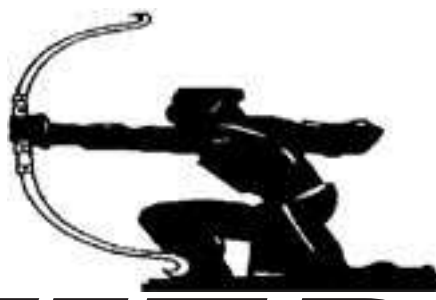


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

One third of Stanley Field is not enough

By Daphne Chamberlain

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, has told *THE ARCHER* that Barnet Council is currently offering one third of Stanley Field for continued sporting use. The remaining two thirds would be sold off for housing development.

The Trust will not consider this offer. They want to retain the whole site, because only then could they supply the range of facilities they are proposing. Roger Chapman says that anything less would mean that continued playing field use would not be viable in the long term.

Facilities for whole community

The sports proposals, which have been backed by East Finchley people at public meetings and in surveys, are for a correctly sized football pitch for top year primary school pupils, a second grass pitch,

and an all-weather area for a variety of sports, with separate space for dog-walkers, cyclists and joggers.

Included in the plan are changing facilities, a café, an office, a community meeting-room, a sports development officer, and staff working on-site for security. These facilities would be available to schools, clubs, and individuals of all ages.

The scheme, which is similar to ones which have worked successfully in other areas, has won the approval of the Football Foundation and the National Playing Fields Association, with potential financial support

from the Football Foundation.

Roger Chapman is currently talking to other interested organisations. He says: "We continue to make our case to Barnet Council to retain Stanley Road Playing Fields in sports use. We have demonstrated that there is a financially viable proposal to keep this playing field. It lies in an area that the Council itself identifies as lacking in open space. At a time when the local authority and Barnet PCT are trying to increase the level of physical activity in the local population does it make any sense to sell off a playing field?"



British Gas volunteers brush up on their painting skills at Martin Schools, as part of "London Better Together Day". For details see page 8.

Picture by Natalie Griffiths (of British Gas).

For Sale signs cause concern

By Diana Cormack

The appearance of agents' signs on both Park House and the Greater London Hire building opposite East Finchley tube station made some locals wonder if another disputed development could be on the cards. Readers may remember that these two sites, plus the area up to Baronsmere Road, were the subject of a sustained battle by those residents who objected to plans for a Waitrose superstore (incorporating a new library) being built there.

At present Park House is rented from Barnet Council by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. The Institute's main body is situated across the High Road in the McDonald's building and earlier this year it opened a newly built Arts Centre on the old neurological hospital site behind the station.

Park House is being mar-

keted by Savills. The GLH site is being marketed by King Sturge. Kiafield, the property developers of Waitrose, now wish to sell the freehold which is subject to the existing lease. GLH has a long term lease on the property which will last until 2017 and, having been there for 40 years, has every intention of trading on the site till at least that date.

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Community Focus volunteers

Community Focus need more volunteers at the Arts Depot in North Finchley, to help with art and craft classes for people with disabilities. If you are interested, please contact Tim Balogun on 020 8369 5484.

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Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please
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Comments to THE ARCHER may be
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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
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
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Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
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Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700

OAP's Advice

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CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
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East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team 020 7161 9014

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❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Man dies in hit and run

By John Dearing

Police are appealing for
witnesses and information
after a driver ran away
from the scene of a fatal
collision in Squires Lane.

At about 00:30 on the morning
of 15 July a silver Vauxhall Omega
was in collision with a red Vauxhall
Carlton at the junction of Squires
Lane and Avondale Road, N3.

Brian Wightman, a 64-year-
old local man, the driver of the
Vauxhall Carlton, was taken to
the Royal Free Hospital suffer-
ing from multiple injuries. He
later died at hospital. A post
mortem was held on 18 July.

The male driver of the
Omega, who ran from the scene,
is described as being of Mediter-
ranean appearance, stocky build
and middle aged.

Anyone who witnessed the
collision or saw the driver run
away should contact the police.
If you have any information,
please contact the Collision
Investigation Unit on 020 8941
9011 or call Crimestoppers
anonymously on 0800 555111.

Attempted robbery on security van

On Monday 25 June at
approximately 10 a.m.,
there was an attempted rob-
bery at East End Food and
Wine shop, East End Road,
when a Brinks UK security
van guard was delivering
cash to the shop.

He was approached by
two youths who screamed at
him and tried to grab the cash
box from his hand. When the
shopkeeper ran towards them
shouting, the suspects ran off
down East End Road towards
a third suspect waiting in a
vehicle parked in Park Farm
Close. They drove off towards
the centre of East Finchley.

Earlier that morning an alert
member of the public had seen
two youths acting suspiciously
and took down their car's regis-
tration number. Within minutes
the police were informed and
attended the scene, after which
the incident was passed on to
the Police Flying Squad.

New spins on old scams

Paul Hammond of Barnet Boroughwatch has alerted us
to two new scams and a bizarre series of thefts.

Firstly, a young woman has
been knocking on doors in and
around Hampstead Garden
Suburb asking to borrow £20,
as her car has been clamped
and she needs the cash to top
the £50 she already had to pay
the charge. She says that as
her children are in the vehicle
she needs to act quickly. She
promises to leave her wedding
ring as security. When pressed
she becomes very evasive and
leaves the area quickly.

The second scam is a letter,
purporting to be from a firm of
solicitors in London, inform-

ing the recipient that they are
to inherit a large bequest. As
this is written in the most basic
and eccentric English it is an
obvious scam.

Since April, there have been
31 thefts of BMW 3 series front
bumpers and light clusters.
BMW tell us that it would take
a trained mechanic 20 minutes
to remove one. These have all
occurred overnight. Our advice
is to park the car against a
garage door or very close to
another vehicle. As these items
only fetch around £30 on eBay
the motive is unclear.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

20 Blandford Close

Single storey rear extension.
Loft conversion including rear
dormer window. Conversion
of garage into habitable room.
New garden shed.

54 Brownswell Road

Single storey rear extension

48 Church Lane

First floor rear extension.

66B Durham Road

Formation of rear dormer to
second floor flat.

Five Bells Works, 183 East End Road

First floor side extension.

11 Holne Chase

Replacement crown roof including
three rear dormers. Two front first
floor extensions, one with new
window.

40 Norrice Lea

Conversion of garage into utility
room. New replacement dormer
windows to rear and sides. New
porch canopy and pilasters.
New windows and doors to rear
elevation. New front door and
garage door.

40 Oakview Gardens

Conversion of garage into
habitable room.

40 Ossulton Way

Single storey rear extension. New
window in side elevation facing
42 Ossulton Way. Removal of
chimney stack.

4 White Lodge Close

Demolition of existing two

storey detached house and
construction of new detached
house comprising basement,
ground, first and second floor
levels.

Haringey Council

25 Bancroft Avenue

Erection of single storey rear
extension and erection of front,
side and rear dormer windows.

4-5 Cheapside Fortis Green

Change of timber yard and
workshop into two one-bedroom
self-contained flats at ground
floor level.

28 Lynmouth Road

Erection of first floor single
storey rear extension,
replacement of existing
conservatory with new
conservatory, erection of rear
dormer window, alteration
of hipped roof to gable, and
internal alterations.

26 Lynmouth Road

Erection of single storey rear
extension with roof lantern.

28A Eastern Road

Erection of two storey side
extension to replace existing
single storey side extension.

75 Fordington Road

Demolition of existing garage and
erection of single storey side and
rear extension.

56 Twyford Avenue

Erection of single storey rear
extension at ground floor and
remodelling of existing room
above garage.

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Tim Graves, Transport for London Policing Dept, DCS Stephen Kavanagh, Borough Commander and Andrew Dismore MP talk to members of the Barnet Safer Transport Team. Picture by Tim Clarke, courtesy Met. Police.

