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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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



Spirito di punto? Photo by Jay Radia

## Church Lane crash

By Erini Rodis

**A road block was set up in Church Lane on 18 August after a car drove into the side of a shop.**

A metallic green Fiat Punto had bounced off a parked red van, lurching straight into what used

to be the off-licence on the end of the row of shops near the High Road.

One of the neighbours, who prefers to remain anonymous, was woken from his afternoon nap by the vibrations through the walls at about 3.30pm

"The shop has been unoccupied for several months, so thankfully nobody was hurt," said freeholder Jay Radia, who watched as workmen worked into the evening to clear away debris and secure his property.

"It's the driver I feel sorry for."

It has been suggested that the driver, who is female and in her seventies, may have lost control of the car after a sudden drop in blood pressure. She was said to be shaken but not hurt, and was taken home by a friend. The car was unscathed.

## Still no action on sewage

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Vale Farm allotments at the end of Tarling Road have been contaminated by human sewage, in such large quantities that it has even overflowed across the footbridge over the North Circular Road.**

Allotments Secretary Stella Burnett told us that the sewage eruption is not new. "It happens every year," she said, "usually around Christmas time. Last January, although Thames Water cleared the obstruction temporarily, they couldn't get rid of a liquid sewage lake. They said they would return when it had dried out, but they never did, and I have withdrawn the plot from use. I have been arguing with Thames Water and Barnet about this problem for five years. It's a danger to public health. Children go to school across that footbridge."

Ms Burnett told us that Thames Water sewage crews have said that the root cause of the blockage is probably not on the allotment site, but, as they don't know exactly where it stems from, they can't clear it. Thames Water later confirmed for *THE ARCHER* that however long-standing a blockage is, they will not put a camera down to investigate unless an overflow happens at least three

times in twelve months.

When Ms Burnett contacted Barnet Environmental Services earlier this year, a representative said they would "do a leaflet drop" along the lines of the sewer just before Christmas, asking people to take precautions. Confirming this for us, a Barnet spokesperson said that the sewage system was Thames Water's responsibility.

### Wading through sewage

Following questions from this paper, Barnet told us that the Thames Water Area Manager would be meeting Ms Burnett the following day. However, seven days later, Ms Burnett told us that this had not happened, and she had heard nothing further.

She told us, "I have discussed this with a manager several times before, but nothing has been resolved. I just hope I'm not wading through sewage in my wellies in the freezing cold again this Christmas."

**Footnote** Local residents are afraid that the proposed demolition of nearby Lonsdale House Care Home and the building of a new development on its site could make matters worse. They say that at least one house in adjacent Sylvester Road has already been affected by a sewage overflow.

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people who give up their  
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to deliver the paper for us.*

### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please  
contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may be  
published unless clearly marked  
'Not for publication' within the text.

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## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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**Barnet**  
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Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
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**Drinkline** 0800 917 8282  
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### Councillors' Surgery.

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❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020  
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## Mugging in Cherry Tree Wood

**A 16-year-old male had his mobile phone worth £100 and silver chain worth £25 stolen. The incident happened on Friday 22 July at 10pm in Cherry Tree Wood.**

The victim was with a group of friends when two male suspects approached them and asked to see his phone. The victim refused and put his mobile phone into his pocket.

He was then punched in the face by one of the suspects who took the phone from his pocket and snatched his silver neck chain before walking off.

The first suspect is described as a white male aged 16 and 5ft 8ins. The second suspect is described as a black male aged 15 and 5ft 9ins.

## Market dates

**There will be a farmers' market in the grounds of Alexandra Palace on Sunday 11 September and Sunday 18 September, 10am-3pm.**

On Sundays 4 September and 25 September the market will be at Highgate Wood School, as there will be other events at the Palace.

## A sign of the times

By Diana Cormack

**Recent tragic events in London have indicated the need for some system to be set up which will enable the emergency services to contact people closest to those involved in accidents and incidents. Earlier this year a campaign began which may well be of great benefit in such situations.**

It was the idea of East Anglian paramedic Bob Brotchie, who has attended numerous emergencies where patients have been unable to supply information or contact details. Musing over the fact that nearly 75% of people fail to carry such details, he realised that most of them (including children) do carry a mobile phone. Could the solution be for people to simply log the acronym ICE (In Case of Emergency) along with the name and number of a contact person into their mobile's phone book?

Bob put his idea to the NHS Trust who approached Vodafone and the ICE scheme was launched in May in association with the National Life Savers' Awards. He hopes that it will become standard for mobile phone companies to install ICE as a pre-loaded entry into every phone book. An email has been circulating as worldwide interest in the idea spreads, along with warnings of possibly introducing a virus to your mobile or incur-

ring unforeseen charges. Visit [www.icecontact.com](http://www.icecontact.com) to find out all about it.

## 'Communities together' help and advice line

**Following recent events in London, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Metropolitan Police Authority and the Mayor's Office have set up an advice line to offer support and reassurance to Londoners, particularly to those communities who feel vulnerable following the terrorist attacks.**

The call centre will initially be based at New Scotland Yard and will be staffed by police officers, police staff and volunteers. They will be available to offer advice and information about recent events to increase understanding and build community confidence.

The advice line will initially provide a 24 hour service and can be contacted free on 0800 028 2390.

Where anyone has specific

## Bare earth

By John Dearing

**As reported in the July edition of THE ARCHER, residents of The Grange Estate suffered an extended power cut towards the end of May. In the process of investigations, contractors removed a flowering cherry tree and left a patch of bare earth.**

When contacted by THE ARCHER, EDF Energy made this statement.

"We are committed to providing our customers with the safest and most reliable electricity supply. Tree roots can cause reliability problems on our network by damaging underground cables but we're sensitive to the environment we work in and would not remove trees without good reason.

### Root of the problem

During work to locate and repair a cable fault our contractors removed a small tree on the verge outside Vane House in East Finchley. This was necessary to ensure security of supplies because the tree was in the way of a cable we needed to excavate. The tree was dug out and left next to the hole for reinstatement later, but was subsequently removed.

We are sorry for any distress this may have caused but can assure our customers that any

trees that needed to be removed as part of our work to ensure a reliable supply of electricity will be replaced a safe distance away from our cables."

Hopefully, we will soon be able to report the restitution of this tree, or one like it.

## Planning Applications

### 60 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Demolition of existing house, and erection of block of eight flats in a two-storey building, with accommodation in the roofspace. Eight car-parking spaces with access from Lankaster Gardens.

### Flat 1, 1 Oak House, Central Avenue, N2

Construction of access ramp, and installation of new entrance door facing Willow Walk

### 176 High Road, N2

Conversion of existing first / second floor maisonette into a total of three self-contained flats

### 113 High Road, N2

Installation of new shopfront

### 130 High Road, N2

New shop front

### Ground Floor Flat, 2 Chandos Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing conservatory

### Land adjacent to 320 High Road, N2

Erection of a three-storey detached dwelling with associated off-street parking.

### 240 High Road, N2

Construction of first-floor extension to accommodate a self-contained one-bedroom flat with associated external access.

### 45 Heath View, N2

Two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension. Formation of hard standing for two off-street parking spaces.





Councillor Offord operating the new graffiti removal machine. Picture courtesy of London Borough of Barnet Council

## Cracking down on graffiti

Barnet Council's graffiti removal team, in partnership with Childs Hill Safer Neighbourhoods police team, has undertaken a week-long project to eradicate graffiti from properties in Childs Hill.

On Tuesday 2 August Cllr Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, took part in the clean up operations.

