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# THE ARCHER



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



## Festival field day

The festival parade on its way to Cherry Tree Wood. See page 6 for our East Finchley Festival pictures.  
Photo by David Glick

## Artists fight for Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

**"Where are you, Stanley? Stanley, save the fields!"** Poetry and artwork from East Finchley Open Artists made a strong statement along the railings of Stanley Road Field last month. As Council Leader Mike Freer warned that money for rebuilding Coppetts Wood School might come from selling the "run-down" field, East Finchley was reaffirming that it wants to develop the space for the community.

In just one hour, 60 people, including several children, added their signatures to a petition to save the field. The Community Development Trust, who organised the petition, said that this response, together with the enthusiastic take-up for the new East End Road Youth Group, proved that young people do want a settled spot to meet.

This counters Cllr Freer's recent statement in Council that designated youth venues are outdated and unnecessary.

East Finchley Open Artists are pleased with the success of their "railing" protest, a new venture into using art to benefit the community. Spokesperson Eti Wade said: "This is the first time we have worked to a theme in collaboration."

Karen Fraser's video of the project was shown during the Open House weekend earlier this month.

## Field supporters meet with council leader

By Daphne Chamberlain

Representatives from The East Finchley Community Development Trust, The Walks Residents Association and Holy Trinity School will meet Council Leader Mike Freer at the beginning of July to discuss the future of Stanley Road Field. They have invited Roger Reed from the Football Foundation and Paul Allen from the National Playing Fields Association to attend the meeting with them.

Cllr Freer has announced that Barnet plans to demolish Hollickwood School in the South Friern area and to amalgamate it with Coppetts Wood School. He said: "Rebuilding schools is a very high priority for Barnet Council, and will have to come from somewhere. The community gain may need to come from the sale of other land, such as Stanley Road Field."

Local councillor Alison Moore opposed this, pointing

out that Barnet has obligations under the Children and Young People's Act, and that East Finchley is already too densely populated. Sylvia Duthie, Chair of Holy Trinity School Governors, said the schools regeneration project already had massive central funding.

There is growing local concern over the discovery that Stanley Field is not officially listed anywhere as a playing field.

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## Dear Editor...

Does East Finchley need another betting shop?

Should Fortismere be turned into a Foundation School?

Will parking for Institute students crowd out local residents?

See Letters on page 11.



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### Your contributions

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

Comments to THE ARCHER may be  
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'Not for publication' within the text.

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## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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**E.F. Community Police Officer:**  
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❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

## Farewell to Borough Commander

By John Dearing

**Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts retired on 18 June 2006, after leading Barnet's Police since February 2004. He has been appointed Director of Performance at the London Criminal Justice Board. Detective Superintendent Steve Kavanagh, previously at Scotland Yard, has taken over as Borough Commander.**

At his final press conference on 12 June, Mr. Ricketts spoke of his satisfaction at the reduction in overall crime in the borough of 8%. Barnet Police have become a coherent team after the boundary changes of 2001. Safer Neighbourhood Teams of one sergeant, two constables and six police community support officers (PCSOs) are now assured for every ward in the borough.

Mr Ricketts said that much of the feedback from the public was about "bobbies on the beat" but that while there was a strong attachment to this concept, foot patrols in crime hot spots made a clear contribution because much crime is opportunist.

He thought that, inevitably, his successor would inherit some unfinished business, such as workforce modernisation, team structure and locations, as there were too many sites in use, with buildings no longer fit for purpose.

Mr. Ricketts joined the Police in 1975 as a cadet, straight from school. He recalled having to live in the section

house, and seek permission to stay out late; indeed he had to ask permission when he got married in 1977! In his varied career, he has been responsible for policing Premiership football games and providing security for President Bush and Prince Charles. He has worked undercover, in CID, as a sector inspector at Hackney and in the training school. The biggest change he had seen was the increased urbanisation of outer boroughs such as Barnet, with consequent emphasis for police on public transport. When officers were posted at every key bus and train station on 7 July 2005, street crime plummeted. Subsequent analysis showed that the perpetrators of 25% of crime in the borough of Barnet come from Brent and Haringey, by public transport.

THE ARCHER wishes the Chief Superintendent all the best in his future career.

## Car hits pedestrian in East End Road

By John Dearing

**East End Road was closed for several hours during the evening rush hour of Monday 12 June after a pedestrian was injured in a collision with a car.**

Just after 5pm, a middle-aged man crossing the road near the entrance to the car park of The Bald Faced Stag was hit by a car. Police and the London Ambulance Service were called, and the man was taken to the Royal Free Hospital with suspected head injuries, and kept there overnight. Fortunately, his injuries turned out to be "neither life threatening, nor life changing".

East End Road was closed at the junction with the High Road, back to the entrance to the Viceroy Close car park, until 7.40pm while police investigated the accident. The car involved had a broken windscreen. No arrests were made.

## Burglar gains access through open window

**A laptop computer, wallet and mobile phone were stolen from a house after the owner left a ground floor window open overnight to ventilate the room.**

The burglary happened in the early hours of Sunday 18 June in Long Lane when the owner went to bed leaving open the front ground floor window as it was such a warm evening.

A laptop computer, wallet and mobile phone were stolen. The mobile phone was a Blackberry and the wallet contained credit and debit cards.

Anyone with any information is asked to ring burglary unit officers on 020 8733 4595 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council:

#### Land adjoining 60 Lancaster Gardens

Demolition of existing buildings, and erection of three buildings between three and six storeys in height, to provide 102 residential units and 250 square metres of commercial floorspace. Associated landscaping and car parking for 102 cars, accessed from Lancaster Gardens.

#### Former Lonsdale Residential Care Home, 2 Tarling Road, N2

Details pursuant to conditions of planning permission C01784BB/05, dated 20.10.05.

#### 104 High Road, N2

Alterations to existing shopfront. Conversion of first and second floors to two self-contained flats, incorporating loft conversion with rear dormer window. Ground floor side and rear extension.

#### 258 East End Road, N2

Conversion of existing car repair workshops, involving partial demolition and partial reconstruction, to form five self-contained residential units.

#### 77 Abbots Gardens, N2

Shed in rear garden to be used as home office and practice room for music.

#### 90-92 High Road, N2

Change of use of ground floor from sui generis to Class A2.

#### Red Lion Hotel, Red Lion Hill, N2

Details in pursuance of conditions of planning permission APP/N5090/A/05/1193322, dated 20.03.06.

#### 1 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

#### 472A Long Lane, N2

Details in part pursuance of condition of appeal decision APP/N5090?A/05/1193401, dated 20.02.06.

#### 59 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Alteration to roof, including rear dormer window to

facilitate loft conversion.

#### Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Road, N2

Sycamore tree - lift to three metres, thin 25%, clear building by two metres.

#### 59 Church Lane, N2

Conversion of first and second floor maisonette into two one-bedroom flats. Alterations to roof, including dormer at rear.

#### 12 Ingram Road, N2

Conversion into two self-contained flats.

#### 7 Chamberlain Road, N2

Loft conversion, including wrap-around rear dormer.

#### 82 - 92 Great North Road, N2

Externally illuminated free-standing advertisement.

#### Hope Villa, King Street, N2

Extension at second floor level, and conversion into two self-contained flats.