After safer neighbourhoods, it's safer transport

By John Dearing

The new dedicated police team for Barnet aimed at improving safety on and around public transport was formally launched on 5 July at the Peel Centre in Hendon.

Known as the Safer Transport Team, up to 18 new Police Community Support Officers will work with at least two sergeants and one police constable to provide visibility and reassurance, and to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on and around public transport. The team is funded by Transport for London and Metropolitan Police Home Office funding.

Joining the policing family

Chief Supt Stephen Kavanagh, Barnet Borough Commander, said: "The Safer Transport Team is a welcome addition to the policing family in this Borough. The team will work closely alongside our colleagues from the British Transport Police and Barnet's 21 Safer Neighbourhood teams, providing an increased police presence on our extensive transport network and stations that will continue to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour."

Steve Burton, Transport for London's Deputy Director of Transport Policing and

Enforcement, said: "This is great news for the people of Barnet. We are all working hard to ensure that travelling around the borough is a safe and comfortable experience. The new Safer Transport Team will provide visible reassurance and policing throughout Barnet Borough."

The team has already had a positive impact on the transport links in the Borough. Since they started at the beginning of June, they have become a regular sight in and around tube and bus stations and travelling on the buses. They have made numerous arrests for a range of offences, including threatening behaviour, disorderly conduct, assault, possessing an offensive weapon, breach of ASBO, robbery and theft, and possession of drugs. They have established strong links with Barnet MSC, British Transport Police, and are in talks with the Royal National Institute for the Deaf to establish a partnership strategy to educate and deal with noise nuisance on the public transport system.

Don't be fooled by bogus clothes collections

Over the past two years *THE ARCHER* has carried articles warning about clothing collections which appear to be for charity but which are in fact money-making ventures. A recent programme on BBC radio emphasised this. Listeners who phoned in told of genuine causes losing out because non-charitable collections are deliberately fixed for the same day as genuine charity collections whose bags are taken then and at other times.

Many "Clothing Collection" leaflets have been posted through East Finchley doors recently. Read them carefully if you particularly want your goods to support a charity. There should be a charity number printed if it is a genuine charity cause.

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REEF loves N2

By Daphne Chamberlain

Who loves N2? We do. Of course we do. We live or work here. What about those unlucky souls who don't, though? Do enough people outside our area know about the services, facilities and quality of life we enjoy?

A group working for the Regeneration and Enhancement of East Finchley (REEF) say "no" to that last question at the moment, but are working to make the answer "yes".

Mike Hughes, responsible for the "I ♥ N2" slogan on merchandise in local shops and at the East Finchley Festival, has designed the website www.eastfinchley.net to tell the rest of the world more about us. It will feature advertisements, event listings, and trade and suppliers' information, as well as being a community resource. The site's logo is London Underground's archer, and it will link to *THE ARCHER*'s own website.



Jessica Manning with her cake (inset) and N2 T-shirts. Photo by Toni Morgan.

Ideas for action

Paul Homer, manager of the Phoenix Cinema, is talking to London Farmers Markets about potential sites here. Other ideas for action include a "Keep East Finchley Tidy" campaign, improved signage and a Loyalty Card designed by Mike for local discounts.

REEF includes the Phoenix, the Noble Sage Art Gallery, East Finchley Open Artists, and a nucleus of local traders and residents. The Community Development Trust and local councillors support its aims. Founder members actively welcome involvement and ideas

from the whole East Finchley community.

Look twice, it's all right

Public interest was certainly sparked by the "I ♥ N2" shirts, bags and badges appearing around Festival time. Gaynor Spry, of Lazooli, says: "The shirts have been flying out of the shop, bought by people of all ages, and the bags have been spotted up and down the Northern Line!" Designer Mike Hughes told us: "The group thought that hi-jacking the 'I Love' concept worked particularly well with our postcode. My experience at the Festival was that people had a double-take moment. It has a real 'smile

factor' about it."

Mike, "a kind of a local boy", went to Bishop Douglass School. Returning to East Finchley three years ago, he has settled in Sylvester Road with his wife Julia, and two children. He and Julia run a small design and marketing practice, mjhd.

Gaynor, another REEF member, hopes REEF "can encourage local people to embrace the delights of their own High Road and make East Finchley a village which provides a stress-free and enjoyable shopping experience."

For more information about REEF, contact paul@phoenixcinema.co.uk.

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East Finchley: your comments

Everyone who visited *THE ARCHER* team on our stall at the East Finchley Community Festival back in June was invited to tell us what they loved about East Finchley and anything they'd like to change.

We had a massive response earlier this year to our original survey of likes and dislikes (*THE ARCHER*, February 2007) so we thought we'd grab the chance to get more of your comments at the festival.

Here's a selection of what you had to say:

- Greta Rait: I love the local parks, such as Cherry Tree Wood, the great local shops, such as the fishmonger's and Tony's, and the Phoenix Cinema is a gem.

- Jean Hogan: I like the fact that people and families stay here for ever.

- Patricia Garcia: I like the new second hand book shop, Black Gull.

- Bailey and Tyler Cottingham, aged 10 and eight: We like East Finchley because it has a friendly atmosphere and is reasonably clean. People who work in the shops are nice to you as well.

- Diane Johnson: Bob the postman is great in the Cherry Tree area.

- Jake Eiseman-Renyard: I like the community festival (not everywhere has one), having lots of local parks and direct access to London via the tube.

- Lucy Simpkins: I love Cherry Tree Wood and the park. We need a park keeper to keep it this good.

- Alison Arnold: I love Cherry Tree Wood, the great local food shops, the Phoenix, our fab restaurants and good (mostly) transport.

- Rita Landeryou: I enjoy reading *THE ARCHER* very much. Several people I know have been featured in it. I was delighted that a snowman photo I took

was printed back in the March edition.

- Ryan Sampson: Tony's Continental, an excellent shop on the High Road.

- K O'Neill: We love the Phoenix Cinema, the great coffee in Amici's, the great clothes shop Lazooli and great food in Va Pensiero.



Community spirit: Juggling policeman at the East Finchley Festival.

Photo by John Lawrence

- Paul Buckingham: I love the uniqueness of the High Road and the community spirit.

And here, anonymously, are the things you'd like to change:

- No more bookies, or takeaway pizza places.

- Budgens - too expensive and not a great choice

- Barnet Council needs the vision to develop East Finchley VILLAGE: no more bookies or fast-food joints on the high street.

- Hate people feeding the pigeons in East Finchley: stop!

- The commercial boards subsidising the 'Welcome to East Finchley Village' signs: they destroy the very ambience

intended.

- I don't like Ingram Road being the parking space for the tube, the Phoenix and the Institute.

Pigeons - yuk.

- East Finchley needs less traffic, more pedestrian crossings and many more cycle ways. And bring back the park keeper in Cherry Tree Wood.

- Traffic.

- Dog fouling is becoming an increasing problem and Cherry Tree Wood needs a warden.

- Pedestrianise some streets.

- Stop rat running down Church Lane and Long Lane. Make more 20mph zones.

- Extend the library's opening times.

- Install a lift at East Finchley station.

- I would like to paint a mural on the Budgens wall on East End Road.

Don't forget, you can still tell us your likes or dislikes about East Finchley by writing to our Letters page. Send letters to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA, or email the-archer@lineone.net.

Bothy dispute: Bill Tyler speaks

By Daphne Chamberlain

In April, *The Archer* reported the dispute over the eviction of the Finchley Arts Centre Trust (FACT) from the Bothy in the grounds of Avenue House. FACT had been restoring the building for 10 years, with the help of lottery money, to establish a community arts centre. They were evicted by The Avenue House Estate Trust (AHET).

AHET were under legal constrictions not to comment at that time, but their Chairman, Bill Tyler, has since put their position to *THE ARCHER*.

FACT were originally given a builder's agreement by Barnet, before AHET took over as landlord. They say that AHET told them this agreement had expired, but sent solicitors' letters granting them a temporary licence until November 2007. Despite this, they say AHET evicted them at six hours' notice last January.

