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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



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An example of the Domino Effect

This row of pizza delivery bikes lying forlornly on their side in the High Road after a spell of windy weather could not be more apt – right outside Domino's. The photograph was taken last month by passer-by Nick Leigh and printed in The Sun newspaper.

Security cameras to tackle street crime

By John Dearing

The busiest shopping and pedestrian areas of East Finchley are to be monitored by 24-hour security cameras for the first time. Large grey poles have been installed to mount the cameras and the system is expected to go live within weeks.

Police and council officials believe CCTV cameras are one of their major tools to tackle street crime and anti-social behaviour.

Cameras have been installed at a number of points along the High Road and East End Road.

On the High Road, there is a camera on the corner of Fortis Green and on the corner of Beresford Road, close to the NatWest cash machine and to the Abbey bank, the scene of a security guard robbery in October.

In East End Road, a camera has been installed on the corner of Ossulton Way in the heart of the main shopping area. The shopkeeper at the Post Office

in East End Road was punched and kicked during a robbery in November.

Barnet Council confirmed that the CCTV security system had already been installed in a number of other town centres in the borough and East Finchley's network was due to become operational early in the New Year.

Cabinet Member for community safety and community engagement, Councillor Brian Coleman said: "Eight new CCTV cameras are being installed in East Finchley as part of Barnet Council's commitment to making the streets of our borough safe."

"Barnet already has more than 100 CCTV cameras covering town centres, streets and parks. CCTV is one of the major tools available to the council to tackle street crime and anti-social behaviour. The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by a team of fully trained council staff."

Police

station trial

Barnet Police station will be open until midnight every Friday and Saturday until the end of February as a trial to identify if there is a need for the station to be open beyond its normal 10pm closing time.

Ask takeaway plan rejected

By John Dearing

Pizza chain company Ask has had its planning application rejected to convert the former Barclays Bank premises on the High Road into a takeaway pizza parlour.

The application went to the Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning sub-committee on 7 December. After the second consultation by Barnet planning department, 11 letters of objection were received. Only one of the three objectors who

had asked to speak was able to attend.

After what appears to have been an ill-natured debate, and despite a recommendation from the planning officers to accept the application and similar exhortations by the chair of the sub-committee, it was rejected by a majority of the members.

The applicants gave notice of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

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Changes to bus routes

Bus passengers waiting for a better service through East Finchley may have some cause for hope with the news that the 263 and the 143 are among the routes being considered by Transport for London for extension, revision or improvement in 2008.

• Visit your community newspaper on-line at www.the-archer.co.uk •



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

Comments to THE ARCHER may be
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❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Water conmen steal from 95-year-old

A 95-year-old woman was robbed in her own home by two men claiming to be checking her water supply.

The men called at the victim's home in Leicester Road stating that they had just fixed a leaking pipe at the house next door and had called to make sure that her water supply was working.

Both men then walked into the victim's home even though she told them to leave. The men claimed to be looking to see if any of the water pipes were damaged, and began to search the property.

After about 20 minutes

both men left and the victim discovered that her handbag had been stolen.

The incident happened on Thursday 16 November at 5.45pm. Both suspects are described as white men aged 20, 5'8" tall. Both men were wearing dark coloured clothing.

If anyone has any information about this incident please contact Detective Constable Chantry on 020 8733 4595 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Arson attack on fir tree

This tree, on the corner of Springcroft Avenue and Southern Road, was set on fire on the afternoon of Thursday 9 November. If anyone has any information about this arson attack, please call the police on 020 8345 0732.



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Roadworks 'created a risk'

By Andy Shirlaw

A number of readers contacted *THE ARCHER* to say that pipe-laying work by Three Valleys Water on the High Road created roadworks that put pedestrians and drivers at risk.

Barnet Council also received a number of complaints from local residents about the roadworks between the tube station and the Bald Faced Stag, which were in place for three weeks in late November and early December.

Motorists were forced to share two lanes at a time, driving into the face of oncoming traffic on what is usually a dual

carriageway, and pedestrians lost the large traffic islands that allowed them to cross the High Road in safety near Baronsmere Road.

