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# THE ARCHER



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

## Armed robbery in High Road

**Police are appealing for witnesses to an armed robbery in the High Road on Sunday 14 May.**

At approximately 7.30pm, a man entered the Spar convenience store and approached the cashier who was behind the counter. He pointed a silver hand gun at the cashier and demanded money from the till, before going around the counter, opening the till and taking the money himself.

The suspect then left the store, heading north

up the High Road and to the rear of Chapel Court. He is described as a black man, about 6ft tall, aged in his late teens to early 20s, wearing a white and tan hooded top, black trousers and a yellow scarf.

An ambulance crew treated the victim, an Asian man in his 20s, at the scene for shock. He sustained no injuries during the robbery.

The investigation into the robbery is being conducted by the Flying Squad based at Finchley. At the time of going to press, no arrests had been

made and inquiries were continuing.

Investigating Officer Barry Walker said: "This was a frightening experience for the victim and we need to catch the person responsible. I would urge anyone who has any information, however small, to contact us."

Anyone who saw something suspicious in the area at the time, or has any information regarding the robbery is asked to call the Flying Squad on 020 8358 1751 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Targeted: the Spar shop in the High Road. Photo by John Dearing

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## Arson attack outside tube station

The fruit and greengrocery stall on the forecourt of East Finchley Underground Station was destroyed by fire last month in an arson attack.

The stall has been a welcome sight for commuters on their way home, for some years now. Sadly, in the early hours of 5 May, it was set alight and completely burnt out.

Terry, the stallholder, was unable to trade for some days afterwards, to the disappointment of his many regular customers.

It is believed that a skip outside the nearby building site was also set alight, and a mechanical digger vandalised. The British Transport Police were called to the scene at around 4am.

At the time of going to press, police were unable to confirm whether anybody had been arrested in connection with the attack.

## Library downgrades as Institute upgrades

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Principal of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute has told Barnet Council that she is "dismayed and disappointed" by the downgrading of East Finchley Library.

Fay Naylor, Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute, said it was ironic that the downgrading should be implemented just when the expanded Institute is bringing many potential library users into N2.

Its English Centre for International Students has now moved into 11 High Road, and it was expected that these students would make extensive use of the library. In fact, the English Centre had already started discussing with senior library staff how the two organisations could best work together.

In addition, Fay Naylor pointed out that the Institute offered one of the widest ranges of foreign language tuition in London, with students encouraged to read and study as widely

as possible. Students on other courses, some of whom have been based at Park House opposite the tube station for the past 18 months, are already regular library users.

Despite all this, the library has lost 25% of its staff, and is now closing for lunch, making itself unavailable to many students on morning courses who don't want to hang around until it re-opens at 2pm. With the library now opening late on only one evening, afternoon students and staff could also be deterred.

Ms Naylor reported a warm welcome to the Institute from East Finchley residents, who generally saw it as an improvement to the area, and she hoped that the Council decision would be overturned.

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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  
published unless clearly marked  
'Not for publication' within the text.

### Copy deadlines

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## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789  
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080  
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
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Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
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MIND 020 8343 5700  
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Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162  
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Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
St Luke's 020 8219 1800  
Whittington 020 7272 3070

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212  
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 02083452148  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0845 303 0900  
E.F. Community Police Officer:  
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)  
Tel: 020 8733 5562, e-mail:  
paul.carter@met.police.uk

## Amnesty on knives

**A nationwide knives amnesty is running until 30 June, backed up by a tough police enforcement campaign to drive home the message that carrying knives is not acceptable.**

Finchley & Golders Green MP Rudi Vis endorsed the drive to tackle knife crime and violence in Barnet and the UK. He said: "This knife amnesty is about creating safer streets throughout the borough. Previous amnesties like this have already taken deadly weapons off the streets helping us all feel safer.

"Often those who carry a knife or dangerous weapon mistakenly believe they are protecting themselves and have no intention of becoming a murderer, but coupled with drink or drugs these weapons all too often lead to bloodshed.

"Please do the right thing for your community, stop carrying knives and hand any you have over to the police. Remember this is a chance for you to come clean - but it is only for a limited time."

## Cars at risk in narrow roads

**Cars parked in roads close to the centre of East Finchley are increasingly at risk of being damaged by passing lorries and vans being driven carelessly.**

A number of readers have contacted THE ARCHER to report damage to cars, ranging from broken wing mirrors to paint scrapes and full-scale body damage.

Most at risk seem to be cars parked in the crowded county roads and in narrow roads such as Leslie Road and Leopold Road, where there is only room for traffic to travel in one direction with few passing places.

Rebecca Smith, who lives in Leicester Road, came out one day to discover a bad scrape down the side of her Fiat estate car, which cost hundreds of pounds to repair.

She said: "I presume it was a builder's van or car as the scrape on the offside back wing had a coating of white dust on it. The scrape went down to the undercoat, though thankfully there was no damage to the bodywork.

"Call me naïve, but I'm just mad that no one leaves a name

and address anymore. Whoever did it must have known."

Sonia Singham witnessed a lorry pass her house in Leslie Road and collide with three parked cars in a row. She said: "The lorry was travelling at some speed and it made contact with three cars as it passed. It really bumped them and almost seemed to carry them with it."

### Crowded with cars

The county roads have always been crowded with cars but the growing number of restaurants and bars in the High Road are pulling in extra visitors who quickly fill any spare parking spaces. Drivers who try to pass each other risk scraping stationary cars. Others are tempted to race from one end of the road to the other before an oncoming vehicle blocks their way.

Residents living in Leopold and Leslie Roads say many lorry drivers unfamiliar with the area end up driving up and down mistakenly thinking there might be a route through to East End Road.

Barnet Council rejected a proposal to make these two roads into one-way routes a few years ago but some residents believe it is time to put the idea on the table again.

## Making light work

**Barnet Council has declared that the equivalent of one street a day across the borough will have its lights repaired or replaced over the next 25 years.**

The programme aims to upgrade 75% of the borough's street lights in the first five years, with attractive lamp posts in conservation areas such as Hampstead Garden Suburb being preserved.

## Conservatives gain from local elections

By Daphne Chamberlain

**In last month's council elections, the Conservatives increased their overall majority in Barnet from one to 11. They won 37 seats, Labour took 20, and the Liberal Democrats six.**

East Finchley remains an all-Labour ward, returning Alison Moore, Colin Rogers and Andrew McNeil. Andrew McNeil replaces Phil Yeoman, who did not stand for re-election. In this ward, Labour votes totalled 5,386, Conservative 3,231, Liberal Democrat 1,940, and Green 1,334.

The percentage of people who voted was 42.86% in East Finchley, slightly above Barnet's

overall turnout of 41.65%.

Eva Greenspan is this year's mayor, and her fellow Conservative Church End councillor Mike Freer has become his party's new leader and consequently the leader of the Council. He replaces Oakleigh councillor Brian Salinger. East Finchley's Alison Moore remains the leader of the Labour group.

You can consult your ward

councillors on Saturday mornings from 10am to 11.30am at the East Finchley Advice Service building, 42 Church Lane. Alison Moore can be contacted on 020 8343 0306, and Colin Rogers on 020 8444 7150.

For information about Barnet Council, councillors, meetings, news, etc, visit the website at [www.barnet.gov](http://www.barnet.gov), and go to Local Democracy.



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Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

### Legal Advice.

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### Councillors' Surgery.

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### Community Services

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

## Planning Applications

**1-5 Lincoln Parade and 118 High Road, N2**

Demolition of existing commercial units, and creation of four two-storey terraced houses, with integral garages and rooms in roofspace. Remodelling of existing café, including single-storey side extension.

**111 High Road, N2**

Change of use of ground floor shop from Class A1 (shop) to Class A3 (restaurant and café). Retention of use of basement as Class A3.

**1A Bedford Road, N2**

Change of use of first and second floors from offices (Class B1) to one self-contained two-bedroom flat.

**472A Long Lane, N2**

Submission of details of levels, site enclosure and refuse storage, pursuant to Conditions 2,4,5 of appeal decision APP/N5090/A/04/1162955, dated 15/04/05.

**11 Trinity Road, N2**

Construction of rear dormer window and front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion.

**50 Trinity Road, N2**

Demolition of existing conservatory, and erection of single-storey side and rear extension.

**38 Brendon Grove, N2**

Conversion of garage to habitable room, including insertion of front windows.