Funding has been made available from the Building Safer Communities Fund to purchase a new graffiti-cleaning machine.

L'oreal & Goldswell products

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## Support for Stanley sports centre idea

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Community Development Trust has reported overwhelming support from residents near Stanley Road playing field to the idea of turning it into a communal sports centre.

The Trust has been setting out its proposals to transform the neglected playing field into a multi-sport and recreation centre for all the community, and asking for comments and suggestions. At the time of writing it was reporting an almost 100% positive response to the plan from their door-to-door survey.

Typical comments from residents included: "Please, no more flats!", "We don't need any more housing here", "East Finchley's infrastructure is under pressure already" and "This area should be kept as playing fields for the community, considering the national campaign to keep school fields."

### Community arena

THE ARCHER has seen some of the responses. What is clear from them is that local people are asking for what one resident describes as "an active focal point for the community". They want an opportunity for people of all ages to play a variety of sports and are excited at the thought of a flexible, adaptable arena.

They are thinking ahead to the 2012 Olympics, and concerned over levels of fitness and child obesity, as well as the closure of more and more playing fields.

One resident, who overlooks the field, said that the area was used frequently until

very recent times, when it has become a "wilderness".

There are practical concerns - particularly about access and supervision - but at the time of writing the response is a general "thumbs-up".

See page 6 for the history of Stanley Field.

## Curry powder warning

The Food Standards Agency has again warned about the contamination of some brands of Rajah Premium Hot and Mild Curry Powder with the illegal dye, Sudan 1.

The products affected are in 100g and 425g tins with BBE dates up to June 2008, and in 400g packets dates up to June 2007. Products bearing codes after these dates, and other Rajah products, are not affected.

Barnet Council is visiting shops and restaurants in the borough to ensure any contaminated powder has been removed.

All residents are urged to check their food cupboards. If any of these products are seen on sale, please contact the Council's Food Safety Team immediately, on tel. 020 8359 7443.

## A saucy tale

By Diana Cormack

During the night of Saturday 6 August, the two majestic white lions that stand guard outside the pub next to East Finchley tube station were the victims of a senseless attack. The following morning, street cleaner Colin Knox was puzzled when he came across an empty plastic sauce bottle, the kind usually found in cafes and restaurants, but not the type used in the Old White Lion. Looking round, he soon discovered where the contents had gone, for both lions had been liberally smeared with ketchup.

### Seeing red

"It's beyond belief what some people will do for what they call fun," Colin told THE ARCHER. he wondered if the sauce could be removed without leaving a stain.

Paula Felgate, trainee assistant manager at The Old White Lion, spent more than one-and-a-half hours cleaning the lions. "There is still a little pink left behind. I just hope the English weather will eventually get rid of it," she said. "It looked like the lions were bleeding. It wasn't very funny."



The white lion statue defiled.  
Photo by Ian Cormack

## Free bus travel for under-16s

From 1 September, 14 and 15 year-olds are entitled to free bus and tram travel in the Greater London Authority area. To be eligible, they must obtain an Oyster photocard, available from Underground stations and Post Offices.

Since 1 August, all 11-13 year-olds have been able to travel free on buses and trams. They do not need an Oyster card, but are advised to carry proof of their age. Additionally those 16 and 17 year-olds in full-time education are entitled to travel on a child's fare, but only with a photocard. Transport for London says free bus and tram travel "may well" be extended to them next year.

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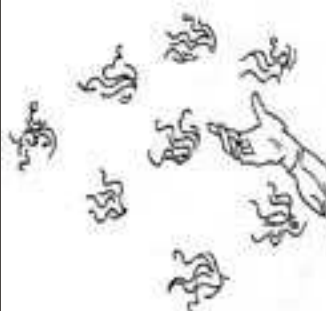
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Mr Reuby Hyams on parade. Photo by John Dearing

## Reuby on parade

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Long-time East Finchley resident Reuby Hyams was on parade in Battersea Park last month. Reuby, former president of the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, was invited by the British Legion to join several hundred other veterans in an event marking the 60th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.**

"I don't want people to think I'm being big-headed appearing in the paper," he says. "My war wasn't anything compared to some people's wars." On his chest though, along with his stars for service in Africa, Italy, Europe and War Service, was the oak leaf for 'mentioned in dispatches' (which he was told never to polish).

He served with first Wavell and then Montgomery, in the desert, at Salerno, Sicily and elsewhere in Italy. "More credit should be given to the men in those Mediterranean landings. I was standing by in the harbour at Crete, and everyone was under constant bombardment".

Recovering from injuries,

he spent a year in Bruges with a family; he has kept in close touch with them ever since. "They became like brothers and sisters to me, and their children and grandchildren still treat Rene and me like members of the family." It's a two-way thing, as he has learned a little Flemish.

He enjoyed the re-union, which included an excellent tea and entertainment, and praised Dial-a-Ride for getting him there and back very promptly.

Reuby and Rene, who run the Monday Club at Fairacres Accommodation for Jewish Blind and Disabled, have lived in Elmshurst Crescent for 50 years.

## V is for volunteer

By Harriet Watson

**Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) is a national charity that has been recruiting, training and placing volunteers from the local community into primary schools since 1973. There are 30 branches nationwide with 2,669 volunteers helping 7,463 children in 1,850 schools. VRH links the volunteers with children aged 6 - 11 years old whose teachers feel they would benefit from extra one-to-one help.**

Each volunteer works with the same three children individually, for half an hour each, twice a week in a local primary school. Holy Trinity and Martin Schools are involved in the scheme. They might read to the child, allow the child to choose and look at books they find interesting, or play games together. The aim is to increase the children's confidence and self-esteem in a relaxed, fun environment, making reading enjoyable and achievable.

### Can you help?

The London North West branch of Volunteer Reading

Help, which covers the Barnet and Brent areas, has 97 volunteers in 55 schools helping 291 children. New volunteers are always welcome from all cultures and backgrounds. No formal qualifications are needed although you must be at least 18 years old (there is no upper age limit).

If you like books and children and can commit to working one and half hours twice a week (term time only) for at least two terms, please contact: Harriet Watson, Volunteer Service Manager on 020 7372 7523 or email: harriet.watson@vrh.org.uk

## Walkers or drivers?

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Feel like popping out for a Strategic Walk? Your fancy could take you along the Thames, into the Lea Valley - or through Cherry Tree Wood and East Finchley Station. One of the Walks - the Capital Ring - circles London, going right through our neck of the woods - and into a bit of controversy.**

Strategic Walks, run by Transport for London, are part of Mayor Livingstone's plan to get Londoners back on their feet and using parks and woodland.

The northern section of the Capital Ring, from Richmond Bridge to Woolwich in easy stages, will be launched this month at a ceremony in Highgate Wood, but Barnet Council will not be leading the cheers. Colin Saunders, Capital Ring Project Manager, told *THE ARCHER*, "It's unfortunate. Barnet was an enthusiastic supporter of both the Capital Ring and the London Loop when the walks were first mooted, in 1991, and was among the first to open its sections of

both routes." Barnet, he said, provided funding for most of the existing signing and for free publicity leaflets, but now they are refusing to co-operate further.

Only about half the recommended signing is in place, but the launch is going ahead anyway. Barnet told us, "The route is generally well signed, and people using the route do so from prior knowledge, and not from seeing a sign and taking pot luck."

### Not against it, but...

It's TFL who would pay for completing the signage, so why is Barnet not co-operating? A spokesperson told us they were "concerned that other proposals which form

part of the Strategic Walks Project would have a harmful effect on traffic flow - for example, speed tables and pedestrian crossings where the route meets or runs along roads. The Council does not oppose the route, but believes there are higher priorities for transport investment."

