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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Traffic trouble fears for new road scheme

By Daphne Chamberlain

There are fears that plans to introduce traffic-calming measures on a major road between the border of East Finchley and Muswell Hill could create rat-runs and cause congestion on surrounding routes.

Haringey Council is proposing a new layout for Woodside Avenue, which runs between the Great North Road, close to the junction with the A1, and Muswell Hill Road.

Woodside Avenue is used as a major cut-through because it is the only direct route from East Finchley to the Muswell Hill area on the long stretch of

road between Fortis Green and the Woodman at Highgate.

Local residents are being asked for their views on proposals which include installing three "pinch-points" that will reduce traffic on the avenue to a single lane.

More congestion

It's being claimed that a knock-on effect could mean more traffic using the already-busy High Road and Fortis Green routes.

Some residents also fear that Fordington Road, on the edge of Cherry Tree Wood, and Lansdowne Road, which contains an entrance to Highgate

Wood on the south side of Woodside Avenue, would become rat-runs for motorists trying to avoid queues.

Divided opinions

Asked for his comments, Alan Fox of the Woodside Avenue Residents Association told *THE ARCHER* that local opinion was divided.

He said: "People have said for years that something should be done about speeding, but many of us think pinch-points could cause pile-ups and impede emergency vehicles."

Mr Fox added that most residents supported Haringey's proposal to install a zebra crossing outside St James Primary School.

Haringey Council spokesperson Tony Kennedy told us that all views would be considered before a decision was made. The proposals originated from the St James School Travel Plan, and would be funded by Transport for London.

Safer travelling

Mr Kennedy said: "There are three schools along this road and it's part of London transport strategy to encourage a perception of safe travelling for schoolchildren."

Asked about congestion on surrounding roads, he said the strategy was also to concentrate traffic on classified routes, such as the Great North Road.

Funding is for this financial year, so a decision on the Woodside Avenue proposals will be made shortly.



Photo by Erini Rodis

Just what she always wanted...

Mari Wilson woos the crowd at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. See page 6 for the festival report.

Towards a safer neighbourhood

On Friday 16 September the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team held a street meeting in The Precinct, Manor Park Road. The team invited local residents to discuss their concerns so that the police can direct their resources to tackling those problems.

The Metropolitan Police and Barnet Council are working together in a new style of community policing in East Finchley. Safer Neighbourhoods is a partnership between the police, statutory and voluntary agencies and, most importantly, local residents.

Graffiti, noise and litter affect residents just as dramatically as robbery and assault.

The purpose of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood team is to make sure that local complaints and concerns are identified and prioritised so that solutions are developed within the community.

Approximately 30 local residents attended the meeting to express their serious concerns, particularly at the recent escalation of mopeds being ridden dangerously down Hamilton Road and through Thomas More Estate and Manor Park Road's pedestrianised area until the early hours of the morning.

The police were requested to give urgent priority to address this unacceptable anti-social behaviour and they agreed to do so.

If you have concerns or want further information contact Golders Green Police Station on 020 8721 2845 or email eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk.

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Prolific burglar jailed

A prolific burglar who targeted homes in East Finchley was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Harrow Crown Court on 22 August.

Unemployed Rhys Robins, 34, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to 101 burglary offences committed between October 2003 and December 2004. All the properties Robins burgled were Victorian terraced houses with sash cord windows. DNA evidence linked him to break-ins at East Finchley homes in Park Hall Road, Hamilton Road and Durham Road.

Robins told police he identified empty houses by post left on doormats, and lack of lights at night. He was not put off by alarmed premises if the alarm boxes appeared un-serviced, and would spend several hours inside a house once he had gained entry. He would take suitcases from the property and fill them with the owner's CD and DVD collections, which he would sell at car boot sales during the week. Detective Constable Stephen O'Connell, the officer in charge of the case, said, "Robins was an exceptionally well-organised and professional residential burglar. He was very calculating and planned his offences meticulously."

"He had street maps and sketched layouts of potential target addresses prior to committing offences. He had sewn Velcro to his clothing, which he used to attach torches, screwdrivers and even night vision glasses."

Fraud attempt at cash machine

By John Dearing

The cash machine outside Barclays Bank in the High Road was the subject of an attempted fraud on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday.

A local resident was passing by around midday and saw two men "hanging over" the ATM, with a woman standing behind them, which struck him as odd.

Returning to the machine a few minutes later with the intention of getting some cash, he noticed that the slot for entering cash cards looked different. He pulled on the edge and the whole front came away in his hand.

Not surprisingly, he decided not to make a cash withdrawal, and walked away with what was

clearly a device. Two men approached him and one of them, grabbing his arm, said, "I am police, give me". He ignored them and went into a local shop, where the owner called the police. The two men disappeared.

A small video camera was found attached to the cash machine. This was removed and, with the device, taken to Golders Green police station later that afternoon.

The device was extremely well made, and would have easily fooled anyone not alert, which is a warning to us all.

Car scheme abandoned

By Diana Cormack

The two-year government-funded scheme enabling councils to remove abandoned cars is to end. Since it started in September 2003, thousands of vehicles have been cleared away from all over London.

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Plan, the Home Office provided boroughs with the money to do this. There was also a free service, which allowed residents to have their unwanted cars collected and disposed of by the council. Funding for this runs out in March 2006.

But while Haringey Council seems unable to afford to continue the service, Barnet is taking a different stance. As well as continuing to deal with

the problem of abandoned cars, the council intends to reduce its target car removal time from 72 to 24 hours.

Phoenix raided

By Paul Chapman

The Phoenix cinema in the High Road was raided over the August Bank Holiday. Amongst the items stolen were projection, safe and other equipment valued at around £25,000.

The burglars came prepared with tools to force their way through a side door. Paperwork also went missing and Friends of the Phoenix are advised to contact the cinema at management@phoenixcinema.co.uk to replace their address details.

Planning Applications

Tarling Road Open Space, Tarling Road, N2

Provision for a floodlit multi-sports pitch and surrounding landscaped recreational area, including timber adventure trail, timber shelter, 3m high fencing to part of Tarling Road, and 2.4m high fence around rest of site.

Lonsdale Care Home, Tarling Road, N2

Demolition of existing building and erection of three-storey building, containing six self-contained flats and 11 two-storey houses with sheds in rear gardens. Provision for 25 car-parking spaces, cycle store and refuse store.

2A Fortis Green, N2

Change of use from MOT car workshop (sui generis) to Gallery (class A1).

23 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey rear conservatory and enlargement of existing rear dormer.

1A Bedford Road, N2

Change of use from office / store to single family two-bedroom dwelling.

80 Bedford Road, N2

Alterations to roof, including construction of rear dormer extension to rear side roof slope on rear wing.

147 Leslie Road, N2

Retention of a single-storey rear extension.

1 Nursery Road, N2

Alterations to roof, including formation of rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

97 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single, part two storey side extension and single-storey rear extension.

4 Stanley Road, N2

Use of property as two self-contained flats.