#### 27 Brim Hill, N2

Removal of an oak.

#### Haringey Council:

#### 40 Midhurst Avenue, N10

Single-storey rear extension and rear dormer window. (Certificate of lawfulness.)

#### 40 Twyford Avenue, N2

Certificate of lawfulness (proposed) for erection of garden shed in rear garden.

#### 52 Twyford Avenue, N2

Tree works to various trees on site.

#### 32 Beech Drive, N2

Single-storey rear extension and three rear dormer windows, one with balcony.

#### 2 Lynmouth Road, N2

Modification of existing roof slope from hip to reduced hip.

#### 15 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Demolition of existing garage and erection of single-storey replacement extension, to comprise workshop and utility room.

#### 35 Woodside Avenue, N6

Single-storey rear extension and larch-clad storage shed in front garden.





# East Finchley's Gold Medal Poet

By Daphne Chamberlain

**On 7 June, Fleur Adcock took a taxi to Buckingham Palace. She was about to be awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. As she put it, "Suddenly this amazing thing had come whirling like a discus out of the sky."**

In 1996, Fleur had received an OBE for services to poetry, but this time her journey and the presentation were filmed for a television programme about the monarchy at work.

Unseen by the cameras was her 20-minute private audience with the Queen, when they chatted about New Zealand, Fleur's birthplace. After eight years in England during and immediately after the Second World War, when she attended 11 schools, she "very reluctantly" went back there, aged 13, returning here in 1963. With her five year-old son, Andrew, she moved briefly into Durham Road, then settled in Lincoln Road.

"There has always been a nice, friendly feeling here, with lots of families and young children," she says, "but there used to be more of what I call useful shops." Some of those shops, along with other pieces of East Finchley life, turn up in her poems.

Fleur was a founder member of the East Finchley Arts Festival committee, arranging the poetry programme and often reading her work. She writes about personal relationships, ecology and family history, as well as editing and translating anthologies. These include the Faber Book of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Poets and The Virgin and the Nightingale (a collection of racy medieval Latin verses).

Fleur has also collaborated on a libretto and an opera, held several Fellowships and a writing residency, and works on poetry with teenagers in schools.



Fleur Adcock. Picture by John Dearing

The Queen's Gold Medal, chosen by a panel chaired by Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, recognises her collected work from 1960 to 2000. She is the 38<sup>th</sup> person to receive this award since 1934, the second New Zealander and the seventh woman, including her admired 1969 predecessor Stevie Smith.

The Gold Medal has aroused much interest in the land of her birth and she has been busy with interviews for New Zealand radio and magazines. Soon she will return there to visit her family. "This gold medal is so nice for my children and grandchildren," she says. "At last I've done something they can approve of!"

## Post Office

By Fleur Adcock

The queue's right out through the glass doors to the street: Thursday, pension day.  
They built this Post office too small.  
Of course, the previous one was smaller - a tiny prefab, next to the betting-shop, says the man who's just arrived;  
and the present one, at which we're queuing, was cherry-trees in front of a church.  
The church was where the supermarket is: "My wife and I got married in that church" the man says. "We hold hands sometimes when we're standing waiting at the checkout - have a little moment together!" He laughs.  
The queue shuffles forward a step.  
Three members of it silently vow never to grow old in this suburb; one vows never to grow old at all.  
"I first met her over there" the man says, "on that corner where the bank is now.  
The other corner was Williams Brothers - remember Williams Brothers? They gave you tokens, tin money, like, for your dividend."  
The woman in front of him remembers. She nods, and swivels her loose lower denture, remembering Williams Brothers' metal tokens, and the marble slab on the cheese-counter, and the carved mahogany booth where you went to pay.  
The boy in front of her is chewing gum; his jaws rotate with the same motion as hers: to and fro, to and fro.

"Post Office" is included in Fleur Adcock's "Poems, 1960 - 2000", published by Bloodaxe Books in 2000. ISBN 1-85224530-1.

## Clean up closed down

By Diana Cormack

An article in our May edition, *Clean Up Down Under*, suggested that an Australian scheme where councils give training, graffiti removal kits and personal safety equipment to volunteers to deal with the problem locally could be tried here.

Chairman John Hajdu contacted *THE ARCHER* to say that the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association has run a similar scheme for over two years. Unimpressed by the local council's graffiti cleaning efforts at that time, they contacted Haringey and offered to help. After appropriate training and with kit, volunteers Bill Jago and Jack Whitehead set off twice weekly to remove not only offending graffiti but also the many out-of-date notices about lost pets or coming events.

However, new health and safety rules have ended their work, though local businesses are able to continue with graffiti busting activities supported by the council. Jack Whitehead spoke highly of the help they had received from Haringey and told *THE ARCHER* that he and Bill are still involved with keeping the neighbourhood clean. They now go round noting what needs to be done and putting the details weekly on the council's website.

"It will be cleaned off very

quickly," Jack said. "We can now cover a wider area and help to keep graffiti at a very low level."

John Hajdu told *THE ARCHER* that their scheme had worked extremely well and brought new members into the association. "We are very proud of what we have done and believe it to be unique in Haringey, if not the whole of north London," he said.

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association intends to monitor the efficiency of the council's graffiti removal services. If necessary they will ask for the situation to be reviewed in a couple of months.

At the time of writing *THE ARCHER* was waiting for a comment from Haringey Council.

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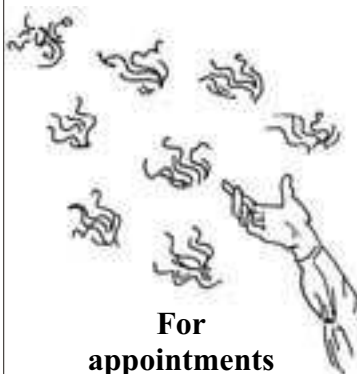
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Happy members of the East End Road Youth Group. Photo courtesy of Robina Spinks

## East End Road Youth Group

By Robina Spinks

A couple of months ago, two residents of the Thomas More Estate, East End Road, started a youth group, open to all young people aged 11 to 19 in the East End Road area. They thought they might get about 10 members, but with 25 to 30 attending each week it is already so successful that it now has four youth workers. Three of these are local residents, while the fourth, Gary Bouho, is a basketball coach recruited from Barnet Bulldogs.

Servite Housing Association, the landlord of Thomas More estate, has given help and a great deal of encouragement, as have the East Finchley Community Police, whose support is enthusiastic and inspiring.

The teens now have two evenings a week to meet together, play table tennis, pool, basketball, football, and a number of board games.

The venue is Bishop Douglass School, Hamilton Road, where the head teacher kindly allows the club to use the school's facilities.

The club meets every Tuesday evening, 6-9pm, with basketball on Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm. It will close during the school holidays (last meeting 25 July, re-opening 5 September) but there are plans for outings in August. Anyone interested in going on an outing should enrol at the club before the end of term.

The East Finchley Community Development Trust handles funds and administration at the club's request, but financial sponsorship would

be very welcome, particularly as membership is growing. For more information, please contact 020 8346 9811 or anobas@bopenworld.com.

### After school activities

**Basketball with Barnet Bulldogs is available at Bishop Douglass School, Hamilton Road, with priority given to local children, no matter which school they attend.**

This free training is held on Wednesdays, with a session for girls only from 4pm followed by one for boys from 6-8pm. For further details phone Barnet Bulldogs on 020 8449 4883.