Despite the controversy, the launch goes ahead - at 4pm on Wednesday 21 September, by the café in Highgate Wood.

Leaflets on London's Strategic Walks are available free from public libraries, from walking@tfl.gov.uk, and from TFL's information line on 0870 240 6094, or for a small price from the Ramblers' Association on 020 7339 8501.

## How to be eco-friendly

By Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

**As part of my gap year travels this year, I spent five weeks at an environmentally sustainable Eco-village in Tennessee. I learnt a great deal there, but much of it was aimed at rural living so I was excited about visiting the Eco Design Fair earlier this summer at Cecil Sharp House, Camden Town, to see what they had for English city-dwellers.**

With a brief that the products should fit into at least one category out of 'recycled, organic, natural, non-toxic, locally-sourced, cruelty-free and fairly-traded,' the diversity of products and stalls reflected the scope of what's out there.

### Nappy-happy

There were solar panel installers, organic beauty products, petitions for local bio-diesel sources, and books on every facet of sustainable living. Camden Council had its own stall with information for residents on where to recycle and how to join a 'Real Nappy, Real Happy' scheme, which rents out, collects and sterilises cotton nappies, rather than using the ton of disposable nappies a baby will get through in its infancy.

### Inventive ideas

I was most interested in the recycled products, and loved Rita McDonnell's crocheted plastic bags. Recycled tyres made belts, mouse mats, and some indestructible-looking pencil cases. One stall sold brightly-coloured handbags woven out of crisp packets, from a fair trade organisation in Mexico City.

There was a slight lunatic fringe. One man sold copper spiral tubes, sealed with water inside which would 'energise' any water pipe it was attached to, while the 'Worn Again' shoes made from old shoes and what appeared to be tweed jackets were a good idea, but rather ugly.

The stalls at the Eco Design Fair were as diverse as the movement itself, and I left with a reusable cotton carrier bag full of leaflets, having spent more money than I'd meant to.



Hannah Eiseman-Renyard models a hat and bag both made from recycled, crocheted plastic carrier bags. Photo by Megan Chapman

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## Past masters

By Viviana Lotti

**Barnet borough's own 'time team', the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS), had just two days to dig for a lost ditch at the Church Farmhouse Museum and adjacent Hendon Parish Church in Church End.**

HADAS was founded in 1961 to excavate evidence of Hendon's Saxon origins. Their remit grew to encompass the entire borough's history, including Iron Age, Roman, medieval and Victorian periods.

Church Farmhouse had been a hay and dairy farm since the 1660s, and is currently celebrating 50 years as a museum. The church dates back to Norman times but was probably built over Saxon foundations. In the 1990s HADAS excavated one Saxon and two medieval ditches around it. Finds include flint, Saxon, Roman and medi-

Bass explained why someone was inserting two joined metal rods into the ground at one-metre intervals. This was a resistivity machine, which uses electrical impulses to measure moisture variations in the soil. The readings would help determine if the site merited excavation.

The final dig ended positively when the largest trench revealed what HADAS had been looking for - the 'medieval' ditch, which yielded some medieval pottery shards and two pieces of Roman pottery.

For information visit: [www.hadas.org.uk](http://www.hadas.org.uk) or [www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk](http://www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk)



eval pottery and Iron Age flint arrowheads.

This dig, on 6-7 August, was to determine if the medieval ditch continued all around the church. One of the site supervisors, Don Cooper, believes this is the case. The ditch appears as a boundary marker on some of the old maps, supporting his theory.

The first morning, HADAS members began digging three trenches behind the museum with mattocks and spades. All that backbreaking work felt worthwhile upon finding a piece of medieval pottery or other remnants of ancient humanity, that had lain untouched for centuries.

The largest trench revealed willow-pattern pottery, some medieval pottery shards and stems from 19th century clay pipes which, Don explained, could be dated to within 20 years as most of the pipe spurs carried the makers' initials. In the second trench were more pottery shards; the third trench revealed a George VI farthing and another clay pipe stem.

Nearby, fellow supervisor Bill

### Cycling photo apology

The photo accompanying the article Break out by bike in our August edition, was incorrectly attributed. The photographer was actually Richard Philpott from the Central London Cyclists' Touring Club. We apologise for this error.

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Jonny with his electric car. Photo by Martin Bronkhorst

## Gee whiz, it's a green machine!

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Jonny Gordon has gone electric, which means he can drive to work in central London. Since his neat little car arrived in April, it has aroused much neighbourly interest in Bedford Road. Occasionally he charges it, kerbside, where it looks rather like a large vacuum cleaner on a long flex.**

When he draws up at traffic lights strangers tap on the window, asking questions. Friends at first laughed at this bijou vehicle; now, as its advantages become apparent, some are envious.

Apart from the environmental benefits, the electric car's

main advantage is its value for money. Jonny's Reva G-wiz (the basic version) cost about £6,000 but is exempt from road tax and the £8 daily London congestion charge. Running costs are about 1p a mile and it is in the lowest insurance group.

### Low costs

Barnet Council makes a reduction on residents' parking and Westminster provides 'almost free' parking in its car parks, plus charging points. So while he is at work Jonny can recharge the battery. A full charge takes about seven hours; then the car has a range of about 40 miles. There are not many disadvantages. There was a six-month wait for delivery (the car is made in Bangalore, India). It is a two-seater with a tiny boot so the family - wife Josie and their two small children - need

to run a 'normal' car too.

The battery cannot be removed from the G-wiz for charging, and top speed is only 40 mph. But it is a comfortable ride with good visibility from high, straight-backed seats. The car is automatic so there is no clutch and few controls to deal with. Parking, of course, is easy.

### Green driving

The Gordons aren't alone: at least one other electric car has been spotted in East Finchley. More and more local authorities are likely to provide incentives for drivers wanting to take the electric route. After all, these midget cars cause no pollution, reduce speed and take up little space: great value for the environment. For information about the Reva G-wiz, visit [www.goinggreen.co.uk](http://www.goinggreen.co.uk).

## RSPCA news

**Animal welfare is in the news this month with an RSPCA report showing an alarming rise in cases of cruelty - dogs being mainly at risk. There is also a big rise in 'dog - snatching' of favoured pedigree breeds. If you have such a dog, is it micro-chipped, the only sure way of establishing ownership? It is quickly, painlessly and cheaply done at the clinic in Park Road, open Mondays and Thursdays from 6.00 - 7.30pm.**

Local MP Rudi Vis is a long time activist in the cause of animal welfare. He is currently pressing for a ban on apes and monkeys being kept as pets. It is legal in the UK but, as they live in tropical forests, it is almost impossible for private owners to care for them adequately. Dr Vis also believes performing circus

animals should be banned and is pressing for both causes to be explored in the forthcoming Animal Welfare Bill, soon to be considered.

The Dog Show at Finchley Carnival was a great success and £580 was raised to fund the RSPCA clinic. Staff thank all participants.

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## Old Park House

Kathryn Scorza concludes her history of the original Park House

The original Park House (pictured), which stood next to GLH House and opposite East Finchley Station, was an elegant villa in extensive grounds. Demolished in the 1960s to be replaced by the local government building that now occupies its place, it became a landmark in the 1940s because of the Spitfire parked on the lawn. This belonged to the Royal Airforce Association, which was based in a building in the gardens behind Park House.