34 Market Place, N2

Roof extension at rear to facilitate loft conversion, including provision of a roof terrace.

44 Oakview Gardens, N2

Erection of a three-storey dwelling-house attached to 44 Oakview Gardens, following demolition of existing side extension.

Land rear of 332-334 High Road, N2
Demolition of existing store, and erection of a new two-storey building to provide an A1/A2 commercial unit.

29 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.



Out to lunch

By Diana Cormack, Rebecca Smith and Helen Drake
Since TV chef Jamie Oliver got stuck into the school dinners scene, schools all over the country have been looking closely at what their children are given to eat. This term local schools Martin and Holy Trinity have had their own lunchtime revolution.



Tucking in: Daniel Weir (left) and Sam Mugridge, Year 3 pupils at Holy Trinity, enjoying the new, improved school dinners.

'Restaurant Ecole' aims to improve school catering services at no cost. It was set up by Barnet headteacher Peter Kent and parent Francois Nouilliat, both of whom were unhappy with the quality of meals served at Osidge School, Southgate.

Since they formed the company the headteacher and the highly experienced French chef have received nationwide press and television coverage. Their philosophy is to provide meals that are prepared and cooked daily from fresh and, where possible, local ingredients.

The proof of the pudding

The daily menus include freshly baked bread and fruit and raw vegetables on the table and a choice of milk or water to drink. The meat is free range; fish comes fresh from Billingsgate and the fruit and vegetables are prepared on site. At Holy Trinity for example, 'fresh' vegetables used to come pre-peeled, part cooked and vacuum packed or frozen.

The puddings so far have included homemade chocolate muffins, banana cake with freshly-made custard and ice cream, with not a colouring or additive in sight.

Both schools are now report-

ing a significant increase in the number of children taking school meals, much to the delight of their head teachers.

Better than mum's cooking

Tim Bowden, the new head teacher at Holy Trinity, said: "The response from our children has been fantastic and there is a real buzz in the restaurant. Our parents are also delighted as the pupils are no longer complaining that they're hungry the moment they leave the school gates. One child was even heard to say that their mum's cooking was not as good as the lunches at school!"

Kevin Anscombe and Maggie Driscoll, head teachers at Martin Infant and Juniors, added, "It is noticeable that the children really appreciate the 'real food' on offer and are taking the time to sit and enjoy their meal." One Martin Infant boy confided, "Do you know, I didn't like broccoli, but I do now."

Studies have shown the effects that food and drink can have on children, so this seems a perfect opportunity to make them more aware of healthy eating, as well as perhaps leading to an improvement in behaviour and application in the classroom.

Terms of endearment

Story and photographs by Diana Cormack

The new school year has brought a new headteacher and a new deputy headteacher to East Finchley's primary schools.

Katie Dawbarn (pictured right) is the new deputy head at Martin Infants. Since starting her teaching career at Brookland Infant School ten years ago, Katie has gone a long way in more ways than one. As her husband works for the Foreign Office, Katie has lived and taught abroad in some very diverse schools. Prior to teacher training, she worked for three years in a Belgrade nursery school. Recently she taught in the private sector at King Alfred School and then in Barnet's Moss Hall School.

As well as that wealth of experience, Katie has a keen interest in drama and in environmental issues. At Moss Hall she led an award-winning environmental initiative, which she intends to pursue at Martin School as well as bringing more creativity to the curriculum.

At infant level the emphasis is changing back to a more interesting, appropriate and holistic one, Katie told *THE ARCHER*. Her other responsibilities include working with gifted and talented children, helping to develop the outdoor area and bringing creativity into the pupils' ICT (Information and Communication Technology) skills on the computer.

The atmosphere of the school has impressed Katie. "It's so friendly, so welcoming and so happy," she said.



Holy Trinity has had similar comments from its new headteacher Tim Bowden (pictured left), who spoke about the warmth of his welcome to the school.

Formerly deputy head of Merryhills Primary in Enfield, Tim has also taught in Waltham Forest and Havering. His special interests include science, design and technology and physical education.

As well as running the after-school football club, Tim will continue youth rugby coaching at Saracens, where his teenage son plays. He also has a teenage daughter and a younger son. Tim's wife is a pharmacist.

Mr Bowden told *THE ARCHER* how pleased he is with the support he is getting from staff, parents and pupils, whom he finds very engaging. He wants to give of his best to the children and believes that a safe, happy, comfortable child is one who can learn.

Both he and Katie Dawbarn intend to maintain and build on the impressive base already established at each school.

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The Patel family outside the shop. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

Gone but not forgotten

By Sheila Armstrong

The Patel family have had a grocery shop in various premises in East Finchley for 30 years. But now after a hand-over period of a month or so Raj Yesweker will take over their Costcutter shop on the High Road near East Finchley station.

The family have decided to concentrate their energies and talents on their voluntary work at the Hindu temple at Neasden. Many of their customers will join *THE ARCHER* in wishing them luck in their new venture and in wishing Raj well as he takes charge of the business.

In 1975, while they contin-

ued to work for British Telecom and the World Health Organisation respectively, Jagdish and Hasumuck Patel initially took on the shop for their wives to run. At that time their mother, who was blind, lived over the shop and they were able to combine looking after her with running the business.

Both brothers retired about 10 years ago and since then have had more day-to-day hands-on experience in the business. They told *THE ARCHER* that, as their children are grown up now and have chosen careers other than retail, it's time for them to move on.

Rescued trees under threat again

By Daphne Chamberlain

Several beautiful trees, including red maples and a weeping willow, have been saved by residents of the Tarling Road area. Now local people fear that this reprieve might only be temporary if a current planning application goes ahead.

Iayn Clark from Sylvester Road told *THE ARCHER* that local people organised a petition after the first application to develop the former Lonsdale Care Home site in Tarling Road. Those plans would have entailed the destruction of the trees.

Mr Clark said: "We are grateful to Barnet's tree preservation officer, Ann Currell, and senior planner, Martin Westwood, for arranging a preservation order. However, the developer's amended plans are still threatening most of the trees. We know that this beautiful and peaceful piece of East Finchley is going to be built on, but we want it to be as well designed as possible."

The plans are to demolish the existing building (the elderly occupiers being moved to North Finchley), replacing it with 11 houses and six flats. The local action group feel that the development would cram too much housing into too small a space, and sacrificing even one house from the plan would help the

general environment as well as the trees.

In this immediate area, where one extensive new development follows another, residents worry about the inevitable pressure on resources - doctors, dentists, schools, transport, etc.

Not the least of their worries is the sewage problem affecting the neighbouring allotments and one or two of their gardens, reported in *THE ARCHER* last month. They have

warned the developer of this several times.

When told that the developer had visited the allotments, Mr Clark said, "I'm very glad they are taking this seriously. The last thing we want is raw sewage around."



One of the Lonsdale trees. Photo by John Dearing

Stop, go policy

By Diana Cormack

On 25 August, Barnet Council gave notice that the experimental removal of the bus lane running north up the High Road between The Bishops Avenue and the Bald Faced Stag would become permanent.