Colin Reeder, spokesman for Barnet Council, said Three Valleys Water had installed a new mains pipe to increase pressure in the area, and the traffic islands would be reinstalled as soon as the pipe had been fully tested.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

85 High Road, N2
Variation to Condition 2 (operating time for condenser machinery) of planning permission C00693U/05, dated 11-07-2005, to allow operation at any time, Monday to Sunday.

Land adjacent to and rear of 373 High Road, N2

Erection of three-storey building with lower ground floor level, comprising a total of eight self-contained flats. Associated provision of off-street parking space and changes to landscaping.

28A Park Hall Road, N2

Roof extension.

55 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Loft conversion, including side and rear dormer windows.

7 Huntingdon Road, N2

Dormer window to rear.

103 Durham Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

11 Bedford Road, N2

Ground floor rear extension.

97 Abbotts Gardens, N2

Two-storey side/rear extension.

4 Ashburnham Close, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2

Fell one sycamore, one oak, one hornbeam. Reduce one ash by 30%. Reduce lateral growth of one thorn by 30%.

Former Neurological Hospital site, Great North Road, N2

Erection of gatehouse adjacent to main entrance gates.

14 Holyoake Walk, N2

Ground floor rear extension and formation of new French doors. Loft conversion, including rear

dormer window, and side conservation roof window.

19 Ossulton Way, N2

Garden house at rear of property.

Grass verge at north-west junction of Lyttelton Road (A1) and The Bishops Avenue, N2

Installation of eight-metre high telegraph style mobile telecommunications pole, with one antenna. Associated equipment cabinet.

Haringey Council

95 Fortis Green N2

Demolition of single storey structure to rear, erection of glazed canopy to side and rear, erection of external boiler house to side and associated internal alterations (Listed Building Consent).

25 Ringwood Avenue N2

Erection of single storey rear extension, conversion of garage to habitable living space and alterations to elevations including insertion of new doors and windows (Certificate of Lawfulness)

7 Fireman's Cottages, Fortis Green N10

Replacement of existing single storey rear extension with new single storey rear extension. Loft conversion to include insertion of 3 rooflights. Alterations to elevations.

24 Twyford Avenue N2

Erection of side dormer window and erection of rear window with balustrade (Certificate of Lawfulness).

189 Creighton Avenue N2

Erection of single storey side/rear extension.



Tell us what's so great about East Finchley

There's still time to take part in our survey to find the highs and lows of living in East Finchley and give yourself a chance of winning £25.

Last month, *THE ARCHER* asked you to send in your top three reasons for loving East Finchley, plus the one thing you'd like to change.

Is there a club, a pub, a restaurant, a shop, an open space or something that happens in the community that makes it special for you?

Send your responses to us by 18 January and we'll enter you into our prize draw to win £25*. The results of the survey will be printed in next month's edition.

You can email us at: the-archer@lineone.net, or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Thank you.

Here are some of the survey responses we've had so far:

Frances Cooper, Richmond Road:

- 1. Bumping into everyone I know on the High Street, I get a real sense of belonging to a community - safe and cosy!
- 2. Being within running distance of Highgate Wood and Hampstead Heath on a crisp winter's morning.
- 3. Our fabulous coffee shops (Da Vincenzo, the Big Chef, Chorak) where you can sit for hours gossiping with mates.
- What I'd change: The Northern Line where even the most patient person can lose the will to live.

Luisa Cotardo, writer for The Archer:

- 1. The atmosphere of the village, the joy of the shops and cafés, and to be so far from Tesco.
- 2. The Phoenix Cinema.
- 3. The cakes at Chorak.
- What I'd change: The 143 bus when it does not arrive.

Gaynor Spry, Lazooli clothes shop:

- 1. The variety and number of places to eat and drink and take a moment for yourself, especially Da Vincenzo and The Old White Lion.
- 2. The support of the strong and well-organised local NCT. Tea can be a lifesaver in those early days when you're all at sea as a new mum.
- 3. The willingness of the stylish women of East Finchley to embrace a new idea! Thank you, ladies!

* One winner of the £25 cash prize will be drawn at random from all entries after the closing date on 18 January 2007. Please include your contact details so that we can tell you if you've won.

