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THE ARCHER



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October 2006 No. 158
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



A sure-footed steed shows a surge of speed during the donkey derby at the Muswell Hill Festival. The event is held each year in Cherry Tree Wood because Haringey Council will not allow the race to take place on its land. For more on the festival, turn to page 6.

Threat to our library

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council leader Mike Freer has spelled out the continued threat to East Finchley Library just months after the service suffered cuts in staff and opening hours.

Writing on the future of libraries in the council's magazine Barnet First, Councillor Freer warned: "Some of our libraries are listed buildings, which makes them very difficult to adapt, and we need to look at new models, such as multi-functional buildings. Many of them are no longer part of the main footfall of our town centres, and—as any retailer knows—when the footfall moves, you have to follow."

His comments have raised fresh fears amongst campaigners fighting to safeguard East Finchley Library, which is housed in a listed building towards the upper end of the High Road.

Earlier this year, it was downgraded to 'community library' status and its staffing and opening hours were reduced.

The site is right

Three years ago, East Finchley people voted overwhelmingly in favour of our library's present site. Majority opinion then was that the library should remain next to Martin Schools, in the centre

of the residential area.

Leslie Gilbert, from The Friends of Barnet Libraries, told *THE ARCHER*: "Footfall is shop-keeper-speak for the frequency with which potential customers traverse a shopping area. But public libraries are not shops. They are unique resources that should be plentifully situated in local neighbourhoods... When they are well maintained, which is the Council's responsibility, people will seek them out."

Traditional or modern: a false opposition?

Cllr Freer went on to write that libraries are now "just as important for their Internet access as for their store of books", concluding that the library service needed significant investment to remain relevant and attractive.

Mr Gilbert commented that Cllr Freer seemed to see a modern library as an array of computers, dispensing gobblets of information from the internet, but had failed, apparently, to notice the maps, guides, newspapers and magazines, dictionaries in many languages, local information collections, talking books, large print, and areas introducing children to the wonderful world of literature. He said that these "traditional" library materials had stood the test of time, and were likely to continue to do so.

He also accused Cllr Freer of overlooking the pace of technological development, saying that soon almost everyone would have their own internet facilities, just as they now have their own televisions.

While agreeing that the future structure and nature of libraries was worth considering, Mr Gilbert wanted "deeper thinking and a genuine, widespread public discussion, not a token consultation". Meanwhile, he said, why not give libraries the money and staff they need, and put some of that significant investment into publicising them?

New faces in Barnet cabinet

Barnet Council has created a children's services position with responsibility for education, children's services, the Youth Service and the Youth Offending Team and for ensuring that Barnet's youngsters receive a 'seamless service' for all their needs.

The new post, to be filled by Councillor Fiona Bulmer, is part of a small facelift for the council's Cabinet which also sees the introduction of a Learning Infrastructure post to look after the Primary Schools

Capital Investment Programme and the borough's libraries. Here is the new Cabinet in full: Resources (Leader) - Cllr. Mike Freer, Environment & Transport (Deputy Leader) - Cllr. Matthew Offord, Children

- Cllr. Fiona Bulmer, Community Engagement & Community Safety - Cllr. Brian Coleman, Planning & Environmental Protection - Cllr. Melvin Cohen, Regeneration - Cllr. Anthony Finn, Policy & Performance - Cllr. Andrew Harper, Public Health - Cllr. Helena Hart, Adult Social Services & Housing - Cllr. Lynne Hillan, Learning Infrastructure - Cllr. John Marshall.

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PRINTED BY
Eastway Offset Ltd

WEB MANAGEMENT
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*Thank you to Madden's
Ale House for providing
us with a meeting place.*

*THE ARCHER team wishes
to thank all the generous
people who give up their
spare time, in all weather,
to deliver the paper for us.*

Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please
contact us at the above address.
Comments to THE ARCHER may be
published unless clearly marked
'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines

November issue: 14 October
December issue: 10 November
January issue: 8 December

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

Leisure

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

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
Disability Info Service 02084466935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 02086833300
Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 08457697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700
National Blood Ctr. 084577117711

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 02083463511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Hospitals

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Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
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

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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

Sneak thief steals credit cards

A resident in Cecilia Close awoke on 10 August to find her patio door and front door wide open and discovered that an intruder had stolen her handbag and contents while the household was asleep.

Her bank notified her by text that in the early hours of the morning somebody had tried using her credit card. As the PIN number was not recognised, the bank contacted her and she confirmed it had been stolen. Later that evening her credit cards were found cut in half near a local phone box.

The following morning, a friend saw her bank paying-in book lying on the ground in the Grange Estate and later that evening she found her gym membership card on the green near the Five Bells Pub in East End Road.

Crime prevention for cars

"Back to School" also means "back to work" for many people. Many of us realise how much busier the roads are when the children are back at school and that includes the criminal fraternity. More cars on the roads mean more opportunities for crime. It is often one of the easiest crimes to commit as cars are left for long periods in car parks while people commute into Central London. To avoid becoming a victim of car crime Barnet Police are offering the following advice:

- Lock the doors and windows when you leave the car for any length of time, no matter how brief.
- Don't leave anything on display: even a jacket can seem like an appealing target for a thief.
- Remove the stereo if you can. Also tuck in wing mirrors and put down the aerial to discourage vandals.
- Never store your car's documents inside the car.
- A Thatcham-approved immobiliser or steering lock can help secure older vehicles.
- Think about having windows etched with the car's vehicle registration number and make

- a note of its chassis number.
- Keep your car keys in a safe place, even in your house. Don't leave keys near the front door or any window where they can be seen and therefore easily removed.

Mobile phone muggings

Two 16-year-old boys were mugged and had their mobile phones stolen in Fortis Green, East Finchley, on Sunday 3 September at 9.45pm.

The friends were stopped as they walked along Fortis Green by two suspects who said, "What have you got for me?" Then they began to search the victims' pockets, removing their mobile phones, before making off towards Muswell Hill.

The first suspect is described as a black male aged 18, 5 ft 8ins tall, slim build. He was wearing a white t-shirt with a blue horizontal line on the chest with the letters AJ, and dark coloured trousers.

The second suspect is described as a black male aged 19, 5ft 6ins tall, with a heavy build. He was wearing a black coat, dark coloured shirt and dark coloured trousers.

If anyone has any information about this incident please contact DS Gornall on 020 8733 4446 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

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

Barnet

Land r/o 121 - 131 East End Road, N2

Proposed residential building with three storeys and roof space, including dormer windows, to accommodate eight flats, each of three habitable rooms.

26 Ludlow Way, N2

Conversion of garage into habitable room, including external alteration. Formation of new link corridor with new roof. New window on rear elevation.

55 Juliana Close, N2

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

Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, N3

Felling eight sycamore trees and two lime trees, to construct Akiva School.

63 Brim Hill, N2

Remove five Leyland cypresses.

26 Ossulton Way, N2

Side and rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

18A Leicester Road, N2

Erection of conservatory at rear.

53 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Alterations to roof, including side dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

34A Hill Top, N2

Demolition and reconstruction of outbuilding, garden wall and archway.

Haringey

178 Creighton Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear conservatory extension.

181 Creighton Avenue, N2

Rear dormer window and insertion of rooflights to front elevation.

43 Twyford Avenue, N2

Extension at front first floor level, with roof over. Single-storey rear extension. Two rear dormer windows.

Enlargement of existing garage, and alterations to elevations.

42 Church Vale, N2

Two-storey side extension. Alterations to roof, with raising of ridge, and dormers to both sides to provide second-floor accommodation in roof.

13 Western Road, N2

Tree works, including felling of one thorn tree, and reduction, shaping of crown, and cutting back one sycamore.

Telecommunications Station o/s

64 Aylmer Road, N2

Installation of one additional equipment cabinet to existing telecommunications base station.



A new Northern line

In the last issue of *THE ARCHER*, we reported that the weekend shutdowns of the Northern line from East Finchley to Camden Town had been extended until the end of November and that further closures could last into 2007.



Here, we talk to David Millard, general manager of the Northern line, to find out why the work is taking place and exactly what lies ahead for long-suffering East Finchley tube passengers.