Bill Tyler says this temporary licence allowed public entry only to the central section of the site. The entire building had to be completed before a permanent lease could be granted.

Insurance issues

Last October, FACT started using the Bothy for children's music lessons. They maintain they put in place health and safety requirements, and had public liability insurance.

Bill Tyler, however, says that fire and building inspectors declared the building unsafe for public use, and that AHET asked for problems to be put right throughout October and November. He says he was told by phone that this would be done in a couple of days.

He also maintains that the insurance certificate produced by FACT in July 2006 to cover music classes could be invalid, as the building was not safe for public occupation. As any claim could have come back on AHET insurance, AHET's insurers instructed them to stop building occupation.

Their legal advice was that children could not be allowed to use electrical equipment in that building, as there could have been an accident.

Bill Tyler says the lottery funding will not be affected, as it was given for the restoration of the building.

Reconciliation?

Council Leader Mike Freer has been attempting to reconcile the two organisations, but FACT have accused AHET of not attending these meetings. AHET say that, following a letter from FACT's solicitor threatening legal action, their own legal advice was not to meet face to face, but to speak through a middleman.

As a founder and former member of FACT, Bill Tyler says he is very saddened by events, but he has a duty as trustee of AHET to ensure the estate is run for the benefit of the community. "The main thing is to get the Bothy back in use."

The Finchley Society backs FACT

As the dispute over the eviction of Finchley Arts Centre Trust from the Bothy by Avenue House Estate Trust continues, The Finchley Society has come out in support of FACT. Until its recent AGM, the Society had remained neutral, because both sides have supporters among their members.

At the meeting, though, members voted to "call on AHET to reinstate FACT in the Bothy forthwith, and to ensure that any difficulties are resolved by discussion".

A number of speakers at the AGM said Bill Tyler had rejected offers of mediation between AHET and FACT, and that his position as chairman of AHET was incompatible with being president of The Finchley Society.

Chairman David Smith stressed that Bill Tyler was never a representative of The Finchley Society on AHET.

The Society had nominated him for appointment as a trustee of AHET (Avenue House Estate Management), which later became AHET.

THE ARCHER needs volunteer distributors for: Creighton Avenue, Twyford Avenue and Bancroft Ave.

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We also require drivers to drop to our distributors (average 8 drops each).

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Air Ambulance called for accident in Leicester Road



The Air Ambulance helicopter in Fortismere School field.

Picture by John Dearing

By John Dearing

The emergency services were called to an address in Leicester Road at 1pm on 4 July, where a man cleaning a first floor window had fallen into the garden below. His injuries were considered serious enough for the Air Ambulance to be called. The helicopter landed in Fortismere School field.

After receiving attention from the paramedics and the Air Ambulance doctors, the casualty was taken by ambulance around to the school field, and thence by helicopter to a north London hospital, where his injuries were described as "life-changing".

Did you know...?

On the Barnet Council website www.barnet.gov.uk there is a "Contact Us" section. *THE ARCHER* has been told that complaints sent to the council this way have been swiftly dealt with.

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ALL WELCOME



We need another bus

By Daphne Chamberlain

"We are not going away. We need another bus, and we are going to fight to get it." That was the message from East Finchley Bus Watch at their meeting last month. They are angry and frustrated at what they see as political manoeuvrings which condemn people at the northern end of East Finchley to an inferior bus service.

Co-ordinator Hazel Burnett is furious that Transport for London has assured her that the 263 bus service is satisfactory, even though statistics submitted by the group from two week-long surveys, a year apart, show that the service is not running reliably.

A spokesperson for TfL said that the target excess waiting time (time over and above the maximum amount of time a passenger should expect to have to wait for a bus) is 1 min 30s, for the 263 but, between February and June this year, buses were often coming in with an EWT of under one minute.

TfL attributed any recorded delays this year to "roadworks being carried out along the route."

The averages game

Ms Burnett said, "They are playing the averages game. If you average a very long wait with a short wait between bunched buses, of course everything seems all right on paper. Barnet Highways Department has agreed that we need a better service, but TfL is blaming Barnet Council's road policy for any delays."

The 263 service is up for review next year but East

Finchley's bus group predict no improvements as long as we have one solitary north-south bus route. They are asking for a second service.

There have been suggestions from other quarters to extend the 271 past Highgate Village, or the 17 past Archway. East Finchley's bus group would welcome either, but only if the route ran on to North Finchley. Stopping at East Finchley station would not help those people living towards the North Circular. And that solo stretch is where the bulk of housing development is taking place.

More housing needs more buses

Bus Watch say, "The 17 ran up to Tally Ho for many years, and now, with all the new housing developments, there are far more people living between East and North Finchley. The High Road north of Fortis Green is a major route, but it's overlooked the whole time. We haven't got a night bus either, even though one runs along East End Road, and a night service is proposed for Fortis Green."

East Finchley Bus Watch is supported by its powerful neighbouring group in West Haringey. For further information, contact Hazel Burnett on 020 8444 6824.

Footnote: a half-hourly night service on the 102 route is due to start on 1 September, "to help serve the growing night time economy of such places as Muswell Hill".



Clan of creativity: Left to right Photographer Craig Johnson, Sculptor Mylene Goodman & Painters Mari l'Anson & Hazel Turvey. Photograph by Alex Nunes

Open all hours

This year's East Finchley Open event was a massive success, running over two weekends and featuring the work of more artists than ever before.

More than 40 artists put their work on show and on sale at a string of private homes, shops and other venues in N2. This was the fourth year the event has been run and organisers were delighted with the turn out on the first two weekends of July.

One venue visited by *THE ARCHER* was typical of the ethos of the event. Catalan artist Amelia Casas had opened her home to be a venue for a group of artists who complemented each other.

Amelia herself exhibited paintings, prints and, a new medium for her, decorative basketry. As well as jewellery in silver and semi-precious stones, Lesley Brooke showed bead and resin necklaces and

earrings in jewel-like colours.

Ann Froomberg's paintings, scarves and bespoke wedding stationery fitted in well with the colours and general feel of the other artists' work at this venue. "The EFO is the best thing that's happened to me," Ann told us.

The next event to look forward to from the EFO artists is the third annual Art Fair at Martin School on Sunday 18 November when art lovers will again have the chance to go along and buy unique presents by local artists and crafts people.



One of Craig Johnson's model cows, depicting landmarks of East Finchley

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Library lottery decision two months away

By Daphne Chamberlain

We should know in October whether East Finchley Library Users Group has succeeded in its bid for Big Lottery funding. The bid went ahead at the end of March, and the Heritage Lottery Fund has contacted Barnet Council with several follow-up enquiries. Barnet have told *THE ARCHER* that they are "hopeful" of a good outcome.

If the bid does succeed, the library would gain a lift which will fit in with the requirements for a Grade 2 listed building, and a fully utilised upper floor, including an "Eyebryary". This would be a specialist centre for dyslexia and a display space for artwork.

The area would also provide a meeting place for learning-based activities and community clubs, with projects coordinated by a part-time community

worker. Other spin-offs for existing library users would be dramatically improved signage, and improved toilet and café facilities.

The bid is supported by the Institute, East Finchley Open Artists, Contact, and other local and borough-wide groups.

Many fingers in East Finchley and beyond are firmly crossed for the October decision.

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Healthy eating in the park

By Diana Cormack

The café in Cherry Tree Wood is open again and is being run by Sally-Anne Wigfield, who lives in Beresford Road. Sally has worked part-time in Natural Choice, the health food store at 105 High Road so, not surprisingly, her new menu at the kiosk in the park emphasises natural and organic produce.



Sally-Anne Wigfield and Beatrice Rodrigues at work in the kiosk.

Photo by Diana Cormack

"You won't find E numbers or preservatives here," Sally told *THE ARCHER* when describing how she sources quality products with which to serve her customers. As well as a tempting range of snacks and drinks at the kiosk, she can also provide 100% organic private catering for groups including picnics in the park or children's parties.