Road users and residents have the right to question the validity of traffic orders covering this, along with amended waiting and loading restrictions, for up to six weeks after that date.

The bus lane was removed earlier this year because of heavy congestion, particularly during peak travel times, much of which was attributed to the traffic signals at the junction with East End Road and Fortis Green.

Lingwood Court welcomes new residents

By Lucy Chamberlin

The latest High Road development has been completed. Lingwood Court, positioned next to the Methodist Church opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue, is set to provide independent living facilities for ten adults with learning disabilities under a Notting Hill Housing Trust scheme.



Cllr Brian Salinger and Chief Executive of Notting Hill Housing Group, Kate Davies declare the building open.

On 1 September, the building was officially opened by Kate Davies, the Chief Executive of Notting Hill Housing Group (which manages nearly 19,000 homes in London), and Councillor Brian Salinger, leader of Barnet council.

New residents and their families and carers, as well as representatives from Barnet Council, the Housing Corporation and NHHT Supported Housing and Care Division attended the event.

Ms Davies said, "The excel-

lent design and services at Lingwood Court will enable our customers there to develop greater confidence and independence and ultimately to live life as they want to, something most of us take for granted."

Residents have been rehoused from existing supported housing schemes within the borough of Barnet, and the move to East Finchley seems somewhat of an upgrade: each of them has a self-contained flatlet with kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom as well as use of a training kitchen, communal lounge and IT suite. The service is staffed from 7.30am-9.30pm daily. Lingwood Court (so called because of its entrance in Norfolk Close, Lingwood being a place in Norfolk) has an attractive aspect inside and out, as natural materials, light and space have been used to advantage. The Housing Corporation has invested £1.5m in the building.

There are plans to open the communal kitchen and especially information technology areas to local residents with similar learning disabilities.

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Tributes to Phoenix cinema chairman

Michael Cohen, long-serving chairman of The Phoenix Cinema Trust, has died. Mike had been a member of the board for 17 years and became chairman in 1994.

Friends and colleagues said his strong belief in the importance of independent local cinema was apparent to all who heard him talk about the Phoenix and its role in the East Finchley community.

Michael's keen business and financial mind was instrumental in the continuation of the cinema through bad times and good. There is little doubt that without his hard work and enthusiasm the cinema would never have been able to build the new foyer in 2001.

It is a sad irony that only in the last few weeks before his death the Trust had been informed of the successful bid to plan work that will fully restore the cinema to its glory.

A statement from The Phoenix said: "This is a project that undoubtedly Mike would have loved to have got his teeth into. Mike's death has left a void within the Cinema Trust that will be hard to fill."

Public service

Born in 1940, Michael moved to the Barnet area in 1968 and quickly became involved in local politics, serving as a Labour councillor for six years from 1972. He was one of the founders of the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association, chaired Barnet Arts Council from 1984, and was Chair of Barnet Arts Workshops.

His other public commitment was to improve housing. He left a top position in a merchant bank to become a regional director of the Housing Corporation in 1982, and then took on the daunting post of Chief Executive of the Guinness Trust in 1987, with the result that the



Mike Cohen - photo by Julian Bub

Trust is now seen as one of the major innovative developers of housing and regeneration.

Amongst many other commitments, he served on the board of Barnet Housing Aid Centre and then became its chairman until 2004. It's not surprising that in 1999 the Prince of Wales asked him to become a trustee of the Prince's Foundation, a charity set up to develop a holistic approach to architecture and urban regeneration.

Michael's friend Alan Ereira said: "Mike was always charming, cheerful and good-natured. Even those who never met him will get the occasional feeling that something is missing. He was a quiet man, one of the few quiet men whose dedicated energy holds the world together."

Michael leaves a widow Jennie, three children and five grandchildren. The Phoenix cinema will organise a tribute to him and his contribution to the cinema later this year.

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The mothers of fashion

By Claire Cassidy

Typically, maternity wear has never been considered the most flattering clothing a woman can wear. However, in today's day and age, with so many women working throughout their pregnancy, it is no longer possible to rely on a pair of dungarees and a few shirts.

Finding themselves continually dissatisfied with the maternity wear the high street had to offer, two East Finchley women decided to create their own range to suit the needs of pregnant women. Marcelle Rose and Justine Csaky have created the Beau and Belle capsule collection using Marcelle's background in fashion buying and designing to give them a head start.

The aim was to create three key pieces, a crossover top, trousers and a wrap dress, that would see women throughout their pregnancy and after. They chose black as their signature colour as they felt it was smart, stylish and suited everybody.

Marcelle and Justine believe that pregnant women need to have a few key items that are well made and versatile, unlike many of the ranges found on the high street. To achieve this they kept designs simple and used a top manufacturer.



Marcelle Rose and Justine Csaky

The collection took a long time to develop, and the births of their second children pushed the project back a year.

The Beau and Belle collection has been available to purchase over the internet since June, and Justine and Marcelle agree that the response has been overwhelming.

Hoping to expand

Although the collection remains small at the moment, they hope to expand it eventually and start selling in boutiques as well as online. Both are concentrating on motherhood, but can see Beau and Belle becoming a full time occupation. For more information see www.beauandbelle.co.uk

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Night of a thousand lights

By Linda Soper

Alexandra Palace is to play host yet again to one of the most spectacular firework displays in north London. On 5 November from 4.30-11pm there will be ice rink sessions and a beer festival with lots of warming food. Sponsors Capital Radio will be there for the evening too. The road through the park will shut at around 4.30pm and reopen at 11pm. Entry will be £2.

Two days earlier on 3 November, Martin Schools, The Green Man Community Centre and the East Finchley Festival Committee will be staging their own dazzling firework display on the Martin Schools field in

the High Road. This has become a favourite annual event in East Finchley. Gates open at 6pm and the fireworks start at 7pm. Refreshments will be available and tickets will be available on the door.

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A twin town with a difference

By Ann Bronkhorst

On Sunday 9 October some north Londoners will be approaching their 'twin' town Morphou in Cyprus. Yet they will not walk on through the citrus groves; instead they will stop at the UN-patrolled Green Line, looking across the fertile landscape towards a town that, for many, still feels inaccessible.

Since 1974 Northern Cyprus, including Morphou, has been Turkish-occupied. Each October Morphou's original Greek-Cypriot residents, now living abroad or elsewhere in Cyprus, remember their hometown with cultural events, a memorial service and a march towards the town. But although the border was opened two years ago, a special permit is required to cross the line. Many people will not attempt it on principle. Our MP Rudi Vis says: "I won't visit Morphou – or Turkey – until the Turkish government recognises Cyprus."

This year 10 British MPs and several European ones will join the Morphou Rally for Freedom and Human Rights, first held in 1995. Barnet, which is twinned with Morphou, is sending a delegation including three local MPs, Rudi Vis, Andrew Dis-

more and Theresa Villiers, and the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Andreas Tambourides.

The scent of home

The Mayor remembers vividly his last visit before the invasion to Morphou, his grandparents' hometown. He told *THE ARCHER* of his nostalgia for "that beautiful scent of orange trees."