**53 Brim Hill, N2**

First floor side extension over garage, and extension over stairwell.

**8 Heath View Close, N2**

Alterations to roof, including one front and one rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

**59 Summerlee Avenue, N2**

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

**17 The Bishop's Avenue, N2**

Submission of details of condition 2 (materials), pursuant to planning permission C07636L/05, dated 09/06/2005.

**Land between 72 - 74 Twyford Avenue, N2**

Residential development comprising nine units, to include 4 two/three-storey five bedroom and 1 two-storey four bedroom dwellings. Provision of one tennis court and one pavilion to rear of site.

**23 Eastern Road, N2**

Summer-house in rear garden.

**28A Eastern Road, N2**

Two-storey side extension to replace existing single-storey side extension.





## Get ready for the Big Day!

More than 10,000 people enjoyed last year's East Finchley Community Festival and organisers are hoping the 2006 event will smash even that amazing total.

On Saturday 24 June, the day before the Festival, there will be activities for the whole family throughout the day at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale. As well as bouncy castles, a barbecue and entertainment, the parade costume workshop will be open to make masks, hats and costumes for anyone who wants to take part in the parade.

The Mardi Gras Parade - this year with a theme of pirates and princesses and featuring a pirate ship - will leave the community centre at 11am on Sunday 25 June and make its way along the High Road to Cherry Tree Wood.

The parade's arrival at 12 noon marks the official opening of the festivities by Rudi Vis MP. The afternoon will be filled with live music and performances on two stages, plus more than 80 food, craft and charity stalls, as well as children's activities.

The main stage this year features an eclectic mix of Rhythm and Blues, Indie and Rock & Roll with larger-than-life MC Antigua Joe.

The acoustic stage is back in its original position by the Coronation Oak with local musician and MC John Cassidy and a bumper crop of local performers.

## Morning cinema screenings saved

By Daphne Chamberlain

**A threat to shut the doors on the popular senior citizen screenings at Muswell Hill Odeon has been lifted. A compromise solution means the Tuesday morning screenings will continue but will no longer be designated for senior citizens only.**

The film shown is one of those screened during the rest of the week, whereas previously it was often a classic, brought in for that one session. Anyone is welcome (as before) though younger people now pay £6.50 instead of £4, while seniors are discounted at £4.50 instead of £3. Tea, coffee and biscuits remain on the house.

East Finchley resident Helene Davidian enjoys the Tuesday programmes. Mornings suit her, and she points out that daytime visits are much more comfortable for anyone who visits the cinema alone. The bonus here, she says, is that if you go regularly, "you soon make friends, and it's nice to have a chat over coffee or tea".

An Odeon representative told *THE ARCHER* that the staff encourage socialising, and soon get to know regulars. He said that the manager had fought to maintain the discounted screenings, which draw average audiences of 40-50.

Doors are open at 10.35am for socialising or watching the trailers and the film starts at 11am. As the sessions are now for the general public, senior citizens may need to prove their status with something like a Freedom Pass to obtain their discount.

For more information, try your luck with 0871 224 4007 (the general line for Odeons), or speak to a human being on 020 8442 0336.

## East Finchley is hip - official

By John Lawrence

**Just as the citizens of East Finchley were reeling from seeing their patch of London being branded dull and lifeless by a new London guide book, the Evening Standard rode to the rescue by calling our village hip, trendy and family friendly.**

A full-colour double spread in the Standard's Homes & Property section on 19 April praised East Finchley as the cooler sibling of its neighbours North Finchley and Finchley Central, and an area with a strong community feel that is emerging from the shadow of ultra-desirable nearby areas like Muswell Hill and Highgate.

Using photographs of Maurizio Businaro at Amici Delicatessen, Michelle George at Josephine's flower shop and Suzanne Grantham, manager at the Old White Lion pub, the piece gave a run-down of why East Finchley really is the place to be.

The Phoenix Cinema, Cherry Tree Wood, Tony's the greengrocers, Majjo's Indian takeaway, Chorak café, the Meze Bar and Nah-Ling restaurants were all given honourable mentions for contributing to the high quality of life.

The Evening Standard article restores the balance after a distinctly lukewarm write-up in Time Out's new London For Londoners handbook (*THE ARCHER*, May 2006) that described East Finchley and Barnet as staid, lethargic, lifeless and dull.



The festival parade passing the Phoenix cinema - just two of the things that make East Finchley desirable. Photo by David Glick

Martyn Gerrard, of Martyn Gerrard estate agency, was quoted by the Standard as saying: "Families like East Finchley because the schools in the area are so good. It's on the periphery of Highgate so it has grown in importance. But it's not as expensive and it still has a village atmosphere."

The 'hip' factor in East Finchley, said the article, comes from the strong local arts scene - the Phoenix, the Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road, the East Finchley Arts Festival at All Saint's Church in Durham Road and the East Finchley Open artists group - along with recent shop openings like retro womenswear shop Lazooli, close to

the tube station.

And finally, our strong community spirit is attributed to events like the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood and the publication of *THE ARCHER*.

The piece summed up with this final line: "If you are looking for community life in London, look here."

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## A very special lady

**THE ARCHER is sad to report the death of Noula Argyrou, who passed away in the North London Hospice on 6 May after a long and courageous battle against cancer.**

Noula lived in Abbots Gardens with her husband Angelos and their three children Maria, Andrea and Peter. Her parents Petros and Ouriana Christodoulou brought Noula to live in Leicester Road at the age of three, along with her brothers Mario, Akis and George.

As a child, Noula attended Holy Trinity School, where her daughters received their primary education and where Peter is still a pupil. Noula returned to the school as a learning support assistant, but spread her talents into many other areas such as the after-school netball club. She was immensely popular with all the children, who enjoyed her interest, involvement and humour both in and out of the classroom.

Noula always had time to listen. She was calm, dependable and resourceful and was ready to give a helping hand whatever the task. Her presence at the school is sorely missed.

Many of her colleagues attended the funeral at St John the Baptist in Wightman Road, N8, on 17 May. The church was packed with family and friends who heard how, at secondary school, Noula had been a lively girl, loved by fellow pupils and very keen on sport, particularly team games.

As an adult, Noula devoted herself to bringing up her children. She was the hub of her extended family, bringing them together for food, fun and happiness at the gatherings she organised. They have



Noula Argyrou

received numerous messages of condolence for the death of a daughter, sister, aunt and cousin at the early age of 43.

Noula showed incredible strength and fortitude throughout her illness. She was a respected, loved and much-valued lady, described as "special" by all who knew her. Noula was laid to rest in St Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley.

## Seeing the wood and the trees

By Ann Bronkhorst

**We listened for the sound of a woodpecker as wisps of smoke from a charcoal burn drifted through the trees. Small caterpillars hung from delicate threads in the leaf-canopy above us; beneath our feet even smaller seeds were waiting for light to reach the soil so they could germinate.**

Small details and their significance were emphasised by David Bevan, former Haringey Conservation Officer, as he led a large group through Coldfall Wood on Sunday 14 May. Of course, he gave us an overview of the history of this fragment of ancient woodland and outlined the plans for its future regeneration. The broad picture was more vivid and understandable, however, because of the details.

Three hundred flowers were counted this year on wood anemones that had not flowered until the surrounding trees were coppiced. Where light penetrates, the seed-bank in the soil responds and up come plants like willow herb and the unglamorous but essential brambles, providing food and habitats for insects and invertebrates. So, birds and small mammals find food and the woodland thrives.

### Let there be light

Near the streams the contrast was clear: dismal bare ground lacking light versus glades full of varied life from the ground up. David described the intractable problems connected with the streams, natural and man-made, and the proposed solutions, including a reed bed to absorb pollution. It's hard to

believe, but the flooded north east corner of the wood, with its stranded shopping trolley and dank smell, is potentially an ecologically rich area.

In the heart of the wood we were shown a wild service tree with, encouragingly, its saplings nearby. Only found in old woodland, the tree bears brown fruit said to have treated mediaeval tummy upsets. Today few of us know the uses of woodland plants and supermarket blackberries are preferred to wild ones.

In past centuries, the wood was an economic resource, understood and thoroughly managed. David explained how and why coppicing was done, and Tracey Dorman demonstrated how charcoal was made. Hornbeam burns at a higher temperature than any other wood, producing excellent charcoal, a carbon-neutral fuel. As Tracey fed logs into her furnace (an oil drum on its side) the surrounding trees were re-absorbing the carbon from the smoke. As she said, it's a benign process.