Sally uses a novel system known as "t 5" in which different coloured plates represent each of the five essential food

groups. She has incorporated this into her "lazy Sally" system for picnics, based on the "lazy Susan" plates used in the 70s.

Beatrice Rodrigues helps with outside catering ventures, which have included News International's Five-A-Side tournaments. For more information email sallyanne@think5.co.uk, telephone 07879 642 778 or visit Sally-Anne at the café, which is open daily and is to be known as the Lazy Sally Kiosk.

Rain stops fun day

The awful summer weather forced the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy to call off the Bobath Big Fun Run in Cherry Tree Wood Park on Sunday 8 July.

Even though the weather reports predicted that the day itself would be fine, two weeks of persistent rain had made the park unsafe for children to run in and would have turned the grass into mud.

Kevin Gillespie, fundraising manager at the centre in East End Road, said: "It was a hard decision, but the right one. After making a site inspection on Thursday afternoon, the park was waterlogged in places and the woodland area slippery. I spoke with Barnet Park's maintenance department and with our insurers who agreed that the risks of injury and of damage to

the park were too great for the event to go ahead.

"Cancelling early meant that we could contact all the registered runners and the schools involved to minimise the disappointment of children being turned away on the day."

The charity, which treats children with cerebral palsy, has rescheduled the event for Sunday 30 September. All those registered will be automatically re-entered. If you are interested in registering to run or require a refund, please contact the fundraising department on 020 8442 2276.

Park petition turned away

By Diana Cormack

Concerns about the future of Cherry Tree Wood were not allayed at a meeting of Barnet's Conservative controlled Council on 26 June.

East Finchley Ward Councillor Alison Moore requested that, with members of the local community being present, Councillor Colin Roger's motion regarding the problems caused by the loss of a permanent park keeper should be heard. Voting on the motion was strictly along party lines with 32 against, 25 for. Her second request that a petition with hundreds of signatures, collected by The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, be presented was turned down by the same margin.

'Grandstand'

Disappointed Friends were angered by these decisions, feeling that the views of all those who had signed were being brushed aside. Councillor Colin Rogers was determined that the petition should not go unnoticed and had his request to present it to the Chair at the end of the meeting accepted. Council leader Mike Freer is reported to have said that a meeting should not be used as a grandstand or publicity stunt by presenting a petition about what was a localised issue. The feeling of those from East Finchley who attended was that the many worries expressed and anti-social incidents reported by concerned residents would continue to be ignored.



East Finchley Councillors, Andrew McNeil, Alison Moore and Colin Rogers, sign the petition at the Festival. Photo by Toni Morgan

Local involvement

The following week, a Barnet Council press release announced that some 20 small parks were to be transformed, with people from the local community being involved in planting and "adopting" local area sites. Radical plans would bring the benefits of the countryside and Green Belt and transform these non-premier parks. Cherry Tree Wood is a premier park.

Councillor Matthew Offord, cabinet member for transport and environment said it gave local residents the opportunity to be involved in shaping their local park. Isn't that just what

the Friends want to do?

Visit www.cherrytreewood.co.uk for more information.

Footnote: Those who gave their addresses when signing the petition received a letter of response from Barnet Council three weeks later. In it, council leader Mike Freer mentions plans to rent out the Cherry Tree Wood kiosk and pavilion but fails to address the issue of the loss of the park keeper, the main point of the petition. He urges residents to contact him directly for any further information. Perhaps all those concerned about the park's welfare should do so.

Park gates left open to abuse

By L.C. Ward

At the bottom of Summerlee Avenue, just inside the park gates, a Barnet Council notice states: "Authorised vehicles only. Please close and lock these gates on entering or leaving the park". Barnet employs a company to lock and unlock all their park gates. In Cherry Tree Wood the person responsible drives through the gates to do this, yet completely ignores the notice.



Free-for-all. Picking up after the party. Photo by Ian Cormack

With double gates left wide open all day, some people are now taking it as an invitation to drive in themselves, although there is no roadway and only a narrow footpath around the park. Damage is being done to the grass, and there is potential danger to pedestrians.

Recently, on a wet afternoon, a car was driven through because a children's party had been held under a gazebo on the field and the parent organiser wanted to take it down and pack the party gear away. Other parents drove in and, when locals challenged them, pointing out that cars were not allowed in the park,

the excuse was that they had to pick up their children because it was raining. During better weather people have driven in to hold picnics, barbecues and even fashion shoots.

A permanent park keeper could ensure that these gates were locked and unlocked at all appropriate times.

Cherry Tree Wood is classified as a Premier Park. Barnet Council says Premier Parks are managed to provide a high quality recreational experience with an appropriate range of facilities, all of which are measured against the Civic Trust's Green Flag Award criteria.

New friends and new families

Children at Holy Trinity School were delighted to be given a new teddy bear each by a charity seeking to find new families willing to adopt and foster.

At a special assembly, every pupil in the Infants was given a new teddy friend by the Parents for Children organisation, along with some information to take home to their parents.

The charity is seeking foster carers from all community groups to provide loving, understanding family environments for youngsters who are unable to live with their birth parents.

Adoptive families are also being sought for children with emotional, learning and physical disabilities, as well as families who can offer short break support for others who are already fostering or adopting.

For more information on Parents for Children, visit www.parentsforchildren.org.uk, email info@parentsforchildren.org.uk or telephone 020 7520 2880.

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Harriet and Constance Connides. Photo by Derek Ball.

Waiting room exhibition

By Sheila Armstrong

Local artist Harriet Connides recently had a successful exhibition in The Waiting Room Cafe above Palmers Green Station, exhibiting a selection of self-portraits in charcoal alongside the work of ceramic artist Ann Hutchins.

This exhibition was all self-portraits but sometimes Harriet does portraits of friends. Her dramatic and free charcoal drawings are full of movement and in some respects seem like portraits of dancers.

She told *THE ARCHER* that her work was very introspective and self-revealing. She likes working at night, adding that even if she never sold another of her pictures she would still keep drawing. She also paints landscapes in watercolour, inspired by Hampstead Heath and the open spaces of north London.

A long time resident of East Finchley, Harriet has had substantial exhibiting experience at Canterbury Cathedral, the V&A Museum and Burgh House amongst others. She participated in the Why Waste It If

You Can Wear It exhibition with her jewellery, made from recycled materials but resembling tiny miniature paintings from different styles and periods.

Originally trained as a painter at Canterbury School of Art, she worked for many years at the V&A. Living in north London, she continued to paint with Angela Dougal, who is based mainly in and around Kenwood.

Thanks to Derek Ball, a friend of Harriet, for alerting *THE ARCHER* to this exhibition and documenting it so well. To see Harriet's work visit her web site www.harrietconnides.co.uk. She can be contacted on harriet.connides@lycos.co.uk.

Dead hedge protects pool life

By Ann Bronkhorst

Around the dual-level reed pool newly created in Coldfall Wood is a natural-looking fence made from branches. It looks rather like a low stockade and, in a way, that's what it is.

Inside the fenced area the water plants, including irises, should have a better chance of survival. The upper sections of the stream and the raw, open-access pools have taken heavy punishment lately. Water attracts children and dogs. Result: sticks get hurled in, logs are rolled down to create a satisfying splash, and the tender water plants receive "a severe bashing".

That was Catherine Price's description of what she saw before she led in the shock troops. Catherine and her team from Haringey BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), helped by a few Friends of Coldfall Wood, spent much of Tuesday 26 June building the protective 'dead hedge'. They hammered in a circle of stakes, dragged up heavy logs and interwove branches and brushwood, creating a barrier to deter trampling feet and allow the plants time to establish themselves.