• THE ARCHER: What work is being carried out on the High Barnet branch of the Northern line?

David Millard: There is an extensive programme of track replacement work under way. Doing the work now means that the new track will have a working life running into decades, subject to regular inspection and maintenance. One prime premise of the work is to prepare the ground for a major signalling upgrade of the Northern line. That upgrade will start in two years' time. The whole process of updating the Northern line will finish in 2012.

• What difference will passengers notice to their journeys?

I have noticed the difference on the Northern line already. The smoothness of the ride is much improved and it is much quieter. Regular passengers will probably notice the benefits more than occasional users, but everyone should feel the trains are gliding into platforms, rather than clunking over joints. And the more secure track we are laying down will give us a more reliable service overall.

• How much more reliable will the service be?

The situation is too volatile to put targets around improved reliability.

• Why does the High Barnet branch have to be shut completely at weekends when it causes so much inconvenience for people travelling to work or shop in central London?

I regret the extra journey time for weekend workers and I have experienced personally some of the longer journeys on the line. London Underground and Tube Lines, who are carrying out the work, took the decision that weekend disruption was a better alternative than shutting down the line completely for a month. To make things as comfortable as possible for passengers during the shutdowns we have put a lot more attention in recent years into the quality of the substitute bus services and I hope that is noticeable.

• What have passengers said to you about the closures?

I have had a low level of concern shown to me but generally people acknowledge that the Northern line needs updating and so the closures have been accepted and understood.

• Will there be more shutdowns on the High Barnet branch or other parts of the Northern line after the end of November?

There is nothing planned for the High Barnet branch beyond the end of November but I wouldn't rule out further closures at this stage. What I can say is that I expect the High Barnet branch will be clear of major track work between April 07 and March 08. However, in February next year, there will be some work needed in the Kings Cross area as work is carried out to integrate the Channel Tunnel rail link connections. For travellers, that will mean that trains will not stop at Kings Cross for a period and there will be some suspension of the service on the Bank branch in April.

How your journey will be affected

There will be no tube service between East Finchley and Euston on the following weekends: 14-15 October, 21-22 October, 28-29 October, 18-19 November and 25-26 November. A replacement bus service will be in operation.

What is happening on the tracks?

By the end of the first 26 weekend closures, it is expected Tube Lines will have renewed 8km of track, representing 70 per cent of the total work programme.

Tube Lines is replacing the traditional bullhead rail and old wooden sleepers with a more stable and secure flat bottom rail that is either fixed to concrete sleepers or directly to the concrete floor. This new formation is designed to deliver a smoother, quieter ride.

Shutting the line over an entire weekend means the engineering teams can make progress much faster than would be possible by working within standard overnight engineering hours between 1am and 5am.

Every weekend, Tube Lines has a team of up to 700 people working nine-hour shifts on at least five work sites carrying out re-railing, track re-alignment and track re-conditioning.

A fund of knowledge

By Diana Cormack

Children attending our three local primary schools may soon be benefiting from a new fund. Backed by the East Finchley Community Development Trust (EFCDT), the East Finchley School Children's Fund has been established to provide financial support for pupils at Holy Trinity, Martin Infant and Martin Junior Schools.

The rising costs of educational visits due to security issues and price increases mean those who would most benefit from school trips are less likely to be able to afford them. With help no longer available from the Millie Apthorpe Trust, primary school children could miss out on a valuable part of their education which develops social skills as well as knowledge.

This is particularly applicable to school journeys, where the annual cost in Year 6 can easily be around £200 or more. Money from the fund would be allocated by head teachers to help those in need first, with priority being given to overnight

trips and then day visits. All children at the schools are eligible and the more money received, the more children can be helped.

Every penny to reach the children

As the fund is being administered by the EFCDT there will be no administration costs, so every penny raised will go to the children. Money would be donated by local businesses, ideally on the basis of a three-year commitment so the schools have some certainty for the future. Letters are being sent inviting them to participate in this unique scheme, which was devised by local resident Judith Salomon. She was inspired by a conversation she had with her mother Kathryn, a volunteer reading helper at Martin Junior School. Head teacher Maggie Driscoll told *The Archer* that

the importance of such trips should not be underestimated. "We want to ensure that all our children can take advantage of the wealth of experience available," she said.

Donors will be acknowledged on the EFCDT's website and will receive an EFSCF window sticker. For further information contact Judith Salomon on 07931 736 270 or jsalomon@london-first.co.uk

Housebound Reading Group

If a trial project is successful, Barnet's housebound residents may soon be able to go out to their own reading group.

Every few weeks, up to 10 elderly users of the borough's Home Library Service are being taken to Hendon Library, to take part in a discussion group about their favourite books. The trial project is being held in the western part of the borough, but could be extended to other Home Library Service readers across Barnet.

The Home Library Service delivers books (including large print), spoken word cassettes, CDs, videos and DVDs to people made housebound through age or infirmity. For more information, contact 020 8458 1139 or homelibraryservice@barnet.gov.uk.

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Why they're chopping our trees

By Ann Bronkhorst

Chainsaws are coming to Coldfall Wood, not for a massacre but to let in more light. Helped by a grant from the Forestry Commission, the coppicing programme will start this autumn,

Nick Michael informed a meeting on 5 September hosted by Friends of Coldfall Wood. Nick, Haringey's Conservation Officer, and David Bevan, his predecessor, were questioned by the Friends and members of the public about this first stage in the planned re-generation of the wood.

Coppicing entails cutting trees, in this case hornbeams, down to stumps from which new growth emerges. It sounds drastic but does not kill the trees and was traditional in Coldfall Wood for centuries. Representatives from the Friends of Queen's Wood, Highgate, showed 'before' and 'after' photos to demonstrate how gloomy it had been before coppicing, and how letting in light encouraged plant growth, including orchids. David Bevan

pointed out that soil disturbance, too, allows long-dormant seeds to germinate. After the last coppicing in Coldfall Wood in the 1990s, a *Hypericum* recorded in the 19th century reappeared, one of 120 different plant species newly found in the coppiced areas.

Nightingales and brambles

Simon Levy, a forester who works in a wood in Croydon included in the same Capital Woodlands Project backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, shared his experience. After coppicing brambles would grow, he agreed, but they would support insects and other wildlife. Then, as the hornbeams grow back, the brambles will diminish again. In his wood, birds such as nightingales and nightjars have reappeared. He felt that hornbeam coppicing

also benefits other trees which struggle for light, become too tall and are at risk in high winds. The coppicing programme will cover only 14% of Coldfall Wood, mostly in a north-south swathe along the course of the stream. The vehicles and machinery used will be small and will enter by the east gate on Creighton Avenue. Wood debris ('brash') may be chipped, or used for 'dead-hedging' or possibly for reedbed dams planned later for the stream.

Concern was expressed about vandalism during this long-term project and it was agreed that, ideally, local schoolchildren should be fully informed and involved. Further meetings for the public are planned and information will be available at the gates to the wood, and at www.coldfall.info



Sylvia and her pocket park. Photo by Ann Bronkhorst

Finchley Common exposed

By Tony Roberts

At a meeting at Avenue House on 14 September organised by the Finchley Society's Local History Group, Hugh Petrie, the Borough's Heritage Officer, gave a fascinating and informative talk about Finchley Common.

With the help of contemporary maps, he traced its passage from Finchley Wood, the ancient, thickly wooded buffer between Finchley, Friern Barnet and Hornsey, to the more sparsely wooded and smaller 900-acre Finchley Common at the time of enclosure in 1816.

The area formed the main part of the wastes of the Bishop's Manor (other parts included the wide verges alongside thoroughfares). Initially the woods were managed, providing fuel for London in the form of wood faggots, and 'pannage', the feeding of animals on acorns and beech mast from the wood floor. When coal was introduced in Stuart times, the price of wood fuel fell so the felling and selling of timber and

consequent 'herbage' - the grazing of animals - took over.

With the reduction in trees, Finchley Wood gradually became Finchley Common. The change is evidenced in Herbals of the time: John Gerrard refers to Wortberries from Finchley Wood whereas 40 years later Culpeper mentions juniper berries from Finchley Common.