The whole afternoon felt benign; the rain held off, the dogs explored contentedly and we came away with fascinating details (where to look for a jewel beetle) and a sense of the wood as a whole living organism.

## Second rejection for church phone masts

By John Lawrence

**A proposal to place three mobile phone masts in the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church has been thrown out for the second time.**

Barnet Council's planning committee turned down the application on 27 April after rejecting the initial application back in December.

A group of parents and residents, many living close to the church in Church Lane, have staged a vociferous campaign against the phone masts, claiming they would present a potential

health risk to residents nearby.

The Parochial Church Council and Revd Laurence Hill, of Holy Trinity Church, are supporting the installation, which could generate an annual revenue of up to £10,000.

At the second planning committee meeting, QS4, who are the church's appointed agents, failed to convince planners that the bell tower was a suitable location for the three masts.

Anti-mast campaigner David Broome, of Church Lane, said residents were anxious to put the mast proposal behind them and start rebuilding community spirit with the help of the church.

He said: "We are under no illusion that this is the battle won but I would have thought that after two such emphatic application failures, the church must see just how much local and council opinion is against this proposed siting."



At a time of water shortages and restrictions, the water company let it gush all weekend! Picture by John Dearing

## Save water

**This water leak close to Lewis Gardens gushed throughout one weekend in mid-May. Residents reported the leak on the Friday but it was not until the Monday that water officials sent workmen to stop the flood. Meanwhile, we are all being told to turn off our taps while we clean our teeth to conserve water.**

## World Cup at the Phoenix

**The Phoenix Cinema will be screening two of England's World Cup games on its big screen. Fans will be able to watch England's opening group game against Paraguay on Saturday 10 June and then England's match against Trinidad & Tobago on Thursday 15 June.**

Admission to these matches is free and will be available on a strictly first come, first served basis. It will not be possible to reserve places in advance and the cinema will keep to its seating capacity.

The Phoenix is keen to encourage everyone to see the World Cup in the comfortable surroundings of the cinema. It is a non-smoking, family-friendly venue, and snacks and refreshments will be available on the day.

## Arts festival switches to autumn

**The popular East Finchley Arts Festival is switching from June to October this year. Based around All Saints Church in Durham Road, the festival will be held from 5-15 October. Full details of events will follow in future editions of THE ARCHER.**

## Farewell to Lawrie

By Frank Tymkow

**A large number of members gathered at the East Finchley Constitutional Club to see the board of directors present engraved tankards to Lawrie Chivers and Norman Cude. The evening was great fun, with a buffet and disco being provided on this special occasion to mark Lawrie's retirement to the Isle of Wight and Norman's retirement as club secretary.**

There is a big void to fill at the club and in East Finchley as a whole now that Lawrie has moved to Wroxal. A big figure in the community in more ways than one, Lawrie ran the former A1 Motor Stores shop in the High Road and always kept the flag flying for East Finchley.

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## Saddle up

By Nick Bloom

**Keen cyclists who want to explore some of our fabulous local countryside are invited to join the 'Suburban Breakout 3' from East Finchley on Sunday 25 June.**

Starting at 9am, the 100km (66 mile) ride begins from The Big Chef on the High Road, travels up to Potters Bar and goes into the rolling Hertfordshire countryside and back. Sixty riders took part last year with a wide range of age and ability.

The ride – on behalf of the Cyclists' Touring Club and Audax UK – hopes to encourage riders by showing how quickly you can get out of London by bicycle. It is not a race, and it is not a charity ride. Ride with others or on your own, flat out or steady. Anyone can take part on any bike, tricycle, tandem or recumbent, though under-18s need parental consent.

You can take a break on the way at one of the many pubs along the route, so long as you are back within the time limit of seven-and-a-half hours – only 13.5kph (less than 9mph) including any stops. You do have to look after yourself and you have to follow the route sheet. There's no pick-up if you get tired or break down.

Entry in advance is £4. For all CTC & AUK members, it is £3. All entries on the day will cost £5.

### Just a warm-up

For some, the Suburban Breakout will just be a warm-up for a new challenge, the Muswell Hill 200k that starts at 8am on Sunday 23 July, again from The Big Chef.

The route for this later ride will take cyclists north of the Chilterns via the Tea Rooms at Aldbury, to the turn at the top of Brill Hill with a view from the windmill of Muswell Hill. It is a 202km route with about 1,800m of climbing and a time limit of thirteen-and-a-half hours. Entry in advance is £5, CTC & AUK members £4. All entries on the day will be £7.

For further information on both rides, contact Nick on 020 8365 3806 or [nick@saddlesore.org.uk](mailto:nick@saddlesore.org.uk) or ask at Bike and Run on the High Road. You can also download an entry form from [www.saddlesore.org.uk](http://www.saddlesore.org.uk).

## Is East Finchley for real?

By Diana Cormack

**"We're from Finchley!" declare the children in the film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, prompting speculation in February's *ARCHER* about the connection between the author CS Lewis and this area.**

Unlike Lewis, local author Cathy Hopkins does mention East Finchley in some of her books for young readers, which are published in 22 countries.

Twelve to 16-year-old fans of her *Mates, Dates* series, about the angst and adventures of four teenage girls from north London, often ask Cathy if East Finchley really exists. One of the main characters lives here but not for much longer as the 12th and last book in the series, *Mates, Dates and Sizzling Summers*, has just been published. Cathy is neatly amalgamating them with another group of imaginary children, based in Cornwall, from her popular *Truth, Dare* series written for ages 10 plus.

### All the sixes

*Here's another date for your diary. Set your alarm to get up early on 6 June and, at six seconds after six minutes after six o'clock in the morning, you will be able to savour a moment in time that is 06:06:06, 06.06.06.*



Cathy Hopkins

Not that Cathy would dream of moving herself. She loves East Finchley and her home in Southern Road, where she has lived since 1991. She works in what she describes as "a posh shed at the bottom of the garden". It is comfortably furnished and equipped with everything a writer could need, including a bed.

It is only latterly, however, that Cathy has been able to afford such surroundings and she has a pile of rejection slips to prove it. Previously

a variety of jobs ranging from aromatherapist to TV presenter helped subsidise her writing.

After some success with self-help books for youngsters, Cathy's teenage fiction took off in 2000 when her new agent rightly suggested she was perfectly suited for this market. (The *Mates, Dates* stories are

particularly successful with girls who rarely read books). Cathy now has her own shelf and label in Waterstones, her sales are soaring in the States and a film company is interested in her *Dead Dudes* series about happy, hip ghosts written for ages nine plus.

Her stories would make excellent TV series. Should that happen, East Finchley could become as well known as EastEnders!

Find out more about Cathy on [www.cathyhopkins.com](http://www.cathyhopkins.com).

## Electronic artist

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Local fundraiser Sippy Azizollah was using her laptop one day when she accidentally clicked on a program that has helped her forge a new hobby - computer-generated design. Her electronic pictures will soon be displayed in some of East Finchley's cafés.**

"Cutting corners", "Sugar candy", "Beach balls", "Bak-erloo line" are some of Sippy's pictures' titles. They are all abstract shapes, but you can see how they got their names.

"Finding the right colours is the most difficult bit," Sippy told me. She usually goes for strong and vibrant shades, but some designs are in black and white.

Selecting the width of defining lines around the shapes is really important. "Whether those lines are thin or thick can alter the whole picture."

Sippy, who lives in Fairacres, is well known for her fund-raising work, especially for Lupus UK, and she hopes to benefit her favourite charities if she sells her pictures. Brian Hefferman, a friend who lives locally, is helping to introduce the designs to a wider audience.

What really excites her, though, is the joy of creating. Her cousin, Liz Maxwell, recently exhibited paintings at Chorak and the Phoenix, and Sippy herself is now also working with a conventional brush. She says, "My creative spirit is alive and kicking at the moment, so I'm just going with it – and I haven't come down to earth since I started".

Sippy's computer-generated pictures are on display at Dr Hunger in East End Road throughout June. East Finchley Library, Chorak, the Phoenix and the new Cherry Tree Shop have expressed interest in exhibiting them at a later date.



