been training through the winter at Alton in Suffolk.

They also both took part in the National Inland Championships in Rutland and expect to sail at the National Championships at Weymouth in August.



Louise Latham and her crew Oliver Palierakis at the Cadet Inland National Championships at Rutland Water. Photo by Ian Latham

We are sailing

Most new Cadet sailors learn the basics by crewing and many go on to helm their own boats once they have gained more experience and confidence.

Teaching is taken very seriously by the top-class trainers, although the young sailors seem to have as much fun off the water as on!

Would-be Cadet sailors are welcome to come along and find out more at Fishers Green on 11 June or 9 July, or join the novice sailing training programme in September.

For further details email squad captain Andy Moss (a ndrew@cumberlandplace.co.uk) or phone Louise's mother Christine Watson on 020 8883 4207.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Star Bores

Once upon a time, in a cinema not far from here, I spent a chemically-altered evening watching *Star Wars*. It was great in a kind of weirdly children's TV meets a bad western sort of way, but it was the 1970s and I was too out-to-lunch to care.

Even then, *Star Wars* was more and less than a movie; it was almost a way of life. Director George Lucas always meant to go on and on and on until he'd strung together nine tales of far-off galaxies inhabited by Americans and strange creatures created by the computer graphics department.

The thing was, the first three movies were all right. They were brilliant if you were under 10 or drunk and watchable if it was Sunday afternoon and granny was round for tea. After all, they were just westerns in space.

The first film was really a western about how the small time farmers, aided by a hired gunslinger and a young kid, beat the corrupt local rancher and his hired guns, including the most feared man in the West, a hired gunslinger who always wears black. It was fantasyland but it was fun.

The next two, episodes five and six in the saga, weren't so much movies as marketing opportunities and made George Lucas an insanely wealthy man. So much so that he tried the same trick again with the prequels.

...and more bores

Now we could find out how Darth Vader became Darth Vader and the total myth of the villain could be destroyed. Hell, I don't want my villains to be misunderstood; I want them to be evil because they enjoy it.

The total marketing overkill for the latest film in the series *Revenge of the Sith* is like being hit over the head with a Ford Prefect after drinking ten pan-galactic gargleblasters without anaesthetic. It's not a film, it's Lego and light sabres and chocolate bars and breakfast cereals and overkill and hype and please, Mr Lucas, spare us episodes seven, eight and nine. Honestly, I don't want to know whether Harrison Ford marries Carrie Fisher or who goes over to the dark side of the farce. Enough is enough, and besides, I was always a stoned Hitcher myself.

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- ❖ **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
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- ❖ **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.
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- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 13 & 27 June 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.

3DFX at Bar XL

By Diana Cormack

Bar XL in the High Road seemed an unusual place to hold an evening art exhibition, but then the work on display was in itself unusual and was described by the artist as "a new dimension in painting".

James Charles Harper believes that he is the only artist in this country producing such work and thinks that it can rank in quality or even beat that being produced in other parts of the world. So what exactly is it?

Simply put, it is a one-dimensional surface that can be made to look three-dimensional. This is achieved by using acrylic paint that can be applied to the surface in repeated layers to look like a standard painting during daylight. At night UV lighting is used to reveal hidden depths, giving the picture a 3D quality, which can be enhanced by donning 3D glasses.

Paint engineer

At the exhibition entitled *Day and Night*, there were a variety of themes including a scene with the

Sphinx and pyramids. As the UV lighting was introduced it seemed as though you were gradually being taken down through the desert under the stars, past glowing fires and inviting Bedouin tents.

James describes his work as engineering in paint and has recently completed what he believes to be the world's first 3D bar with a 3D ceiling when he finished working on the Bedlam Bar in Hampstead. He has decorated a bowling alley in Northern Ireland in his own particular style and is hoping to do the same at the Snow Bowl in Milton Keynes.

If you would like to view some of his work or are interested in further details, call Nigel Vieira (who persuaded James to hold this exhibition) on 8883 2108.

Open is back

Last year saw the highly successful launch of the East Finchley Open.

This group of artists was introduced to the community of East Finchley through a series of exhibitions and events that enabled 2,500 people to view and buy a diverse range of artworks.

Building on this success, the EFO are embarking on their second summer show. This year's exhibition events will include paintings, photography, sculpture, jewellery, tapestries and calligraphy.

On the weekend of 2-3 July, 11 artists will open their houses to the general public.

There will be accompanying exhibitions in the Old White Lion pub, the Phoenix Cinema and All Saints Church. The All Saints Church exhibition will include the work of the entire EFO group.

To cap all this, the EFO is providing four wonderful rickshaws on this weekend to ferry people from venue to venue.