Irish dancing classes for children aged five years and above are held at the school on Mondays from 4.30-5.30 pm. Contact Sinead Brooks at Bishop Douglass on 020 8444 5211 extension 210 for more information.

## A welcoming cuppa

**The new Contact the Elderly Finchley group got off to a flying start in late May with a tea at the home of the group's co-ordinator.**

The new group was set up to help some of the most isolated local elderly people enjoy a

better social life. One Sunday afternoon a month volunteers will drive them to a tea party at the home of a volunteer host. They will enjoy something that most of us take for granted: a cup of tea, a slice of cake and a chat in a friend's house.

The group still needs to find five more welcoming hosts willing to provide a simple tea once a year. Hosts need to be within a 20-minute drive from Finchley and the only requirements are a downstairs toilet, not too many steps and a warm welcome.

Houses don't have to be large and the main focus of the teas is informality and the chance for a good chat. If you would like to help make a difference to some of the most vulnerable, elderly people in Barnet please call Free-phone 0800 716 543 or see [www.contact-the-elderly.org](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org) or email [helen.lord@contact-the-elderly.org](mailto:helen.lord@contact-the-elderly.org)

## How to be a smart shopper

**Barnet Council is one of the leading councils in the country for recycling waste. Now it is turning its attention to our shopping habits to try to stop us buying so much unnecessary packaging in the first place.**

The council has drawn up 10 steps to become a smart shopper and reduce the amount of waste you create.

It claims that by recycling and trying to reduce waste as much as possible we are all helping to reduce pressure on the council tax from the rising costs of disposing of waste in landfill sites.

Here, we print the 10 steps in full. Which ones apply to your lifestyle?

- Step 1: Take your own reusable shopping bag to the shops. Barnet Council is giving away a limited number of reusable cloth bags. They are available at libraries. Just give your name and contact details. One per household, please.
- Step 2: Buy products with little or no packaging, or products made of recycled or sustainable material, for example biodegradable plastic bag liners. Plastic should be a last resort.
- Step 3: Choose refills, products that can be reused, concentrates and bulk buying. This gives you more product per packaging.
- Step 4: Choose loose fruit and vegetables or have them delivered package-free by a box service. Visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/smartshopping](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/smartshopping) for a list of

suppliers.

- Step 5: Buy energy efficient light bulbs and rechargeable batteries.

- Step 6: If possible, have milk delivered, so greatly reducing the amount of plastic involved. Visit [www.findmeamilkman.net](http://www.findmeamilkman.net) or email your name, address and postcode to [info@dairy.uk.org](mailto:info@dairy.uk.org)

- Step 7: Avoid individually wrapped or boxed products. Think economy size or try stand-alones.

- Step 8: Avoid buying disposable items such as paper napkins and plastic cups. Buy reusable ones. Buy a reusable lunch box or, better still, reuse a plastic box container.

- Step 9: Choose real nappies. They are practical, easy-to-use, cheaper than disposables, and will decrease the amounts of plastic in the waste streams. A £54.15 subsidy is available to get you started.

- Step 10: Ask store managers to stock more products with minimal packaging and fruit and veg with no plastic packaging at all, and tell them if you feel that a product has been over-packaged.

For further information on recycling and waste prevention in Barnet please call 8359 7400 or visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling)

## Saying no to knives

By Lucy Chamberlin

**It is a message we have heard many times before: young people with knives are a danger to society. But when born-again Christian Des Brown visited the new youth club which meets every Monday evening at the Methodist Church in the High Road, he had the experience to back it up.**

Having been on both the giving and receiving end of a knife and subsequently turned to Christianity, his story was one of change but also of integrity.

The event began with a talented and vivacious sister act from Des's local Youth Club in Walthamstow, who illustrated the importance of 'values and morals' with dance, rap with 'positive lyrics', and anecdotal stories which ingeniously involved the children.

Jude, another of Des's aides, told his own life of crime and redemption through faith in a slow rap before Des himself took the stage.

Aged just 13-14 Des became involved in drugs and alcohol before moving on to burglary, street robbery and finally a stabbing. At the time of his trial he was discovering a firm belief in Christianity and he cited his religion as the only explanation for his sentence of two years' probation.

A short video clip called 'Keep It Real' then highlighted the necessity for showing the same face on the street as at home.

Exuding energy and

warmth, Des had a very special presence; he emphasised the value of body, spirit and soul and his obvious conviction and love inspired the children's full attention to his story and then participation in a final prayer.

This youth club was started in October 2005 through the vision of Maureen Clemenson, who saw the need of local children with nowhere to go and nothing to do. She hopes to buck the trend of closing youth groups, and her hard work seems to be paying off. With over 40 on the register, mostly aged 9-15 though older and younger ones also attend, the children apparently queue in all weathers to come in.

Assisted by other volunteers like Maureen Antoinette, the regular programme of football and street dancing has been interspersed with talks from policemen, artists and professionals. They also have a small selection of games available but are always looking for more activities. If you have anything suitable to donate, such as an old table-tennis set, please contact

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## A new face on the High Road

By Sue Holliday

**East Finchley now has its own brasserie and cocktail bar in the High Road. On 14-15 June there were opening parties for Monkey Face and THE ARCHER was invited.**

We were impressed by the changes made to the premises, formerly Bar XL. It is now light, airy, well-lit and air-conditioned. On the walls are paintings by local artists, which will be changed on a regular basis. There are plans to put seating outside so that customers can enjoy drinks and food in the sun.

Johnny and Mick Rayner, the brothers who own Monkey Face, want to provide a type of venue that is missing in East Finchley. This they should achieve, as they will open at 10am for

breakfast and food will be served all day.

After 7pm, the bar will be for over 21s only; I expect that will be when the cocktail bar person will be doing a Tom Cruise impression, which should be fun to watch. Apart from cocktails there will be a wide variety of wines and spirits served by a young enthusiastic staff.

The venue can be sectioned off so private areas can be hired for special parties. Johnny says he is open to ideas for making these parties as enjoyable as possible.

## Football flies the flag

By Diana Cormack

**For the past month there have been few places in England where the flag of St George was not on display to support our football team in the World Cup. Yet ten years ago and more this would not have been the case.**

As a teacher then, my introduction to a lesson about St George's Day was to ask the class what flag they would wave if they were watching England play Germany. They always replied "The Union Jack", thus enabling me to explain that the union flag is an amalgamation of those of St George of England, St Andrew of Scotland and St Patrick of Ireland (The principality of Wales was not included because, when the first union flag was created in 1606, it was already united with England.) But football put an end to my well-used formula in 1996, when Wembley hosted the European Cup finals.

A spectacular opening ceremony included parachutists floating down to the stadium in *The Spy Who Loved Me* style under parachutes depicting their countries' flags. England was last to land on the hallowed turf, after which the pitch became the scene of a fantastic fight between George and the fire-breathing dragon. The crowd roared its support for the English patron saint who, carrying his shield with a red cross on a white background, dealt with the dragon and saved the maiden. The rest, as they say, is history, for that was the day when the English began to reclaim the flag of St George from usurpers.