Dead hedging is used locally in Highgate Wood, Kenwood and Hampstead Heath. As well as protecting an area temporarily, the barriers provide shelter for small creatures. Being constructed from natural materials found nearby, they blend into the landscape and aren't as obtrusive (or as costly) as a real fence.

For our wood's new dead hedge, and for the waterplants, the testing-time may well be the long summer holiday. If children are chucking logs around it may take a little courage to intervene, but the Friends of Coldfall Wood hope that walkers will do so to protect the pools and the stream.

Smoke gets in your eyes

By Ann Bronkhorst

Did you collect cigarette cards? Can you complete the slogan "Whatever the pleasure..."? And did sophisticated images of gold ingots or of slashed purple silk instantly tell you the brand names?

As the latest no-smoking legislation takes effect it's good to be reminded about the clever advertising techniques used to hook and hold smokers in the not-so-distant past.

In her aptly titled book *Smoke Signals*, Judy Vaknin, of Baronsmere Road, traces those techniques through 20th century advertisements in British and American newspapers and magazines.

Well-designed and lavishly illustrated, *Smoke Signals* covers the whole century, linking the images to social developments and marketing methods. Tobacco brands mentioned in the book include evocative names like Black Cat and Mogul. Judy's commentary is informative and accessible but the pictures she's chosen are the main attraction.

Alluring and reassuring

And what pictures! Some look clumsy and comical today, while others retain graphic distinction. There are manly men and limpid-eyed women, trustworthy doctors in white coats and heroic naval officers; role models all. The best-selling image of all time was the macho Marlboro cowboy, while the Virginia Slims slogan 'You've come a long way, baby,' was targeted at women and boosted the numbers of teenage girl smokers.

Judy Vaknin doesn't smoke and admits she finds "quite shocking" the claims made, until fairly recently, that certain brands were healthy or gave 'throat protection'. Her approach has had to be objective, however. She does acknowledge the elegance, charm and inventiveness of many advertisements, particularly those of

the 1920s. She points out that tobacco advertising, still legal outside Britain and Europe, will make full use of "the expertise in persuasion developed over the last century" to reach markets in the developing world.

The main sources for the book were over 300 boxes of advertisements acquired from a private collector by Middlesex University, where Judy is the archivist. Sorting, repackaging and listing took several years; the material now forms part of a Library of Historic Advertising held at the Cat Hill campus.

Smoke Signals is published by Middlesex University Press at £14.99 and can be ordered from *Waterstones* or local bookshops.

Specialist status for three schools

Three secondary schools in the area have been granted specialist school status.

Bishop Douglass, in Hamilton Road, will have Science College status. Oak Lodge School, the special educational needs school in Heath View, will become a specialist school for cognition and learning. Henrietta Barnett, in Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, was granted Music College status with English as a second subject.

Each school receives a £100,000 grant from the Government to fund new facilities and equipment in their specialist area. The specialist status starts at the beginning of the new school year in September.

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Gas volunteers make a difference

By Helen Drake

Sixteen employees from British Gas swapped their desks for the Martin Schools' playing field when they took part in "London Better Together Day" on 15 June, organised by the charity Business in the Community.

The aim of the day was for teams of colleagues from prominent businesses to work on projects in schools and organisations in areas of need in London. Many of the projects have environmental themes, such as regenerating urban nature reserves and parks. Across London, more than 4,000 people took part.

British Gas is one of the main sponsors of the event. The company kindly gave Martin Schools a £500 budget to fund all the necessary tools and equipment.

Creating colour and space

One team unleashed their creativity by painting the sheds on the field, decorating them with beautiful murals on the theme of earth, wind, fire and water (the Junior School house system); and the second group tackled clearing an overgrown area of the field by the allotments, creating a nature walk for the children.

"We've got squirrels, many different types of birds and possibly foxes at the back", said Tristan Green, caretaker at

Martin Schools, who organised the projects. "The children are very enthusiastic, saying that it's like being in the country."

At various points in the day, classes from the school were brought on to the field to see the work in progress. "We thought it was nice for the volunteers to see who they were working for, and it gave the children an opportunity to say thank you," said Tristan, who is now thinking of projects to put forward for next year's scheme.

For more information contact Gennie Franklin, London Cares Manager at gennie.franklin@bitc.org.uk or telephone 020 7566 6612.



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Brownies and Rainbows enjoying their picnic. Photo by Diana Cormack

Brownie pack still going strong

By Diana Cormack

Despite a threat of closure last year, the 4th East Finchley Brownie Pack is still going strong thanks to the hard work of Maureen Antoinette, Lisa Attfield and Shannon Green, plus Ivana Sharp, who runs the pre-Brownie Rainbows group.



Target practice: St Theresa's headteacher, Mr Lyons

Wet, wet, wet

By Lisa Omar

Despite some unpromising weather reports, parents, children, staff and local residents were out in force joining in with all the fun and activities at St Theresa's RC School's summer fair on 23 June.

Attractions included lots of different stalls, a bouncy castle, coconut shy, raffles, tombola, pot painting and, of course, great food. Barnet Jazz Band entertained the crowd as the sun continued to shine.

The biggest draw of the afternoon was the famous wet sponge throwing. Headmaster Mr Lyons and Year 4 teacher Mr Silverstone took their punishments well and both got quite a soaking. It was amazing just how good the children's aim was when a teacher was the target.

The whole event was a great success in raising a staggering £6,000 for the children of St Theresa's School. Right on cue, as soon as the summer fair ended, the heavens opened.

Dogged teachers

Holy Trinity School is saying a sad goodbye to senior teacher Gill Fox. She is moving to Moss Hall School where she will replace the deputy headteacher. Her name? Ms Wolf.

Teenager ChiChi Ohouno, a former member of the pack who has moved on to Guides, is working with them as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, giving the youngsters a fine example of contributing to the community.

The final meeting of the year was held in Cherry Tree Wood where, despite heavy rain, the Brownies and Rainbows had an enjoyable time playing games and picnicking under cover of the trees by the play park. Badges for science were presented, adding to those gained by the girls in a variety of topics over the year.

A special presentation was made to seven-year-old Georgia Rhodes, who is leaving the area. Georgia joined the Rainbows when she was five and moved up to Brownies in January. Her experience with the East Finchley pack has made her so keen that, with the help of her new school, Georgia has already found a

Brownie pack to join.

At present the local pack, which meets weekly during term time in St Mary's RC Church Hall, 279 High Road, has no vacancies but there is a waiting list. For details phone Mrs Antoinette on 020 8883 5654. Both groups need more help so, if you can offer some, do get in touch.

Did you know...?

☺ The Phoenix in East Finchley is the cinema that is shown at the beginning and end of the Scissor Sisters' video for *I Don't Feel Like Dancing*, one of the biggest hits of 2006.

☺ Cheese products marketed for children such as cheesy strips and twists cost as much as quality cheeses. On average they cost more than £12 per kilo.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The school's summer term charity was Great Ormond Street Hospital, with the class bringing back the most envelopes being awarded a whole extra playtime!

A cake sale raised £90 for Oxfam with Sainsbury's matching the amount raised, to be donated to the school.

The Infant and Junior sports days were a great success and the weather was kind. Children took part in a whole playing field full of sports and activities.

The open air Summer Concert gave every class a chance to show off their musical and dance talents. The occasion was a fond farewell to deputy headteacher Deb Pothan and senior teacher Gill Fox, as well as a thank you to outgoing chair of governors Sylvia Duthie.

Well done to Haris Bandey from Year 3 who won a bronze medal in Ipon Kumite Karate at the National Youth Championship in Derby.

Martin Schools

The girls' football team ensured that Martin Junior School's name is the first on a new borough shield

by winning the Barnet 2006-7 Girls' Football League.

A new cricket club has been launched in conjunction with Holy Trinity School.

Five pupils from Year 6 were chosen to represent Barnet in the London Games and the junior team did extremely well in the Barnet Copthall Athletics competition.

The school choir sang beautifully at the Barnet Music Festival and were impressive at a memorable evening with the renowned North London Chorus, when the school hosted a *Sing London* event.