For further details contact Tark Butler on 0208 883 0806 or David Aronsohn on 020 88835997

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What's On...

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

Saturday 4 June

• **East Finchley Walkabout** starting at 11am on Saturday 4 June from outside East Finchley tube station. The walk will take about one and a half hours, looking at the history of the area and its buildings.

Friday 10 June

• **Relief for hayfever** with homeopathy. Free consultations with experienced homeopath Cassandra Marks, 10am-12 noon at CW Andrews Pharmacy, 32 High Road. Tel: 8883 1559. Also Thursday 16 June.

Saturday 11 June

• **Holy Trinity School Summer Fair** - Come and have fun with children's games, tombola, football games; grab some bargains from our books, toys, clothes and bric-a-brac stalls, and taste fine food from around the world. Eagan's Place, 12-2.30pm.

Tuesday 14 June

• **Hendon & District Archaeological Society AGM** in Avenue House, East End Road, N3 from 8pm. Members will present an overview of the Society's activities and fieldwork during the year. For further information, contact Mary Rawitzer on 020 8340 7434 or e-mail mary.rawitzer@ic24.net. The society's website is www.hadas.org.uk.

Saturday 18 June

• **Friends of Coldfall Wood** welcome all dog lovers to a **fun day show** on the field behind the wood from 11am. Various stalls, tombola, dog competitions and refreshments. For information call Carol on 0794 887361. Also see www.coldfallwood.info

• **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Flower Show**, Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. 3-5.30pm. Teas. Entry free to members and children; non-members £1. (Entry night for those showing: Tuesday 14 June, Fellowship House, Willifield

Way, NW11. 7-8pm). Details: 8455 8741.

• **East Finchley Festival football competition** at Martin School field as part of their summer fun day. The winning team gets to lead the parade and receive their medals from the mayor at the opening of the festival on Sunday 26 June

• **Summer Fun Day at Martin Schools** - Entertainment for all the family with food stalls, tombola, bouncy castles, arts and crafts tables and face painters. Other stalls include cakes, plants, second-hand clothes, books, toys and much more. 12 noon to 3pm.

Tuesday 21 June

• **RSPCA Annual General Meeting**; 7pm doors open at the Blue Beetle Hall, St Mary's at Finchley, Hendon Lane, N3.

Saturday 25 June

• **East Finchley Festival fun day / parade workshop / consultation** on the Octavia hill community garden at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale; barbecue and bouncy castles, 12-5pm.

• **North London Chorus** are performing at St Jude's on the Hill, Central Square, NW11 at 7.30pm. The programme will include *Buxtehude membra Jesu Nostri* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*

Sunday 26 June

• **East Finchley Festival** in Cherry Tree Wood, (opposite East Finchley Tube), 12noon-6pm.

Thursday 7 July

• **Homeopathy and Child Health**, 9.30am-2.30pm. Learn how to improve your child's immune system and treat coughs and colds, ear infections and childhood illnesses. Taught by local homeopath Cassandra Marks, who has over 20 years experience. £50 course fee includes her book, *Homeopathy in a Nutshell*. Call 020 8444 0594 to book or visit ww.emotionalhealing.co.uk

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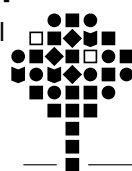
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The Institute

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**Letters to the editor****Sanctuary at Ann Owens Centre**

Dear Editor,

Some 40 years ago Friern Barnet resident, Kay Jenkins, noticed several elderly people regularly sitting on the benches near Friern Barnet Town Hall. From then on, the Friern Barnet Day Centre was born.

Beginning with a Thursday coffee morning, set up by members of St. John and St. James Church in the Parish Hall, it progressed across the road to the Priory Hall, and finally to the Old Fire Station. Lunches, hairdressing, chiropody, exercises, outings, social events and, above all, friendship were provided.

Enabling this centre to exist was, the core element of the Friern Barnet Voluntary Care for the Elderly, our large band of volunteers.

Sad to say, our neighbour, Friern Barnet Town Hall, from whom we always had kindly interest, is no longer there, and local government seems not to value the importance of establishments such as ours in the new scheme of things.

Therefore, since 17 March there has no longer been a Day Centre in Friern Barnet, and the majority of our clients have moved to the Ann Owens Centre at East Finchley. Not an ideal situation, but the best of a bad job. It means large numbers in one centre, and many more administrative headaches, but at least the future of this purpose-built Centre is secure for the time being.

Not only the elderly of Friern Barnet, but such community-based organisations as the St John Ambulance Brigade, The Polio Society, The Local History Society and others have also lost their base. All this in the name of progress? I think not.