The creation of the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament has undoubtedly increased both the willingness of English people to be identified as such and the use of the flag of St George, now internationally recognised. Though there are still many who write "British" on foreign

passport control forms, it only takes an international sporting event to sort out what nationality they really are!

## Any umbrellas?

**The Hornsey Trust desperately needs old, broken umbrellas to make parachutes for the teddy bears and other soft toys which will float down from the tower of St. James's Church to herald this year's Muswell Hill Festival on Sunday 17 September.**

They will jump on the Saturday before the show using chutes in a variety of styles and sizes, but many will be made from old umbrellas. They can range in size from collapsibles up to golf umbrellas. The Trust will collect them locally, or you can take them to

the trust's centre for children with cerebral palsy at the top of Muswell Hill just above the primary school.

All enquiries should be made to Alison Wynn, the Trust's fundraiser, on 020 8444 7242, mobile 07808 364 033 or e-mail on [alison@onlib.com](mailto:alison@onlib.com).

## This is Big Brother...

By John Lawrence

**Next time you watch *Big Brother*, look past the back-biting, moaning housemates and take a closer look at the furniture they're sitting on.**

That eclectic collection of living room furniture could be the most interesting thing on the reality TV show - and its centrepiece is there thanks to an East Finchley businesswoman.

Jane Elliott, who runs Ambience Contracts from her home in Baronsmere Road, supplied the eye-catching blue Sliced Sofa for the Big Brother lounge.

Described by host Davina McCall as an 'egg-slicer' because it looks like it's been through one, it's been attracting a lot of attention.

Jane approached the Big Brother production team earlier this year to say the sofa would be ideal for the house but it was only when the Big Brother designers saw it in a magazine weeks later that they came knocking at Jane's door.

Jane said: "We had tried in vain to find the right person at Big Brother to approach so we were delighted to speak to them and they were great to work with."

The sofa was designed by new talent Frederick Van Heerveld and his company



Jane Elliott inside the Big Brother house with the funky furniture she supplied. Picture courtesy Jane Elliott.

Feek, for whom Jane is the sole UK agent. It commands a £4,500 price tag as it is made from hand cut slices of foam glued together, then finished with layers of a special coating that makes it waterproof and suitable for use outside.

Jane said: "The price makes it expensive for many people, but we are looking into produc-

ing a more affordable polypropylene version."

Another design classic from Feek will be on show at the Cherry Tree gift shop in the High Road, courtesy of Jane. The pebble light glows in six different colours and is great for outdoor use. Look out for it in the shop window next time you're passing.



### Bowling could be the perfect solution

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Malcolm Griffiths (above) enjoying the festival fare. Photo by Erini Rodis

Stars of the parade. Photos (above) by Toni Morgan and (below) by David Glick

# East Finchley Festival 2006

The people of East Finchley came together again for a truly fantastic community festival. Thousands of visitors enjoyed a rockin' afternoon of music, art, games and fun in the sunshine of Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 25 June.



Above: Lamp Post Boys. Photo by Erini Rodis

Below: Relaxing in the sunshine. Photo by Erini Rodis



Festival fashion. Photo by David Glick

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Antigua Joe entertains as the Chinese Dragon enters the park. Photo by Toni Morgan





## Silent wonders

By Tony Roberts

**For the brief period from 1911 to 1916, East Finchley housed one of two studios belonging to the British and Colonial Kinematograph Company, Britain's third most productive makers of silent films at that time.**

At a well-attended talk organised by The Finchley Society's Local History Group, Gerald Turvey gave a fascinating account of this prolific period, well illustrated with a range of slides from film and press.

He explained how East Finchley's connection began when the company expanded into larger premises: offices and manufacture at Endell Street and a studio at Newstead House, East Finchley, located in large grounds on the High Road just north of where Sylvester Road is today.

Why East Finchley? It was described then as one of the most charming of suburbs, easily reached by train and tram.

The studio was mainly used for filming interior scenes whilst outdoor action was filmed in a wide variety of locations, sometimes locally but also in many parts of the UK. The interior scenes were filmed outside in natural light on a stage 15 by 30 feet, so summer was a busy time of

the year. A barn housed the props, scenery and maintenance area.

The opening ball sequence of Britain's first epic, *The Battle of Waterloo* (1913) was shot at Newstead House, but the battle scenes were not filmed in East Finchley.

The company filmed a wide range of subjects: shipwrecks at sea, crime films, war films, lives of Shakespeare and of Florence Nightingale; even one on prostitution.

The company produced several film series including ones about Dick Turpin (appropriately for the location!), Three-fingered Kate (a successful gang leader), and Lt. Daring RN.

The company was active into the first half of 1916 until McDowell, mainstay of the company, went to France as a cameraman. He filmed the Battle of the Somme.

Gerald Turvey is a director of the Phoenix Cinema Trust and is researching and writing about the British and Colonial Kinematograph Company.



Bob and June Wiltshire have gone into the beauty business together. Picture by John Lawrence.

## Banking on beauty

**A couple seeking a new outlook on life have gone into business with their own beauty treatment centre.**

June and Bob Wiltshire, of Elmfield Road, previously worked in banking, June as a bank worker and Bob as part of the team advising wealthy customers for HSBC.

But they reached a turning point in their lives last year after June had returned to college to train as a beautician and Bob realised he'd had enough of the rat race and the daily commute to Canary Wharf.

So the couple grabbed the opportunity to buy a franchise and set up the North London IPL Centre, based at Cootes Pharmacy in Ballards Lane, Finchley Central.

Bob said: "It's something we both wanted to do. June had given up her career to look after our family so it's her chance to do something she loves."

June is fully trained and accredited to give treatments using intensified pulsed light, hence IPL, for permanent hair reduction. IPL is a gentler alternative to laser treatments that uses a light source converted to heat to push out hair follicles.

Their business is already attracting international attention. One client travelled to Finchley from Prague because her sister had recommended June.

## Singing in the Passion

By Helen Drake and Molly Hogan

**On Sunday 9 April at the start of Holy Week, the Martin School Junior Choir travelled with their Choir teacher Jan Trott to Holy Trinity Church in Sloane Street, central London to sing in J.S. Bach's St Matthew Passion.**

Performing alongside the internationally renowned Canticum Choir (of which Jan Trott is a member) and the orchestra, Counterpoint, it was a great honour for the children to be involved in such a prestigious event. As one parent said: "It was marvellous to see the children singing so competently, and even more marvellous considering they were singing in German!"

The three-hour piece looks at the last two days of Christ's life on Earth as told by the Gospel of St Matthew.

Martin School pupil Molly Hogan has written about her experience.

"The Choir rehearsed every Tuesday morning leading up to the performance with Jan, our Choir teacher.

On the Sunday before the actual concert we went to Sloane Square to practise with the other singers. There were two secondary schools performing with us, along with the adult choir. On the day, we went with our parents to Sloane Square where we had our last rehearsal, this time with the orchestra. Afterwards, we went out to a café nearby. When we got back people were already arriving. While we waited

for the performance we were really excited!

Our Choir sang in two sections of the first half, one at the beginning and one near the end. When we weren't singing we were standing on either side of the orchestra. The sound coming from the Choir and the orchestra was beautiful, it filled the church. We had never performed with an orchestra before so it was very exciting. We all really enjoyed ourselves and were proud to have participated."