Year 6 entertained parents and children with several performances of "Grease".

Over £120 was raised for the North London Hospice when children came to school dressed as their mums and dads.

The infant school held a Water Week which provided many learning situations.

An optional sleepover for Year 2 went extremely well and was a confidence booster for children who are moving up to junior level.

A successful sports morning was followed by a Teddy Bears' Picnic afternoon.



Garden glory of giant foxglove

By Diana Cormack
This foxglove seeded itself at the edge of our lawn and obviously liked that location, for it just kept on growing.

With six normal-sized stems sharing the same base, the central one just headed on upward. They all thrived and bore plenty of flowers, perhaps helped by weeks of warm and wet weather conditions. The final flower at the very top dropped off during the deluge that accompanied Wimbledon, beaten into submission by the rain.

The plant reached two metres, or six foot seven inches, in height. Is this a record? If you have had any similar horticultural surprises, please let *THE ARCHER* know (contact details are on page two).



"High there!" Photo by Diana Cormack

New Faced Stag

By Dawn Powell

The Bald Faced Stag, one of East Finchley's most well known pubs, has had a dramatic transformation. The pool tables and fruit machines have gone, the carpet has been replaced by modern wood flooring, and the Stag is now a 70-seater open plan gastro pub.

According to general manager Tom Foley, the makeover is long overdue. He said: "East Finchley has been crying out for a quality pub serving quality food, a great wine list and fantastic service." He adds that the pub will no longer show the big football matches or have theme nights at times like St Patrick's Day. "The aim is to have a nice atmosphere where people can come for a drink or dinner and not be intimidated."

However, although the pub would now not look out of place in Covent Garden, Foley claims it has kept to its roots. He says: "There is a bit of the old, as it still has quite a local feel." He explains that pictures of East Finchley in bygone days have been used to decorate the walls, and most of the staff are from the area.

Will some regulars miss the five well-used pool tables and the Sunday evening pool competition? Well, the Bald Faced Stag has been a fixture in East Finchley since the 18th century. Throughout that time it has undergone many changes, including being a hangout for highwaymen to gather information on their prospective victims. This latest incarnation is just another page in its history book.

Not long ago and not far away

Lorna Roberts, of East End Road, has seen some changes since she moved to East Finchley in 1962. Here she shares some of her memories.

We moved near to the Five Bells pub on East End Road in February 1962 when the snow had lain on the ground since December and would not melt away for another month.

On our first morning, we woke to the 'ting ting' of a bell. We were enchanted and ran to the window to see the ringing of the five brass bells hanging on the pub sign. The next sound was a clip clopping and we saw two horse riders coming back from the end of the lane. Yes, there really was a blacksmith doing his Saturday morning shoeing. We also discovered that he made the wrought iron of our banisters.

The blacksmith went later in the 1960s to be replaced by a carpet place, owned by Ron Bowers and later his son Peter. Not much later, the pub's five brass bells came down and were replaced by a sign showing five bells.

Rabbits and sheep

At the end of the lane were allotments and three cottages. Living there were the Ginn family and Mr Tommy, who had a long garden and kept rabbits. The land belonged to the Finchley Charities and all disappeared when they built sheltered housing.

One of the residents was Buster, a retired coalman who kept an eye on things, clearing away any carpet bits and pieces, sweeping the lane and seeing off anybody who sought to relieve themselves or to dump rubbish.

On the corner lived the Kemps. They remembered that when they came to the area at the end of the Second World War, there were fields where the

allotments were and sheep used to be driven where Cromwell Close is now. They had a beautiful 19th century wisteria in their front garden.

The Merry Miller

Round the corner in Stanley Road, now also a residential home, was a large garage and the home is named after it: Holmfield. Every afternoon, my mother used to walk down Stanley Road, over the railway bridge, alongside the playing fields to the Merry Miller, a bakery sending off breathtaking smells and selling off cheaply at the end of the day any cakes that may have had a crumb missing or risked getting stale. She would triumphantly bear some home for tea when the children came back from school - much preferred to the carrot sticks and raisins that I laid out.

I remember a little Sainsbury shop adjoining the old Barclays building at the corner of Fortis

Green and High Road. It was from another age, with picture tiles on the walls and butter done with pats and neatly wrapped.

Mr Ball was a greengrocer roughly where the Poseidon restaurant is today. He would not allow anyone into his shop until he was ready to serve them so we all queued outside, rain or shine. A couple of doors away was one of the first Tesco groceries.

Across the road where the Abbey bank is now was Conrad Lewis, the foam rubber shop. He was a lovely man, always ingenious with helpful solutions. He and his wife were looking forward to a wonderful planned holiday as soon as he retired. I saw him one day sitting in the sun on a bench in Kenwood. "How was the holiday?" I asked. "We never went," he replied. His wife had died a week before they were booked to go.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Weather or not

Welcome to summer, welcome to rain, welcome to drowned rats floating down the street, welcome washed out cricket and welcome to English weather as we know it. It will still be raining when you read this because I'm writing it on the rain gods' favourite day, St Swithin's Day, and that means it's going to keep on raining until 24 August. Disregard the weather boys and girls with their flash graphics and their talk about depression over the Azores, real weather is about weather gods and the rain gods are winning.

Take St Swithin's Day. It's about a Saxon bishop who asked to be buried outside his cathedral so the rain could fall on him; he got upset from beyond the grave when the monks decided to move his body to an ornate indoor shrine. In fact, he got so upset that the rain gods intervened, it rained for 40 days and the monks changed their minds. After that, the rain gods decided this was a good deal and turned July 15 into their big day.

Ok, so this year they decided to get in a bit of practice and drown Hull, most of Yorkshire and Wimbledon before getting on with the main 40-day party. Which is why it should still be raining by the time you read this, even if the weather folk predict bright sun and wall-to-wall heatstroke.

It might be unfair to blame St Swithin for the rain. It may be that rain gods hate cricket, tennis and golf. It may be their idea of a bit of a laugh to turn a test match into water polo. It may be global warming. If it is, then you can blame all those sunseekers who jet off to the Costa del Livin' to escape the rain, for the rain they're trying to escape. Then again, why not blame Chelsea tractors? They only come into their own in rain, mud and snow and belch out enough CO2 to create the perfect world for themselves to enjoy.

LOOKING FOR HOMES

Many cats and kittens needing good homes; some single, some in pairs.



If you think you can help get in touch with the local cat charity

ANIMAL AID AND ADVICE
48 HIGH ROAD EAST FINCHLEY
OR PHONE 7607 1723

LOOKING FOR A CAT

News from Barnet's Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme

More volunteers are needed to work with the Barnet Association for the Blind. Volunteers can work on home visits (generally about two hours per week or fortnight) with a client matched to them, assisting the client with talking computers, IT advice, and assorted equipment and gadgets.

Help is also needed in the Sensory Garden at Church End, Finchley, and at Sight Help and Information Points at Barnet General and Edgware Hospitals. Further information from Jo Adams on 020 8275 8482 or Tina Hind on 08458 380 480.

• RSVP are still searching for new accommodation for their weekend Feed the Homeless project. Please contact Bill Ibbotson on 020 8440 1291 with suggestions.

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Regular Events

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- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **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 Dance Classes**, Wednesdays. Beginners 7.30pm, Improvers 8.30pm. St Mary's Church Hall, Finchley. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 6 & 20 August at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **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 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust** contact Phoebe on 8349 0388.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group** Creative writing 6.30pm every Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.** Visit info@cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 020 8883 7544.
- ❖ **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.

Little Sparrow fills Phoenix

By Sheila Armstrong

Francophiles and Edith Piaf fans filled the Phoenix Cinema for *La Vie en Rose*, the rags to riches story of Piaf's life, on 12 July. Filmgoers were met at the door by members of the Chansons Realistes French music group: oh la la! They serenaded us on accordion and violin, getting us in the mood for this powerful film starring Marion Cotillard. More Piaf songs followed in the auditorium.