Hugh went on to talk about encroachments, started long before the Common was enclosed, military encampments, and highwaymen, whose activities ceased some time before enclosure.

Hugh will be giving a second talk to The Finchley Society about the Common in the spring; also open to non-members.

The big key giveaway

A recent survey by insurer More Than shows that many of us allow relative strangers to have keys to our properties, but then come to regret it. Apparently, 40% of people said they had given someone else a key to their home.

Around 27% of us had allowed relative strangers such as window cleaners, builders and tradesman to have unsupervised access to our homes. It seems that window cleaners are the most likely non-residents to have keys, followed by plumbers and utility tradesmen, cleaners and childminders.

Thirteen percent admitted they did not even know the person at all before they gave them a key! Nearly 25% said they had a non-resident come to their house at least once a month, with 11% having one come every week.

Giving a set of keys to a non-resident, however, led to an abuse of trust in 14% of cases.

Fourteen per cent said their homes had been damaged or they had had items stolen

Six per cent said people with keys had helped themselves to food and drink without permission

Five per cent said they had used the telephone, invited people over or skived off when they should have been working.

Three per cent claimed they had cash or personal belongings taken

One per cent said their keyholder had even borrowed clothes without asking!

It makes you wonder how we can be so trusting.

Colour them pink

By Ann Bronkhorst

Of all the local 'pocket-parks' this must be the tiniest. Its mound of pink flowers has brightened Durham Road all summer, for the third year running.

When paving stones were re-laid in 2004, on impulse Sylvia Etheridge asked the workmen if they'd leave unpaved a small area round a tree near her home. To her surprise they agreed. Sylvia put in compost, planted Busy Lizzies and nurtured them.

Last year, when this photo was taken, the display was even better, in spite of attentions from dogs. This year, however, dogs weren't the only threat. A human being with a trowel but

without a conscience dug up some of the display. Hastily Sylvia put in more plants to hide the damage.

Durham Road residents have had enormous pleasure yet again from Sylvia's pink 'pocket-park' and will be sorry when the autumn cold wilts the flowers. So if you want a colour photo in *THE ARCHER*, reach for some pink crayons, and if you want colour in your street next year, start planting in the spring.

Eat your fruit and vegetables in season

By nutritional therapist Judy Watson

Judy Watson has recently started practising at Utopia Health & Beauty, off the High Road, and is also the alternative health columnist for Real People magazine.

Why is it important to eat fruit and vegetables in season? It is difficult nowadays when shopping to know what is in season, as produce from abroad is available all year round.

However, vegetables not in season have usually been transported thousands of miles, which puts more stress on our delicate environment, while the time taken results in lost nutrients and taste.

To buy in season and avoid 'food miles' check the label first to make sure it has a UK name, for instance 'Produce of Kent' or Lincolnshire.

Secondly, support farmers' markets. You will be surprised how many there are in London: Alexandra Palace, Palmers Green and Borough Market are just some of them. Support independent grocers or order a box of local organic produce.

As we move into autumn and Halloween, try making pumpkin pie. It is sweet tasting so is great for those with fussy taste buds, as well being rich in antioxidants: beta carotene and vitamin C to boost the immune system and keep the skin glowing when the colder weather comes. If you buy a pumpkin for the kids at Halloween, make good use of the pumpkin flesh by adding it to a stew or soup for the cooler nights.

Apples and pears are now at their best and can be eaten in packed lunches, as snacks or baked and served with yoghurt and a drizzle of honey.

Other seasonal vegetables for October include carrots, broccoli, leeks, spinach and turnips and mushrooms. Happy eating!

Judy Watson can be contacted for appointments on 07904 335763.

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FINCHLEY FORUM

By Daphne Chamberlain

Lankaster Gardens

Following the news that a developer has permission to build three blocks of flats, in part six storeys high, in Lankaster Gardens, local residents asked what Barnet will do about the extra traffic. Lankaster Gardens is accessed only by Chambers Gardens and Lewis Gardens.

Barnet's Highways Department Officer said that the Council had rejected plans for this site, but the developer had won an independent appeal. Highways would do their best to mitigate traffic, but the design of the estate and its access was the responsibility of the Planning Department. Planning officers had been asked to contact residents, but apparently had not done so. They would be reminded.

Councillor Colin Rogers said the independent Appeal Inspectors had imposed 25 conditions on construction of the flats, but very few concerned traffic. Conditions should still be checked, though.

Garden Centre

Residents near the former Garden Centre in East End Road asked what kind of application was likely to be approved for this site. Cllr Rogers reported that Barnet Planning Department wanted more commercial and less residential emphasis than in the current application.

Sternberg Centre

Neighbours of the Sternberg Centre in East End Road said they were disturbed by lorries at work on building developments at 7.30am, half an hour before the permitted start time. They also alleged that planning conditions regarding trees were not being observed. They asked for the Council to arrange meetings between the Centre and residents. A Finchley Society member asked for the Society to be included in these meetings, and also requested regular "monitored monitoring".

Unsafe structures

Any unsafe structure should be reported to 020 8359 2000. (This arose from a case of a collapsing fence in Long Lane.)

Stanley Field

The Stanley Field Steering Group asked for forward action on the scheme for community sports provision there. They were told from the platform that another meeting with Council Leader Mike Freer was imminent.

Recycling

Cllr Kath McGuirk said it was time to introduce household cardboard and plastic collection, as many people could not get to the Council dump.

North Finchley Bus Station

Several people said that the exit from the Bus Station was still dangerous. London Buses will be invited to attend the next Forum.

Footnote: The next Finchley Forum will be at 6.30 on Wednesday 22 November in Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12.

Get moving for MND

Motor Neurone Disease is a rapidly progressive fatal condition that kills three people every day in the UK. To raise awareness and to help raise funds for people living with the disease, the north London branch of the charity MND Association is holding a 10 km North London Walk. This will take place on Sunday 15 October in Trent Country Park, Cockfosters Road, Enfield.

The route is two circuits of the park, which is fairly flat but could be muddy in places if it has been pouring with rain. Those who don't feel up to 10 km can do 5 km by completing one circuit, which makes the sponsored event more appealing to young children. There will be a quiz for children with a prize for the winner. Buggies are welcome on the walk, as are

wheelchair users.

There is a café and a pub nearby. The nearest underground is Cockfosters; buses 298, 299 and 384. Registration begins at 10.00am and the walk starts at 10.30am.

For further information and sponsorship forms call Gay Watson on 020 8882 2233 or email gaywatson@btopenworld.com



Kate Fuscoe, husband James & family. Picture by Michael Cronshaw.

East Finchley family off to Mozambique

By Helen Drake

Kate Fuscoe and James Johnson, of East Finchley, are swapping their lives as lecturers in Further Education for a year's voluntary work in Mozambique. Accompanied by their two children, Miles and Joseph, they will live in the capital, Maputo, where they will help to train secondary school teachers. The placement has been arranged by the international development charity, Voluntary Service Overseas.

Both Kate and James have lived and worked outside the UK before the children (now aged 6 and 9) came along. Kate says, "We feel it is a window of opportunity, while the children are relatively young, to have this chance to experience another culture as a family. I hope we can play a small part in improving the skills of the people we will be working with. VSO calls for 'Sharing skills, changing lives' and we imagine that this will work both ways".

It costs £15,000 to recruit, train and send a volunteer. VSO

is mostly funded by the British government's DfID (Department for International Development), to support disadvantaged people in developing countries in key areas such as education, health and social welfare, HIV and Aids. Kate and James have set themselves a target of raising £500 for VSO to help towards the cost of sending out professional volunteers such

as themselves. If you would be interested in contributing to their efforts, please visit www.justgiving.com/wwwjustgivingcomkateandjames.

Voluntary Service Overseas organises work placements for skilled professionals from a range of different work backgrounds. If you would like to know more about VSO, visit www.vso.org.uk.

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How well do you know East Finchley?

Our 10-question challenge, set by David Tupman, is designed to test your local knowledge. Find out how much you really know about the place where you live. Answers are on page 9.

Q1: When did London Underground start operating at East Finchley?

- a. 1914
- b. 1936
- c. 1939
- d. 1945

Q2: What was the Phoenix Cinema called when it opened in 1910?