## Open door for artists

**Local artists are being invited to submit their work to The Barnet Open, an annual exhibition to showcase the talent of local artists in Barnet and the neighbouring north London boroughs of Brent, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Harrow.**

A panel of experts including curators, art critics, art enthusiasts and community representatives will select the work to be exhibited. Entries for the exhibition can be made till 12 July.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 8 September to 5 October in *artsdepot's* Apthorp Gallery in North Finchley.

Submission forms can be

downloaded from the website [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk) or collected from the box office and the Apthorp gallery at *artsdepot*.

Last year's exhibition was the first of these annual events and has set the mark for a future of exciting offerings from a wealth of local talent. This year artists can choose to sell their art work during the exhibition.



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## Beckham signs for Holy Trinity

By Anum Bandey and Lois Lawrence, Year 4

**David Beckham signed an England football shirt that was auctioned at our Summer Fair at Holy Trinity School. Nine other England players had signed the shirt too. When it was auctioned, it raised an amazing £1,700 for the school, thanks to a mystery bidder on the phone.**



Alexander Ormerod with the signed England shirt that raised £1,700. Picture by John Lawrence.

The tombola was good fun too. We won some Bourbon chocolate biscuits, bubble bath, face cream and some toothpaste. If you wanted to win something, then you had to get a ticket with a 5 or 0 on the end.

The next one we went to was the toy stall. We got an England rubber, candy, bonus ball, windpipe and a creepy crawly set.

The face painting stall was giving children all kinds of faces from sea creatures with dolphin shapes to Count Dracula.

We were very hungry so we went to the food and drink stall. The people serving drinks were always busy because it was very very hot.

There were lots of other things to see, including a bouncy castle, a cake stall, some nail painting and even someone giving parents a massage in a chair.

Everybody there enjoyed the summer fair and it raised thousands of pounds to go towards school funds. Thank you to everyone who came and hope to see you next year.



The winning Starfish team with their trophy. Photo by Helen Drake

## Raise the cup and cheer

By Kate Fuscoe

**World Cup fever peaked on Saturday 17 June and the sun shone once again for the annual East Finchley Festival football tournament, hosted by Martin Schools at their Summer Fun Day.**

Play started on the Martin Schools' field at 10.30am, with 18 teams from Holy Trinity and Martin battling it out for a place in the final. After a series of matches carefully monitored by referees James Johnson, David Noden, Steve Parsons, Mike Harris and Dave Tossell, the Infant Cup was won by Martin's Year 2 class, Starfish. The Junior

shield finally went to Martin's 6J, after a nail-biting final against their opponents 5M.

Overall, the children played very well, with good sportsmanship, said the referees. Councillor Alison Moore presented the trophies, and congratulated the children on their excellent play (and could someone please explain the offside rule?).

## Martin School Fun Day

By Rosamund Casimir-Brown and Amber Albani, Martin Junior pupils

**The Martin School's Summer Fun Day was great fun, and really hot, but for us, rather wet, thanks to four boys who sprayed us with water guns all day! There were loads of people there, but it wasn't overcrowded.**

There were tons of things to do, including the tombola, raffle, hook-a-duck, a fancy dress competition, and a giant inflatable slide! There was also delicious food and lovely drinks, as well as a relaxing, shady spot to eat and drink.

Everyone also enjoyed the live music being played by Alan Gruner (the Schools' Music Co-ordinator) and his band, with some spectacular vocal numbers from Martin pupil Laura O'Driscoll and Luzolo, a former pupil.

The Summer Fun Day was especially good for some people, as they won a prize in the raffle. Eti Wade won £200 of Budgens vouchers, Sooay Powell won £150 of hair products from 202 Hair Stylists, and Rosamund (me!) won a £100 voucher to spend at Top Shop! Overall, it was a fantastic day, and we know it will be just as good next year.



Eti Wade, pictured with eldest son Mikha'el, after she won £200 of Budgens vouchers, the first prize in the Martin Schools' Summer Fun Day raffle. Picture by Helen Drake

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

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## Save our brownies!

**With their present leader moving on, East Finchley Brownie Pack will have to close if a replacement cannot be found. This popular group meets weekly in term time at St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road and carries out the usual Brownie activities, including being successful fund raisers. Recently they held a Keep Fit Challenge and made over £279 for a Great Ormond Street Hospital appeal for children with leukaemia.**

Now they are appealing for someone with guider experience to step forward and help them. The Girlguiding Association will provide on-going training. Rainbows, the pre-Brownie group for five to seven year olds, is still going strong and acts as a feeder group to the Brownies. As well as learning so much from the activities on offer, the girls also benefit socially through interacting with children from

other schools and making new friends.

Clubs like these benefit the community as a whole. Our young people need more organised activities, not fewer, and it would be sad to see one that has been established in the area for many years being forced to close. If you can help or need more information, please contact Mrs Antoinette on 020 8883 5654.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

The school's commitment to promoting the benefits of physical activity has been recognised by Holy Trinity receiving the Active Mark Gold Extension Award.

Despite being a small school, Holy Trinity entered two teams in the Barnet Schools Tag Rugby Sevens Tournament at Finchley Rugby Club. The "A" team were runners up to a school with three times as many pupils to choose from, whom they had beaten but who had scored one more try overall in the group matches. The Holy Trinity teams played each other twice in the tournament and it was one win each.

Walk to School Week was well supported in spite of the inclement weather, with many families making the effort and thinking about the environment. The School Travel Plan was

approved and the money received will be spent on new playground apparatus.

### Martin Schools

An advisory teacher from Mill Hill County visited the junior school after hearing about the high quality design technology work going on there. She was immensely impressed by both the work and the vibrant atmosphere and said that secondary schools could learn from the imaginative way Martin Junior approached the subject.

As part of the drive to increase enthusiasm for science, a parent volunteer organised a special treasure hunt for Year 5 on the theme of space. Working in groups, the children had great fun searching the building and field for clues.

The cricket team had an enjoy-

able day at Barnet Cricket Tournament where they were just beaten in the knock-out but won all four of their friendly matches.

Three boys, Devini and Navin Patel and Kieran Nunkoo, have been chosen to represent Britain in an international karate competition in Cyprus.

The school choir took part in the annual Barnet Music Festival at the arts depot.

Both schools were involved in Multicultural Week at the end of June, with an International Evening being one of the planned highlights.

The infants celebrated World Cup Day on 20 June by wearing their team's kit to school, for which they paid £1. All countries and types were welcome and the money raised was donated to the School Amenities fund.





## A week to remember

By Diana Cormack

**Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road has held an annual activity week for the past 20 years. This year the events were linked to The London Challenge, a government-inspired partnership between all those who seek more for London's young people. As one of the first schools in the capital to use this community based project, the results at Bishop Douglass are being closely watched.**

Preparations began in January for the week in May when students would be introduced to new experiences and encouraged to take on different challenges. Art, English, technology, fashion, film, website design and sport were among the suggestions from pupils for what they would like included. Years 7, 8 and 9 took part but exam commitments prevented Year 11 from participating; Year 10 managed to fit in a special day of their own.