Displaced Morphou citizens in London are determined to honour their 'beautiful place' (the meaning of both names, Greek and Turkish) and to support each other through groups such as the Morphou District Association.

This 'twinning' is unlike the usual, cosy arrangements, however; it has a political dimension and reflects strong emotions. In the Mayor's words, Barnet has chosen to twin with a municipality "in spirit and in exile".

Look both ways for the 263

By Daphne Chamberlain

One evening last month, I came out of East Finchley tube station and trudged down to the 263 bus stop under the bridge.

Then, happening to glance over my shoulder, I was astounded to see a 263 starting its journey by turning out of the station forecourt and heading up the hill towards Fortis Green.

I telephoned the Potters Bar bus garage and explained that passengers coming out of the station don't look in the forecourt. "We just turn right, down to the bridge. If a bus starts from the forecourt, could drivers be advised to nip down and tell the

queue?" I asked.

The answer was that (a) drivers are not allowed to leave their bus, and (b) buses asked to turn at East Finchley usually make the turn further down at the Woodman pub near Highgate tube station.

Certainly, this scenario is very rare, but it's best avoided at the end of a long day. So - bus users, be warned! Look both ways when you come out of the station.

Music royals at Cherry Tree Wood festival

By Viviana Lotti

A rock and roll king and a pop queen shared the lime-light with some humble donkeys when the Muswell Hill Community Festival celebrated its tenth year.



Morris dancers Photo by Erini Rodis

The festival took place in Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley, on Sunday 11 September, organised by the Hornsey Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Hundreds turned out to see the Donkey Derby and dog agility displays, and to browse the craft and charity stalls.

Topping the entertainment bill were renowned singers Mari Wilson and Mario Kombou, accompanied by the Avenue Dukes, a local group of professional jazz and rock musicians.

Mari Wilson first entered the music charts in 1982 with the smash hit Just What I Always Wanted. In the mid-1980s, after a successful pop career, Mari turned to jazz, performing alongside legends such as Ray Charles and BB King. One of Britain's best live singers, she has also performed in musical theatre.

Originally called The Neasden Queen of Soul, Mari now lives in Crouch End. Her new album Dolled Up will be released in October. Mari

described the album as "adult pop - more kd lang than Gwen Stefani".

Mari's superb voice and cheerful banter were enthusiastically received. She warmed up the audience with classics like Preacher Man and Cry Me a River, the theme song she recorded for the 1985 film Dance With a Stranger. The rain did not dampen Mari's sense of humour. Referring to the nearby Donkey Derby she said, "I've never done a gig where there were donkeys running around. I've been on stage with a few of them, though!"

Next came singer and actor Mario Kombou, fresh from beating over 65 contestants to

win the 2005 Images of the King World Championship in Memphis, Tennessee. His performance as Elvis was endorsed by the King's first cousin, Donna Presley, and has been acclaimed worldwide. Muswell Hill resident Mario recently took the leading role in West End musical Jailhouse Rock. He started performing as Elvis at drama school ten years ago. Mario hopes to join another hit musical, The Rat Pack, playing Dean Martin. "It would be nice to do something away from Elvis for a while," he said.

Mario's high-energy performance of favourite Elvis songs, such as Blue Suede Shoes and Hound Dog, and his astonishing resemblance to the King, soon had the crowd rocking. His final song, Jailhouse Rock, was a real showstopper.

Other performers who donated their time and considerable talent were quintet Brass Bravura, rock acoustic band Killing Cupid, the Grizzlies (blues rock), Palpitations (jazz) and the Funkateers (jazz/funk). Dance performances came from the North London Performing Arts Centre Dance Troupe and the London Pride Morris Dancers.

Further information on the Hornsey Trust and the Festival is available at: www.hornseytrust.org.uk



Show us your ass. Photo by Erini Rodis

Six legs instead of four

By Linda Soper

There were four dog agility competitions at the Muswell Hill Festival, sponsored by Bond and White, all judged on speed, but described by the organisers as "a bit of fun".

All the dogs had to jump through two hoops, walk along a bench, sit on a stall, and then go through some cones.

One Alsatian jumped through the hoops but ran along the side, his owner tripping, nearly falling. At the stall he lay down on the grass, looking up at his owner for some attention. Another dog did not go through the hoops at all, but made up for it by jumping on

and off the bench. The owners used tempting treats as the dogs threaded their way through the cones. Agility was clearly a joint effort, and shows that six legs are better than four.

Overall, the money raised by the dog agility competition was £600, while the Festival as a whole raised £4,000, which will go to the Hornsey Trust for equipment to help children with cerebral palsy.

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Media revival at Alexandra Palace

By Paul Chapman

The latest proposal for making use of Alexandra Palace is to develop a centre for the broadcast media and the public. This "big idea", unveiled in August, is the result of a feasibility study commissioned by the Palace Charitable Trust and the BBC's Heritage Department.

The BBC involvement with Alexandra Palace dates back to 1935 when corporation engineers first leased part of the site for early TV trials of the EMI-Marconi and John Logie Baird television systems with preparations for the first TV service in 1936. The BBC stayed on the site until 1981.

The huge potential of Alexandra Palace was the focus of a recent meeting hosted by Ofcom with interested organisations such as Sky TV, Channel 4, ITV, and Channel 5. The proposal is to develop the south-east wing as a centre to offer education, training, heritage and entertainment facilities. No single proposal has emerged but the ideas will inform the team of consultants appointed by the Trust in January.

Thinking creatively

Richard Hooper, deputy chair of Ofcom, explained that the meeting served to crystallise the challenge. Alexandra Palace covers seven acres and using the facilities would depend on a substantial project.

He said: "Even if UK broadcasters all came together in a joint training facility here they wouldn't achieve the critical mass of activity that the site demands in order to be viable. It

is going to take some very creative thinking, and perhaps some unlikely partnerships, if we are to find the answer. Time is of the essence."

Mark Thompson, BBC Director-General is also behind the new project. He said: "It would be fitting, nearly 70 years on, if we could bring the industry behind another big idea that underlines the continuing role of the British media as a standard setter for broadcasters everywhere."

Causeway closure

By Diana Cormack

The Causeway footpath between the entrance to East Finchley station and its junction with Great North Road is to be closed for eight weeks from 26 September.

During this time pedestrians will be given an alternative route via a diverted footpath through the underground station's staff car park.

The closure is to facilitate the excavation and rebuilding of the car park wall and maintenance of the footpath lighting.

To the woods, to the woods

Story and photo by Sheila Armstrong



East Finchley residents are fortunate in having several woods almost on the doorstep. In the past two months, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), the UK's largest practical conservation charity, has organised two walks, in Highgate and Coldfall Woods.

Michael Hammerson from the Highgate Society gave 30 of us an informative overview of the Wood's history one sunny September evening. We looked at Victorian photographs and maps to understand the wood's development. An ancient woodland, it originally provided both fuel and food. Michael showed us evidence of coppicing and pollarding, and signs of the Great Storm of 1987. Wildlife thrives in this well-managed wood, which has been awarded the Green Flag for sensitive environmental management every year since 1997.