- a. The Plaza
- b. The Rex
- c. The Picturedrome
- d. The Odeon

Q3: The famous singer Gracie Fields once lived in N2. In which road did she reside?

- a. Winnington Road
- b. The Bishops Avenue
- c. Creighton Avenue
- d. Leslie Road

Q4: Who sculpted 'Archie', the impressive statue on top of East Finchley station?

- a. Eric Gill
- b. Eric Coates
- c. Eric Idle
- d. Eric Aumonier

Q5: In which year was the first block of The Grange estate completed?

- a. 1938
- b. 1946
- c. 1951
- d. 1964



The Phoenix cinema - photo by David Tupman. See Q2.

Q6: The A504 is a busy East Finchley road. By what name do most of us know it?

- a. High Road
- b. Fortis Green
- c. North Circular
- d. Aylmer Road

Q7: Who of the following has NOT represented East Finchley as its MP?

- a. Rudi Vis
- b. Hartley Booth
- c. Margaret Thatcher
- d. John Marshall

Q8: What was the name of the store in Viceroy Parade now called Iceland?

- a. Bejam
- b. Home and Colonial
- c. Co-op
- d. Fortnum and Masons

Q9: Which is the oldest church in East Finchley?

- a. All Saints
- b. Holy Trinity
- c. Methodist
- d. Baptist

Q10: In which year did The Archer newspaper first appear in East Finchley?

- a. 1987
- b. 1990
- c. 1993
- d. 1996



Rudi Vis MP. See Question 7.

A great place for a festival

By Daphne Chamberlain

"It's a great place to come to. Yeah, Cherry Tree Wood opposite East Finchley Station." The teenager talking on his mobile was one of the estimated 9,000 people who turned out for the Muswell Hill Festival last month. Acknowledging some help from the returning summer weather, organiser Gerry Alexander said that this was almost certainly the best-attended Muswell Hill Festival yet.

At least £6,000 was raised for the Hornsey Trust, a charity for children with cerebral palsy.

About £500 came from the efforts of the teddy bears parachuting from St James's Church the day before. They received awards for valour, while next day in Cherry Tree Wood two East Finchley dogs won awards: Snoopy for agility, and Tobby

(sic) for the waggiest tail.

The donkeys were in good form for their derby, with at least one deciding to aim for the start line rather than the finish. "I always look forward to this," one child told his father.

A rather older person went home with an invitation to tea at the House of Commons with Haringey MP Lynne Featherstone.

That was one of the prizes bid for in the auction, which raised £895.

As I strolled around with my ears flapping, I heard praise for the well-planned arrangement, with stalls and children's amusements nicely integrated, and also for quiet intervals alternating with the music. Our neighbours' festival seems to be settling happily into our local park.



Enjoying the festival in Cherry Tree Wood

Is your bed the cause of your back pain?

By Nicky Sharp

A vital part of pain management is ensuring you get sufficient sleep. Many different physiological processes occur during sleep and for back pain sufferers the most important are the three Rs: tissue re-hydration, regeneration and repair. However, getting adequate sleep, which promotes healing, is no good if you are counteracting the benefits by sleeping on a mattress that places undue stress and strain on the body.

Here are some top tips for choosing a bed:

Choose a mattress that supports your body weight without sagging. If you are used to a very soft mattress don't suddenly change to a very firm one, as you will find it difficult to adjust to it. However, the mattress should be firm enough to allow you to change position easily during the night. It is much easier to move around on a firm mattress than on a really giving one. Changing position during sleep lessens fatigue and relieves the prolonged stress on soft tissues.

Your mattress needs to be comfortable to lie on, yet provide sufficient 'give' to support and cushion your body's bony curves. The most vulnerable areas that need support if lying on your side are under the ankles, knees, waist and neck.

Always try before you buy! Don't just buy from a catalogue or on recommendation. Don't be embarrassed to lie on a bed for 20mins or so in the showroom to get a good idea of its comfort.

If you and your partner are of significantly different weights, consider a zip and link bed. This

method allows you to have a bed with separate mattress types to suit each of you. Don't forget that no two people are the same shape.

Don't judge a bed purely on price. The most expensive might not necessarily be the best but the lowest priced may not last as long. A good bed should last about 8-10 years.

Finally there is the option of a waterbed. Manufacturers claim that they support the body without distorting the spine and will last for years without sagging. These beds have no pressure

point areas so are comfortable. Again, do try before you buy because some people find them hard to relax in.

The best position to sleep in is on your side with a pillow between your knees and a pillow or rolled up towel supporting the curve of your neck. This position helps to keep the spine in the most neutral position

Registered osteopath Nicky Sharp practises at Nova Dental Care centre in East End Road. To make an appointment, contact her on 020 8815 9433

OBITUARY

John Hatfield

THE ARCHER regrets to announce the death, on 7 September, of John Hatfield, aged 84, of Durham Road, East Finchley.

Though a modest man John experienced and achieved much in his lifetime. He travelled widely, spoke many languages, read avidly and was actively involved in economics and politics.

Two years ago John was awarded the Legion of Honour (Chevalier) for wartime liaison between the Royal Navy and

the Free French (*THE ARCHER*, August 2004).

His last six months were spent in hospital after post-operative complications left him seriously ill, but he remained positive and courageous.

We send condolences to his widow, Sandra, and his children, stepchildren and grandchildren.

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Celebrities wear vintage

By Sheila Armstrong

Calling all East Finchley women: if you are looking for something to wear for a special occasion, a wedding, a premiere or a party; or something unusual for everyday wear; or maybe a gift, Lazooli on the High Road is the place to start.

Beyond the frequently changing window display there are a wealth and variety of clothes, mostly vintage though some new, as well as shoes, accessories and jewellery. There are even some exquisite small porcelain pots.

What do the words lapis lazuli conjure up? That wonderful blue colour, the nomads of North Africa, exotic gems and treasures from the East: Gaynor Spry, owner of Lazooli, had such images in mind as a child when she mispronounced the name of the precious blue stone and she has created its essence in her shop. The shop's decor and all its fittings are a

tasteful range of blues following the lapis theme, while the clothes are colour co-ordinated on the rails.

Gaynor did careful market research before opening, and identified her market as professional mothers, young funky women who like vintage clothing and the more mature women. Sizes range from 8 to 18. Lazooli also buy vintage clothes.

Lazooli has been open for nearly a year and Gaynor, resident here for eight years, has been 'blown away' by the reception and support she has received from customers and friends in East Finchley.



Owner Gaynor Spry, left, with friend Nancy Candlin modelling a selection of clothes from Lazooli. Photo by Viviana Lotti



Luisa Cotardo interviews Lucio Dalla. Picture by Carlo Bevilacqua.

Azzurro in Finchley

By Luisa Cotardo

"Qui dove il mare luccica", "here where the sea sparkles". These are the words of a famous Italian song written by Lucio Dalla and dedicated to Caruso, the great tenor born in Naples in 1873 and well known to lovers of 'Belcanto'.

Many songs tell about the sea and love, touching the hearts of all who hear them. Love for words and life brought me to East Finchley. I'm an Italian journalist who has to use another language to write about life and love, but the magic 'azzurro' has brought me luck.

Azzurro is a colour, it's almost blue. It's the colour of the sea. Azzurro sparkles, as Caruso's sea does. And it's exactly the colour of the Italian football team's t-shirts, champions of the world: definitely Azzurro brought luck to Italians this year.

Italy, Greece and East Finchley
When I arrived in East

Finchley Village I could breathe the atmosphere of home: the High Road, with its interesting shops and cafés, peaceful people who still have the time to give you a smile, quiet and gentle people who nourish my heart. And I found *THE ARCHER*. Through the magic of connections I met the artists of East Finchley Open and made contact with London Greek Radio (LGR) just around the corner, where I now work regularly.

Sometimes you cannot imagine the miracles that life can perform. The colour of the Greek flag is also Azzurro, almost blue, like the Mediterranean which is so close to where I come from, Lecce in Puglia. And now the music of my region is going to be played on LGR (www.lgr.co.uk), for songs go everywhere.