A word from our sponsors

By John Dearing

The more eagle-eyed among our readers will have noticed that East Finchley has been sponsored. The "Welcome to East Finchley Village" signs that are located on East End Road and Fortis Green have gained an extra section proclaiming that our community now has commercial connections.

Interestingly, both of the firms sponsoring us – an estate agent and a car dealer – are located in Regents Park Road and have no obvious connection with East Finchley.

THE ARCHER has asked a fairly random sample of residents and business people how they feel about being sponsored. Reactions vary from the positive "It's nice to see that East Finchley is being promoted, for once",

through weary indifference "So what?", to annoyance at the thought that East Finchley is in some way "For sale".

Barnet Council has confirmed that the new signs were installed by the council as part of a borough-wide initiative.

What is **your** opinion about this? Why not write to us at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London, N2 8JA, or email the-archer@lineone.net

Snowdrops in memory of the children of the Holocaust

Children from Holy Trinity School and Brooklands Junior took part in a special day to plant 10,000 snowdrop bulbs in memory of the children who died in the Holocaust.



Lauren Daymer (front left) and Millie Kellaway (front right) from Holy Trinity School join the snowdrop planting in Sunny Hill Park, Hendon. Picture courtesy LB of Barnet.

They were among a group of pupils from many schools in the borough, along with teachers and parents who joined the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan at Sunny Hill Park, Hendon, in November.

The Mayor said, "It is fitting that the young people of the borough, representing all religions, cultures, nationalities and races, will, by this simple act, bring home the scale of the Holocaust

and the importance of living together in harmony, while keeping alive the memory of those lost children."

The Snowdrop Project was started with the aim of planting a snowdrop in memory of every one of the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust. This

year's 10,000 bulbs will take the total planted so far to over 23,000.

Bulbs have previously been planted at Hendon Park, Edgwarebury Park, Friary Park, the RAF Museum in Hendon and the Old Court House Recreation Ground.

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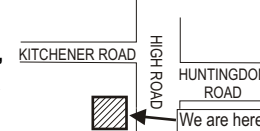
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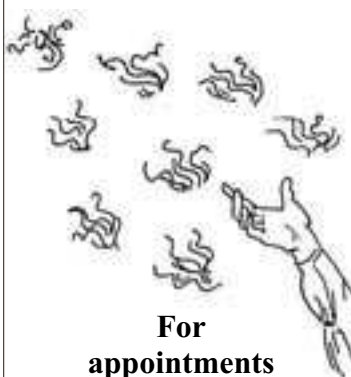
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A New Year message from Archie



As patron of this newspaper and a familiar sight to everyone in East Finchley atop the tube station, Archie speaks about the wishes he has for each month of 2007.

- 1. My first wish is for more trees. Trees produce oxygen, absorb pollutants, cut down noise and help shade people in the heat. Two mature trees will provide all the oxygen a family of four needs for life.
- 2. The second wish I address in a very loud voice to my landlord Transport for London. Would you please smarten up the tube station forecourt! The litter bins are falling apart, there's not a green leaf in the flower beds and a proliferation of street furniture and signs really gets up my inspection plate.
- 3. For my third wish, the NHS should convert Park House into East Finchley's primary care health centre, replacing the converted houses and shops from which local doctors operate. As I am now in my sixty-seventh year, I need elbow injections to counter holding a bow and arrow for so long.
- 4. For my fourth wish, the splendid East Finchley Library should open every day from 8am to 8pm. I find the current reduced hours a right pain in the microfiche, especially when I am reading Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu*. The lunchtime closure really interrupts my reading in the original French.
- 5. Next, I wish for a new direct bus route into London. Let's have the 134A from North Finchley via the High Road, Archway and Camden Town to Tottenham Court Road station. Extra buses would redress the shortcomings of the 263 while everyone would have direct access to the West End.
- 6. My sixth wish relates to my