In late August 60 people enjoyed an informative guided walk around Coldfall Wood, led by former Haringey Conservation Officer David Bevan. This is also ancient woodland, known to have existed before 1600.

The walk circumnavigated the wood, taking in oaks, hornbeams and indicators of ancient woodland such as the wild service tree, named from the Spanish word for beer, *cerveza*, where it has been associated with beer making. Near the playing fields, the ancient ditch and bank boundary can still be seen, which once separated the wood from Finchley Common.

The traditional good woodland management through coppicing - cutting trees to near ground level to allow re-growth - was highlighted by a day-long charcoal burn in the woods. Tracey Dornan of BTCV, who led the display, said: "Hornbeam would have been used to create charcoal as it burns at such a high temperature. Emissions released from the burn are absorbed by the tree re-growth; it is a truly sustainable fuel source."

For information about volunteering for the BTCV telephone Catherine Perry on 07764 655724 or email c.perry@btcv.org.uk.

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Summer of sport

In the weird world of patriotic overkill, the English have a stupid grin on their faces and cricket is the new rock'n'roll. There is a new pin-up boy. Yes, Freddie Flintoff is the Mick Jagger for the Ashes generation.

Oh yeah? Get off my cloud, because this hasn't been a summer of sporting triumph, it's been the average, mediocre failure, brightened by the strange scent of success.

Let's start with the rugby and the Lions tour. Lions? This was more like the Flabby Tabbies. They went, they saw, they got trashed. The star that was Jonny Wilkinson is fading fast. Mediocrity was the best that Great Britain and Ireland could manage. No change there then, it was what we always expected before England fluked the World Cup.

Wimbledon was our next chance to whip up unnecessary patriotism as Timid Timmy let everyone down as he does every year. We even found a new Timmy in some Scottish kid, so we can go on feeling disappointed when Timmy retires.

The World Athletics Championship was not a great success. The only gold medal came when Paula Radcliffe ran out of excuses and finally won something. The rest of them were more of an excuse than anything else.

Let's not forget football in our quick trip round sporting mediocrity. Sven's children, led by 'Thick Spice', scraped a win over Wales and then reverted to type by losing to Northern Ireland. Nice one, boys.

So, to the cricket and the sound of lager being drunk by people who think a yorker is a chocolate bar and who are going to order a googly next time they visit the Taj Mahal Tandoori. Yes, England won the series 2-1 and won back the Ashes after 16 years in a dramatic finish, but it wasn't great cricket that won it - it was the rain. And the rain at the Oval meant that the Aussies didn't have the chance to win the match.

Oh, and don't forget the 'sporting Brits' who cheered the rain and then called themselves fans. A true fan wants a good match, not just a result, unless it's against the French and London has just won the 2012 Olympics. There was no better place to celebrate than somewhere named after another victory over the French, Trafalgar Square, especially on the 200th anniversary of Nelson's greatest triumph. Ok, so it's not cricket, but who cares?

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YOUNG ARCHER

The little Dutch boy

By Diana Cormack

The terrible disaster that caused New Orleans to be flooded reminded me of a story I first heard when I was a little girl living in Germany on an RAF camp near Holland. Some parts of Holland lie below sea level because a lot of the land has been reclaimed from the North Sea.

The Dutch people pumped out the water, but they had to make sure it never got back in. One of the ways they did this was to build special defences called dykes. These are banks and sea walls high enough to stop the waves flooding over.

The story is about a boy in Holland who was walking to school alongside a dyke when he heard water dripping. Looking around to see where the sound was coming from, he noticed a puddle. Looking up from the puddle, he was horrified to see water trickling down from a small hole in the dyke. There was no one else in sight, so it was up to him to do something in this dangerous situation. If the hole got bigger, more and more water could rush in. Like all Dutch children, he knew that if the sea ever broke over or

through the defending dykes, Holland could be flooded and many people would lose their homes or their lives.

He quickly climbed up the side of the dyke and stuck his finger into the hole to stop the water coming in. For hours and hours he lay there with his finger acting as a plug. As the day passed by, he got colder and hungrier. He felt scared and lonely and very, very tired, but he didn't dare go to sleep in case he moved his finger.

Just when he was beginning to think he would be there forever, he heard voices. It was a search party from his village! How pleased he was to see them and how amazed they were that the strength and common sense of one small child had saved the country from disaster.

3,000 bookworms

By Sheila Armstrong

The national summer reading scheme for children - The Reading Voyage - has been very popular this year with children in Barnet. It is possible that this year more than 3,000 children from libraries all over the borough took part: the borough's Children's Librarian, Hannah Richens, is still counting.

She told *THE ARCHER* that last term children's librarians had been into Barnet's primary schools to introduce the scheme and encourage children to join in.

There will be a winner announced for each library and parties will be held locally for children who have taken part. For more information, see www.readingvoyage.org.uk.

Funnies ...

*What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho Cheese.*

*What do you call four bull-fighters in quicksand?
Quattro sinko.*

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Barbara Poulter (second adult from L) and Vanessa Elsley (fourth adult from L) with some of the regulars at the Green Man Mother and Toddler Group. Photo by Helen Drake

Green Man mother and toddler group

By Helen Drake

A sponsored children's bike ride for Childline in October, a Christmas party in December, and regular craft sessions are just some of the activities planned for the autumn term by the Green Man Mother and Toddler Group.

The group, which is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance, is based at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, and has the use of a huge, airy room.

Azra Nath, who attends on a regular basis with her two-year-old twin boys Haani and Laith, enthused: "I love the space, and with everything in one room it is so easy for me to keep an eye on the children. The equipment changes every week so the children never get bored."

Vanessa Elsley and Barbara Poulter are the two local mums who have been run-

ning the group on a voluntary basis since January 2005. Both originally came along with their children, liked the friendly, relaxed atmosphere and kept returning.

One change they made immediately was introducing more fruit into the snacks on offer for the children. "They devour the grapes," laughed Vanessa. They also introduced a craft session every two weeks, adapting the complexity of the activity to suit the ages of the children attending.

The group is lucky in having the use of a safe, enclosed garden containing outdoor play

equipment such as a slide, little cars, rocking horses and bikes, so in good weather children can expend some of that excess energy in the fresh air.

The Mother and Toddler Group is a Thursday morning drop-in, from 9.30-11.30am during term time. Contributions requested are £1.50 for the first child and £1.00 per extra child per session, up to a maximum of £3.00. The price includes tea and coffee for the adults, and fruit, biscuits and drinks for the children. With the colder weather soon upon us, why not give this friendly mother and toddler group a try?

Wildlife Diary

By Linda Mitchell

Recently I read in a national paper about someone else who keeps a garden diary. This man noted the difference between the times he did the first and last grass cuts of the year, and that has become a unique record for scientific research into global warming changes.

In my garden, swifts arrived in May, but left much earlier than usual, and there were lots of grasshoppers and small crickets this year. Are these signs of climate change, I wonder?