Near Lecce is a place called

Grecia Salentina, which means Greece from Salento. It's the piece of land that includes Lecce, Brindisi and Taranto where the sea definitely sparkles. Every summer there is a big music festival in Melpignano, near Lecce, called "La Notte della Taranta", when a hundred thousand people dance the 'pizzica', music of the tarantula. Many songs are written and sung in Griko, a language combining ancient Greek, Byzantine Greek and Italian elements. Special guests from all over the world attend the festival. This year they included Lucio Dalla, one of the most beloved Italian pop singers. He is with me in the picture speaking in English about music, Caruso and his love for Greece, "qui dove il mare luccica", where the sea also sparkles.

Thousands of smiles per gallon

By Daphne Chamberlain

Watching others battle it out at an auction is a great spectator sport. A recent contest at the Noble Sage art gallery in Fortis Green raised funds for Teardrop Relief, which helps tsunami victims in Sri Lanka.

The evening was filmed by *Serendipity* magazine, to celebrate the opening of the Noble Sage, the first gallery in the UK specialising in South Asian art. Gallery curator Jana Manuelpillai stressed the pictures' investment value as he turned auctioneer, claiming to feel like someone in his home-patch Walthamstow market.

Don't be deterred, though, if your pocket doesn't run to hundreds or thousands. There are plenty of other beautiful and more affordable things to buy in the gallery. I looked at books, scarves, soft toys, ornaments, stationery items and cassettes.

The one I took home was 'The London Jungle', a story in pictures and words from a young Gond artist, recording his time spent painting a London restaurant. In his vision, a plane becomes a flying elephant,

the Underground a family of snakes, and a London bus a dog that comes at his call.

Teardrop Relief's first project has been to take two more (normal) London double-decker buses to Sri Lanka. One is to serve as a mobile medical screening unit, and the other is "delivering thousands of smiles

per gallon" as a children's fun bus. One of the auction bidders told me she has a number of Sri Lankan friends, and she was delighted with the big response to the *Serendipity* evening.

The Noble Sage, *waiting for future exhibition details, etc.* Curator back on Sunday.

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PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The second week of the new academic year brought Ofsted inspectors to the school under the new style short notice inspection system.

Spanish lessons are now on the curriculum for all junior classes.

A secure cycle store funded by Transport for London has been installed, with storage for ten cycles and ten cycle helmets. This will be used by children who have completed cycle training and bike safety checks.

Clubs available this term include art, dance, homework, ICT, science, football, rugby, multi-sports, tennis and performing arts. Money raised for Oxfam by selling cakes has been used to purchase a donkey, plant 25 trees and buy a desk and chair for communities in the developing world.

Martin Schools

Children at Martin Junior School have been signing up or auditioning for the various extra activities on offer, ranging from French, football and gymnastics to choir and orchestra.

Some of Year 6 spent the annual School Journey at Marchants Hill in Surrey and others remained in London, where they learned a great deal about their capital city. Thanks go to all those who worked so hard fund raising to ensure this could take place.

Many infants at Martin School are proudly wearing the new school uniform of a sky-blue T-shirt. This, along with a dark blue one for PE, will be compulsory in January. One advantage is that it makes the children easily identifiable on school outings and when attending functions with other schools.

The PTA is to finance the construction of an infant allotment on the school field. Each class will be able to grow vegetables, herbs and even flowers, bringing fresh food alive in an exciting and educational way.

The PTA is also active in giving the nursery outdoor classroom a facelift and in helping to buy more books for the classrooms.

The anonymous Good Samaritan

By Betti Blatman

When an elderly resident from Cecilia Close suddenly became ill in the sub-Post Office in East End Road, she was given a seat by the shopkeeper but it was a young schoolboy nearby who made her day.

The pupil, either from Bishop Douglass or Christ's College School, asked if he could help her. He offered to contact somebody for her and was extremely kind and helpful. He asked if she'd like a drink of water and insisted on paying for the bottled water.

Unfortunately at the time she forgot to ask the pupil's name. The incident happened on Monday 11 September and she was so impressed with his kindness that she has contacted *THE ARCHER* to thank him through our pages.

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

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Visitors always welcome

Remembering the Big Friendly Giant

By Daphne Chamberlain

Readers of all ages celebrated the first Roald Dahl Day last month. Rachel Reilly, East Finchley Children's Librarian, read extracts from his books to visiting school classes, and organised 'Enormous Crocodile' model-making for the under-fives.

Sophie Dahl's grand-dad would have been 90 on 13 September. Long before J.K.Rowling, this very tall, very controversial wartime pilot, born in Wales to Norwegian parents, made books fun for even the most reluctant reader, even if many adults disapproved at first.

Storytelling at its best

Rachel tells me that the magic is still working today. "I'm constantly replacing Roald Dahl books at the library, so they are still immensely popular. I'm certain that his appeal will continue indefinitely, and his stories will remain a perennial favourite here at East Finchley and in all libraries. They are timeless and unique.

"He's one of my favourite children's writers, because he simply knew how to write for children. It's storytelling at its best. Dahl's stories seem to have no other agenda than to revel in the imagination, to entertain, and to bring surprise, humour and wonderment to the reader. They are also perfect for reading aloud, and so they are a parent's, teacher's and librarian's dream.

"Children are always enthusing about Dahl's characters when they return his books. Who could forget the BFG, the Oompa-Loompas or Veruca Salt? His books have given thousands of people very fond memories of their childhood reading."

Rachel's favourite Roald Dahl book? "Mmm, tricky question. I think I would have to say 'Matilda', as Dahl really celebrates the joys and benefits of reading in her character. There's



also a very kindly librarian in the story, so naturally that won me over too!"

Personally, I have a soft spot for 'Danny, Champion

of the World', still chuckle over 'Revolting Rhymes', and can't get some of his adult short stories out of my mind. How about you?

YOUNG ARCHER

The London Group

While some of Martin Junior School's Year 6 children went to Marchants Hill in Surrey for the annual school journey, those who did not had a special week organised by Mr Pickering and Mrs Gibeon learning about our great city of London. Here is a letter they wrote to their fellow pupils in the countryside:

Dear Friends in 6G and 6J,

On Monday morning when you guys were on the coach, we were off to London. We left school at 9.30 and got to the train station around 9.50. On the journey there we all got some newspapers and we played sudoku.

The first building we saw was a gigantic black skyscraper. We were all astonished at the height of it and wondered how long it took to build it. Then we had to follow a yellow line to guide us to the museum. When we went in we saw a massive trophy. We wanted to take it back to school, but it was too heavy. In the museum we saw lots of things from 2000 years ago. We thought it was fascinating. In the museum the boys found computers and on the computers they all found a little clip about a man called Little Titch who had long shoes and did lots of tricks.

On arrival at St Paul's Cathedral we were so stunned! It looked like a modern building and we expected it to be an ancient building considering its age. At lunchtime, Fahim threw a croissant. When he turned around, all the pigeons had flown over to eat it and most of us were annoyed with the pigeons. When we had finished lunch we crossed the Millennium Bridge and saw a remake of the Globe theatre, and Mr Pickering took pictures of it. When we were walking past, a man invited us in to show us what it was like a long time ago. We were amazed by the facts he told us about the poor people and the rich people; for example, poor people used to stand up and chuck apples, and rich people sat and were sheltered from the rain and poor people would have to get wet.

After that we headed back to the train station and on the way we saw Drake's ship, the Golden Hind. It was amazing. We continued our journey and we saw another cathedral. Some of us were tired and others just wanted to play football. When we finally got to the station we had to go down some steps. Joshua and Tawab said: "What happened to the good old escalators?"

From the London Group

P.S. Thank goodness for modern technology or we would have to write with feather pens. Missing you guys.

Mission possible

By Sheila Armstrong

The summer holiday reading scheme at East Finchley children's library was a great success. Around 250 local children took part in the scheme, which entailed them reading up to six books over the summer holidays. The theme this year was spies and secret agents, tying in with the release of the film Stormbreaker, based on Anthony Horowitz's bestselling novel about reluctant teenage spy Alex Rider.

The children who completed the Reading Mission will be presented with their certificates and medals on 16 October at the library.