The original Park House in the 1940s. Photograph supplied by Nigel Wilds

Maureen Betts - still an East Finchley resident - lived on the top floor with her parents for around 10 years from the mid-1940s, after the council had acquired the house and divided it into two flats. She remembers huge grounds, in which two tennis courts had been turned into allotments. Each flat also had a separate garden.

Park House is clearly visible on the parish map of 1841, and on the slightly later map of the late 1860s (see August *ARCHER*), where it is labelled 'Park Cottage' (GLH House was named 'Valona House' at that time). Park House is thought to have been built by Neville Smart, the developer who built 'Fairlawn', 'Cranleigh', 'Park Hall' and 'Summerlee' villas on Fortis Green, probably in the 1820s, possibly to live in himself.

By the 1880s, 'Park Cottage'

is listed as 'Park House'. Kelly's Directories and the Electoral Rolls show it was occupied for decades by medical men, who lived and ran their practices there. For many years from the 1890s, Dr William Hicks, 'Surgeon, Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the East Finchley district' owned the house, which became known as 'Hicks' house'. In 1938 Grays Brothers' Coal Office, based at the station, set up a temporary office in the grounds at the front (just visible in the photograph).

The local government building that replaced the original house in the 1960s (also called Park House, and currently let to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute) is itself now due for development, marking the start of another chapter for this historic corner of our neighbourhood.

## The story of Stanley Road playing fields

By Hugh Petrie

Stanley Road Playing fields was originally three fields. The oldest was Home Field (1) which was left to Finchley by Thomas Sanny in 1506, and was a part of Finchley Charities. It ran from East End Road to the Market Place in one long strip, until split in half by the Great Northern Railway (1865).

The second field (2) was owned by the Arrowsmith family. The Great Northern Railway purchased the severed section of the Arrowsmiths' land, and gave it to the Finchley Charities; it became "Railway Field". Between 1911 and 1939 the field was used as tennis courts, first by the Finchley Presbyterian Lawn Tennis Club and then, from 1927, by the Redbourne Lawn Tennis Club.

The last field (3) had been the gardens of a house called Park House\* and since the 1940s had been allotments.

In 1939 the Borough of Finchley leased Home and Railway fields for use by Alder



Alder Sports Day in 1947. Reproduced by kind permission London Borough of Barnet copyright

School as a sports field but the Fields were unsuitable during the football season due to poor drainage. Finchley Borough Education Committee decided in 1954 to put in a 'Redgra' all-weather surface. Redgra is made from a mixture of crushed shale and rock, which acts like a clay surface when wet and a sand surface when dry. It requires only regular raking with a tractor to stop the whole surface setting.

The Council purchased Home Field and Railway Field in March 1956 with money from Middlesex CC. The bor-

ough engineer realised that the drainage system would require the council to buy the allotments as well. It was here during the football season of 1975 - 76 that Alder School won the Barnet Schools' football league, a sporting swan song as the school was about to merge with Christ's College. The land was subsequently rented to various clubs and groups, including The Five Bells FC, but now seems to be returning gently to the wild.

\* Footnote: not the Park House opposite the tube station.

## What is The Finchley Society?

By Robert Winton

**Have you noticed how East Finchley has managed to avoid the worst of the building developments? How is it done? You can thank the people who keep an eye on the plans of building developers and of the Borough of Barnet.**

One of the most eagle-eyed organisations is The Finchley Society, set up in 1971 to save cottages in Lodge Lane N12, from demolition. The poet Sir John Betjeman was its first president, succeeded by Spike Milligan.

The Society is now active in protecting, preserving and

improving buildings, transport, roads and open spaces in Finchley and Friern Barnet, and in investigating the history of the area.

The society has some 450 members, and is run by volunteers. It is non-political, and is supported by subscriptions and donations, without any outside grants.

Through information from Barnet Council, the press and the public, the society constantly reviews building developments and problems with the environment, such as graffiti, and with public transport, such as the 263 bus route. It gives its reasoned views, which are well respected, to those concerned.

The society strongly opposed the development of a Waitrose supermarket opposite East Finchley underground station and the proposed moving of East Finchley Library, and is aware of concern about the dangers of radio masts and the effects of supermarkets on local shops.

Each year the society sends members 10 newsletters, and holds nine talks at Avenue House, N3, on local issues and on subjects of wider interest. The society welcomes new members. The annual subscriptions are £9 for individuals and £16 for families.

More information and membership forms are available from Robert Winton, 224 Creighton Avenue N2 9BD. Tel: 8883 2633.

## Silent dog training

*These classes are advertised in East Finchley's Animal Aid shop. Linda Soper went to see one in action.*

**Silent dog training is a simple yet effective method, based on rewards, to get dogs to sit, lie, wait, and come when called.**

Roland has been a trainer for twelve years and explains his methods with enthusiasm. If you ignore a dog, he says, it will stop jumping up and demanding attention. If you take notice of it, it thinks it is the boss.

To get a dog to sit, the owner holds a treat and moves it towards the dog's head. Then the dog will sit and its reward is given. When the action is performed one hundred per cent then the command is introduced. Once the puppy understands what is wanted, rather than being forced to obey, it becomes more at ease and enjoys its training.

### Not regimented

I spoke to Carol who had a Labrador. She said, "I've been to other training courses and they have been very regimented. Roland has children in his classes and we go to Trent Park. This way reality is brought into the classes."

Diane from East Finchley said, "My dog Sheba has learned many new things in a fun, stress-free atmosphere."

Roland's classes take place on Saturday afternoons in New Barnet. Each six-week course, takes six to seven dogs and costs £50 plus £5 per class. Contact 020 7689 0630 or 07748 558782.

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## Couple win award for exotic garden

By Tom Walker & Louise Wikstrom

**When an East Finchley couple decided to transform their driveway into an exotic garden they didn't know how much they would be rewarded for their hard work.**

Paul Harrington, 59, and Patsy Joseph, 36, won the Plantsman award as part of the Daily Mail's National Garden Competition 2005. The couple, both birdkeepers at London Zoo, were awarded the prize for the front garden of their bungalow off Church Lane. They won free tickets for the Hampton Court Flower Show, where they were presented with a plaque.

### Down under in East Finchley

Paul describes the garden as "a cross between a cottage garden and a Mediterranean one".

"The plant I'm most proud of is the acacia pravissima [Ovens Wattle]. It's an Australian tree that flowers early in the year, with very nice, yellow blossom."

The garden is filled with greenery that usually grows only in the Southern Hemisphere, but seems to be doing just fine in Finchley. The plants have sur-

vived for four years now, and are getting bigger all the time.

The Plantsman award is given for an especially interesting collection of plants, as well as particular skill and passion for plants. Judges were impressed by the eclectic mix of plant-life, and the garden made it through to the final eleven in the main competition.

Paul says, "The front garden took a long time to set up, and it still needs looking after. Something I love about gardens is that as things grow they change - it's never the same."

Their next project is to finish off the work they have started on their back garden, which already has an interesting selection of plants, as well as a pond. The gardens attract all sorts of wildlife, including birds, terrapins, dragonflies and frogs. When the garden is done they plan to open it to the public, with a small entrance fee that will go to charity.



Tristan Green, winner of 'Barnet in Bloom'. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Prize-winning local garden

By Sheila Armstrong

**Tristan Green, residential caretaker on the Grange Estate, won second prize in the Barnet in Bloom Competition 2005 (Residential category) for the garden in front of the block where he lives - Cleveland House. Even though he works for Barnet Homes he entered as an individual because he wanted to improve the block he lives in.**

When *THE ARCHER* visited him Barnet Homes had scaffolded the block ready for refurbishment but his attractive mixture of annuals and perennials in several beds was still on show.