- favourite cinema, The Phoenix. Let's restore its outside to complement those lovely new seats in the auditorium. My lower plinth has never been right after a screening of *Gone With The Wind* during the war.
- 7. Wish number seven is about the Northern line. Improvements, please, TfL, and no excuses.
- 8. Next, I wish for an East Finchley Day each year. Like Oxford and Regent Streets, pedestrians would replace the traffic's noise and fumes on the High Road. Imagine the scene with my friend the Bald Faced Stag. Armed with egg and cress sandwiches, some Jammy Dodgers and lashings of ginger beer, we'll have the time of our lives on the benches outside Iceland.
- 9. A plaque to mark the residence of the late Peter Sellers in the High Road would be my ninth wish.
- 10. For wish number 10, could Barnet Council maintain properly the flowerbeds outside Budgens? Bindweed can be attractive but not when it is strangling your *Phormium tenax*.
- 11. My eleventh wish is to celebrate the High Road's new hip status with an oyster and champagne bar. I know when I dined at Ketners in the 1960s it was a hard choice between the Bollinger '49 and a new upstart, Krug '61.
- 12. Finally, my last wish is for my 67th birthday in July. Let us all celebrate with a jolly good knees-up and beer at 1940 prices.

Happy New Year.

Archie

Phoenix Trust comes of age

By Sheila Armstrong

It is unpleasant to imagine but there might have been flats where the Phoenix Cinema stands today. In November 1985, the building was rescued from demolition when a trust was formed to ensure its survival as an independent cinema.

It was a tense time but the Greater London Council signed its last cheque for the cinema matching the sum of £325,000 bid by the property developer who wanted to build flats on the site.

On 8 December 2006, many of those who worked so hard then celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Phoenix Cinema Trust with films, Champagne and a cinema-shaped cake.

The programme for the event was chosen by Tony Jones, an early programmer for the cinema and now running Picture House, the largest independent group of cinemas in the UK. The main feature was *Mona Lisa*, starring Bob Hoskins.

Three shorts from the last 21 years were also shown and we were given a sample of digital projection, cutting edge pictures which are the shape of things to come. This Christmas the



21st anniversary celebration at the Phoenix. Picture courtesy Phoenix Cinema Trust.

cinema was showing a digitally-reworked *Wizard of Oz*.

Paul Homer, the Trust's chief executive, thanked everyone who works at the Phoenix for their dedication and devotion to film and the cinema. He indicated that the celebrations would go on for some months

and future plans included a café bar, renovation of the façade and a second screen in the car park at the back.

In 2010, the Phoenix will be the oldest cinema in continuous use in the UK. This year, a centenary fund will be started to help fund the Phoenix's new projects.

Room at the top

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Give us a lift, and we'll see new horizons!" That's the message East Finchley Library Users Group have sent out to Barnet Council as it prepares to bid for the Big Lottery Fund's offer of up to £2million for library development.

The money must be used for a specific project, which should open up a library building to allow a broader range of activities for local people. EFLUG decided to ask for an exterior lift, to give full access to the large meeting-area on the upper floor.

Throwing open library facilities and physical space to groups who might not otherwise use them would satisfy both the Big Lottery Fund requirements and Barnet's own recently declared library reorganisation policy.

A Barnet Council Cabinet meeting at the end of November

agreed that libraries should be made as accessible as possible, and should provide the local community with what it wants.

The same cabinet meeting was told that East Finchley had rejected the modernisation of its library in a 2004 survey, voting for the status quo.

If that statement is universally accepted, then our library is in grave danger. In fact, as EFLUG's Adam Gee has already made clear, what East Finchley voted for was the retention of the library in its present building, but with improvements.

One of those improvements

has always been seen as a lift to the upper floor. Barnet Council has since declared that there is no money for capital investment in normal budgets. Also, it would be extremely difficult to install a lift inside this particular Grade 2 listed building. However, an EFLUG member reported that he himself works in a Grade 2 listed building that has had an exterior lift installed, to the satisfaction of English Heritage.

EFLUG is confident that, with full access to that upper floor, our library could establish itself as a central focal point for the community.

St Paul comes to St James

By Marian Bunzl

The latest concert by North London Chorus at St James Church, Muswell Hill, was a performance of *St Paul*, a rarely-sung oratorio by Mendelssohn. This work is usually neglected in favour of his more well-known *Elijah*. Having spent 12 interesting weeks learning it, we can't think why.