Quiz answers

1) c. East Finchley Underground station opened on 3 July 1939; 2) c. The Phoenix was first known as The Picturedrome; 3) b. Our Gracie lived on The Bishops Avenue; 4) d. Eric Aumonier sculpted Archie; 5) a. The first block of The Grange was completed by the then Borough of Finchley in 1938; 6) b. The familiar name of the A504 is Fortis Green; 7) d. John Marshall, a Hampstead Garden Suburb councillor on Barnet Council, has never represented East Finchley as its MP; 8) a. Bejam was taken over by Iceland; 9) b. Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane was built in 1845-46 by A. Salvin, who also designed the former Holy Trinity school buildings on East End Road, now occupied by the Bobath Centre; 10) c. The Archer was first printed in 1993.
Scores: 1-4 N2 Novice; 5-7 Local Learner; 8-10 East Finchley Expert.

Global Village 2006

By Francis Atkinson and Paul Bailey (Year 10 pupils at Fortismere School and Christ's College)
From 29 July to 9 August, Kent County Showground became the community for 5,000 people of many exciting countries and cultures. They were thrown together by Global Village, which takes place every four years. The aim was to help accomplish the eight Millennium Development Goals and to have the time of their lives. The goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Every day we would head into the centre where there were many activities to help raise awareness of what young people can do to change the world for the better. Many youth groups such as the Woodcraft Folk and the Red Falcon Movement united in more than 40 camps. Our camp had an Austrian delegation and we learned lots about Austrian culture including *Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport* in Austrian.

There was a coffee house and a fair-trade café for relaxation and many bands performed in the evenings. There was even a radio station, newspaper and, in addition, a television show for half an hour in the evening about what's been happening at Global Village, entitled *The Fear Brigade*, which was about getting rid of people's fears. It was very enjoyable for all involved.

So now people across the world are ready: ready to combat the problems facing the world. So look out, the youth of today are prepared.

There is a local branch of East Finchley Woodcraft for ages 7-15 years. To join Woodcraft and take part in events like Global Village please visit www.woodcraft.co.uk

I don't like cricket, I love it

By Diana Cormack

Not only does Robert Moore of RTM Garden Services East Finchley cultivate growing plants, he is also a cricket coach helping young cricketers to develop their potential. At present he is taking national courses which will eventually enable him to coach anywhere in the world. Locally Bobby is mainly involved with the Barnet Cricket Club for Ladies, where one of his daughters is an up and coming player.

Ten-year-old Daisy has been playing cricket since she was eight. Another daughter, twelve-year-old Molly, also plays and both girls are coached by their dad. Last year's Ashes series so inspired Daisy that she took part in a course at the Middlesex Cricket Academy on East End Road. This led to her being selected for further training. She now plays for both Middlesex County and Barnet's Underhill Girls, where she has played for the under elevens, under thirteens and trained with the under fifteens squad. This season she achieved a batting average of double figures, which is unusual for a girl of her age.



Daisy Moore representing Middlesex.
Photo by Diana Cormack

England, here comes Daisy!

Daisy is an all-rounder who shows a mature and intelligent attitude to the game, encouraging and guiding fellow players both on and off the pitch. This was evident at the end of the season when The Archer attended a cricket tournament for youngsters from six counties hosted by Middlesex at Lyttleton Playing Fields. Daisy told The Archer that she has to do a lot of training but enjoys it (the club uses Fortismere School's sports hall in winter). Her favourite England players are Kevin Pietersen and bowler Beth Morgan, whose father is the under elevens team manager. Who knows, one day Robert could be the proud father of an England player!

Did you know that East Finchley has its own cricket club, The North Two Cricket Club, established in 1982? If you're interested in playing or itching to get involved in winter training visit www.n2cc.co.uk for details or contact Bobby, a stalwart of this club too, on bmoore@hotmail.co.uk or on 07956 884 362.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Ding dong

Welcome to the world of the weird, welcome to the land where cyclo-loonies in lycra ride the wide open spaces of the city. This is a place where it's two wheels good, four wheels bad and two legs worse. Yes folks, to a true cyclo-loony, pollution is not only a car, it's a pedestrian as well.

From the warped end of insanity occupied by cyclo-loonies it's cool to ride on pavements and cool to run red lights. It's even cooler to claim that you are saving the planet by dressing up in man-made fibres, climbing onto your non-recyclable carbon fibre road rocket and racing buses down to Archway. Hell, why shouldn't the self-righteous inherit the pavements, they know it makes sense in a warped kind of way. And when the going gets that weird, it's time for the weird to turn pro.

I've nothing against cyclists, they're fine pedaling safely and sedately along the highways, remembering the Highway Code and saving a small bit of the planet. Cyclists are fine going up the side of some mountain on the Tour de France. But cyclo-loonies slaloming through commuters on a Monday morning or treating traffic lights as an insult to their way of life is as 'caring sharing' as bubonic plague and gives every other cyclist a seriously bad name. The cyclo-loonies don't own the place, Ken the Newt owns London and he reckons he's got the answers. He wants number plates, he wants the return of the bell, he wants congestion charges for all, but why go for half measures when full ones are weirder?

So that you can see them coming, why not make all cyclists dress up in fluorescent pink and wear a flashing red light? Your basic bell's no use so why not insist on a two-tone siren? You can bet your life you'll see and hear them and, seeing as they will look like something out of children's TV, they won't look cool either. But even with the lights, the dayglo and the siren, cyclo-loonies will still need protection, so in the interests of madness and insanity, a man with a red flag should walk in front of them at a steady four miles an hour. It won't worry the average plodder, but the nutters won't like it, hell, they might even take the bus instead, which is exactly what the Newt wants them to do.



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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.

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** - 16 & 30 Oct at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events feature a different band each month. See www.swamprock.org.uk or call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** 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 on 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.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, contact Admin Office 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
- ❖ **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 John 8883 8114.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



Patrick Street at Artsdepot. Picture by John Dearing

Irish folk band's stirring concert

By John Dearing

Patrick Street gave a concert of Irish traditional folk music in the Pentland Theatre at artsdepot on Friday 1 September.

There is a road called Patrick Street in nearly every town in Ireland, hence their name. The band consists of fiddler Kevin Burke (ex Bothy Band), Jackie Daly (ex De Dannan) on accordion, Ged Foley (ex House Band) on guitar and vocals, John Carty on fiddle, flute and banjo, and Andy Irvine (ex Planxty) on guitar, mandolin, harmonica and vocals. All are superb musicians who have worked together in one form or another for some 20 years.

The band played a selection of traditional and original songs, interspersed with instrumental medleys of jigs, reels and polkas. There were various themes: one song was about two brothers who left Ireland after the 1848 uprising, to go to America, where one was killed in the Civil War, and the other became involved in the Indian wars. Another was about

a lonely (presumably Irish) sheep drover in Australia.

The mood of the songs was generally that of the downbeat Irish ballad, but they also played a song about a distiller of illegal whisky who married a girl, had 15 daughters and lived happily ever after! By contrast, the jigs and reels were lively, loud and cheerful.

Patrick Street played two sets of 45 minutes each and a ten-minute encore. The latter featured a song about a horse race in County Kildare, sung by Andy Irvine, which was notable for having at least three different time signatures.

Patrick Street's music is uncompromising, but if you like Irish traditional music they are unmissable. The audience at artsdepot left no doubt about their appreciation. Well done to Barnet Folk Club for bringing them to Finchley.

Backstreet Thriller

By Lucy Chamberlin

In the leafy suburbs of Friern Barnet, along a narrow gap between garden fences and an NHS clinic, lurks a tiny gem: Incognito Theatre and Company. Opened in the 1930s, it was here that David Jason began his brilliant career, and he remains a patron. Its members seem to be just such a 'snug little group' as that portrayed on the stage of their latest production of J.B. Priestley's *Dangerous Corner*, if without such disastrous personal revelations.

Dangerous Corner was Priestley's first play and heralded his preoccupation with time which we see recurring in, for example *I Have Been Here Before* (based on the ideas of P.D. Ouspensky), and the renowned *An Inspector Calls*, in which the demise of a middle-class family occurs before the death which apparently causes it. Similarly with *Dangerous Corner*, the crises which Truth and Death pose for Propriety and Society seem insurmountable. That is, until Priestley adds an alternative ending, proving that cracks in 'the firm' - formerly an ironic title for these three broken couples - may be plastered over and the publishing partners' dinner party may reconvene. Sleeping dogs (the name of a radio play at the start) and cigarette boxes (a musical one is the first subject of dissent) are let to lie, and

any frisson caused by truth smoothly ignored.