Oh La La! the French Chansons group. Picture by Paul Homer

Directed by Olivier Dahan, the film has had various criticisms levelled at it: the confusing jumping around between various episodes in her life and no mention of her work with the Resistance during the war, to name but two. But the story of Piaf's grim and tormented life from her traumatic childhood in a brothel to her drug and alcohol-induced end at the age of 48 had the power to keep the audience involved. A round

of spontaneous applause broke out at the end of the film.

Piaf's search for love, the death of the true love of her life, boxer Marcel Cedan, her battle with drink and drugs were all played with great heart by Cotillard, accompanied by the actress's immaculate lipsynching to Piaf's world famous songs *La Vie En Rose* and *Non Je Ne Regrette Rien*. Surely this is an Oscar-deserving performance.

August at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

We've a brilliant selection of films on Sunday afternoons through August, enough to keep you from lying round in the sun. We kick off with a free screening on 5 August, that's right, free. It's a collection of wonderful London archive films from 1941 - 1951, presented by Professor Ian Christie from Birkbeck University, and it makes a fascinating insight into a world now gone.

Edward Yang was an exceptional film-maker. Rightly lauded in his native Taiwan, he only had two films released in the UK: *The Terroriser* in 1989 and the beautiful *A One and A Two*, also known as *Yi-Yi*, which was released in 2001. His films express the confusion, anxiety and aesthetic qualities in a microcosm of society. He is one of the most gifted and yet least-seen directors in modern cinema.

Sadly Edward died a few weeks ago of cancer at the age of 59. We are proud to be showing his masterpiece *A One and A Two* on 12 August and we hope this screening will be introduced by David Sin, who was director of the ICA when

Edward's films were shown there.

Another of my favourite directors is Werner Herzog. His career is a tribute to pioneers in many fields, especially those who pit themselves against nature and find they cannot defeat such forces. In *Wild Blue Yonder* Herzog takes his theme to outer space for his first sci-fi film. It's sci-fi but as only Herzog could make it. This film plays with *Little Dieter Needs to Fly*, Herzog's documentary on a man who was shot down in the Vietnam jungle and, against all odds, survived to tell the tale.

These exceptional films can all be booked through the box office on 8444 6789 or online at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Kindergarten first

Sharon Lee, head teacher of Finchley Reform Synagogue Kindergarten in Fallow Court Avenue, N12, has become the first person working in Barnet to become accredited with the brand new Early Years Professional Status.

EYPS is a graduate level status being developed by the Children's Workforce Development Council and is professionally equivalent to Qualified Teacher Status. It is designed to ensure excellent levels of care and education.

The Government aims to have

an Early Years Professional in every children's centre by 2010 and in every full day care setting, such as nurseries, by 2015.

Sharon said: "I am absolutely delighted. I believe that this will really help us improve the care and education we offer children."

Film night at the Noble Sage

By Dawn Powell

The Noble Sage art gallery in Fortis Green has set up a monthly film night that celebrates the best of south Asian art house cinema. Open to all, the films are free to attend with only a small charge for refreshments.

Cristina Oliveira, directorial assistant at the gallery, says they wanted to have the film night because cinema is an important part of Indian culture and one of the aims of the gallery is to promote Indian culture.

The first three film nights showed The Apu Trilogy, a classic series of films by the renowned film director Satyajit Ray. The Apu Trilogy follows the life of Apu, a boy from a poor Brahmin family in the early years of 20th century Bengal. Although unflinching in the depiction of what it was like to be poor at that time (death is a recurrent theme through-

out), the trilogy is considered a cinematic masterpiece.

However, the gallery will not just be showing classic Indian cinema, as they are hoping to showcase new directors. Cristina says: "We want to show new filmmakers, either from England or India, but always with a South Asian element." She adds that they would welcome new filmmakers to contact them with submissions for the film night.

Anyone who wishes to attend a film night should contact the gallery (www.thenoblesage.com) for details of the next showing.

Musicians wanted

Local arts venue artsdepot is on the look out for emerging musicians to take part in its new Sunday Buzz project, a programme of weekly music running from 12 - 2pm every Sunday starting in September.

The North Finchley venue is currently searching for acoustic groups of up to five musicians, or individuals, to help bring a new energy to the foyer, and create a 'buzz' in the hub of the venue. Any musician selected to perform on the foyer stage will receive £80 per musician, up to a maximum of £250 per group.

Musicians looking for an opportunity to perform in a professional space should send a CD of their music to: Programming Foyer Music, artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, North Finchley, London, N12 0GA. In this round artsdepot is looking for instrumental musicians rather than vocalists.

Poetry, please

Poets aged from seven to as old as they get have until November to enter a competition run by Barnet Borough Arts Council.

Entries in the seven to 11 and 12-16 age categories will be judged by Katherine Gallagher, who writes for both children and adults. Entries from adults will be judged by poet Fleur Adcock.

There is a total of nearly £500 in prize money to be won. Poems may be up to 35 lines in length, on any subject, and must be accompanied by an entry form. Fees are £4 for adults (reduced by £1 for Barnet residents), and £1 for children.

Entry is free for schools in the borough.

Competitors' names must not appear on entries. The closing date is 15 November 2007. Pick up entry forms from Barnet libraries, or send a stamped, addressed envelope to Barnet Borough Arts Council, c/o All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20 9EZ. Alternatively, download a form from www.artsinbarnet.org.

Contact 020 8445 8388 for further enquiries.

What's On...

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

Friday 31 August

Summer Fete, from 2.0 pm at The Old Barn Community Centre, 20 Fallows Close (off Tarling Road). Organised by staff and children on our summer play scheme; funds raised go to our children's clubs.

Throughout August at artsdepot:

Wednesdays 10am-12pm for five to seven-year-olds, 2pm-4pm for eight to 11-year-olds. 8 August: Street Dance; 15 August: Art; 22 August: Craft/Textiles; 29 August: Circus.

August in Highgate Wood

All events meet at the Information Hut. Thursday 8 August, The Storytelling Tree, 10.30am - 12.30pm; Wednesday 15 August, Birds of Prey display, 11am - 3pm; Saturday 25 August, Summer guided walk, 2.30pm; Thursday 30 August, Bat watch, 7.45 - 8.45 pm, limited numbers, pre-booking required on 020 8444 6129.

Weekends throughout August and September

Guided walks in High Barnet and Monken Hadley: Barnet Ghosts, Battle of Barnet etc. Further information from Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Friday 7 September

Friends of Barnet Libraries host a talk by Cathy Brooks on complementary medicine, *Health: A Natural Way*, 11am - 12noon at East Finchley Library. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 16 September,

12 - 6pm, Cherry Tree Wood: Muswell Hill Festival, incl. Donkey Derby and dog show.

Sunday 30 September

Bobath Big Fun Run in Cherry Tree Wood. Rescheduled event. Details: 020 8442 2276



Give your dog a holiday too

Long-standing East Finchley resident Suzana Amaral is offering your pet the chance to have a holiday of its own when you go away this summer. An established dog walker for many years, Suzana and her Labrador Eros started boarding dogs last year following many requests from her walking customers.

Suzana feels that people are much happier knowing that their pet will be in a welcoming home environment rather than in boarding kennels when they are away. She makes sure she gets to know dogs before their owners go away so they won't fret for their family. While staying with Suzana, long walks on the Heath are the order of the day, with playing and swimming also available.

For enquiries about boarding or dog walking, please contact Suzana on 020 8444 3310 or 07801 845 409.



Suzana with her "charges". Photo by Toni Morgan

The power of the pen

In these days of emails, mobile phones and texting, it's heartening to know that a trusty pen and paper still has its place in the world of modern communication.

Walking down Long Lane and The Walks recently, one ARCHER correspondent came across three handwritten public notices in quick succession.