St Paul tells the dramatic story of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, and the chorus has a wonderful time. We had to assume the many and varied roles in the drama: a choir singing to the glory of God, Christians lamenting the death of Stephen and the departure of Paul, puzzled gentiles and, on several occasions, a howling mob baying for blood. We enjoyed learning to act as well as sing this wonderful music.

But there is always a wasp at the picnic and this particular

wasp was the need for stamina. Mendelssohn was very young when he wrote this. He was full of ideas and he didn't like to leave anything out. The choruses are many and long, so we had to find a way to get through without losing our voices and keeping the audience interested. Fortunately towards the end, Mendelssohn seemed to run out of steam, and the choruses got mercifully shorter.

For the concert we had splendid soloists – four principal singers from English

National Opera – a brilliant orchestra and our maestro took us all at an exhilarating speed (I believe there was a sweepstake – won by the second trumpet – as to how many seconds he could shave off).

He energised us into a powerful and engaging performance and, when the organ thundered in, the atmosphere was electric. We forgot to get hoarse, the audience forgot how hard the church pews were and we very much hope we have put *St Paul* on the map.

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College Farm saved

By John Dearing

Finchley's College Farm, under threat since 1972, has finally been bought by the College Farm Trust, a charity set up nine years ago to save the Grade II listed community farm in Fitzalan Road.

The trust, chaired by Phil Green, plans to build a museum and educational facilities, restock the farm with animals and re-open it to the public within a couple of years as an example of a working farm.

College Farm was set up in the 1880s as a model dairy to promote cleanliness in milk production and to display all that was best in livestock and equipment. In 1971, it was bought by the Ministry of Transport to exchange with Barnet Council for land needed for a proposed flyover at Henly's Corner.

Chris and Jane Ower became the tenant farmers in 1976 and, with support from the Finchley Society set the farm up as a place the public could visit and see farming in an otherwise urban

area. In excess of 35,000 visitors a year came to College Farm until the doors closed at the start of the foot and mouth epidemic in February 2001.

As the flyover project never went ahead, it was eventually decided that the land should be sold. There were several campaigns to save the farm.

In June 2000, Rudi Vis MP gained agreement from the government to sell the land to a charitable trust for £500,000, considerably less than the market value, but as it turned out, still beyond the means of the trust.

The purchase of the site by the newly-formed College Farm Trust has finally come about using funds from the sale of two flats on the site of the farm.

Arts centre opens

By Diana Cormack

Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute's new Arts Centre has opened on the grounds of the former neurological hospital behind East Finchley tube station. It houses classrooms, studios, staffrooms and offices on its three floors.

As well as provision for art and craft, sculpture, pottery and textiles, there are facilities for music, photography and cookery. The official opening will be in May, when it is hoped that a member of the Royal Family will be able to perform the opening ceremony.

However, there will still be some art classes held in Park House, opposite the station, which the Institute will continue to rent from Barnet Council. Principal Fay Naylor told *THE*

ARCHER that ideally the Institute would like to buy the building from Barnet, who do want to sell the property, but as yet nothing has been resolved.

Despite the worries of some locals, she does not anticipate any parking problems arising from the opening of the Arts Centre, where only 30 places have been provided for staff and a few disabled students. This was due to planning regulations, as the authorities are trying to discourage the use of cars.

E-learning award for college

Christ's College has won a national award for its computer technology work from the Specialist Schools and Academics Trust.

The school, off East End Road, was praised for its online learning community that allows students to interact with their counterparts in schools in Holland, Australia and South Africa.

A large percentage of the school's curriculum is on the site where students can use special e-learning materials and discuss topics with others. It receives around 2,000 visits a day.

Christ's College has already implemented blogging for its pupils and has created podcasts for students to download and use as revision aids.

It is actively investigating further web-based initiatives to benefit learning including social bookmarking, where students can recommend useful websites, and wiki sites, which are essentially online encyclopaedias.



A motorist negotiates the flooded North Circular Road. Picture by Brian Marsh.

Gutter clearers must turn over a new leaf

By Daphne Chamberlain

Reader Brian Marsh sent us this photograph of the flooded North Circular slip road up to the A1000 at the top of East Finchley, which he said was caused by lack of leaf clearing. There were similar scenes at our end of The Bishops Avenue.

Local residents have complained to Barnet for years about this all-too-familiar sight and *THE ARCHER* has repeatedly reported it.