Sippy & Brian with some of Sippy's pictures. Photo by John Dearing

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## Stanley Field sports centre would be profitable

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Setting up Stanley Field as a sports development and recreation centre would pull money into the community. That's the message that local people are giving to new Barnet Council leader Mike Freer. The committee heading the campaign to stop the field being sold to housing developers is confident of producing a viable business plan.**

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, says that long delays and uncertainties in dealing with Barnet have held up progress, but the committee is now going ahead with drawing up a complete plan.

It has the backing of the Football Foundation, the National Playing Fields Association and local police. The police have recently offered significant financial support, reinforcing Barnet Council's own verdict in their Green Spaces policy of 2002 that East

Finchley is deficient in youth and sports facilities.

On Saturday 3 June, East Finchley Open Artists will be displaying their own ideas of how the community can use the field, with artwork tied to the railings of the field itself. Roger Chapman and other members of the committee will be there from 2-3pm, inviting suggestions and offers of help from the public.

There will also be a Stanley Field stall at the East Finchley Festival on Sunday 25 June, in Cherry Tree Wood.



Abbey manager Vyanjana Trivevi presents East Finchley Advice Services manager Terry Stone with a cheque for £2,500.

## Boost for advice service

**East Finchley Advice Service was given a £2,500 boost towards training volunteers in debt counselling. The money was handed over by Vyanjana Trivevi, manager of the local Abbey branch in the High Road, to Advice Service manager Terry Stone.**

The charity, based in Church Lane, helps more than 4,000 clients annually and has several new projects planned for this year, including 'Age Matters', an outreach service for elderly people, and a series of eight-week training courses for the young unemployed.

## Gap in the market is a real gift

By John Lawrence

**The best business ideas always come when you are sitting in the pub, and so it was for business partners Sue Tollerfield and Haylee Millar.**

The two friends were in the Old White Lion last Christmas when they realised there was a gap in the market for a new kind of shop in East Finchley.

Just four months on, Sue and Haylee opened The Cherry Tree gift shop in the High Road, selling stylish and unusual gifts, cards, toys and homeware items.

Sue, who has lived in East Finchley for 10 years, and Haylee, who has lived here for five years, said the support from local shoppers for their service has been fantastic.

"We are complete novices but we knew there was room in East Finchley for a shop like this," said Sue. "People want to shop locally rather than walking to Muswell Hill or driving to Brent Cross."

"We have had so much great support from people. We are happy to take ideas from our customers and we really want to hear what they'd like to buy from us."

The Cherry Tree sells unusual items such as Penguin



Photo by Erini Rodis

books, deckchairs and mugs, plus plenty of children's toys and quirky items that make great last-minute gifts. Sue and Haylee will help you find a present to suit your budget

and they offer a gift-wrapping service. The shop is open seven days a week.

Sue and Haylee will also be running a stall at the East Finchley Festival on 25 June.

## Pure as the driven snow

Anita Rai reveals how the arrival of a new puppy led to a new business in East Finchley.

**I couldn't believe it. I'd finally got the puppy I'd always wanted but to my horror I was allergic to her. We'd only had Scout a week but I was getting more and more wheezy, so sadly we had to take her back to the breeder. Ironically he, too, had developed an allergy to dogs and was wrapping up his business because of it; luckily Scout was rehoused within weeks.**

Afterwards I started thinking about allergies. I knew I was allergic to nuts, but now to dogs as well! I found out that the problem wasn't fur

but dander, the dead skin an animal regularly sheds. Why wasn't there something on the market that could help me?

My research showed that supermarkets were beginning to cater for people with food allergies, but it was still difficult to source ordinary household items and toiletries that could protect people from the allergens that bother them.

And then it came to me: why not start an online shop? That was how drivensnow.co.uk was born.

My partner Ken Behan and I set it up to provide products for allergy sufferers. We sell allergen-free bedding, sprays

and wipes that keep pet dander and other allergens down to a minimum, aluminium-free deodorants, natural toiletries and a wide range of other products free from harsh chemicals.

Amazingly, 30% of adults and 40% of children in the UK suffer with allergies so it is hardly surprising that the NHS is struggling to meet the demand for allergy testing and treatment. We hope that drivensnow.co.uk can help these people. Our offices are in our house in East Finchley at present but we hope to expand as the business grows. Perhaps we can help someone get the dog of their dreams despite their allergy!

Log onto [www.drivensnow.co.uk](http://www.drivensnow.co.uk) for more information.

## Society seeks archivist

**The Finchley Society Archives is looking for someone with basic IT skills to help computerise their inventory.**

Anyone who is interested and who has a working knowledge of Microsoft Office running on a Windows-based PC can contact Archive Custodian Maggie Ferguson on 020 8349 4283 or by email to [emfmnr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emfmnr@hotmail.co.uk).

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## A delectable feast of contemporary art

The East Finchley Open is getting ready for this year's exciting summer event, the Open House weekend, which promises to be their best ever.

On Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July, East Finchley will be buzzing with art exhibitions and art-related activities. With more artists participating and more venues within the easily accessible High Road, art lovers will be able to feast their eyes and purchase a wide range of locally produced, hand crafted contemporary art and craft.

EFO artists will be opening up their houses and studios and displaying a bonanza of fine art and superb craft. You'll be able to meet the artists, discuss the work on display, buy and/or commission original, contemporary and stimulating art and craft.

Mini exhibitions will be put up at Lazooli at 46 High Road, the Phoenix Cinema, The Cherry Tree at 172 High Road, the Old White Lion pub and the new community police station

at 113 High Road.

The EFO is now in its third year. Members include ceramists, photographers and lens-based artists, painters, sculptors and textile designers, a wicker basket weaver who grows her own materials right here in East Finchley, and several jewellery makers, one of whom makes her own glass beads. Also, there are calligraphers, tapestry designers and makers, a milliner, a textile and stitch artist, two silk painters, a stone carver and a poet.

So pick up a map of the different venues from local shops or the library; it will also be posted through your letter-box in good time before the event. Come and join the fun, and explore the richness of cultural production taking place right here in your neighbourhood.

## Fun! Fun! Fun!

By Helen Drake

East Finchley's primary schools will be holding their summer fun days in June and they're looking for your support to get the fund-raising tills ringing.

Holy Trinity School in Eagans Close will be holding its blockbuster Summer Fair on Sunday 11 June from 12-2.30pm.

Come along and enjoy summer fun games, barbecue and home-cooked food and (new this year) indulge yourself with a range of special relaxation and beauty treatments offered by a team of local therapists.

You'll find bargains galore on the cake, plant, books and toy stalls and there will be children's face painting and nail painting.

Martin Schools in Plane Tree Walk will once again be holding its very popular Fun Day on Saturday 17 June from 12-3.30pm.

Have a go at making candyfloss and slime (what an enticing combination!) at the Mad Science stall, or try your luck at panning for gold at the

"Goldrush City". For arty-crafty people there'll be plenty of activities to get those creative juices flowing; you can even make a present for your Dad for Father's Day!

There'll be a fancy dress competition, coconut shy, wet sponges and the infamous "Human Fruit Machine" is back this year by popular demand!

The barbecue will be sizzling and ready for business at 12 so come for lunch and stay for afternoon tea at the Blue Bird Café. There will be cakes, books, videos, toys and plants for sale and the hugely successful M-Bay (Martin School's version of e-bay) will be open to bids throughout the afternoon.

The East Finchley Festival's Five-a-Side Football Competition for school children will be taking place at Martin Schools on the same day so come and cheer your team. Kick off is at 11am.

## Family fun at the Muswell Hill Festival

Plans for a bigger and better Muswell Hill Festival in 2006, with the emphasis on a day out for the family, are now under way. The date is Sunday 17 September and once more the venue will be Cherry Tree Wood.

The central attraction will again be a Donkey Derby, backed up by a programme of events for children and school teams. These will include five-a-side football, school bands and a big children's entertainment area, plus entertainers on the big stage.

The Festival will be heralded the day before in Muswell Hill Broadway by an all-day invasion of teddy

bears parachuting. The money raised by the daredevil teddies will go to the Hornsey Trust for children with cerebral palsy, organisers of the festival. Volunteers, helpers, stall-holders commercial sponsors and advertisers are urgently needed now and so are tombola prizes. To help, contact Alison Wynn at the Trust on 020 8444 7242/07808 364 033 or e-mail her on [alison@onlub.com](mailto:alison@onlub.com).