During March, robins, wrens and blue tits were all nesting. Many different finches came to the seed-feeder, and I was delighted to see goldfinches for only the second time in many years.

It was a treat to see mistle thrushes too. Magpies attacked a thrush nest relentlessly, but the thrushes stood their ground as they flew back and forth with worms and insects for the babies. Then, disaster - a crow flew off with a baby. The parents spent the rest of the day in the apple tree, making sad little "pip-pip" noises. They left, and have not returned.

I also watched a kestrel



We think Linda Mitchell was the first person in Finchley to record seeing a wild parakeet in her garden. At last she's managed to capture them on film!

hovering about on the lookout for his dinner.

The spotted woodpecker brought two babies to feed. One sat on the rotary clothesline, while the parent fed on the ground. Later in the summer, the large green woodpecker

tried to feed from the nut feeder. Most unusual!

The parakeets, which seem to be getting fatter each year, now visit more in the winter. I did manage to take some photos of them at the feeder, though - at last!



Is anaemia sucking the oomph out of your life?

Simone Baroke continues her series on nutrition. **Been feeling a bit tired and breathless lately? There's a chance you could be anaemic. Anaemia means that there is a reduced amount of haemoglobin in the blood. Haemoglobin is the red pigment, which carries oxygen to all the cells in your body.**

Symptoms of anaemia include fatigue, headaches, fainting, breathlessness, palpitations, angina, pallor and frequent infections. Older people are at high risk, because the amount of digestive juices produced decreases as we age. This can lead to impaired absorption of iron and vitamin B12, a common cause of anaemia.

There are different types of anaemia, some of which result from underlying medical conditions other than malnutrition. It is advisable to go to your doctor for a blood test and be sure to mention all your symptoms.

If it turns out that you have nutritional-deficiency anaemia, it's not just your iron intake you need to increase, but also folic acid and vitamin B12. These

nutrients are essential for making haemoglobin. Good sources include:

- **Iron:** sardines, liver, beef, prawns, eggs, beans, lentils, nuts & seeds, raisins
- **Folic acid:** green leafy vegetables (e.g. spinach), beetroot, most other vegetables, mushrooms, beans, lentils
- **Vitamin B12:** all animal products, e.g. fish, meat, dairy, eggs.

Vitamin C significantly increases the absorption of iron from food, so eat fresh fruit and vegetables with your meals, and/or take a vitamin C supplement (100-500mg) with every meal.

Simone Baroke is a nutritional therapist and practises in East Finchley. She can be contacted on 020 8883 0915.

Homeopath hits back

By Daphne Chamberlain

A recent scientific study claimed that homeopathic remedies are no more successful than placebos. How can a substance that has been diluted so many times that it is not traceable be of any use?

Marj Morrison, who practises in East Finchley, put the homeopaths' case to *THE ARCHER*.

"It is true", she said, "that homeopathic remedies are natural substances diluted in water, but the more the substance is diluted, the more powerful it becomes. At each dilution, the mixture is shaken thoroughly. This releases the healing power, or energy, of the substance, which leaves its imprint in the water."

Marj says that doctors are increasingly recognising homeopathy. Some tell patients that medical treatment may alter the effect of a remedy, and Marj makes adjustments accordingly. She believes strongly that homeopathy and orthodox medicine should work together.



Marj Morrison.

Photo by John Dearing

She would not recommend that anyone forgoes orthodox treatment for serious illnesses.

Marj Morrison works from Cootes Pharmacies in East Finchley and Finchley Central. She works by appointment, but has walk-in clinics between 11am and 1pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays at East Finchley, and Saturdays at Finchley Central. She can be contacted on 020 8341 0986.

A new body

By Diana Cormack

The National Blood Authority and UK Transplant have just merged into one organisation, to be known as NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). The aims are to increase the supply of donated blood, organs and tissue and to raise the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of blood and transplant services.

Scores of people regularly join the queue to give blood when the donation van visits East Finchley tube station but everyone could help further by signing up to the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Although many people carry donor cards that their immediate family may know about, they have

not actually registered, which is the best way they can make sure their wishes are known. By joining the register around 20% of the population have confirmed that they want to help others to live after their death.

The question of organ donation is obviously an emotive

Dip and Salsa

By Viviana Lotti

Help is here for those who need to improve their dancing. East Finchley resident John Lintern and Betty Chi, who together have formed J&B Dance, are running classes and dances in Finchley and New Barnet. Both are experienced, qualified teachers.



Best foot forward... Photograph by kind permission of J&B Dance.

J&B Dance events comprise weekly lessons on Wednesdays, fortnightly tea dances, and monthly Saturday evening dances. Age is no barrier to joining in. The Sunday tea dance on 28 August attracted a mixed, mainly over-50s crowd, mostly long-established 'regulars'. As John & Betty presided over a combination of ballroom, Latin and sequence dances, many of the over-60s took to the floor with effortless grace and energy belying their age. As one gentleman, Leslie Barrett, said, "We may be over 65, but we're not invisible".

Nearly everyone joined in the sequence dances, performing impressive synchronised displays to old favourites such as 'Jealousy'. Leslie explained that around 40 sequence dances were created annually by amateurs and judged by dance teachers. The winners taught in dance schools countrywide.

Talent spotting

All those interviewed emphasised the social and physical benefits of ballroom dancing. Chris and John Webster, from Borehamwood, have been regulars for three years. Their friends, Fiona and Dennis Chandler from Potters Bar, were hardly off the dance floor due to Dennis's enthusiasm.

Don Kell, (a former dance host on cruise ships), thought music was a wonderful aphrodisiac while Margaret Taylor, from Islington, suggested, "To get more men involved, tell them it's good for their health and they can check out the talent!"

Pensioner Charlie Beer, from Borehamwood, is proof of the rejuvenating powers of dance. In addition to holding a second Dan

black belt in judo, he recently participated in a 10,000m veterans' run in Brighton and the Borehamwood half-marathon.

Dance has no age limit. Ladies can be as glamorous as they like; gentlemen get to be in charge.

Full details of classes and dances from: www.jandbdance.co.uk or 020 8444 0280.

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- ❖ **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** - 17 & 31 Oct at 8pm, 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** Tuesdays 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
- ❖ **Probuss Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

Sweet Confections

Review and photo by
Toni Morgan

An evening of music, nostalgia and laughter was greatly enjoyed by an East Finchley audience at St Mary's Church Hall on the High Road on Saturday 10 September when The Confections staged their latest production.

The evening started with a medley of Old Time Music Hall songs; the performers were dressed in authentic costumes and audience participation added to the fun.

Following an interval when tasty refreshments were available, the company presented a selection of songs from the 20s and 30s onwards. The finale was a Cole Porter selection, which had many of the audience humming along to the very well-known tunes.



Apart from their two productions each year, The Confections are also involved with a large number of small concerts in day centres, residential homes and many other venues

throughout the area.