What of the future? FBVCE are still working towards serving the elderly of Friern Barnet.

Grace Fensome,
Vice Chair, Friern Barnet Voluntary Care for the Elderly.

Parking zone is plain wrong

Dear Editor

Following on from your recent letter about the Summerlee Avenue parking zone, it is not just the way the "Zero Tolerance" is applied to the zone that is wrong, it is the very existence of the zone itself that is wrong.

Barnet Council introduced the new rules in the Zone, with scarcely any notice, for a "trial period". Previously the rule was that parking was free other than for an hour in the afternoon to prevent all day parking. This worked well for residents, who were exempt from the hour restriction (on payment of their permit) and also for visitors who came and went during the day, often for access to the park at Cherry Tree Wood and local shops.

The new system was introduced on the excuse that a new college catering to young adults, the Institute, opened opposite East Finchley station would generate lots of traffic and the need for parking. To test this the old system should have been left in place, to see if there was a problem.

Very few students arrive in cars

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

and there are many empty spaces during the working day, which suggests that the new rules in the zone were really only another way for the Council to extract money from residents.

What is more, the areas outside the zone (the county roads) are now more crowded than before. And visitors to relatives and friends in the zone find it an expensive process to park where before they had no problem.

The Council should reconsider the whole scheme. At the least, residents should be consulted and unless there is a real reason, the old rules should come back.

East Finchley is a pleasant place to live and the Council's aim should be the least interference with the lives of the local people, which includes the need to park their cars for short periods and go about their daily lives.

Barry H White, N2

Where are our graffiti busters?

Dear Editor,

I wonder if readers of THE ARCHER have read of local graffiti busters Jack Whitehead and Bill Jago, (reported in the Ham and High Broadway in April).

They are a marvellous pair, both retired, who should be congratulated on their sterling work removing illegal posters, tags and ties as well as graffiti in Muswell Hill.

No one pays them for their work; they just do it for the benefit of the local community. Indeed local residents of Muswell Hill may have seen them in action as I have.

We do have quite a lot of graffiti in East Finchley as I observed today as I walked my dogs along East End Road into the village. The question is has East Finchley got its own Dynamic Duo - people who are public spirited enough to do the same for us?

Maybe through the pages of THE ARCHER like-minded people could make contact to help tackle our unsightly problem?

Sarah Travers, N2

Do you share Sarah's concerns about graffiti in East Finchley and want to do something about it? Then please contact THE ARCHER.

Treehouse travesty

Dear Editor,

Your article (April 2005) on the Treehouse School in Woodside Avenue, unfortunately has not lessened my sadness on walking past this site. The plot of land on Woodside Avenue was once bursting with blackberry bushes, young trees and wildlife. The construction company tore up all the foliage and has left muddy tracks, broken fencing and placed a building which looks like a temporary toilet right in the middle. Although I would not wish to see autistic children going without school premises, was it really necessary to use all this land for such a small building, whilst basically vandalising what was left and couldn't Treehouse have converted some existing building instead?

Name and address supplied.

A fashion show with a difference

By Helen Drake



Photo by Helen Drake

"The models and other volunteers have been amazing," said Debbie, "and I want to thank them all for the effort they put into the show." Models from the Schools included Dave Day from the PTA; Sharon Harrington, a teaching assistant from the Junior School; and Adam and Spencer, lunch time play leaders and football

coaches, who seemed to have brought their own fan club with them! Debbie said she was "very pleased" with the amount of money raised on the evening.

Moonwalk

Helen Matthews, administrative assistant in the Infant School, used the opportunity to announce that she, along

Enthusiastic volunteers put aside their inhibitions on the evening of Thursday 12 May to strut their stuff on the catwalk in the Infant Hall at Martin Schools, in aid of Cancer Research UK. For Debbie Strachera, Martin Infant School mum and manager of the Cancer Research UK shop in Finchley Central, the idea of putting on a charity fashion show using clothes donated to the shop, had been a long-held dream.

Super Models

"I want to take away the stigma of charity shops being seen as thrift shops," said Debbie. "Many new items are donated to us with the price tag still attached, and we often get companies donating end-of-line stock."

A particular bargain of the night was a red, slinky Frank Usher evening dress, modelled by one of the compères, Vicky Levy, that had a price tag attached for £120 but was being sold through Cancer Research for £50. A new Emmanuel crocheted dress retailing at £50 was being sold for £20. No wonder (so it is reputed!) that supermodel Kate Moss loves rummaging around charity shops.

The Fashion Show, organised jointly with Martin Schools PTA, was put together in four weeks with no time for rehearsals.

with her husband, Paul Bate-man, will be taking part in the Playtex Moonwalk 2005 on 18 June in aid of breast cancer research, joining celebrities such as Victoria Wood and Nell McAndrew. If you would like to sponsor Helen and Paul, please contact Helen on 0208 371 5665 or mobile 07951 618 171.