This was "Navy Day" when visiting naval officers put the pupils through their paces, with one of their character building methods being a muddy assault course! Mud was no doubt involved in Year 8's PGL week in Lincoln, which included caving, walking, abseiling and fencing among its many activities. Year 9 had a very successful visit

to France. As well as going to Disneyland Paris, they learned a lot about Paris on their guided walking tours and experienced a different culture.

The cultural aspect was highlighted in the pupils' performance ending the week, in which music, dance and drama featured strongly. Songs and dances from many cultures were enthusiastically supported by the audience, who had been kept up to date by fellow students through a daily newsletter reporting on the activities.

Teacher Andy Fyfe, one of the main organisers, told *THE ARCHER*: "So far it has been very successful and it can only get better. We aim to bring in new ideas and activities as it grows. This is not a one-off thing. It is something that the staff and students are fully behind."



Photo by Erini Rodis

## I wanted to hug everybody

By Erini Rodis

**One Sunday afternoon, on the mezzanine floor of Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, I felt so**

**extraordinarily uplifted after a session of Yoga Thai Massage that I wanted to hug everybody and spread the word!**

Run by local yoga teacher Sunnah Rose and Thai Massage practitioner David Stillitz, this workshop is a meditative and gentle, yet at the same time strenuous and challenging workout. The enthusiasm of the teachers is infectious and the stained glass and arched windows add to the sense of peace.

Whether you want to improve flexibility, relax, detox or help heal any injuries, Yoga Thai Massage is an effective combination of yoga warm-ups and massage. The practitioner uses deep tissue massage to help you reconnect with the rest of your body in a very nurturing way while the

yoga provides an element of meditation to help focus and clear the mind.

It helps to bring along a friend as it's a very hands-on learning process, which sends energy surging all around the body. Described as a holistic healing therapy, this traditional Thai technique focuses "upon the energy make up of the body, alleviating it of any aches, pains, discomforts or imbalances - harmonising the mind, body and spirit."

It also makes you feel wonderfully cuddled from the inside.

The next course takes place on 30 July, costing £40 per person or £70 for two. For further details contact: sunnah@stretchingpeople.co.uk, tel: 07941 321772, or david@thaimassagelondon.co.uk, tel: 07976 293521 or 020 7691 1957.

## Winning the numbers game

By Helen Drake

**Year 6 pupil Susannah Fleiss was the star of a special assembly held on Friday 9 June at Martin Junior School when she became the first winner of the Lynn Cornelius Award for Outstanding Achievement for her success in mathematics.**

Watched proudly by her parents, 11-year-old Susannah received her award in front of Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, along with pupils, teachers and governors of the school.

Also in the audience was local resident and former parent Robert Winton MBE whose idea it had been to create the award. Mr Winton, who is Secretary of the Finchley Society, had read about the success of Susannah and other Martin School pupils in *THE ARCHER*. He had been so impressed that he felt "the school deserves to have a thank you".

Senior staff chose Susannah to receive the award because of her particular success in two mathematics competitions. In the World Class Tests in November 2005 Susannah gained a distinction in the 12-14 years group, an incredible achievement considering she was competing with children up to four years older.

Of the 10,000 children who took part in the first round of the Primary Mathematics Challenge, also held in November 2005, Susannah was among only 57 pupils nationally who scored 30 marks out of 30. She received a bronze medal in the final round.

Mr Winton did not want his own name on the trophy and so it was decided to name the award after Lynn Cornelius, a much loved member of staff who died recently.

Head Teacher Maggie Driscoll said: "Lynn would have been really delighted by Susannah's success,



A thrilled Susannah Fleiss with her trophy. Picture by Helen Drake

not just in mathematics but in so many aspects of the curriculum. She is a truly exceptional pupil."

Miss Driscoll added: "After the assembly, when Susannah went out to play, there was a resounding cheer from the whole school. Every child clearly agreed with the teachers' choice."

## Seen and Heard

**On a scorching hot day at the start of June, sitting forlornly on the pavement outside a house in Leslie Road waiting for collection by the waste disposal team, was a Christmas tree.**

*Was this the last survivor of Christmas 2005 or are there others still waiting to meet their maker?*

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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** - 10 & 24 July 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 Jane Woollard, on 020 8883 4340  
❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793  
❖ **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.

## Size matters at the artsdepot

By Daphne Chamberlain

**I went to the artsdepot last month and contemplated a navel. There it was: on the wall, in your face and looking exactly like a tunnel burrowing into sand. The sand was rumpled a little round the mouth of the tunnel, where a few blades of grass were fluttering. At first, that is what I thought it was showing - this huge black-and-white photo mounted on aluminium - until I saw the title.**

It was part of an Arts Council exhibition called Size Matters. Thirty exhibits - pictures, models and videos - explored scale and the way we view people and things around us.

On screen, computer-shrunk aircraft zoomed around a flat cum airfield. Less light hearted was the disturbing "Object of Fun", a picture of a little girl in short skirt, socks and sandals, with an oversize man's head.

For me, some exhibits did not work. Inspired by the recent photograph of a mouse with a cloned human ear on its back, a fantasy "dinomouse" was enlarged to the size of the dinosaur it was squaring up to. Perhaps it was something about its face, but it looked more like Alice's teapot dozer gone wrong than a match for T Rex. Art is always a matter of personal taste, however, and there was plenty of variety here.

The exhibition is small

but free, and almost on East Finchley's doorstep. The gallery is on the first floor of the artsdepot. There is playspace for children, but under-12s need an adult with them to get into the exhibition; an activity sheet offers children things to do and ideas to discuss. Size Matters continues until 16 July.

### Footnote:

#### Art Gallery volunteers wanted

*The artsdepot needs volunteers to give four hours once a week (or when possible) 12-4pm or 4-8pm Monday to Saturday, or 1-5pm Sundays.*

*Responsibilities: opening and closing the gallery, welcoming visitors, answering questions, occasional routine administrative tasks; also assistance in hanging exhibitions and helping with workshops and education visits.*

*Contact Tracey Lazarus on 020 8369 5464 or rebecca.faulkner@artsdepot.co.uk.*

## Music and drama to my ears

By Betti Blatman

**The North London Festival of Music and Drama this year had 1,500 entrants but as an 'entrant' may be an orchestra or a choir composed of dozens of individuals (Kaos Signing Choir had nearly 100 members) this means well over 2,000 people participated in this year's Festival.**

Rachel Douglas, chairperson, finds it "enormously rewarding to be involved in an occasion that taps such talent, energy and enthusiasm in so many young people".

After attending several preliminary music competitions, I was delighted to be invited to the President's Prize Competition on Saturday 20 May, at which their President, the conductor Sir Colin Davis, donates the £100 prize each year. Top players from the

piano, instrumental and singing sections are invited to take part and the standard is extremely high, making it a memorable concert.

The Prize Winners' Concert, which is a showcase for the festival, followed on Sunday 21 May. Some of the performers were local residents, including six-year-old violinist Miteki Ochi from East Finchley and 10-year-old speaker Lauren Duffus who attends Showstoppers Drama School in Muswell Hill.