On the High Road, outside St Pancras Court, local people are just as frustrated. A lake has appeared every year for at least 30 years, covering the road and the pavement by the southbound bus stop, and sometimes running down into the garages under St Pancras Court.

One resident told us: "This November a huge stretch of pavement was completely under water. It was like a river in flood. Something like this happens every year. I've rung the council, but nothing is ever done."

Brian Marsh said the serious water hazard was caused by uncleared leaf piles and gullies draining down to the lowest level. He said: "Can Barnet Council and Transport

for London be shamed into dealing with this matter?"

Barnet Council told us that they undertook cyclic gully cleaning along the flooded areas of the A1000 in January 2006, followed by further one-off cleaning of several gullies last August. Following a further site inspection in November, they had again cleared a number of blocked gullies. They said that heavy rainfall had made the situation worse, but there were proposals in place to upgrade gully gratings to increase the waterway area – a solution that has proved successful in other areas of the borough. The programme of works is due to be

completed in April 2007.

Confirming that the North Circular slip road is TfL's responsibility, Barnet said they have asked TfL to carry out necessary maintenance.

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A year in the life

Here's a reminder of the news, events, people and pictures that made the pages of The Archer in 2006.

Our reporting team relies on you to tell us what's going on so if you have any news for us in 2007, get in touch by email to the-archer@lineone.net, by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA, or by phone on 08717 334465. Thank you.



From January: Travel writer Chris Haslam is pictured reading The Archer during a trip to the Antarctic to survey penguin numbers.

January

Strong feelings are shown at a public meeting on the future of **Stanley Field** when Barnet Council is urged to resist building on the playing field next to Holy Trinity School and to restore it as a leisure facility for the whole community. We interview **Bernhard Herzberg**, the oldest student in England at the age of 96, who is tackling his second Master's degree at the University of London. He is undaunted by having to produce essays of 3,000 words.

Two brothers are charged with the murder of **Jacqueline Queen**, 39, whose body was discovered in a grassed area in Elmhurst Crescent, near the junction with East End Road in November 2005.

We report the opening of beauty therapists **Utopia**, in Leicester Mews, and **Mandana** at Jennie Mann's in Church Lane.

February

East Finchley Library Users' Group launches a campaign to save **East Finchley Library** from staff cuts, shorter opening hours and a reduced service as part of cuts to Barnet's library budget.

A shotgun and a cache of ammunition are discovered on **The Grange** estate hidden in an alcove behind rubbish bins.



From February: Wildlife makes itself at home as a sparrow hawk is caught feasting on a wood pigeon in the back garden of a house in Hertford Road.

Campaigners win the first round of their battle to prevent three **mobile phone masts** being installed in the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane.

We report on the reopening of the café in **Cherry Tree Wood** under the management of Eileen Cannon.

March

The site of the **Finchley Manor Garden Centre** on East End Road goes up for sale and demolition crews move in on the **Red Lion pub** in Elmfield Road.

Hundreds of people sign a petition to safeguard the **Local Café** on the corner of Lincoln Road and High Road which is at risk of losing its kitchen space to a neighbouring development.

The new **police patrol base**, home to the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team, opens in the High Road.

We report on the success of Martin Junior School pupil **Olivia Chemutai Koimur**, the first girl to win the Charlotte Coleman Scholarship at the North London Performing Arts Centre.

April

London Underground announces that **Northern line** passengers will face six months of disruption as the East

June

East Finchley is praised by the Evening Standard for being 'hip and family friendly'.

Artists from the **East Finchley Open** group stage an exhibition of poetry and artwork on the railings of Stanley Field to protest at plans to build on the land.

Giftshop **The Cherry Tree** and the **Monkey Face** bar open on the High Road.

Actress Barbara Windsor starts the fundraising walk for **Jack Brown** from East Finchley tube station. Jack is suffering from a rare form of cancer and needs £200,000 to fund treatment in America.



From July: TV presenter and former England footballer Ian Wright is pictured at Bishop Douglass School filming scenes for a Channel 4 show on children and exercise.