In such an intimate venue the play was more sitting-room claustrophobia than drawing-room drama. But the audience's sense of being an ornament trembling on the mantelpiece, or flattened against an imaginary fourth stage wall trying to remain unnoticed amongst the fireworks, testified to the quality of amateur acting here. As it got under way, the actors seemed increasingly immersed in their parts, obviously enjoying the scope to explore new psyches and emotions.

Director David Parsons, who came across Priestley by chance, said: "It was very hard work but good fun for all involved. I'd do it again - next year."

Rehearsals have begun for Incognito's next performance, Journey's End, which runs from 12-18 November.

Anglo Saxon epic finds home at Phoenix

By Sheila Armstrong

The Phoenix scored another first when the premiere of the film *Beowulf and Grendel* took place on 9th September. For some reason this film, a 17 million dollar Canadian/Icelandic/ British venture, was not picked up by a distributor in the UK, despite sellouts at various film festivals round the world. An internet campaign resulted in the Phoenix offering the film its first showing in the UK.

The epic Anglo Saxon tale, rewritten by Andrew Rai Berzins, took about five years from script to premiere. In contemporary English and with a fitting injection of humour it played to a good house. Anglo Saxon scholarship was not needed to appreciate the film; it was clearly yet dramatically told, capturing those times very well for the average film goer. I was not able to ask any English scholars what they thought of the interpretation, however!

The film was visually stunning and the brooding Icelandic scenery left a lasting impression. So did the excellent international cast including Gerald Brennan as the warrior Beowulf, Stellan Skarsgard as

the king and Ingvar Sigurdsson as the troll Grendel. Powerfully directed by Sturla Gunnarsson, the story of the monster Grendel was a gripping tale; from his desperate beginnings following his father's brutal death at the hands of the king, to his own strange death after the battle with Beowulf.

Apparently Berzins was inspired by the story of Beowulf on first reading of it as a child in Rosemary Sutcliff's book *The Dragon Slayer*, a popular book for children in the 1960s.

Filmgoers in East Finchley are lucky that the Phoenix responded to the request for a venue. *Beowulf and Grendel* is out now on DVD in the States and will be available here soon.

Strike up the band

By Betti Blatman

The BBC Elstree Concert Band will give a concert on Saturday 14 October at 7.30 pm at St. James Church, Muswell Hill to raise money for the North London Hospice.

The acclaimed band will perform music from Hollywood, Broadway and London's West End plus jazz from Glen Miller and Duke Ellington.

Tickets priced £20, £15, £10, and £5 for children under 16 (with a 10% discount until 7 October) can be obtained from the North London Hos-

pice Fundraising Dept., 47 Woodside Avenue, N12 8TF (telephone: 020 8446 2288) or 2 Lauradale Road, Muswell Hill, N2 9LU (telephone: 020 8883 4736). Please make cheques payable to North London Hospice Northern Heights Group. Tickets will also be available on the door.

What's On...

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

4 - 28 October:

Epsilon Productions present Shakespeare's 'Othello' Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate.

Tues-Sat. 8 pm, Sun 4 pm. £10-£12. Box office 020 8340 3488

Thursday evenings from 5 October:

Eight 'Jazz in the House' concerts at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill. Book three, get the fourth for free. Details from 020 8348 8716

12 - 15 October:

The Knitting and Stitching Show 10-5.30 daily at Alexandra Palace. Advance tickets (£10 adults, £9 snr. citizens, £3 children) from 01473 320407 or £12 £10, £4 on door: Info from www.twistedthread.com or 020 8692 2299

Thursday 26 October:

'Bizarre Barnet' - Gerrard Roots tells stories of dancing witches, ghostly donkeys and other comic, curious, horrible or heartbreaking events at 8pm, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Talk organised by The Finchley Society, non-members welcome.

Sunday 29 October:

Join the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood for conservation work at 11 am in Cherry Tree Wood, Hallowe'en activities and refreshments for the children.

Monday 30 October:

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood AGM, East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. 7.30 pm.

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 Learning Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College



Letters to the editor

Festival better each year Dear Archer,

I am writing because I think the criticism of the festival in the last edition of *THE ARCHER* is unfair. The festival has been a great event for as long as I can remember, and every year it seems to get better.

The festival has a lovely range of charity and craft stalls. I would much rather give my three grandchildren money to spend on the imaginative Martin or Holy Trinity School stalls, for example, than on the tacky, rip-off funfair type amusements you see at other festivals.

I would like to thank the large number of local residents who volunteered their time to help make the festival a success, and hope they are not disheartened by the negative comments.

Yours faithfully,
Pauline Kelly
Rew Lodge, Church Lane, N2

Buses still bunching Copy of letter to London Buses, dated 9 September 06

I write again in connection with my letter of the 1st inst, which detailed excessive waiting times for the 263. I have received no reply to same, nor to my phone call to your office on the same subject, when I was promised the matter would be investigated and a reply sent to me.

Following a slight improvement in the service which I mentioned, I am sorry to report that during the past week or so, it seems to have deteriorated considerably, with waiting times

of up to 30 minutes, compared with the stated 10 ñ 12 minutes.

On one occasion, after waiting in the High Road, N2, for fully half an hour for a bus towards Archway, two 263s arrived absolutely together, as if they were tied together. There have been numerous instances throughout the week of the awful "bunching" of buses on this route which we have written about so often. I refer again to the American tourist who, seeing so many of our buses travelling in pairs, wanted to know if they do so through fear of being attacked by angry natives.

Following on the restlessness of the general public about this service, and letters in the local press, I am starting to wonder if that time is beginning to approach.

I do hope, with the use of modern technology, action can be taken to improve this service, or ñ failing that ñ could we have another bus on this route, like we did in the old days, when we had the 104 and 17 running also? After all, we have two buses running on the Fortis Green/Muswell Hill route (the 102 and 234). So why on earth can't we have something similar?

I look forward to hearing from you, and hope for brighter news!

Very sincerely,
L. Burgess
Creighton Avenue.

Editor's reply:

As we reported last month, East Finchley Bus Watch is campaigning for another route along the High Road, suggesting the extension of the 17

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

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

to North Finchley, plus an improvement to the 143 service. The Group carried out all day surveys last month for a full week, sending the results to TFL and Barnet Council. One of the findings was that passengers along Fortis Green are sometimes getting more than three times the number of buses as those along the High Road and East End Road.

Cheap and cheerful Dear Editor,

Myself and my family and friends had a fantastic time at East Finchley Festival. We really loved the music from the main stage, especially the new multicultural talent.

After reading the August issue of your newspaper, I was gob-smacked when you talked about the festival being commercial. To be honest, my friends and I did not pay a penny, as there was no entrance fee and no commercial stalls. Most of the stalls we saw were local businesses, charities and voluntary groups.

It was so great that we sacrificed the football for this spectacular event. We had a cheap and cheerful Sunday afternoon, and can't wait for next year.

Sheena Shah
Southover, N12



The Artful Three. Photo by Diana Cormack

The Artful Three

By Diana Cormack

The work of three local artists with disability is to be exhibited and will be offered for sale to raise money for the Barbara Bus Fund (a charity which provides accessible transport for the wheelchair bound) and for the Homefield Gardens Community Hall. The sale will take place next month in the Community Hall at Homefield Gardens, situated just off Stanley Road, East Finchley.

The artists, Sippy Azizollah, Edna James and Michael Solomons, live at Fairacres, which houses Jewish Blind and Disabled people, at 164 East End Road. Seeing the impressive work of the other two inspired Sippy to organise the exhibition. Paintings and pottery plus Sippy's own laptop artwork will be on display. Homemade greet-

ings cards by Joan Croggon will also be sold in support of the Barbara Bus Appeal.

The art show and sale will take place on Saturday 4 November from 12 noon until 3.00pm. Cheese and wine will be available to those who come along and give their support to this innovative event.