## Summer pampering

By Helen Drake

If you love the spa experience but don't love the prices charged by most spa hotels and resorts, then you'll be pleased to know that local therapist Mandana is launching a range of exclusive spa body treatments, all at local prices.

In her salon based at Jennie Mann at 63a Church Lane, Mandana will give you a personal consultation and will prescribe the body treatment that meets your own particular needs. Treatments use essential oils and the methods and products of Sothys of Paris. One of the most popular treatments in the range is a deeply relaxing massage using volcanic stones wrapped in a muslin cloth infused with ginger and nutmeg and soaked in hot orange and marjoram oil.

Mandana says, "This treatment is very relaxing because of the heat and the spices, and it also softens and stimulates the body". Her philosophy is that "taking care of yourself should be a pleasure".

To introduce her new range of treatments, Mandana is having an Open Day on Friday 30 June from 9.30am-3pm. Come along, have a cup of coffee and sample the new products by having a free hand treatment encompassing exfoliation, massage and a mask.

As an introductory offer, all customers who make a booking on that day or buy a gift voucher will enjoy a 15% discount. Jennie Mann will also be offering a 10% discount on all flowers and gifts purchased that day between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

For more information phone Mandana on 020 8365 2284 or 020 8447 0854.



Mandana invites you to enjoy a spa experience at her salon.  
Photo by Helen Drake

## Seen and Heard

*In even the simplest of jobs, there is room to put in a bit of skill and care. One ARCHER reader in Leslie Road returned home to find the taxi card and pizza leaflet deliverers had visited again. But, instead of finding the brochures dumped in a messy pile, five taxi cards had been slotted artfully in a diagonal formation into the gap surrounding her letter box and four pizza cards poked out in a fan shape from underneath her front door mat.*

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## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

Year 1 enjoyed their educational visit and learned a lot at the Geffrye Museum as did Year 3 when they went to the British Museum.

Year 6 and Year 5 hoped for good mid-May weather on their respective school journeys to Gilwell Park, Chingford and Knapp House, Westward Ho!

Children who have school meals, along with some who don't, were able to opt for a delicious barbecue produced by Restaurant Ecole. The barbecued food and ice-cream were much appreciated by both pupils and staff, who ate al fresco on a glorious early summer's day.

Holy Trinity is very grateful to Big Yellow Self Storage for their offer of a whole year's storage space in one of their Finchley stores. This is very welcome as it will allow for more efficient and accessible storage of resources by freeing up space in the school building.

A cake sale event organised by parents raised £44 which was used to purchase two goats through the Oxfam 'unwrapped' scheme. The goats will be given to a family in the developing world.

The inaugural East Finchley Tag Rugby Tournament for local schools, run in partnership with Martin Schools, was won by Holy Trinity. This event marks the first of many joint ventures to further strengthen the community.

The school Summer Fair is to be held on Sunday 11 June.

### Martin Schools

Martin Junior School is very proud of the children from the choir for their performance and excellent behaviour at Holy Trinity Church in Sloane Square on Palm Sunday. They joined *Canticum*, a chamber choir, and an orchestra to perform Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.

Year 3 enjoyed their first swimming lesson at Copthall Leisure Centre. They boarded the coach in great excitement and returned having shown great promise as swimmers.

Year 5 had a fabulous sensory adventure on their visit to the Hare Krishna Temple near Dartford: the smell of incense burning contrasting with that of a ride on a bullock cart; the sound of music in the temple; the taste of delicious Indian food; the sight of colourful costumes in the beautiful building and touching the clothes they were allowed to dress up in (the girls in saris and the boys as warriors). To round off a truly memorable day the children heard Hindu stories come alive and had their faces painted in traditional designs.

This year's winner of the Martin Junior School Chess Championship has become a megafinalist in the second stage of the world's largest chess tournament. Simon Wilks also gained a certificate of excellence from the English Chess Federation and passed their bronze level with distinction. Along with these three major triumphs, Simon has qualified for a "gigafinal" in Wiltshire.

Martin Infant School parents and children are being canvassed separately about the idea of introducing a school uniform.

Reception children are enjoying fantastic new climbing equipment in the playground, thanks to the PTA. There is now a designated outside classroom area which is essential to the Foundation Stage curriculum.

On National Bug Busting Day, Thursday 15 June, the PTA will be holding a head lice awareness event.

"Who am I?" is the theme for this year's Multicultural Week 26-30 June.

Don't forget the PTA's Summer Fun Day on Saturday 17 June!

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

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.  
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,  
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

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

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

### East Finchley Baptist Church

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please contact the Church Office  
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

## Young actors in the making

By Rachel Douglas

**For many years the North London Festival of Music, Drama & Dance has taken place over a five- week period in various venues in the Muswell Hill area, but this May was only the second time that it has used the delightful Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road for its Speech and Drama classes.**

Saturday 13 May saw the theatre full of life and activity from 9am to 8pm as 88 aspiring young thespians showed off their talents in a series of competitive classes. Actor Nicholas Raggett, from Dartmouth Park, Highgate, was the adjudicator, proffering advice and encouragement from the working professional's viewpoint.

Pupils from three North London Theatre Schools, Greenacre Drama of Southgate, Showstoppers of Muswell Hill and Chrystel Arts of Edgware, dominated the proceedings with splendid solo and group productions.

There were some outstanding performances. In particular, Bethmi Tikiribandara delighted the audience with the intelligence and humour of her prize-winning prose and verse recitations; Annie Zimmerman wrung our hearts with her touching portrayal of a little girl on a *kindertransport* train to England; and the Greenacre Quintet (two of them only five years old) performed an excerpt from James & the Giant Peach with amazing professionalism.

It is good to see and hear children speaking so clearly and carrying themselves so confidently in public, and wonderful to witness the unselfconscious delight the youngsters take in their performances.

With such budding talent around there will be plenty of candidates for the acting profes-

sion but also for future careers as lecturers, barristers, politicians and other public performers.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Rock'n'Roll heroes

**These are sleazy times, sleazy enough for the NME to get down in the prime time TV gutter and do its own 50 greatest rock'n'roll heroes ever, 'as voted for by you'. This is like Channel 5, only with added addicts.**

Take the top two as voted for by NME readers and you get a dead addict and an addict; at number three comes a bloke who spent half his teenage years locked in his bedroom and at four a bloke who'll ask you outside for a fight. Good start NME, good start Kurt Cobain, Pete Doherty, Morrissey and Liam Gallagher. All right, I can't argue with Kurt, but there's a bloke who never wanted to be a hero, let alone a rock star. As for the rest of the clowns who make up the top 50, it's a case of the good, the bad and the seriously indifferent.

Yes, they've got Strummer and Rotten in there, there's Keith, but no Mick and Jimmy. The thing is they've left out too many of the serious nutters who you wanted to be, but were scared of. And they've forgotten those poets of serious teenage kicks who wrote the anthems for generations.

So, let's start with the poets. How can any list of heroes forget Pete Townsend, a man who said it all in My Generation, or Paul Weller, the genuine Mod Father, who did the same thing for the punks? Then there's the serious nutters. Never mind Keith and Mick, they were the Glimmer Twins, but you ain't seen nothing until you've seen the Toxic Twins because Aerosmith took such an industrial quantity of drugs that even Keith was jealous.

Maybe it's an age thing, maybe if you're too young to remember the coke-snorting world of the 70s, then you'll think Pete Doherty is worth more than a rock of crack. Even if I reckon that Green Day say more in American Idiot than the whole of Bruce Springsteen's output since Darkness on the Edge of Town, I can't complain that he's there, but I can complain that both Bruce and Billy Joe Armstrong are down in the 40s. And for some reason only known to the NME that aging veggie Paul McCartney features higher up the food chain than Iggy Pop, which proves one thing: there ain't no accounting for bad taste.

## YOUNG ARCHER

### Bedroom booty raises big bucks

By Diana Cormack

**Nine-year-old Ben Leigh probably wouldn't agree with EastEnders winning the Bafta award for best continuing TV drama last month. In fact, one evening Ben got so bored with watching the long-running TV soap that he decided to go and clear out his bedroom!**

Amongst the clutter he found a newsletter from his school, Martin Junior, and something in it gave him the idea of selling those things he no longer wanted to raise money for charity.