They would also like to recruit new members to their group, so if you enjoy singing and would be interested in joining the company, find

out more by contacting Ruby Sasin. Anyone wanting more information should call Ruby on 020 8440 2817 or e-mail music.confections@newvision.co.uk.

Louisiana fundraising event

By Betti Blatman



L'Ill Jim

SwampRock musicians and members have many close links with Louisiana, the American state battered by Hurricane Katrina. Many love its people, music, dancing, food and culture and feel they would like to give something back and show some solidarity with the Louisiana people who have lost their homes, possessions and livelihoods.

A special benefit night was held on Saturday 10 September at All Saints Arts Centre in Whetstone, with all profits and donations going to the American Red Cross Hurricane Appeal Fund.

SwampRock's next gig is on Saturday 22 October, with the electrifying Zydeco rhythms, plus a dance workshop for zydeco dancing at 8pm at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone.

For further information contact Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth 01727 830280 or go to www.swamprock.org.uk

Come to the cabaret

By Sheila Armstrong

In a special one-off event the artsdepot will open up its café and bar to host the cabaret *Spice*, which features the latest in comedy and music. On Friday 11th November Ria Parry will present the very best of new work from a variety of new and established artists.

Ria set up *Spice* in 2001 and its home was for some while The Pleasance Theatre in N7. *Spice* now plays from a variety of venues offering its usual mix of comedy, music and new writing to audiences across London.

Tickets are £8.00 for the show. Food will be served from 6-8pm and the bar will be open throughout. Book a table with a group of friends and enjoy this exclusive show but book early, as places are limited. For more information or to book, contact the box office 020 8369 5454 or e-mail the website www.artsdepot.co.uk.

What's On...

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

Fridays 14th, 21st, 28th October, 8pm:

Meditation for Life and Death, Avenue House, East End Road. A series of three talks on the deeper significance of meditation and other spiritual practices, by Lucy Oliver. Entry £5.00.

Sunday 16 October:

Garden Suburb Ward Liberal Democrats' coach outing to Bletchley Park, home of ENIGMA code-breaking. Leave Golders Green Station 10am. Price: £22 (coach only, and part of the cost will go towards party funds). For application forms contact 020 8455 6507 or mail@marjorieharris.fsnet.co.uk. Non-members/non Liberal Democrats welcome.

Monday 24 October, 8pm:

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood AGM, Fellowship room of East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road.

Saturday 29 October:

Lupus UK - Halloween fun day, Budgens, High Road, starts 10am. Raffle and lucky dip with fantastic prizes and tasty bites to eat in aid of Lupus UK.

Saturday 29 October:

Finchley Cinevideo Society - Festival of Award-winning film. Contact Trevor Williams on 020 8446 3797 for details.

Thursday 3 November:

Fireworks Display - for the third year running, Martin Schools' PTA, The Green Man Community Centre and the East Finchley Festival Committee will stage a spectacular fireworks display (weather permitting) on the Martin School field, Plane Tree Walk, High Road, at 7pm (doors open at 6pm). Food and drinks will be on sale. Tickets available on the door.

Saturday 5 November, 10am-4pm:

Finchley Christian Fellowship Women of Faith Meeting. Hear the testimony of special guest Angie Taylor, former drug addict and alcoholic. East Finchley Baptist Church, Creighton Avenue. For details contact Marcia Andrew on 07950 522 004

Remembering Spike

Comedian Spike Milligan's connections with conservation are the subject of a talk by Bill Tyler, president of the Finchley Society.

Spike had a keen commitment to conservation nationally and especially in the Finchley area. In 1971, he helped to found the Finchley Society when he lived in North Finchley. He was the society's first president and then its patron until his death.

Bill Tyler will recall some of the events, meetings and battles that lay behind the mask of comedy.

The talk takes place at Avenue House, East End Road, on Thursday 27 October at 8pm and entry is free. Non-members are welcome, but places are limited.

New meeting-place for MHFGA

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association starts its autumn programme in its new venue - Muswell Hill Bowling Club, Kings Avenue, N10.

The first meeting will be on Wednesday 26 October, when the speaker will be Libby Adams, archivist at Bruce Castle, Tottenham.

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for Strawberry Vale and The Grange.

Distribution takes place once a month.

A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver.

We also require drivers to drop to our distributors (average 8 drops each). Please contact 020 8883 0433 or distribution@the-archer.co.uk for details



Combined cadet centre opens

By Diana Cormack



L-R Air Cadet Sgt Emma Albone and Army Cadet Sgt Kim Richardson (both 18) at the plaque with Sir Michael Craig Cooper. Photo by Michael Nolan

On 7 September, more than 150 cadets, parents, guests and dignitaries gathered for the official opening of Finchley's new cadet centre at 444 High Road. It has been built on the old Territorial Army Centre site as a condition of land sale under the Barnet enterprise scheme, alongside 170 social and private housing units.

The centre will serve the boys and girls of 393 (Finchley) Squadron Air Training Corps and 214 Detachment Army Cadet Force.

Before the opening and reception, the Air Cadets gave a drill and band display, followed by a rescue and first aid demonstration by the Army Cadets. Performing the opening ceremony the Queen's representative, Vice Lord Lieutenant Sir Michael Craig Cooper, said how impressed he was by the building and thanked the instructors for the work they do there.

Among these was former East Finchley resident Jim Olney, who ran Josephine's

the florists for more than 40 years. Now living in Frinton, he still travels here for the twice-weekly ATC parades.

Mayor of Barnet Andreas Tambourides expressed his good wishes for the centre, as did the borough's Deputy Lord Lieutenant Major Paddy O'Brien.

Flying high

Amongst the many activities offered are sports, adventure training, first aid, map reading, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, rifle shooting and flying. In fact, ATC cadets can gain their wings before they can hold a driving licence. The age range is from 12 to 18 and cadets can achieve

the equivalent of four GCSEs through their normal cadet activities under the BTEC scheme. Not all the youngsters intend to join the armed forces; for some the centre is more of a youth club.

Speaking to *THE ARCHER* Brian Salinger, Leader of Barnet Council, said, "It's great to see the kids using this building." The Air Cadets meet on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7.30-10pm. Telephone 020 8444 9861 for further details. The Army Cadets meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7.30-9.30pm. For more information, telephone 020 8952 7605.

Letters to the editor

New squeeze on sports facilities

Dear Editor,

I have been following the Stanley Field sports facility issue with interest. On 27 August, I received a notification from Barnet Council, advising me of a planning application for a floodlit multi-sport pitch, timber adventure trail, etc, to be built on the only remaining green space in Tarling Road, opposite the entrance to Vanderville Gardens.

The plan is to squeeze this sports facility into the very small area next door to the Old Barn Community Centre. The area of the proposed development backs right onto the flats in Brownswell Road and Fallows Close, and is essentially their back garden. Street noise already travels and echoes in this neighbourhood "pocket".

Tarling Road, though mainly residential, already accommodates three "community projects" in the form of the Old Barn Community Centre, Newstead Children and Family Centre and the Ann Owen Centre, and really does not have the capacity to house an additional sports facility.