Music past and music future at East Finchley Arts Festival

A centenary concert in memory of local musician Charles Proctor and an appearance by teenage clarinettist Julian Bliss are two of the highlights of the East Finchley Arts Festival which is running from 5-15 October.

Proctor, born in Market Place in 1906, had a distinguished career as conductor, organist and teacher. Bliss, still in his teens, recently played at the Queen's Birthday Prom and will be performing with Gemma Rosefield (cello) and Simon Lepper (piano) in a programme of clarinet trios.

Here is the full programme for the festival. All events take place at All Saints Church in Durham Road.

- **Thurs 5 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Piano Recital by Rimantas Vigras*, featuring the works of Bach, Schubert & Scriabin.
- **Fri 6 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Victorian Evening*
- **Sat 7 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Charles Proctor Centenary Concert*. Geoffrey Hanson conducts Jennifer Bate on Organ and London Ripieno Singers, performing the works of Stanford, Parry, Elgar, Proctor, Howells
- **Sun 8 Oct:** 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm: *Mister Peter's Puppets* perform St George & the Dragon. Tickets £1
- **Sun 8 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Bliss, Rosefield, Lepper Clarinet Trio* perform music by Bruch, Debussy, Beethoven, Martinu & Brahms
- **Tues 10 Oct:** *Art Exhibition Open Evening* in aid of North London Hospice
- **Wed 11 Oct:** 7.30pm: *London Vintage Jazz Orchestra* - Classic big band jazz
- **Thurs 12 Oct:** 7.30pm *Dore Ensemble* perform the works of Ravel, Bax, Faure, Debussy, Takemitsu
- **Fri 13 Oct:** 7.30pm: *London Mozart Players* perform Haydn, Hanson, Salieri, Mozart
- **Sat 14 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Theatre Roundabout* - Barchester Towers
- **Sun 15 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Finchley Children's Music Group*, Visit the website for more details: eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

Tickets: London Mozart Players £15, all other events £10, concessions £8, children under 16 £1. Season ticket £30.

Box Offices: Coral Travel, 50 High Rd N2, and Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green N10.

Did you know?
One young Archer reader spotted that part of a recent video released by the Scissor Sisters was filmed in East Finchley!

Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:

Thu 12 - Sat 14 Oct, 8pm & Sat 3pm: *The Play What I Wrote*, a celebration of Morecambe & Wise.

Fri 13 Oct 8pm: *Barnet Folk Club*

Fri 13 Oct-Sun 19 Nov: *Urban Elements*, Mark Maxwell

Sat 14 Oct 6:30-8:30pm: *Pratham* by Beeja Dance Company;

Sun 15 Oct 10am-4pm: Black History Month: *Stories, Rhythm & Hair*

Sun 15 Oct 7:45pm: *Wallace Ensemble*, Mill Hill Music Club.

Wed 18 & Thu 19 Oct 8pm: *The Journey & In Praise of Folly* by CandoCo Dance Company;

Sat 21 Oct 8pm: *Pedro Luis Ferrer*

Sun 22 Oct 8pm: *Sophie Solomon*

Sun 22 Oct-Thu 26 Oct 10am-4pm, performance Thu 26 Oct 5.30 pm & 7 pm: *CandoCo Collaborative Residency*

Mon 23 Oct 12pm-4pm: *The Big Draw*

Wed 25 Oct 8pm: *Vocal Sampling*

Thu 26 Oct 8pm: *An Audience with Sir Trevor McDonald*

Thu 2 Nov 7:30pm: *Tiwa Tiwa*, Bode Lawal Sakoba Dance Theatre

Fri 3 Nov 8pm: *Gretchen Peters*, Barnet Folk Club.

Barnet commits to plastic and card recycling by 2008

Barnet Council has promised that kerbside recycling collections will include plastic and card, but not until 2008.

Many Barnet residents want to add plastics and card to their black boxes but the

council is tied in to a seven-year contract with recycling firm ECT which left these two materials off the list.

A council study in 2003 is said to have revealed that the cost of adding plastics and cards to the contract before it comes up for renewal in October 2008 would have been an extra £5 million.

In the meantime, residents are urged to take their plastics and cardboard by car to the recycling centre in Summers Lane, although some would say that this adds to atmospheric pollution.

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LOOKING FOR A CAT



Madden's celebrates decade of success

By Sue Holliday

On Sunday 27 August, Margaret and Kieran Madden celebrated the tenth anniversary of running their pub on the High Road by holding a party to thank all their regulars for their support.

In the past ten years, Madden's has played host to a long list of charity events. Margaret has supplied lovely food for the many parties that have been held there and the pub has often opened early for the rugby supporters.

The party started off with live music from Mick Connolly, including a few Irish songs to keep the boss happy. After that he had time to enjoy the party as the stage was taken over by a disco and the party got going

with a real swing. While many got up to dance, others, like me, sat wondering where the past ten years had gone.

I remember asking Kieran, then the new landlord, if *THE ARCHER* team could continue meeting in the pub; the answer was an unreserved yes. Since then Madden's has hosted our meetings every Saturday and even named their cat Archie. We hope that we shall all be there in another ten years.



Kieran & Margaret Madden: 10 years of serving smiles.



In fine voice: the members of the North London Chorus.

Friendly faces in the chorus line

THE ARCHER has featured the trials and tribulations of the North London Chorus in recent editions. Here Marian Bunzl tells us more about the people and personalities that make the choir so successful.

Founded in 1976 as the Hill Singers under the direction of Alan Hazeldine, the North London Chorus is now an amateur choir with 80-90 members ranging in age from student concession to freedom pass.

We sing a broad range of choral works from the 16th to 21st Centuries, and our concerts are warmly received and well reviewed.

Murray Hipkin, our Musical Director since 2003, works with us by kind permission of

English National Opera. His enthusiasm, skill - and patience! - as teacher and conductor have helped the choir to flourish and develop an exciting and ambitious programme

of future works.

We rehearse on Thursday evenings at Martin School, East Finchley, and we give three concerts a year at various venues in North London but our main home is St. James Church, Muswell Hill.

We are a friendly bunch. The tea break is a major social event presided over by a lovely alto called Jane. If we were to rehearse in the Gobi Desert, she would be there with her blue teapot and large biscuit tin.

Apart from rehearsals, we organise a range of related activities: study days, work-

shops, an annual residential weekend (with an unmissable cabaret) and visits to concerts and the opera.

This friendly atmosphere can have consequences. A romance sparked off at a rehearsal blossomed at the study weekend and led to a wedding. Now we have our very own North London Chorus baby.

If you would like to know more about us or would be interested in joining us, please visit www.northlondonchorus.org.uk. For those who are internet-challenged, telephone Norman Cohen on 020 8349 3022.

Three go swashbuckling

By Lucy Chamberlin

'El Sid' is local author Chris Haslam's latest offering to our bookshelves. Entertainment is unstintingly provided here by the picaresque Spanish escapades of Lenny Knowles, Nick Crick and Sidney Starman. This unlikely trio of ex-con and overgrown chav, conscientious jailbird sidekick and wily old veteran with a secret embark on an illicit journey to recover ancient hidden gold, with dubious and widely differing motivations.

Haslam combines history with his own vivid imagination to give us a tale of civil war, stolen bullion and hit-squads that is as chaotic and laughable yet touchingly poignant as Don Quixote. Elements of Hemingway are apparent too, not merely in the Hispanic connection and theme of Anglo-Americans taking on foreign wars, but also in the vignettes of Sidney's memory which intersperse the primary story, becoming increasingly important to it. Past and present unfold with parallel anarchy, as the pensioner's darkly swashbuckling youth is revealed.

Characterisations are skilfully drawn by a sardonic if ultimately sympathetic narrator, whose occasionally overt

use of metaphor and simile may seem self-conscious but suits the subject matter. 'El Sid' (the title captures the incongruous mixture of cockney jargon and Spanish adventure) is both patently ridiculous and hugely

realistic if it all depends on what we want to believe.

As readers we are endeared, disgusted, impressed, relieved and made to laugh by a writer with an instinct for what we seek in any book: a great story.

STEWART DUNCAN

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