### The top prize winners were:

*Suzie Thorn, oboe: 1) The President's Prize; 2) Most Outstanding Reed Instrument Player in the Festival; 3) Premier Challenge Cup (wind).*

*Olivia Newbold, piano: Premier Challenge Cup (piano).*

*Ori Epstein, cello: 1) Instrumental Cup for most promising player under 15 years; 2) Peggy Page Cello Trophy for most promising cellist; 3) Recital Class for players 12-14 years.*

*Joon Yeon Sir, violin: 1) Premier Challenge Cup (strings); 2) Concerto class (any age).*

*Kitty Whateley, singer: 1) Song Recital Class; 2) Most Outstanding Female Singer over 16 years.*

*Youth Music Centre, of Hampstead Garden Suburb: three orchestral shields for outstanding orchestras in three age groups.*

*The Chapel Choir of St Mary's School, Hampstead: Most Outstanding Primary School Choir.*

The Festival goes from strength to strength with performances from highly

talented and gifted children. I can't wait for the next one!



Right-left: Peter Bayley MBE, Chief Projectionist, Paul Stanley & Ava Grauls, Relief Projectionists. Picture by John Dearing

## Phoenix Cinema Paradiso

By Sheila Armstrong

**Madonna fan, MBE and 50 years in the business, Peter Bayley is still on the afternoon shift in the projection room at the Phoenix Cinema. His goal is to keep working until 2010 when our local cinema will be 100 years old and he will have been there for 50 years.**

THE ARCHER'S meeting with Peter was in the projection room at the top of the old cinema, which still retains a feel of the 1930s from its rebuild in 1937 when the screen was moved from the High Street side of the building to its current position.

The most striking thing about the room is the huge reel of full-length film and the noise it makes as it feeds through the projector.

Peter's first opportunity to show films came in a geography lesson at school, when the class was challenged to operate the projector. He was the only one who could do it. And, apart from a few years working for

a car repair garage in High Barnet when he left school, he's never looked back. He worked first for the Gaumont North Finchley as a trainee and then started at the Phoenix in 1960.

*Gone with the Wind* and *The Glenn Miller Story* are amongst his favourite films and he describes the introduction of wide screen and Cinemascope as being the biggest change in cinemas. They were quite breathtaking when first seen, he told THE ARCHER.

He is ably assisted by Paul Stanley who is just completing his 27<sup>th</sup> year there, so between them they have been at the Phoenix for 73 years.

## What's On...

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

### Sunday 30 July

The Phoenix International Short Film Festival presents new and innovative work from up and coming film makers; 12pm Phoenix Cinema, High Road.

## Is 2006 the year you learn how to surf the web and use email?

The Green Man Community Centre offers a wide range of courses to help you make the most of new technology. If you just want to learn how to use email or even get a professional qualification we have the course for you.

Learners study at their own pace with a friendly tutor on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

For more information about the courses on offer call Helen on 020 8815 0703.

The Learndirect Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College





# Are you a walnut or a balloon?

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Some people's heads feel really hard, like walnuts, whereas others' feel like balloons filled with water." Craniosacral therapist Anne Hebbon had told me this before I climbed on her table, so naturally there was one question I had to ask. (The answer was "Somewhere in between").



Anne Hebbon at work. Picture by Daphne Chamberlain

The watery bit is key to the whole therapy, which centres on the movement of cerebrospinal fluid. This is the liquid cushioning the brain and spinal cord, and it ebbs and flows like a tide. In fact, osteopaths discovered nearly 100 years ago that every healthy cell in the body has its own rhythmic movement. Bones and membranes are mobile, and Anne has even felt the roots of her teeth move when treating herself.

Craniosacral therapy has fascinated me for a long time, especially because so many complementary therapists sing its praises. "Was it what you expected?" asked Anne. Not exactly. I had expected just the head to be treated, but the therapist moves around the body, to where they feel the client needs most attention.

In my case this was a very precise spot closely connected with an operation I had some years ago. Anne didn't know this when her hands located it.

Craniosacral therapy is completely non-manipulative. Anne's hands are so light that I wasn't always sure she was touching me at all. What I felt was a pleasant warmth and tingling, and every now and then a definite release of tension. The big bonus came later: a lifelong insomniac, I began to sleep really well.

How does it work? Stresses and strains (including birth traumas) cause the body's tissues to contract. The therapist's hands very subtly encourage the body to "forget" the trauma and move back to a balanced state.

From childhood, Anne wanted to help others to heal themselves. She treats people of all ages, including babies, at the Utopia Health and

Beauty Clinic, 1A Leicester Mews. I have booked more sessions, and you can contact her on 07941 918490. For more information from the Craniosacral Therapy Association, ring 07000 784 735 or go to [www.craniosacral.co.uk](http://www.craniosacral.co.uk).

## Sunshine all the way

By Toni Morgan

Sunshine was very much the order of the day at the Old Barn Community Centre on Monday 12 June. On what was the hottest day of the year so far, with the sun shining in a cloudless blue sky, the Old Barn Youth and Community Association was presented with a brand new replacement Variety Club Sunshine Coach, sponsored by Oakfield (Foods) Ltd, of New Barnet.



Sunshine Day at the Old Barn. Photo by Toni Morgan

The keys and a plaque were presented to Councillor Alison Moore by actress Sheridan Smith, one of the stars of TV comedy Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps. Representatives from the Variety Club, Oakfield staff and children from the Old Barn joined in the celebration.

Barry Rawlings, Manager of the Old Barn Youth and Community Association,

said that their original coach, which was in use five days a week for 51 weeks of the year, had served them well for ten years and a replacement was much needed.

Cllr Moore thanked the Variety Club and Oakfield for their generosity and support for this very worthwhile centre of the community and wished everyone many enjoyable outings in the future.

## Letters to the editor

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, at publication.

### Will Institute parking crowd us out?

Dear Editor,

Park House in the High Road is in the news again. On 16 June, Barnet Council sent out a notice that Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute is appealing to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the use of Park House, opposite the tube station.

Barnet's letter was not clear as to what is being appealed against and, after being pressed for clarity, Barnet will be sending out an amended letter to some residents only.

I understand that the Institute is appealing on two grounds. Firstly, for temporary to permanent change of use of Park House from Local Government Municipal Offices to Educational Facility. Secondly, against the restriction on opening hours placed on the Institute by the council in December 2005 'to safeguard the amenities of occupiers of adjoining residential properties'.

The Institute wants opening hours of 7.30am-10.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-10pm on Saturday. Parking restrictions in the streets around Park House end at 6.30pm. If the Institute's opening hours restriction is lifted, the neighbourhood would have a permanent problem with parking after 6.30pm.

In November 2005, the Institute sent out a letter to its students inviting them to park in our streets, stating: 'After 6.30pm, most of the local street

parking restrictions are lifted.'

The Institute currently operates from two premises: Park House and the McDonalds headquarters, and a third site is being built behind East Finchley station. Students on three sites will be looking for parking after 6.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Barnet's amended notice will only be sent to residents who responded to the Institute's application in October 2005.

Residents who wish to protect their parking amenity should therefore contact Barnet Council Head of Planning immediately on 020 8359 4627 and quote reference C00050Z/05.

Representations against the Institute's appeal should be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 27 July 2006. Time is of the essence.

Yours faithfully,  
Kenneth Cordeiro,  
Baronsmere Road, N2

### A safe bet?

Dear Editor,

Yet another betting shop for East Finchley? The prime site opposite Budgens, 90-92 High Road, is likely to become a betting shop unless enough of us protest.