The Old Barn Community Centre operates as a children's pre and after school facility for much of the time during the day, but it is also used for evening and weekend clubs and social functions. When a social function is taking place, the whole of Tarling Road is full of cars parked on both sides of the road, as the centre often has inadequate private parking.

It is the most ridiculous area to even consider siting such a facility.

S. Steven.
Vanderville Gardens, N2.

Our polluted allotments

Dear Editor,

At East Finchley Allotments (behind Martin School) we were interested to read about the sewage problems on the Vale Farm, Tarling Road, allotments (*THE ARCHER*, September 2005).

They are not alone! There have been on-going problems for years from pollution in the two streams crossing our site from south (Creighton Avenue) to north.

We have been in touch with the Environment Agency and Thames Water about this, but progress is slow.

While the streams take surface water from Creighton Avenue and probably the county roads as well, it is obvious from the suds, the filth and the stench that they are also taking water from people's drains.

Some householders may not be aware that their sinks or washing machines have been plumbed into the surface water drain instead of the sewer. This is particularly likely when properties are refurbished or new appliances added.

The pollution involved is not just local. Since the streams run into larger rivers, our wrongly-connected washing machines are helping to pollute waterways and kill wildlife for miles.

We can help each other to help the environment by making sure this hasn't happened with the plumbing in our own homes.

Yours sincerely
Richard King
Chairman, East Finchley Allotment Holders' Association

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

OBITUARIES

Eric Dean

By John Dearing

Eric Dean, a familiar figure in East Finchley for many years, died in August. Most people will remember him wobbling about in East Finchley with his walking stick.

Eric, who was in his early 60s, was born on the Isle of Wight, where his grandfather had been station-master at Bembridge. As a young man, he joined the Royal Air Force and worked as an engineer in the motor transport division. After suffering a slipped disc, he was invalided out of the forces about 20 years ago.

Eric was always interested in motor sport, so after the RAF he worked as a mechanic for Lotus. However, his health problems, which included asthma and spinal spondylosis, continued to plague him and he was forced to take early retirement.

In recent years, Eric became steadily less mobile, but he remained interested in cars, always willing to offer advice to amateur mechanics from his extensive knowledge.

Eric's problems with his flooded flat were reported in *The Archer* in March of this year. Eventually he was allocated a new flat in Market Place, but had moved in only three weeks before he died.

Eric died a week after breaking his hip, following a fall outside his home. After being operated on in the Royal



Eric in the Bald Faced Stag on Bobath Centre Charity Race Night in February, clutching his winnings! Picture by Frank Tymkov

Free Hospital, he contracted pneumonia. His funeral was held at Marylebone Cemetery on 6 September.

Guide dogs' ambassador dies

By Betti Blatman

An East Finchley resident who became an ambassador for guide dogs has died just a few days before her 80th birthday. Joyce Dale, of St Mary's Green, Thomas More Estate, East Finchley, died on 15 August 2005. Sadly, the birthday party planned by the Blind Association at Avenue House had to be re-arranged for her funeral.

After going blind at the age of 54, Joyce became an ambassador for guide dogs. She was a committee member for the Barnet branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and gave talks to various groups. During her blindness, she owned three guide dogs, Eliza (retriever), Gary (labrador/retriever) and Crispin (flat-coated retriever). She was also involved in The Disablement Association for Barnet, Barnet Borough Sight Impairment, Network Agenda 21 and Access. Before going blind she helped run the 9th Finchley Cub Scouts.

A spokeswoman for Barnet's branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association said, "Joyce was a very strong lady who was determined not to let her disability get in the way of enjoying life."

She will be greatly missed by her son, Terry, and her family, friends and neighbours.

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Archie's Arch-enemy

By Anna Davies

The battle had begun.

Archibold had had a bit of trouble getting hold of his beloved bow and arrow all day. Numerous people had taken it to "look after it", but now he had his arrows slung on his back and his bow in his hands. As he wandered around the village, looking for his friends he came upon a small cave-like feature in a wall of a house.

He had never come across it before, and felt a real sense of evil in there. Archibold, who decided this was the time to live up to his strangely-spelt name, took a deep breath, got an arrow ready on his bow and took a step in there.

Once inside the walls of the cave he felt somehow trapped. "Stop being silly!" he told himself. Then he stopped. "Well bless my soul, this isn't a cave after all, it's a passageway!" Stooping low, so as not to bang his head, he ran on, through the tunnel. He turned a corner and, seeing a small dark shape standing out darkly against the light blue sky outside, stopped dead. What was that noise? A slow, low, rasping cough, that kept repeating itself in a steady rhythm.

Suddenly he saw a silhouette of a nose appear and then the rest of the head. This was an ancient and fearsome monster lurking in here.

The creature stood up and glanced in Archibold's direction. A pair of bright, orange eyes glinted in the one ray of sunlight that came from outside the tunnel and as Archibold saw them he felt...nothing....Archibold was no more alive. This creature was the most deadly of all the creatures to walk the earth (a Basilisk, as it happens). Archibold had looked it squarely in the eye and had, unfortunately, turned to stone.

Years later the tunnel was knocked away and the East Finchley tube station built there instead. Archibold's name was turned to Archie (mostly because the people were so...thick... they couldn't cope with such a long name) and Archie just could not be destroyed, let alone moved. So Archie (or Archibold) has been and always will be standing there on the East Finchley tube station, brave and stubborn as always, but now a stony statue.



Anna Davies is presented with her prize by Young Archer editor Diana Cornack. Photo by Linda Bower

Our Archie winner

At the start of the summer, we asked you to send in stories, cartoons or poems about our famous tube station statue Archie. Thanks to everyone who entered our competition and congratulations to 12-year-old Anna Davies, from Summerlee Gardens, who our judges picked as our winner. Anna wins a book token and here's her winning entry (right):

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A plaque for Punch

By Betti Blatman

At Church Farmhouse Museum a blue plaque to Mark Lemon, first editor of 'Punch' magazine, was officially unveiled on Sunday 11 September by the celebrated humorous writer and broadcaster Alan Coren, who was Editor of 'Punch' from 1978 to 1987. The blue plaque, on the front of the building, was generously paid for by The Friends Of Church Farmhouse Museum.

Prior to the unveiling, The Mayor of Barnet, Andreas Tambourides, referred to Alan Coren's connections with the Borough and pointed out that the plaque commemorating the first 'Punch' editor was being unveiled by the last 'Punch' editor.

Mark Lemon was co-founder and first Editor of 'Punch'. After his father

died when he was eight he lived in the house from 1817 to 1823 with his paternal grandfather (also named Mark Lemon - then the tenant farmer at Church Farm, Hendon). 'Punch' became a British institution, and continued publication until 2002. Its longevity and its eventual iconic status were largely due to the energy and skill

of Mark Lemon in its early days.

There is an interesting 'Punch' exhibition on display at the Museum including a portrait of one of Mark Lemon's seven daughters, Kate, who was the model for Tenniel's 'Alice In Wonderland' illustrations.

STEWART DUNCAN

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