July

We report on **Fleur Adcock**, of Lincoln Road, who was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Representatives from The East Finchley Community Development Trust, The Walks Residents Association and Holy Trinity School meet Barnet Council leader Mike Freer to discuss the future of **Stanley Field**.

A sofa supplied by **Jane Elliott**, of Baronsmere Road, becomes the centrepiece of the lounge on Channel 4's Big Brother.

August

Two performance groups complain that they were unfairly left out of the stage programme at the **East Finchley Community Festival** in June. Our article prompts a flood of letters in support of the festival organisers.

Melvyn Friend, of Manor Park Road, a model maker behind the Daleks and many other scenes in the new Doctor Who series, is honoured by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for his team's work.

Barnet welcomes its new Borough Commander Detective Chief Superintendent **Stephen Kavanagh**.

September

Six people are sentenced for their part in a £1.7million burglary in **The Bishops Avenue**. A safe was dragged from the living room and cars worth £400,000 were stolen from the drive.

Daily Mail 'Plantsman of the Year' Award winners **Patsy Joseph** and **Paul Harrington**

open their **East Finchley** garden to the public.

The **Phoenix Cinema** follows a summer of free films for children by bringing back its popular Saturday morning Kids Club showings.

October

In a reference taken to include **East Finchley Library**, Barnet Council leader Mike Freer warns that libraries housed in listed buildings will need to be replaced with new models in multi-functional buildings.

We interview **David Millard**, general manager of the Northern line, about the continued

weekend tube closures, which have been extended into November.

East Finchley family **Kate Fuscoe** and **James Johnson** head off with their children Miles and Joseph for a year's voluntary work in Mozambique.

Actress **Maureen Lipman** pays tribute to the life and work of her late husband Jack Rosenthal in a special event at the Phoenix Cinema.

November

Ambitious plans to open a **City Academy** in North Finchley in 2008 are revealed, potentially widening the secondary school choice for pupils in East Finchley.

Italian restaurant chain Ask puts forward a proposal to turn the former **Barclays Bank** building on the corner of Fortis Green and the High Road into a takeaway restaurant.

East Finchley artist **Eti Wade** sees her photographs of her six-year-old son Yonatan put on show at the National Portrait Gallery.

December

A campaign is started to put **East Finchley** on the map by publicising the many new shops and attractions in the community.

We report on two new businesses which have opened their doors: **La Rugoletta** Italian restaurant in Church Lane and **Fiori** florists in the High Road.

Hugely popular children's author **Michael Rosen** reads his best work to schoolchildren at Martin Schools.

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Gable Lodge, an eight-bedroom luxury house on The Bishops Avenue, stars as the home of the contestants in the BBC TV show The Apprentice.

Barnet Council decides to go ahead with cuts to the service at **East Finchley Library** despite protests from users.

Noble Sage, the first gallery in the UK to specialise in contemporary south Asian art opens in Fortis Green, and **Cochin** south Asian restaurant opens on the High Road.

May

The borough of **Barnet** is branded 'lifeless and dull' in the Time Out London for Londoners book.

Two men are charged with murder following the death of 38-year-old **Colin Brown** on The Grange estate in April.

We report on the anger of residents on **Creighton Avenue** who had a green Ford Transit van parked outside their homes without moving for 11 months.



Give yourself a New Year career makeover

At the age of 50, Liz Granato changed from being vice principal of a language school to becoming a life coach. Here she describes how you too might be able to make a career changing decision.

Do you feel dissatisfied with your career or job, but have no idea how to change it? Do you have a secret dream of doing something entirely different? Surveys show that one of the most common regrets of retired people is that they stayed in jobs that at best didn't fulfil their ambitions and at worst made them extremely unhappy. So what better time to start making some changes than now at the start of the New Year?

Where to begin?

First, you need to take a long, hard look at your present situation and job and list the reasons why you are dissatisfied with it. Is there something intrinsically wrong with the job, the management or the conditions of work? Are the values of the organisation, management or colleagues at variance with your own? Is the balance between time spent at work and your leisure time wrong? Are you bored and under challenged or are you permanently stressed with too much expected of you?

Next, look at your options. Do you have a dream job to aim for, an interest or a passion? Would you like to become freelance or start your own business?