He hopes that winning the prize will encourage more funding for planting in front of other blocks on the estate, which is currently undergoing major improvements.

Tristan, an ex-soldier and with City and Guilds qualifications in many of the building trades, is enthusiastic about his job and about the improvements on the Grange. The estate will soon have a community room, funded by both Barnet and the Police and as part of Local Agenda 21 there is an on-going programme of tree planting.

## Painting the gardens grey

By Paul Chapman

**Yes, mowing the lawn and cutting the hedge are not always our top priority but many *ARCHER* readers will have their front garden and we all benefit from the green space of gardens in our neighbourhood.**

But now front gardens are at increased risk because of their potential as a parking space. There are no substantive planning limits on block-paving a front garden, with a crossover from road to pavement, in order to convert a garden into a parking space. Conversions may be increasing because of Controlled Parking Zones.

However, there is growing concern that we should have as much green space as possible, and not just because of how the area looks. Many organisations are taking an interest in the environmental benefits of the humble garden.

### More paving, less land

Mike Gee of North Finchley Agenda21 Partnership, a voluntary organisation promoting sustainable development, says, "We are very concerned because gardens account for about 20% of the land area in London. Increased block paving has already led to overload of the sewerage system but local councils have no plans to change their stance on this issue." Agenda21 would like Barnet to provide residents with information on the effects of paving when applications are received to convert a garden space for parking. Agenda21 can be contacted through Mike Gee on 020 8346 5503 or Gardi Vaswani on 020 8445 6312.

Sadly the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association report that they do not have the resources to continue with their front garden competition.

## Flowery landmark

By Sue Holliday

**It is always with pleasure that I report on the activities or achievements of Maddens. After all, it was the place where *THE ARCHER* was conceived, back when it was known as Welch's.**

This time it is to announce that Maddens was anonymously entered into the Daily Mail competition for the best flowery pub. Also on a recent Friday evening it featured in the Anne Robinson programme, 'What's the Problem?'

The floral display outside Maddens is often used as an aid to giving directions: "Just past the pub with all the flowers." Sadly, soon some of those flowers may disappear when renovations take place.

## Police Dog recruitment

**The Metropolitan Police Dog Training School is on the lookout for young German Shepherd dogs (dogs or bitches) aged between 10 months to 2 years for training as police dogs.**

Mischievous or 'naughty' young dogs that pinch children's toys and rummage through waste bins may have the kind of temperament and drive necessary to succeed as police dogs. Anyone who thinks they may have such a dog and is prepared to present it as a gift dog should call the Dog Section at West Drayton on 020 8246 1712.

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## YOUNG ARCHER

### The write reason

Have you ever wondered why Roald Dahl wrote "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" or how Harry Potter came about? There are many reasons for stories being written. Eleven-year-old Anna Davies of Summerlee Gardens kept forgetting to hold a note long enough in her piano lessons, so her teacher cleverly asked Anna to write a story about it. Here is the result.

### The story of the Sad Dot

Back in Beethoven's time, the little dot sat in the inkbottle as a little grey baby (dots are grey when they are babies, not black like their mothers). When Mr Beethoven's quill dipped into it, out it came with the little dot speared on the end.

"Ho hum, should I make it a quaver longer or not?" wondered Mr Beethoven. Eventually he decided to put our little dot there. The little dot shook his small head and wiped all the ink out of his miniature eyes and grinned. It might have been his only grin ever if it hadn't been for a certain little girl called Anna Davies, who didn't exist until *one hundred and sixty-six* years after Mr Beethoven's death.

The dot had sat there, thinking how perfect life was, for one hundred and sixty-six years. Then he decided he didn't like the music that Beethoven had put him in, so had run into one of Grieg's pieces, which was called "Watchman's Song". Oh, how wrong he had been...

Anna Davies was now ten (Mr. Beethoven's death was one hundred and seventy six years ago), and she was about to have a piano lesson. The

little dot was sitting happily in her Grade Four piano book, wondering if Anna was going to play his piece (Watchman's Song) for her exam.

"Let's start a new one today," said her teacher Mrs. Blech, turning to Watchman's Song. "Ohhh, this one looks lovely, let's try it."

Anna gaped at it. "But it looks *really* hard."

"Oh rubbish, I bet it'll be easy-peasy by the end of the lesson. Let's start with this hard bit."

On and on it went and Anna kept forgetting the poor little dot. It was so depressing, the dot burst out crying. Now an inky dot crying means that the rest of the page will be smudged with his tears.

At the end of the lesson, he jumped out of the piano bag and ran down to Highgate Primary School, to find a job.

The dot found a home there in a page of a reading book. The other punctuation marks had given him a job but only if he did all their work, like cooking and cleaning the pages of the book, everything! And he got no pay for it. See what I mean, *nobody* cares about the SAD DOT!



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Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

## They asked for more!!

By Megan Hoare (aged 14)

There has not been a Fortismere School musical performed since the late 1990s, but the one performed in the last week of the summer term, *Oliver*, was definitely worth the long wait.

There were five performances, all extremely well attended and very well received. There were many talented vocal solos and many complex group choreographies, which were devised by teacher Clair Tingay and year 10 pupil Rebecca Garfinkel, of Springcroft Avenue. The production included all the classic songs and the well known characters which were all very well acted. Many of the cast were from East Finchley. Even one of the teachers from Fortismere School took a starring role in the play as Mr Bumble!

Over 200 people were per-

forming on the stage, working backstage, playing in the orchestra or doing the lighting and sound engineering. All of these roles made a massive contribution to the production's success.

Four of the people who made *Oliver* what it was were producer Dina Hughes, director Tony Kirkland, musical director Sarah Ogilby and costume director Christine Williams.

I was part of the orchestra playing the flute. There were non-stop all-day rehearsals but it was definitely worth it. I feel very privileged that I was able to be part of the amazing final performances.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Rowling returns to form

By Oliver Glick (aged 12)

**There was a feeling among some fans that *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the fifth in the acclaimed saga starring the young wizard and his friends, did not live up to the standard set by the previous four books. I must say that J K Rowling's new book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, has made up for that.**

The fifth book was pretty much Harry and Dumbledore sitting in a dusty room discussing what they already knew. That was the first part; the second part was about Harry telling everyone else what *they* already knew. Number six, however, includes action, romance, humour and JK Rowling's knack of capturing the interest of the reader with powerful speech and a gripping plot.

Certainly, in many ways, Harry has grown up over the summer and, during that time, Voldemort has grown stronger and gathered an army, while a new Minister of Magic has been appointed.

One of the more 'Muggle'-related parts includes this new Minister visiting the Prime Minister of England via a fireplace, because Voldemort has caused havoc in both Muggle and wizard worlds.

And so Harry and Dumbledore must continue to try to destroy Voldemort. Once again a new member of staff has joined Hogwarts - Professor Slughorn, a walrus of a man who likes to connect with the right people. So he obviously took a liking to Harry!

A new minister; Volde-

mort rising; the Pensieve; Horcruxes; Fred and George Weasley's successful joke shop; Harry's OWL results; Harry asking Ginny Weasley out; and a surprise twist at the end, in which Professor Snape shows his true colours. All this and more are included in this year at Hogwarts. This book is a real page turner but a lot darker than the others, with Sirius Black's death looming over Lupin and Harry. However, it sets the scene well for the final instalment of this popular series.