Ben chose to support the North London Hospice, which sent an email wishing him good luck for his Saturday afternoon sale on 29 April. He told *THE ARCHER* it was the first charity he thought of because it is local and helps people in need.

Help was at hand for Ben from his 13-year-old brother Tom, who designed a special flyer advertising the front garden sale in Manor Park Road. With their dad, Ben and Tom put up adverts in the local area and their mum helped Ben to make cakes to sell on the stall. Neighbours brought donations of cakes and other goods to add to those already on display.

After three busy hours Ben had raised £81.23. "All of the stuff we didn't sell will be given



Ben Leigh selling to his friend Rafi O'Dwyer as Ella Taylor watches. Photo by Diana Cormack

to another charity," he said, "so more money will be raised."

Among those who supported Ben by spending money at his stall was school friend Ella Taylor, who also raised money for charity earlier this year by organising a cake sale in Bedford Road. Not for the first time she supported the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal along with her sister Molly and friends Isla Sharp, Ella Wooden, Rosie

and Zack Solomon and Markha Gaetavo. A generous donation of cakes and hot cross buns from Budgens helped them on their way to raising £165. The children have received certificates from the charity for their efforts.

If you know of any young people who deserve a write-up, please let *THE ARCHER* know. You can find out how to get in touch with us on page 2.





## “You can add a little DiDiDi”

By Femke van Iperen

**Nia is the world's first fusion fitness technique. As a dance / cardiovascular exercise, it has numerous health and personal benefits and it is being taught here in East Finchley. Dorit, the trained teacher and former opera singer, is determined to let the world, and in particular north London, know about Nia.**

Nia was devised by two American aerobics instructors who integrated different techniques into their routines, from yoga to martial arts. Shoes off and ban the repetitive movements of aerobics, they said. As it's popular worldwide and about to catch on big time in the UK, *THE ARCHER* went to try it out.

Nia is a spiritual, holistic training, for both men and women, at any fitness level, and provides a fun workout. You optimise the use of your body by mixing flowing dance movements with dynamic and explosive martial arts and the contemplative serenity of yoga and tai chi. Combined with groovy music, from Moby, Afro-Celt and Massive Attack to Enigma, it leaves you truly invigorated, calm and centred.

I felt very self-conscious at first and, under instructions to follow the movements but also listen to my own body, I could

only think of one word. Help. However, the class, with its relaxed atmosphere, was over too soon. Dorit leads you gently and creatively, with inspiring words (see the headline!), body movements and visuals, as you dance, kick and 'paint the ceiling'.

Most people will enjoy the careful balance of smooth relaxing poses and heart-pumping, stress-releasing kicks. The larger the group, the better the feeling, I was told before we began. It was only later I understood this: a sensation you cannot really describe, tribal, collective movements, collective mind, fun. So, go on. Make the group bigger!

*LA fitness, East Finchley, 11am-12noon Saturday mornings, Holmes Place, Mill Hill East Tuesdays 11.30-12.30 (non-members welcome). More classes are planned. Further info: [www.uknia.com](http://www.uknia.com) or email: [dorit@peter noble.net](mailto:dorit@peter noble.net)*

## Chasing light and colour

By Ann Bronkhorst

**That person peering intently at your front door might be a stained glass enthusiast rather than a burglar. Here in north London there are some fine examples of stained glass and, thanks to Helene Davidian, new enthusiasts keen to find them.**

An illustrated talk by Helene to a well-attended meeting of the Finchley Society on 27 April began with an overview of the history of stained glass. She outlined Egyptian and Roman techniques and showed how centres of excellence developed in medieval England.

The main focus of her talk was on local stained glass. Appropriately, she began with examples at Avenue House itself, moving on to three local churches. Striking windows in St. Mary's RC church, East Finchley, commissioned in the 1980s, were contrasted with the huge Victorian rose window in Christ Church, Finchley. Another 19<sup>th</sup> century church, St. Barnabas, Holden Road, has a beautiful rose window, and Salvin's Holy Trinity, Church Lane, is rich in stained glass including a lancet window by Thomas Willamant, who worked for Queen Victoria.

### Golf club treasure

At Nethercourt (Finchley Golf Club) Helene was delighted to discover a magnificent large hall window designed

in 1883 by Frederick Weeks, son of a famous sculptor. Its three main sections are themed as morning, noon and night. The design shows people, birds and animals and, in its detail and colour, recalls Pre-Raphaelite art. Helene was particularly pleased to receive copies of the original cartoons (designs on paper) from a descendant of the Weeks family.

Helene has tracked down fine stained glass in homely settings, too. In the Church End area, especially Clifton Avenue, she found elegant windows and fanlights surviving from the Edwardian period. While some people want to learn the craft of making their own, through teachers like Helene, others just appreciate those distinctive touches of colour gracing local Victorian and Edwardian buildings, and are keen to preserve them.

For her research Helene was given a great deal of information and assistance from north Londoners (see *THE ARCHER*, March 2006) but hopes for more. She can be contacted on 020 8444 3669.



*Panteleimon Michaeloudis practising his art*

## A warm heart for the guitar

By Paul Chapman

**East Finchley musician Panteleimon Michaeloudis has hit high and low notes in his career as a guitarist, composing, performing and seeking to popularise classical guitar music.**

Panteleimon started playing at the age of 10 under the guidance of his father, himself a professional artist. He recalls: "At the age of 13, I was taken to meet the great Spanish guitarist Andres Segovia who, on hearing me play, said I had a great facility and a very warm heart for the guitar."

Segovia recommended that Panteleimon should enter a conservatoire to further his career. Since then he has performed on the international stage, won prestigious musical prizes and gained a scholarship to study for a postgraduate diploma at

the Royal College of Music, where he attended master classes by Carlos Bonell and John Williams.

He became a member of Bonell's Ensemble and has performed at many venues, including London's Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall.

### Trouble with agents

Of his experiences in the music business, he says: "I may have been naïve in some of my dealings with agents." One agent asked for about 300 of his CD recordings for distribution but nothing ever materialised in return. And early on in his career

an agent even asked him for the rights to all his music, an offer which, of course, he refused.

Panteleimon says he would like, ideally, to follow the path set by Nigel Kennedy and Vanessa-Mae in popularising 'high-brow' music.

Listening to his arrangement of the Beatles classic "Yesterday" and to his performances of more classical pieces reveals his confident technique and his warm heart.

His music can be found on [www.panteleimon.com](http://www.panteleimon.com) including his recent collection *Dance of the Goden Wielder*.

## EAST FINCHLEY FOOT CLINIC

**MARY GOULBOURN & JUDITH COSTA**

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Mary Goulbourn and her colleague Judith Costa, are looking forward to getting everyone's feet in shape for the warmer weather. The clinic will now be running regular

Monthly promotions to encourage happy feet!

East Finchley Foot Clinic is open Tuesdays through to Saturdays. Late evening appointments and home visits also available. For appointments please ring **020 8444 2123**



For the month of June with this voucher a free foot file will be given away with every treatment. One per customer







## 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** - 12 & 26 June 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](http://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.



Dennis Evans reading from *Bubbles for Peace*. Photo by Lourdinho Morais

## Bubbles for Peace

By Daphne Chamberlain

**When East Finchley poet Dennis Evans introduced his latest book *Bubbles for Peace* at the Torriano Meeting House, I took a friend to hear him. "Ever since I joined a poetry class," she told him, "my ambition has been to write something nobody can understand."**

"Don't!" he replied. "Just go on writing from your heart."

Dennis writes about people, events and places which have touched him personally. Among them, in this book, is the Iraq war. On one of the London Peace Marches, he saw "a man with his toy gun, lit by his laughter, blowing bubbles, such bubbles, *Bubbles for Peace*". As he says in another poem, he likes to catch the flavour of the day, moving from light to dark, personal to global, and using limericks, haikus and cleriheus along the way. (He isn't a poetry teacher for nothing.)

Dennis has read in many venues, including the Millennium Dome, Edinburgh, India

and Brazil, where he helped raise money for street children.

Another guest at the Meeting House was Jill Bamber, known to *ARCHER* readers for her poems about Cherry Tree Wood, and an old friend and fellow-student of Dennis.

Poetry readings at the Meeting House, 99 Torriano Avenue, NW5, are on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm, with contributions welcomed from the floor. Call 020 7267 2751 for details.