The Cancer Research UK shop run by Debbie Strachera is at 69 Ballards Lane, Finchley Central. Tel: 020 8349 4962. Pop in and find a bargain!

Protect your computer

Omar Idrissi, head engineer at IT 1-4 on the High Road, gives some handy tips on running a computer in your home.

Isn't it exciting when you get a new computer? You are thinking of all the applications and games you can now run, the music you can store, and the pictures you can share with friends. The new computer is delivered, you unpack it, and start plugging it all in.

The computer boots up, the desktop appears, and by clicking on your web browser icon you are suddenly connected to the Internet and all the fun you can derive from it. Did I say fun? What I should say is danger!

Virus

You have now just connected your computer to the Internet with no protection and studies show that within as little as 24 hours there is a chance you may become infected with a virus.

According to statistics, personal computers have become domestic appliances, which makes them very common in most households. East Finchley has many small businesses operating on PCs from home.

Computer viruses are potentially a problem to them all. A virus is a programme maliciously designed to alter the way a computer operates, without your knowledge or consent. Here are some general guidelines to help to protect your

computer against viruses:

Keep up to date

1. Use a Firewall
Install a firewall BEFORE you connect your computer to the Internet. Despite the millions of active computers, the chances of your computer getting scanned are extremely high as thousands of computers are scanning at any given time. Use a firewall; after all, when you leave your house, you lock the door to prevent burglary.

2. Be vigilant and alert
Do not attempt to open any unsolicited e-mails or attachments that are even vaguely suspicious. They could be harbouring a nasty virus.

3. Use virus defence software
It is important to install virus defence software on your machine and keep it up-to-date on a regular basis. Doing this minimises the chances of any new viruses breaking through your defences.

Contact IT 1-4 on 020 8444 2299 for a free computer health check (quote ARCHER/CS).

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Goodbye to Cherry Tree oaks

By Pam Kent

Four oak trees surrounding the children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood have been felled and another has been pruned.

The culling happened after a further inspection by Barnet Council determined that they posed a potential danger to park users.

THE ARCHER reported last autumn how one small child narrowly escaped injury when a large bough broke off and fell across part of the play area.

According to Andy Tipping, principal arboricultural officer for Barnet, all of the oaks had defects that could lead to 'limb drop'. This was probably due to the droughts of recent years causing lack of moisture to the upper branches. Before the felling took place, all the trees were assessed for any evidence of bat habitation and any cavities were investigated for presence of nesting birds.

Bob Noakes, senior tree surgeon for City Suburban Tree Surgeons, who were undertaking the task of demolition, said that it was always sad to see the demise of such grand trees.

In his opinion, they were under 100 years old and nowhere near maturity but he could understand the council's caution in felling them as they were in such a vulnerable area.

Councillor Colin Rogers, who is one of Barnet's tree wardens, said that the felling was a tragedy: "It should, however, be possible to replace the oaks with new trees around the playground which will give safer screening. The council's tree officers hope to start replanting this winter and I've asked them to consult with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood."



Preparing to fell oak trees in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by Toni Morgan

News from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

By David Attfield

By the time you read this, work should be underway on the renovation of the Cherry Tree Wood playground. Improvements costing £40,000 are to be made in time for the school summer holidays to provide a safer playground, with new equipment appealing to a wider age range.

This refurbishment will represent a huge achievement for the Friends. Last year, the future looked bleak. Barnet Council recognised that the playground's safety surface needed replacing but were unwilling to commit money for this because they didn't have funds to improve the equipment.

So the Friends applied for a grant for new equipment. Their application received huge support, with many park users signing a petition and giving their views on what

improvements they would like to see.

The result was an award of £20,000, the full amount applied for, from an organisation called *Living Spaces*. Barnet is meeting the rest of the cost and arranging the works.

Further developments

On completion of the refurbishment, the Friends need to report back to *Living Spaces* on the project. So, once again they will be seeking the views of playground users.

Is anybody there?

Many people are wondering when the café by the tennis courts will open for business.

Contact with Barnet Council has yielded no answer to this on-going question. Even serving a Freedom of Information Act notice on them about it has so far been in vain. If you would like to encourage Barnet Council to ensure that a café opens soon, then spare a couple of minutes to telephone them on 020 8359 2000 and ask to speak with Property Services. Let us know if you get any response!

To reach the Friends of Cherry Tree Woods, please contact David Attfield at 88 Summerlee Avenue, N2 or email info@cherrytreewood.co.uk

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