### Word fun - In the beginning is the end

By Reuby Hyams

**Each of these words begins and ends with the same letter:**

A song in opera  
A knot or delay  
Flat or even  
A choice morsel  
To roll in mud  
The winner's crown  
Someone with a judgment or opinion

*Answers: aria, hitch, level, titbit, mallow, laugh, critic.*

## Seaside memories

While many of you may have spent part of your summer holidays on a beach in the hot sunshine, ten-year-old Tarne Fidler of Lancaster Gardens has written a poem describing a very different scene.

### The Seaside in Winter

The sea air was cold  
Like a sheet of ice  
Wrapping around me.  
The sand was thick and wet  
Crunching  
Every time I stepped on it  
Like a huge digestive biscuit  
Laid out  
Across the coast.

The air had a sharp  
Salt smell  
And I reached down  
As it felt the sea - a big grey blue  
Blanket  
I looked up at the Cliffsides - jagged  
Staring down at me.

The clouds looped  
Over my head  
Like hungry vultures  
Circling  
For their food.

The gulls  
Flailed and  
Flapped their wings  
Above my head,  
As the sea  
Pounded and crashed  
Against the rocks.

The pier was damp  
And the only person  
Was an old fisherman  
Whose luck had passed away  
Many years ago.

I slipped and walked slowly  
Along the pier.  
Everything was so unlike  
Summer  
But better than  
Summer  
No rush of people sitting,  
Laughing,  
Just silent,  
Birds - birds and me  
Singing

The pier was not  
Bright and shiny  
It was closed  
And padlocked  
But I liked the seaside  
In winter  
Because it was  
Calm

When I left  
I looked  
Behind me  
The waves rolling  
Bidding me  
A final

Goodbye  
Golden  
Forgotten  
Gone

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Linda Sharp at the Animal Aid and Advice Shop.  
Photo by Diana Cormack

## Mainly for mature women

By Diana Cormack

Readers of Good Housekeeping magazine may have recognised the person pictured on page 14 of the August issue: It was Linda Sharp, who has been a volunteer worker at the Animal Aid and Advice charity shop at 48 High Road for 18 months, and whom the magazine describes as a writer.

She was featured in a real life series in which women over forty had been surveyed about their sex lives. Under the heading "Why shouldn't I still feel sexy?". *THE ARCHER* was intrigued as to how it came about that, out of all the women surveyed, Linda was chosen to be interviewed on this topic.

### Women's website

It turns out that it was through her writing connections. She writes for a website called [www.femininezone.com](http://www.femininezone.com) which was set up earlier this year. It is the brainchild of two north London women who felt there was a gap in the market for a forum where mature women could discuss intimate issues. Despite its name, it does not exclude men. "What's the point of a women's relation-

ship site, if it doesn't bother to find out what's going on in the male psyche?" asks their introduction. So men's views are also to be found on the site, which was set up after lengthy research and which is building all the time.

Writers contribute from all over the world on a voluntary basis, whether they are experts in their field or someone wanting to tell their own personal story. Editor Helen Moore of Crouch End describes Feminine Zone as being mature, intelligent and non-judgmental. Why not take a look and judge for yourself?

## Milligan statue appeal

A reminder for all Milligan fans that plans are going ahead for a bronze statue of Spike to be erected outside Avenue House. The author, entertainer and campaigner lived in Finchley for nearly 20 years, and maintained his active links with our area as Patron and first President of The Finchley Society.

The Finchley Society and Spike's family and friends are raising funds for the statue, which will cost £30,000. Anyone interested in making a donation - however small - should send a cheque, payable to 'The Spike Milligan Statue Fund', to The Secretary, 17 Abbots Gardens, N2 0JG.

## Getting the needle

By Sheila Armstrong

The thing that puts most people off acupuncture is the thought of the needles. Acupuncturist Maxine Anders, now practising in East Finchley, is careful to use only very thin (and disposable) needles, which can hardly be felt at all. Trained locally in the Helping Hands approach, part of traditional Chinese medicine, she treats acupuncture points and energy lines on the body with needles. She is a member of the British Acupuncture Council and is now working in East Finchley for two days a week including evenings till 9.00pm.

After a bad car accident Maxine became interested in alternative medicine and decided to train as an acupuncturist. She takes a holistic approach so the session involves noting details of the client's medical history, sleep patterns and may involve dietary advice. She uses acupuncture most commonly to treat pain conditions, depression, stress management,



Maxine Anders. Picture by Sheila Armstrong

digestive and skin complaints, asthma, addiction and general balancing.

A session with Maxine is very relaxed; the treatment is carried out lying on a couch and may involve removal of some clothing depending on which acupuncture points are used. A slight tingling or short

sensation may be felt as the needles go in.

Reiki and massage can be used as part of the treatment. She is also trained in Electromagnetic Field Balancing. For more details of the treatment she offers or to make an appointment call Maxine on 07866 317 952.

## Beat high blood pressure with diet

Simone Baroke continues her series on nutrition

**High blood pressure is very common in the UK. Nearly 20% of the population develop the condition, and the older you are, the more likely you are to be affected. Everyone over the age of 35 should get their blood pressure checked regularly.**

High blood pressure is referred to as 'the silent killer',

because there are usually no symptoms. It is one of the main predisposing risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease and stroke. The longer the condition goes undetected and untreated, the more rigid your arteries become, and the harder it will be to control and treat. If caught early, the condition could be reversed through diet and lifestyle changes but,

even if you are put on medication, appropriate dietary changes will still help and you may require lower drug dosages. Never change your medication without consulting your doctor first.

If you are overweight, every 2lbs you lose will lower your blood pressure by 1 point (1 mmHg). So, if you carry excess weight and your blood pressure is mildly elevated, losing a stone will propel you into the 'normal' range. Another major factor is salt intake. You should consume less than 6g a day, but most people eat double that because salt is hidden in foods. One slice of bread contains half a gram of salt. Read food labels carefully: they list 'sodium' instead of salt, which is deceptive. 1g of sodium equals a whopping 2.5g of salt! Foods particularly high in salt include: processed foods, cheese, olives, soy sauce, pickled, smoked and canned foods, crisps and snack foods.

### How low can you go?

A diet that has consistently been shown to lower blood pressure is one that is low in salt, animal fats, alcohol and caffeine, and high in fruits and vegetables (eat at least five portions a day), oily fish and wholegrain products. This way of eating restores the body's mineral balance, which can significantly lower blood pressure. It is also high in antioxidants (vitamins and plant compounds), which protect the arteries.

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

## Light on your feet

By Susan Norman

Have your children caught the yoga bug? They will if Jenny House has her way.



Jenny wonders "What's afoot?"

Jenny, who has recently moved to East Finchley, is a qualified yoga teacher who, for adults, specialises in Dru Yoga - a gentle form of yoga with flowing postures. Jenny also teaches the 'YogaBugs' programme for children aged two and a half to seven, where postures are incorporated into adventures and creative stories.

"Like adults, children especially love the relaxation sessions," says Jenny, "and if I liaise with their teacher, I can tailor the stories to include references to topics they're covering in school." She is planning to approach local schools in the autumn to see if they'd like to incorporate YogaBugs sessions into the timetable - or offer them as an after-school activity.

As a qualified reflexologist, Jenny is also interested in getting her hands on your feet. "I suppose everything I do is aimed at reducing stress," says Jenny, "or in the case of the children, stopping stress before it starts." Reflexology is a relaxing foot massage, which works on the energy centres of the body to tone up your whole system. This holistic therapy can also be very effective for easing back pain, migraines, insomnia, IBS, asthma, anxiety and stress. So not only will your children be relaxed, you could find yourself walking on air!