According to an unobtrusive little notice on the window, we must send our letters of objection to the Barnet Betting Licensing Committee by 27 June - except the 7 has been scored out so the date is unclear.

For the teenagers who congregate on that corner every afternoon, a betting shop would be such a worthwhile model of civic society, wouldn't it? And what a gap would be filled for us all, with only two other betting shops nearby. Such imaginative planning!

Never mind the date, send the committee your views.

Yours faithfully,  
Ann Bronkhorst,  
Durham Road, N2

### Fortismere fears

Dear Editor,

Keep Fortismere Comprehensive is a coalition group of parents, teachers and union members connected with our local comprehensive school Fortismere. New Head Teacher Aydin Onac and the Governing Body have declared an intention that Fortismere will become a Foundation School.

Many of us believe this will detrimentally affect the education of our children currently at the school, and is likely to make admission for future generations more difficult.

Foundation Schools differ substantially from State Maintained schools. Firstly, all schools by law have a Governing Body. When a school changes status to Foundation both the make up of the governors and the scope of their powers changes dramatically.

Essentially, they become able to make decisions, many of which are independent from their local education authority, and the needs of the wider local population. The new Governing Body becomes their own Admissions Authority, the direct employer of school staff, the owner of school land and buildings and is able to publish proposals for other changes to the school. Essentially most aspects of public or democratic accountability are removed.

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

Research from the LSE shows that Foundation Schools tend to use their power as an admission authority to alter their admissions criteria.

The Keep Fortismere coalition believes that this will happen. It says NO to selection of any sort. It says that ALL local children have a right to attend their local comprehensive.

Current priorities for entry are: children with Statements of Special Educational Need, then siblings of current pupils and proximity to school. Imagine if this were to change and new criteria introduced.

In 1999 East Finchley Parents won the right for our local Barnet children to attend the school. We have a wonderful and diverse mix of people locally; our children attend primary school together and we want them to go to secondary school together.

If this goes ahead, the future of the school, the land, and which children attend will be in the hands of the Governors and not the local authority. Please ask your Councillor, Parent Governor or Head Teacher about this. Get information from [www.keepfortismerecomprehensive.co.uk](http://www.keepfortismerecomprehensive.co.uk).

Yours faithfully,  
Naomi Burgess  
Bedford Rd, N2

### The bus that never came

Dear Editor,

As THE ARCHER often reports incidents about the 263 bus, I thought you might be interested in an event that happened to me. One Friday early in May there was a signal failure on the tube at East Finchley. Travelling from Moorgate the train driver kept us informed all along the way, which was very good.

When we got to Archway the driver announced that we could be held there for 20 minutes or more, so like many other passengers I got off the tube and decided to get the bus.

Oh, big mistake, as I waited well over 10 minutes. During that time five 134 buses came and went and also one 143. I decided to get the second 143 because there was still no sign of a 263.

I got off at East Finchley station, went into the chemist to buy something, then walked home in line with the library and there was still no sign of a 263 bus!

Helen Day,  
Leslie Road, N2

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## Wright-y on the ball for Bishop Douglass

By John Dearing

**Ian Wright, TV presenter and former Arsenal and England footballer, thrilled pupils and teachers alike when he joined the Bishop Douglass After School Fitness Club for a session on Wednesday 21 June.**

The club is focused mainly on children who don't necessarily shine in more traditional school sporting activities, and provides them with a less pressured environment to improve their fitness and introduce them to the whole range of sports available locally.

The session was led by Stephen O'Brien, assisted by Stephen Lenane, both PE teachers, and assistant head teacher Bash Malik. The emphasis was on football, with routines in pairs and small teams, running and passing the ball.

Ian Wright joined in the game, making judicious interventions and offering much loud encouragement. The whole session was filmed as part of a series on after school fitness clubs for broadcast on Channel 4 later this year.



Ian Wright at Bishop Douglass School. Picture by John Dearing

## Refugee festival success

**The 6th Barnet Refugee Festival on Sunday 18 June was a huge success attracting nearly 600 refugees and asylum seekers.**

Theresa Villiers MP opened the festival, praising the vital contribution that refugees have made and continue to make to our society.

It was a wonderful sunny day with food from many countries and delightful entertainment by children and young people from our diverse refugee communities.

The day-long festival in Hendon was superbly organised by the Barnet Refugee Forum led for this event by Farid Mall, the director of Paiwand Afghan Organisation which is based at East Finchley Advice Centre in Church Lane and offers support to Afghan refugees in Barnet and surrounding boroughs.

**The Archer needs volunteer distributors for The Grange (several rounds), Deansway, Bancroft Avenue, Denison Close, Great North Road and Long Lane (north end).**

Please call 020 8883 0433 or email [distribution@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:distribution@the-archer.co.uk) for details

## Warm weather warning!

**The warmer weather is here and with it comes the ever-present invitation to burglars by residents who leave their homes unoccupied with windows open, or who go to bed at night without making sure that patio doors and back doors are locked securely.**

Going to bed and leaving downstairs windows open can be a gift to the burglar who will seize any opportunity to relieve residents of their hard earned property. During the day, even the smallest window should be closed and locked if the house is left empty.

A first floor window over a flat roof can easily give access to a larger window and getting into the house is then too easy for the opportunist burglar. Drainpipes, wheelie bins and garden sheds will all give opportunities for burglars to climb up to reach a small open window. Moving the shed or drainpipe is not an option,

but closing and locking the window is.

When working or relaxing in the back garden care should be taken to ensure that the front of the house is secure. The same applies if you are busy in the front garden and cannot see the back of the house.

Barnet Police point out that insurance companies may refuse to meet any claim if it is found that the homeowner failed to take the necessary steps to secure their premises.

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## Spike in the park

By Daphne Chamberlain

**There was a good turn-out for the Spike Milligan Statue Fund's Summer Afternoon in the Park last month. On Fathers' Day, Spike Milligan's daughter Sile was a steward at the Avenue House event, and families - celebrity and otherwise - were there in force.**

Entertainers included East Finchley's Henry Van Emden and the Angels of Kaos. Henry has been a musician for 80 years, while some Angels are singers from our local schools.

Barnet sculptor John Somerville, who, as the compere said, looked like a rock musician, appeared on stage to show a hand-held model of the Milligan statue he is working on. The full-scale version should be placed in Avenue House Grounds in 18 months to two years time.

Artist Julia Breck unveiled her own portrait of Spike that will be hung in Avenue House.

As children queued to ride on Mill Hill Rotary Club's decorated bus, and to try their hands at archery, items donated by the likes of Michael Palin, Terry Gilliam, Dame Edna

and Tony Blair went under the hammer.

Auctioneers included Councillor Brian Coleman and the Mayor, who said that Spike (one of the saviours of Strawberry Vale's Hawthorn Dene) had always taken town planning issues very seriously.

The compere was East Finchley's David Smith, supported by other members of The Finchley Society. Spike was the Society's first president and then patron until his death.

There is still some way to go to raise the £55,000 estimated for the cost of the statue. Anyone wanting to contribute should make cheques payable to The Spike Milligan Statue Fund and send them to: The Secretary, SMSF, 17 Abbots Gardens, N2 0JG. There is a website at [www.spikestatue.org.uk](http://www.spikestatue.org.uk).

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