*Bubbles for Peace* (ISBN 0 9531298 1 0) is in stock at the Finchley Bookshop, Ballards Lane, N3, and is also available from Celebration Press, 58 Helen Close, N2 0UU, post and package free, for £7.95.

## Proms at St Jude's

**The Proms season at St Jude's Church, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb starts on 16 June. The box office for all events is on 020 8933 5365. Here's the programme:**

Friday 16 June  
Tea at 3 in the Proms marquee. Strawberries and cream tea, and musical entertainment by Henrietta Barnett students. Minimum donation of £5 for North London Hospice.  
Guided heritage walks through the Suburb, 10.30am from Garden Suburb Gallery, Hampstead Way, ending at St Jude's Church for free lunchtime recital. £5. Saturday 17 June, Wednesday 21 June and Saturday 24 June.  
**Evening concerts, all beginning at 7.45pm:**  
Gala Opening Night, Saturday 17 June.  
A Night at the Opera, Sunday 18 June.  
Fibonacci Sequence, Tuesday 20 June.  
Celebrity Piano Recital, Wednesday 21 June.  
Sacconi String Quartet, Thursday 22 June.  
Jazz Night, Friday 23 June.  
Choral Concert, Saturday 24 June.  
Last Night of the Proms, Sunday 25 June.  
**Free lunchtime concerts, all beginning at 12.45 pm:**  
Finchley Children's Music Group, Saturday 17 June.  
Organ recital, Monday 19 June.  
Bomond Piano Trio, Tuesday 20 June.  
Trio Orfeo, Wednesday 21 June.  
Kesh Piano Duo, Thursday 22 June.  
Children's Concert, Friday 23 June.  
Voces8, Gibbons to Gershwin, Saturday 24 June.

## 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*

## Keeping it in the family

By Jonathan Doering

**On 4 May, the artsdepot in North Finchley hosted a folk evening that was privileged to enjoy the talents of the Waterson-Carthy family group.**

Waterson-Carthy comprises Folk titan Martin Carthy, vocalist Norma Waterson, with wunderkind daughter Eliza. They were joined at the artsdepot by Tim Ven Eycken, a melodeon player.

This Barnet Folk Club event was music and song of, for and by the people. We heard spooky songs of girls' bones played as fiddles, tales of West Indian Morris dancers whiting up before performing and a profound (though not overtly political) sentiment: "How I wish the wars were all over / I wish the wars were all done."

They are not just steeped in the lifeblood of folk; they have it running through vein and artery. Many a song was introduced with a vignette of one supreme source singer or other. There is more to folk than picking up a tune: there is history, culture and life threaded around these notes.

The stand-out performer in a wonderful evening was Eliza: she ties the audience up with each perfect note. She doesn't just perform: she lives and feels the music, dancing in an unstoppable flow that has everyone swaying.

In traditional style she balanced the fiddle on the chest, literally playing from the heart. This was a sinuous, sensuous sound that had me humming and hopping for days after.

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Thursday 8 June

The Finchley Society Local History Group presents a talk by Gerald Turvey on the history of film-making in East Finchley from 1911-1916, including the studio set-up at Newstead House in the Oak Lane area; 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. All welcome.

### Saturday 10 June

Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association's summer meeting will be a walk round Alexandra Palace park led by Landscape Manager Matt Baker. Meet at the BBC TV tower at 11am. Everyone welcome.

### Sunday 11 June

Summer Fair at Holy Trinity School, 12-2.30pm. Summer fun games, bargains, barbecue, home-cooked food and lots of surprises make this an unmissable event for all the family. This year, you can even enjoy special indulgence treatments by local therapists, plus face and nail painting for children.

### Sunday 11 June

Live music at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm. The Hermitage Quintet plays Haydn Quartet ("The Fifths") Op 76, No.2, and Schumann Piano Quintet, Op 44. Free admission with a collection in aid of a project to build the first school for children in northern Mali.

### Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 June

Incognito Theatre Company presents Caught in the Net, an amusing 21<sup>st</sup> century farce by Ray Cooney. Performances at 6pm on Sunday 11 June and 8pm on Monday 12 – Saturday 17 June. Matinee on Saturday 17 at 3pm. Holly Park Road (behind Health Centre), Friern Barnet, N11. Box office 020 8361 8310 or email [tickets@incognitotheatre.com](mailto:tickets@incognitotheatre.com)

### Saturday 17 June

Summer Fun Day at Martin Schools, 12-3.30pm. Entertainment for all the family with BBQ, food stalls, tombola, bouncy castles, arts and crafts, face painting, cakes, fancy-dress competition and the ever-popular M-bay (Martin Schools' version of e-bay). New this year – Mad Science!

### Sunday 18 June

Director's tour at the Noble Sage Art Gallery, 2A Fortis Green, 2-3pm. Free entry. For further details call 020 8883 7303

### Sunday 18 June

An afternoon of comedy and music for all the family, 3pm-7pm, in Avenue House Grounds, East End Road, N3. Admission in advance will cost £8 for a family ticket, £4 for an adult and £1 for a child from Tu Destino florists (128 High Road, N2), the Finchley Bookshop (98 Ballards Lane, N3), and Avenue House reception. Proceeds go to the Spike Milligan Statue Fund. Contact David Smith on 020 8883 4154 or Derek Warren on 020 8346 5258 for further details or offers of help.

### Sunday 18 June

Barnet Refugee Festival, Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, Algonon Road, West Hendon, NW4, 1-6pm. Celebrate the positive contribution made by local refugees to our local community and get advice on asylum issues.

### Sunday 18 June

Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital welcome you to a Fun Day in the grounds of the hospital in Bow Lane from 1:30pm onwards.

### Saturday 8 July

NCT Nearly New Sale, 10am-12 noon, Finchley Sea Cadets Hall, 184a Long Lane, Finchley, N3. Bargain babies' and children's clothes, books, toys and other baby goods. Admission £1 per adult (children free). Parking available in the driveway next to Spice Box Restaurant. Sorry, no admission for prams or pushchairs. For more information, please call 07960 521271

### Saturday 8 July

Finchley Choral Society concert featuring Faure's Requiem, Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs and Bob Chilcott's Canticles of Light. The choir will be joined by the Henrietta Barnett School Choir. Church of St Jude on the Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 available in advance on 020 8346 9230.





## Are you working comfortably?

Registered osteopath Nicky Sharp explains the hidden dangers of working at a computer.

As use of computers has increased so too have back, neck and upper limb disorders. Working at a computer is associated with conditions known as cumulative trauma disorder (CTD), repetitive strain injury or occupational overuse syndromes, the "industrial injuries of the Information Age". CTDs include carpal tunnel syndrome, tendon inflammation disorders especially of the wrist and thumb, tennis or golfer's elbow and tension neck syndrome. Some CTDs are secondary to other conditions. For example, diabetes, obesity, thyroidism, rheumatoid arthritis and previous injury are all predisposing factors for carpal tunnel syndrome.

Most CTDs are preventable, and curable if caught early. Early signs may include pain, pins and needles, numbness, burning, or aching. Problems often arise from sitting at a poorly designed workstation, carrying out a repetitive activity or holding a static position for a long time. In addition, localised pressure from resting wrists or elbows on a hard surface can damage the nerves and/or tendons. CTDs are not exclusively linked to poor work ergonomics: non-work activities, hobbies, sports, driving, and even sleeping positions can contribute to them.

### How to prevent CTDs:

An important preventive measure is 'variety'. Change posture and activities often. If possible, take breaks before getting tired, by doing something else for a while. Extremely short, frequent breaks can be very helpful.

Sit in a position where shoulders and arms can relax. Avoid positions near the extremes of your joints' range of motion; the most neutral joint position is about halfway.

At the workstation, keep head and neck erect, the top of the computer screen horizontal with your eyes, with forearms parallel to the floor. The mouse should be alongside the keyboard and you should have good wrist support, with wrists horizontal or slightly extended.

Copyholder should be between screen and keyboard

or attached to the screen. Hips should be higher than knees for good spinal posture. Sit well back in your chair supported by the backrest. Feet

should be flat on the floor.

To make an appointment with Nicky at the Nova Dental Centre in East End Road, contact her on 020 8815 9433.

## A night at the opera

By Sheila Armstrong

East Finchley's Phoenix cinema recently showed the critically-acclaimed film *U-Carmen eKhayelista*. On 22 April, the film's star and director, Mark Dornford-May, attended a question-and-answer session at the cinema. Opera singer Alison Buchanan gave the audience a preview of her scheduled performance at the artsdepot to end the evening.