Jenny is offering reflexology sessions at the Isabel Douglas Health & Beauty Centre on Saturdays.





## Regular Events

### SPORT & FITNESS

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

## DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 5 & 19 Sept 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
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



Jazz at Church Farmhouse Museum. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Jazz on a summer's day

By Betti Blatman

**50 years of Church Farmhouse Museum continued to be celebrated on a lovely sunny afternoon on Sunday, 31 July, as jazz enthusiasts gathered in its garden.**

Music from the twenties and thirties, the Golden Age of traditional jazz, was played by the quartet 'Fine and Dandy' led by Brian Master (banjo) and including Dave Clennell (Trumpet), Tim Curtis (Sousaphone/Tuba), and Paula Jackman (Clarinet). The crowd rapidly increased to approximately 80 and Gerard Roots, the Curator

at the Museum, continually brought out extra chairs to accommodate everybody, all of whom greatly enjoyed the jazz, particularly when requests were included.

The Greyhound Pub next door provided coupons for a free pint of Young's Bitter to quench the listeners' thirsts on a hot summer's day.

## artsdepot birthday competition

By Sheila Armstrong



**The artsdepot, North London's new cultural centre at Tally Ho Corner, is offering two free Friends Memberships to celebrate the first anniversary of its opening.**

Members will receive £2 off tickets for some shows, 10% off daytime café use, the season's brochure in advance of the general public and last-minute ticket deals.

To enter, all you have to do is to answer the question "When did the artsdepot open?" Send your answer on a post card marked artsdepot Competition to *THE ARCHER*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Please include your name, address and phone number. The first two correct entries drawn win. The closing date is 30 September.

## What's On...

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

### Throughout September:

An exhibition of Tark Butler (of EFO)'s prints and paintings at Chorak, High Road, N2.

### Saturday 3 September:

**HGS Horticultural Society Flower Show**, 3-5.30pm, Free Church Hall, Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11. Teas, children's classes. Contact 020 8455 8741.

### Sunday, 11 September, 8pm:

Concert at **East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Rd, N2 (opp. Creighton Ave) by **Jacquin trio**. Programme to include works by Schumann, Poulenc, Milhaud. Free admission, but there will be a collection in aid of North London Hospice.

### Tuesday 27 September, 8pm:

**Garden Suburb Ward Liberal Democrats** present: **A War of Words; Working at Bletchley Park**. Illustrated lecture by Ruth Bourne. Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. Entry £2.50. Non-members/non Lib Dems welcome. Contact 020 8455 6705.

### Thursday 28 September, 8pm:

**The Finchley Society**, Avenue House, East End Road. **Talk by Percy Reboul** on Barnet in the WWII blitz. See below for contact details.

### Thursday 29 September, 8pm:

**The Finchley Society**, Avenue House, East End Road. **Talk by Hugh Petrie** on the impact of electronic media (eg. the internet) on local history studies. Non-members welcome. Contact 020 8883 2633.

### Saturday 8 October, 10am - 1pm:

**Open day at All Saints Church**, Durham Road N2. Come and have a look round Tea Coffee Chat [Chapel available for private prayer]

## A club of note

By Diana Cormack

**Television programmes about singing these days often seem to be based on some sort of competitive element promoted to bring out the worst in people. (Just think of the name Simon Cowell and you'll see what I'm getting at). Yet singing for its own sake, rather than to draw attention to oneself or to win a competition, can bring great enjoyment and pleasure.**

At Memory Lane Singing Club people smile when they sing. They also smile in welcome when you arrive and helpfully explain the routine to help you settle in. This friendly group welcomes singers of all levels and abilities and there is no audition. If you want to improve your voice and take

Gold is the club's musical director. An established singing teacher and performer, Idit has worked with choirs and singing groups for many years and has also coached individuals for the theatre and entertainment industry. She supports the feel-good factor of singing, believing it to be healthy, inspiring and stress



Some members of Memory Lane Singing Club enjoying a song

part in group singing, with the chance to perform in community events and local charity appeals, MLSC could be right for you.

It aims to revive and perform songs from the Music Hall right through to the late 60s, along with those from many hit shows and musicals. When I visited they were doing "My Fair Lady" which was right up my street!

East Finchley resident Idit

busting. Idit told *The Archer* about a fund raising event she is planning for 1 December, when MLSC will be performing to raise money for Avenue House (further details about this nearer the time).

The club meets on Fridays from 11.30am - 1.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, N3. Open sessions are being held on 9 and 16 September so you can try it out. For further details phone Valerie on 8458 4508.

## Lunch clubs

**A Traditional Lunch Club, organised by East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, meets every Tuesday at the Green Man. Bookings can be made on 020 8444 1162 on the previous Friday. No transport is provided but Contact can arrange registration with Dial-a-Ride.**

Contact also run a Muslim Ladies' Lunch Club, which meets on the first two Wednesdays of each month at the same venue and time. After the break for Ramadan the times may change to allow members to participate in a Tai Chi class. As those attending this Lunch Club come from all over Barnet, transport can be arranged for the less mobile.

## Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby

**The Festival, organised by the Hornsey Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy, returns to Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 11 September.**

Activities include a dog agility competition, a monster veg competition for under-12s, an unusual fruit and veg competition for all ages, darts competitions for all ages and skills, donkey races, bouncy castles and merry-go-rounds, face painting, children's entertainers, 80 craft and local group stalls, international food stalls, a vintage car display and morris dancers.

Dog-owners can register dogs on the day for the timed agility competition, sponsored by Bond and White, at £2 an

entry. Every hour, the fastest dog at running in and out of hoops, bollards and water wins a prize.

Capital Gardens are sponsoring the children's competition for 'monsters' created beforehand from fruit and vegetables and judged on the day. And anyone can enter the best home-grown plants competition.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Peter Thompson on 020 8883 0371 or Alison Wynn on 07808 364 033.





## OBITUARY

## Jonathan Adams, 1931 - 2005

Jonathan Adams - artist, actor, musician, and former East Finchley resident - died in June.

He played many roles in the theatre, but is probably best remembered as the Narrator in the Rocky Horror Show, both in the original 1973 production at the Royal Court and in the 1990 revival at the Piccadilly theatre. In the film version, the Rocky Horror Picture Show, he played Dr Everett Scott, the Rival Scientist.

Television appearances included parts in Bergerac, Yes, Prime Minister, Z Cars and The Bill, while radio listeners may remember him singing his own songs on Round Midnight.

Trained at the Chelsea School of Art, he exhibited at many venues, including the Barbican Centre. His last exhibition, in April of this year,

was at Riverside Studios, Hammersmith.

Originally named John Adams, he spent his childhood in Northampton, but East Finchley people with memories of the 1970s recall his contribution to life in our part of North London. He was an active member of EFNA - the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association (see right) - which did so much to establish the character of this area today.

In later years, Jonathan Adams suffered from Parkinson's Disease and had several strokes. He spent his last days in a home for retired actors at Northwood. Jonathan is survived by his partner, Joan Elliott.

## Jonathan's diaries...

*Nearly 30 years ago, East Finchley Neighbourhood Association was producing a regular newsletter called, remarkably, The Archer. An occasional feature was a diary entry written by Jonathan Adams in the style of Samuel Pepys. It was witty and gossip, full of references to EFNA personalities and events. Some of the 'diaries' would mean little, therefore, to Archer readers today but this extract shows that some things never change...*

A comely maid did inform me that the county roads were going to the dogs and becoming plaguey with their daily droppings, and that the people nearabouts were taking up arms against a sea of doggy defecation. Was informed that Cherry Tree Woods had become a bog which only hardened denizens dared to enter; that many a child lay in the Hospice of My Lady Whittington suffering from St. Bernard's Disease; that householders dared not put a foot outside of their doorsteps for fear of the noxious effluvia and a fouling of the footwear.