The first was inside a plastic sheet pinned to a garden tree. The homeowner had clearly been the victim of a particularly petty theft and wanted to give the perpetrator a message. The

note read: "Potted plants were stolen from this garden. The police have been informed."

By contrast, a few yards further on was a sign encouraging passers-by to take something away. An upright vacuum cleaner stood a little disconsolately by the rubbish bin with a note attached: "Needs a new belt. Free to a good home."

Then it was back to small crime. Abandoned on The Walks was a Budgens shopping trolley (with the £1 deposit removed). A local resident, clearly angry at the thoughtless dumping, had attached a note to the trolley asking whoever left it so far from home to return it to the store.

So, did the handwritten messages get results? Well, the proud gardener will be lucky to find out who swiped his pots, but the shopping trolley had been removed 24 hours later and the vacuum cleaner was gone too, hopefully into the care of a loving new owner.

How much food do you throw away?

The typical household throws away £250 - £400 of edible food each year. On average we waste around one-third of all the food we buy and in Barnet this food waste accounts for almost one-third of our rubbish.

As this wasted food rots away in landfill it generates methane, a climate change causing gas that is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

How to be less wasteful

- Stop before you shop: make a list and shop with specific meals in mind so that you buy only what you need.
- Use it or lose it: plan meals with the use-by date in mind.
- Avoid soggy surprises: keep your fridge at 1-5°C to get the best from your food.
- Love your leftovers: make delicious meals from your leftovers.

Ladies of the night

Nearly 200 ladies supporting North London Hospice and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice came together on 30 June for a midnight walk that raised a staggering £25,000. The two hospices serve the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

As the clocks turned midnight on a wet night a sea of determined ladies, wearing navy blue 'Midnight Walk' T-shirts, could be seen sloshing their way under the balloon arch start line.

For many, it was the first time they had attempted such a challenge. Clare Elliott, whose mother-in-law had been cared for by North London Hospice, said, "I took part in the Midnight Walk with my sisters as a way of thanking the staff and to help them continue with the excellent work they do."

For further information about Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, contact Gill Dodge on 020 8449 8877 and for information on the North London Hospice, contact Theresa Bowman on 020 8446 2288.



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Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Nightmare in Cherry Tree Wood

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

Despite the success of the East Finchley Community Festival, a cloud darker than any rain cloud that day seems to hang over Cherry Tree Wood: the fenced-off pavilion, the absence of a park keeper and the state the wood was in the day after the festival.

Just a few days later, there was a large barbecue inside the pavilion veranda, against the wall, with a hole burnt through the bottom. Could this have been done by the same arsonist who destroyed the old kiosk café?

Some say a flaming wheelie bin had been pushed against the building in a similar way. This barbecue had obviously been left to burn, I suspect with the intention of destroying the pavilion.

Upon closer inspection, I discovered part of the fencing quite easily swung away, like a gate, accounting for how the barbecue was pushed inside. Another nasty surprise was a hole in a fence guarding the tube tracks, and pieces of lineside cable supports scattered in the woods.

Don't get me wrong. I love this park and I firmly believe it needs improving, not abandoning. The pavilion needs restoration, possibly through volunteers, as no business has been willing to do this.

Like many readers of THE ARCHER, I want a park keeper back. The paths need resurfacing, play equipment needs improving, and the football pitch needs to be reinstated. I also support the idea of having an assault course put in, effectively an adult playground, probably in the wood itself.

If Cherry Tree Wood is to get a green flag award, we need to turn the tide on its neglect. I believe we can do it.

Letters

Bridge needs a separate walkway

Dear Editor,

I write in response to your invitations for suggestions to improve the East End Road bridge. I do not think narrowing the road and installing traffic lights is a good suggestion. Why can't they build an iron or steel walkway to the side of the bridge over the railway line and even cage it in, then pedestrians will be able to walk safely across? They could even widen the road for the buses. I am not sure what the cost would

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, on request at publication.

be but I am sure it's not as high as the £200,000 suggested by Barnet Council to improve the situation.

Yours faithfully
Maggie Golden
Sylvester Road, N2

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Dead Ringers star Jon Culshaw makes an impression at Mim's Comedy Night.

Comedy night for Mim

Four hundred people gathered in The Comedy Store in the West End on 9 July for a truly memorable evening. They were remembering East Finchley resident Miriam Hyman of Holyoake Walk who, aged 31, was killed by the bomb on the Number 30 bus in Tavistock Square on 7 July 2005. Here, Josie Dobrin tells us about the event.

The idea was simple: to remember Miriam not as a bomb victim but as someone with whom we laughed and shared many happy times. In addition to having a truly memorable night, at least £8,000 was raised for the charity ORBIS UK, which helps to alleviate blindness in the developing world.

With a phenomenal line-up of comedians the audience were in for a treat. Compered by Muswell Hill resident and hugely talented comedian Mark Maier, the line-up included Simon Amstell, Simon Brod-kin, Jon Culshaw, Marcus Brigstocke, Francesca Martinez and Mitch Benn. There really was something for everyone.

Jon Culshaw gave everyone a taste of his impressions from BBC's *Dead Ringers* and delighted the crowd by taking requests from the floor. And then there was Mitch Benn who treated us all to a number of his hilariously acrid songs accompanied by his tiny guitar. The laughter just kept on coming.

Mark Maier said: "Although I didn't have the privilege of knowing Mim it's clear that she enjoyed a good laugh, so this was the perfect way to raise money for a great cause." Many of the people who did have the pleasure of knowing Mim felt she would have approved of the evening wholeheartedly (minus maybe some of the

bluer jokes told within earshot of her mother).

Esther Hyman, Miriam's sister, said: "Mim's Comedy Night was overwhelmingly successful. Laughter is the greatest remedy, so best of all is that we laughed until our sides hurt. I will have a smile on my face every time I remember the evening. It could not have been a more fitting tribute to Mim."

Free films at festival

This year's Muswell Hill Festival on 16 September in Cherry Tree Wood will feature a film tent showing free screenings courtesy of the Phoenix Cinema. The tent was a popular feature at the East Finchley Community Festival in June.

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Rooting for visitors

As part of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Open Day in June, Janet Maitland opened her garden in Trinity Road to visitors. Here she reveals what it's like preparing for the hordes to arrive.

"The right time to do anything in a garden is when you feel like it" (Christopher Lloyd).

Inspired by this maxim, gardening for me has always been a deliciously sensual experience. I potter about in a languid trance, doing whatever takes my fancy. Buying new plants is a simple matter of falling in love.

This all came to an abrupt end when Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society kindly allowed me to participate in their open day, even though East Finchley is technically on the wrong side of the tracks.

The month before the big day saw me fanatically manicuring the garden and hunting slugs with a torch at midnight. I worried that the visitors would disturb my robin's nest or step on the frogs. I even managed to buy plants I hated, one sporting acid yellow flowers more suited to a retirement home in Torquay.

As I tied the Society's purple balloons to the gate just before opening time, I felt as relaxed as if I had invited the public to rifle through my underwear drawer.

All right on the day

My garden was first or last on the route, depending on where people started. There were three visitors in the first 20 minutes. I then sat anxiously on my front doorstep for over two hours, wondering if anyone else was going to appear.

Suddenly visitors appeared in droves, bedazzled by the 21 gardens they had already seen. By closing time I was wrapped in a warm fuzz of compliments. Everyone was startled by the huge number of plants in such a small garden, admiring in particular the serene white foxgloves and giant black bamboo.

Right now I never want to do this again. However, like childbirth, I'll probably soon forget the pain and view the whole experience through rose tinted spectacles.

Stop Press: Janet has already forgotten the pain, having just agreed to become part of the National Garden Scheme, which is on the look out for new gardens in East Finchley. Anyone prepared to open up their garden once or twice a year for charity should contact Susan Bennett on 020 8883 8540.

Photos -

Waiting game (top) Janet

Maitland prepares herself.

Bottom: The garden in full bloom



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