The film is a vibrant and exciting take on Bizet's *Carmen*, set in the black townships of South Africa's Cape Town and sung in the local dialect, Xhosa. The music is a blend of Bizet and Xhosa songs: a deliberate clash of styles.

The film capitalised on the strong musical tradition in South Africa, and many locals were in the film.

Pauline Malefane, who sings *Carmen*, is quite

extraordinary; feisty, statuesque and thoroughly modern. She gets good support by the rest of the cast from the acclaimed South African Dimpho Di Copane Theatre Company. This was a great evening at the Phoenix for local opera lovers.

Unsurprisingly, the film won Berlin's Golden Bear Award for Best Film in 2005. Mark's next film is *The Son of Man*, also set in Africa with Pauline as the Virgin Mary.

## Scandal Upstairs at the Gatehouse

By Sheila Armstrong

A production of Sheridan's *School for Scandal* by Traffic of the Stage played at The Gatehouse in Highgate from 12 April to 6 May. The story is all about rich men marrying younger women, young men getting into debt, scandal and rumour.

With a cast of 14, directed by Harry Meacher, the play romped along and reached an entertaining climax in Act Two. Removing the play from its original period, the 1770s, to the 1920s worked well.

Nicki Kelly and Miranda

Nolan turned in witty performances as Lady Sneerwell and Maria respectively and were well supported by the company.

East Finchley producer and playwright John Cooper

founded Traffic 20 years ago and their recent successes have included *The Education of a Lap Dancer* staged at the Pleasance Theatre. Look out for this in the West End at the end of the year.

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

### Letters to the editor

#### Our field belongs to us

Dear Editor,

We are railing against the perceived view of Barnet Council that Stanley Road Playing Field belongs to them to do with as they see fit.

We believe the space belongs to the community, and should be re-invigorated to meet the needs of our community for play and garden space.

We are making original mixed media artworks, which will be displayed tied onto the railings outside the playing fields. A presentation about the fields will be on display in and around the police office on the High Road.

We welcome public contributions to the railings artworks, which will be put up on or after 1 June.

From East Finchley Open Artists

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

#### Get your facts straight

Dear Editor,

The researchers on whom *Time Out's London for Londoners* based its opinions of Finchley (*THE ARCHER*, May 2006) have not done their work carefully enough. If they had, they would have found out that Finchley Central is a station on the Northern line and that the correct name for this area is Church End Finchley.

Yours faithfully,  
Robert Winton  
Hon Secretary,  
the Finchley Society  
Creighton Avenue, N2

## Wildlife diary

By Linda Mitchell

I noticed a marked decline in the number of birds coming to the garden after the dreadful depot fire at Hemel Hempstead in December, but I'm pleased to have seen many more ladybirds this spring. The foxes are again regular visitors, and I have seen one who has no tail. Again, so far no frogs. Bumblebees first appeared in January, even during the light snowfalls.

For me, the early morning is the most magical time of day because of the birdsong. In February I heard a lone blackbird at about 6am most days; now it's a real chorus at just after 4am.

I spotted a sparrowhawk several times in January, and on one occasion it was being chased by a large crow. In early

February I had a rare visit from a pair of redwings which fed on apples I had left out. A garden warbler has been a regular visitor this spring, its beautiful song heard long before I spotted it.

Bluetits, wrens, robins, dunnocks and blackbirds are all busy darting in and out of their nests. An owl flies across the gardens at night, hooting loudly, and bats dart about at dusk.

Tiny saplings are appearing in the garden and in pots, the result of conkers stored by squirrels during the winter. The garden is a busy place.

## In memory of Lynn Cornelius

By Maggie Driscoll

Martin Junior School celebrated the life of a dearly loved teacher, colleague and friend at the end of April. Two services were held, one for the children and one for past pupils, families and colleagues.

We now have three permanent memorials of Lynn. First is the plaque in our memorial garden. Second is a wonderful picture by South African artist Gabisile Nkosi. Most spectacular is the new window in the Junior Hall. Knowing Lynn's passion for modern art and her love of stained glass, Adam Justice-Mill, a local artist and former parent, designed the window which represents Lynn's love of life in vibrant colours and flowing shapes.

After reading in *THE ARCHER* about so many school successes

another former parent and local resident, Robert Winton MBE, decided to give a special trophy to Martin Junior School. The beautiful glass trophy will be awarded on an annual basis to the pupil who has demonstrated outstanding achievement over the year. The child will receive a special book to keep and there will be a new board of honour in school, engraved with the pupil's name. An announcement will be made at the beginning of June naming the first recipient of the Lynn Cornelius Award for Outstanding Achievement.

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Barbara Windsor with the charity walkers. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Carry on walking for Jack

Actress Barbara Windsor came to East Finchley to start a fundraising walk for little Jack Brown. "I wore my high heels, just in case they asked me to walk too," joked the Carry On and EastEnders star as she saw them on their way from East Finchley tube station to Barnet tube station.

Around 150 adults and children took part in the five-mile trek on Saturday 6 May. As much as £6,000 was raised for Jack, of Bedford Avenue, Barnet, who urgently needs to travel to New York

to get treatment for his rare form of cancer called neuroblastoma.

The response to Jack's plight from the people of Barnet has been so enormous that the family are

hoping they can reach their £200,000 fundraising target in good time. Any money not used to assist Jack will be placed in a fund to help others suffering from this form of the disease.

## A summer afternoon for Spike

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund is staging an afternoon of comedy and music for all the family on Sunday 18 June in Avenue House grounds, East End Road, from 3-7pm.

Performers include the Colin Peters Jazz Quartet, Henry van Emden and his big band sound, the Angels of Kaos choir, youngsters from Flash Musicals, and Professor Pip and Joodi. Mill Hill Rotary Club has donated a Fun Train.

The afternoon includes a tribute to Spike Milligan from Barry Cryer, an appearance by Radio London's Jono Coleman, and an auction of items from celebrities, including Tony Blair, Michael Palin, Sir Terry Wogan, Dame Edna Everage, Terry Gilliam and Roger McGough.

Refreshments include alco-

hol, ice creams and a barbecue.

Admission by programmes bought in advance will cost £8 for a family ticket, £4 for an adult and £1 for a child. Prices on the day will be £10, £5 and £2 respectively. Buy your programmes from Tu Destino florists (128 High Road, N2), the Finchley Bookshop (98 Ballards Lane, N3), Harris Fine Art (High Road, N12) and Avenue House reception. Proceeds go to the Spike Milligan Statue Fund.

Further information from David Smith on 020 8883 4154 or 07944049250, and from website www.spikestatue.org.uk. Offers of help are welcome.

## Marathon manager

By Diana Cormack

As if being run off his feet as assistant manager of The Bald Faced Stag wasn't enough, Ian Pouncett took part in this year's London Marathon and completed the course in a minute less than three and a half hours. Ian, who lives on the premises at 69 High Road, has taken part in the event every other year since the age of 18; this was his fourth marathon and his fastest so far.

Finding the time to train can be a bit of a problem because of his working hours, so sometimes Ian has to do his running well after closing time. However, with the support of customers as well as family and friends Ian was able to raise £600 for the Bobath Centre in East End Road and the Hornsey Trust, both of which care for children with cerebral palsy.

Ian was also instrumental in organising a Family Fun Day on Easter Saturday, for which Stag staff were all in fancy dress. The event was held in aid of the Bobath Centre. Unfortunately the cold weather did not encourage people to participate in the barbecue, but the children enjoyed the bouncy castle, the face painter and the clown who handed out sweets and balloons to passers by as well as to people in the pub. His balloon modelling, card tricks and magic amused the youngsters throughout the day and in the evening the adults were kept equally entertained by the clown's activities.

## Green van makes a move

A green Ford Transit van that was parked on the same spot in Creighton Avenue for a year has finally moved.

Residents had been driven bonkers by the vehicle blocking their parking spots and causing congestion during road works.

It had not moved an inch since May 2005 but the glorious day came on 1 May when the owner, who is believed to live in neighbouring Hertford Road, was forced to move it to make way for workmen carrying out the extensive Creighton Avenue gas repairs.

The green van was last spotted in nearby Church Vale. Let's hope it doesn't become a permanent feature there too.

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