Noticed of a sudden a muffled figure, with a strangely high-stepping gait, perambulating gingerly along the seamy gutters. My pretty informant told me that this was the Officer of Health and Plague from Old Barnet Town Chambers who had been alerted by the sickened citizens of the City to take action. Methinks that East Finchley is in dire peril and that Transportation for life of all tykes to the Canines' Home at Battersea Bay would be a saving grace to our fetid area.



age of 73.

Kathleen, who comes from neighbouring Boscombe, hopes to move back to that area soon to be near their son, Kevin and his family. There will still be a memento of the Surreys in East Finchley, though: a bench in the communal garden of the Green Man Centre. It is a memorial to the Surreys' other son, Colin, who was killed in a road accident in 1999 at the age of 19.

## Terry Surrey

By Daphne Chamberlain

We were sad to hear from Kathleen Surrey that her husband, Terry, died last year. Terry was a genuine local man, and I had a very interesting interview with him four years ago for our series, 'East Finchley families'.

The Surreys lived and worked here for several generations, mainly around the Market Place area. Terry, who attended Holy Trinity and Tollington (now Fortismere) schools, was a newspaper boy for Brysons when they still ran their shop in the High Road.

A keen footballer in his youth and a local allotment holder, Terry had many interesting stories to tell.

He and Kathleen had a holiday home at Poole, and it was there that he collapsed last November. He died in Bournemouth hospital at the

## Letters to the editor

## A legacy to Lawrie

Dear Editor,

Many local places such as streets and buildings carry the names of people who made a special contribution to life in this area. Examples are the Martin schools and the Wilmot Centre, both named after councillors. Wouldn't it be fitting for the name of Lawrie Chivers, of Chivers Bros. in the High Road, to be remembered in the same way? He has done so much for East Finchley, over several decades. He's been a school governor, led the EF Traders' Association and got us our annual Christmas lights. Someone should suggest this to Barnet Planning Department.

Yours faithfully,  
Sarah Dudley  
Durham Road, N2

## Frederick Puddefoot

Dear Editor,

I was most interested to see a picture of my uncle Frederick Puddefoot and the erstwhile East Finchley Old Boys' Football Club. Incidentally, there is no 'l' in his surname - it is Puddefoot.

Fred worked for my grandfather, John Wesley Puddefoot, who for many years printed, amongst other things, 'The Finchley Press.'

My grandfather originated from Luton. Some of his family worked on the land and some were in the straw-hat-making business.

He became an apprentice printer - I have his indentures - and three of his sons, Arthur, Frederick and Ernest all subsequently worked for him.

Frederick and his family lived in Muswell Hill but, sadly, all have since died. Puddefoot is an unusual name and I think, on this side of the family, only one male remains. Fred had no sons, Arthur had a daughter and Ernest's grandson is Deputy Headmaster of Eton College. I have an interesting certificate of Arms for the name.

Yours faithfully,  
Gwendolen Dale  
Leopold Road, N2

## Have you seen Leo?

Dear Editor,

We would appreciate it if readers could look out for our lovely three year-old ginger and white cat, Leo. He went missing from our home in Leicester Road on 21 July, and nothing has been seen of him since.

He was wearing a purple collar with an ID disc and bell, and he is also microchipped.

It is a total mystery, and while we are still hopeful of finding him safe and well, we also need to know if anyone has found him injured or worse.

If you have any information, please contact 0779 1867061. We love Leo very much, and thank you for any help you can give.

Yours

Rose Wallace  
Leicester Road, N2

## VE Day

To the Editor,

I was on leave to Conferles from Germany, where I was wounded. It was my first leave since I married Edna on 1 January 1944, so it was our second honeymoon.

On VE Day I remember the feeling of joy that I would not be going back to that war zone.

I am still wed to Edna after 61 years.

J. Deacon

Pulham Avenue, N2

Footnote: Mr Deacon contacted us in response to our request for VE or VJ Day memories.

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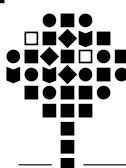
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## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Small change

It is a madman who messes about with the money, but whoever said that governments were full of people with a grip on sanity? And, guess what, they've decided to prove me right.

According to the maniacs, our coins need changing because they are out of touch with modern Britain. When were coins in touch with modern Britain? Did the sixties swing because the backside of the half-crown looked funky? Was punk the result of universal distaste at the design of the 10p coin? I think not. But that hasn't stopped someone deciding that the backside of everything apart from the £1 and £2 coins needs modernising and, just to make life more weird, they're going to hold a competition to find new cool designs for the twenty-first century. OK, that's a challenge made for me, because when the going gets that weird, it's time for the weird to turn pro.

Let's start at the top with the 50p, complete with its picture of a bored Britannia. What better (and suitably foreign) thing to replace her with than a drunk in an Ibiza gutter. The 20p has a rose, that symbol of England, but as no one plants roses any more, it needs to be replaced with a smoking BBQ. You can ditch the lion on the back of the 10p for the kind of 'pet' today's Brit recognises. Since you're never more than ten feet from a rat, it seems only fair to stick one on the back of the 10p. The 5p has the thistle, that pride of Scotland, so why not ditch it in favour of something everyone understands, like a mobile phone, and change the design every other week as a new model comes out.

The coppers are easy, though. They are the last place where pounds and ounces still rule the roost. The 1p coin weighs exactly one-eighth of an ounce and the 2p exactly a quarter ounce. As anyone who's ever smoked something stronger than Marlboro knows, your friendly neighbourhood dealer sells his wares in quarters and eighths. So why not join the modern world and do something really cool and twenty-first century and put a cannabis leaf on the backs of both of them? You know it makes sense.



13th January 1929: "Members of the Ken Wood Regulars Club yesterday broke the ice in order to have their morning dip, and as the photo shows seem to thoroughly enjoy it."

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## Breaking the ice

By Brian Timms

What could be nicer than breaking the ice at Kenwood Ladies' Pond and plunging in for a swim to build an appetite for Christmas dinner, as pictured here in 1929? Such breathtaking leaps into freshly cracked ice are no longer permitted under health and safety regulations, which is a pity, says Wyn Cornwell, who has swum in the pond for the past 50 years. "It's a shame we aren't allowed to do it any more. It didn't do

us any harm," said Wyn, who is 92, still swims in the pond twice a day, summer and winter, and sometimes even cycles there from her nearby home.

Ice breaking is, of course, not relished by all, including East Finchley's Frieda Schweizer, 90, who regularly swam in the pond from 1930 until a couple of years ago. "No way would I break ice and jump in. Too cold. That can't be pleasurable," said Frieda, who still swims twice a week in the Tottenham Court Road Oasis pool, mainly because walking to

Hampstead is a bit far for her these days. But at least swimming, with or without ice, must be healthy, proven by Wyn and Frieda's combined ages - 182.

The uncovering of the Christmas 1929 image in an attic in Australia was prompted by recent articles about the pond in *THE ARCHER*. The Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association would love to have more historic photos so please rummage through cupboards, lofts and drawers, dust off your finds, and then contact the association's archivist, Mary Cane, on 020 7485 8233 or [mcane@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:mcane@globalnet.co.uk).

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