Next comes the reality check. Is it possible to turn the dream job into reality, the hobby or skill into a thriving business? What is needed to make it possible: further training, further education, finance?

Then you need to set yourself goals and time limits. Keep to them and you're on your way to a more fulfilling future.

Some of us need no help, we can start, continue and finish the changing process on our own. But others would welcome some support through all the stages, to help us make the realistic choices, to help us set the goals and keep to targets. If you think you would like to make changes and could benefit from some objective support, then Career Coaching could be for you.

Contact Liz on info@procecsscoaching.co.uk or 020 8365 3835 for more information or to arrange a free introductory session.

One-woman Bridge of Faith

By Daphne Chamberlain



"In the Koran," said Shama Husain, "there is a beautiful version of the birth of Jesus. It tells how Mary shook dates from a palm tree to strengthen her in labour. Is that why dates are traditionally eaten at Christmas?"

Shama, who lives in Ashburnham Close, gives presentations to children and adults under the heading of Bridges in Faith. She wants to help them understand Islam and its links with other religions.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam sprang from the same root, all recognising the Old Testament prophets (and the Angel Gabriel). She told me that Muslims believe in the virgin birth, though interestingly there is no Joseph in their version of the Nativity story. They honour Jesus, but do not believe in the Resurrection or in original sin.

Born in Pakistan, Shama has a BA in Economics from Punjab University, and an MA from Peshawar. Her two children were educated in England, and she has been in and out of the UK since she was 20. In 1992, as a mature student, she took a BA in Education at Cambridge.

Respecting all faiths

In her first teaching job, in Peterborough, she realised that her mainly Muslim pupils didn't know enough about other faiths. At her next school, in Bedford, she felt that the mainly white

children didn't know enough about Islam. So she began to hold different faith assemblies in schools, also including Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism.

She herself had been educated in an Anglican school and in a convent. "I can sing carols with the best of them," she told me.

By the time she moved to London, in 2002, she had had enough of teaching, but not enough of education. "The Prophet Muhammad was unlettered," she says, "but his companions were not. He stressed the value of education, but also believed that people should be easy and comfortable with religion."

On today's controversial topics, Shama believes that the best veil is that of the heart, and that "if you kill one person, you kill all humanity".

Nowadays, she speaks about Islam to schoolchildren and adult groups all over the UK. She says it is "magical" meeting these groups. "I feel truly humbled when someone wants to know about Islam."

Shama Husain can be contacted on 07976 379252 or at shamahusain@fastmail.fm.

Party for young and old

By Pam Kent

A party for elderly neighbours and residents of Nazareth House was organised and held by Year 10 pupils of Bishop Douglass School on 13 December.

Pupils had spent much time fund-raising over the year and about 50 guests were treated to a superb Christmas dinner, entertained by staff and pupils, and handed gifts by Father Christmas. Two pupils were appointed to each table, ensuring that everyone was well looked after, refilling glasses,

serving and clearing tables. Everyone joined in the singing and a good time was had by all. Head teacher Angela Murphy is anxious to uphold the current good relationship the school has with local residents and it is hoped that following greater canvassing more residents will attend next year.

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Anthony Young at the awards ceremony

Anthony's a winner

By John Lawrence

Anthony Young is 44 and has moderate learning difficulties. He is extremely articulate but, until recently, could barely read or write and had never used a computer.

Now a student at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute in East Finchley, he has overcome many of the challenges he was facing to be named London winner in a national student award scheme.

It is a major achievement for Anthony and recognition of all the hard work he has put into his Basic Skills course at the Institute.

Course leader John O'Brien said that at the start of the year Anthony was nervous and was lacking in confidence in his abilities.

He said: "His past educational experiences as an adult had been very negative: he had been told he was unteachable as he did not know the alphabet. Nonetheless, Anthony attempted every task bravely and with the support of his family, did regular homework each week to practise writing the letters of the alphabet."

"This resulted in him passing his Entry Level 1 in reading, speaking and listening and ICT skills. We expect he will pass his writing, numeracy and personal development awards soon as well."

"Anthony is such a diligent student, and has overcome a great deal of fear this year. Passing his qualifications meant everything to him."

Being named the London

regional winner of the NCFE National Student of the Year Awards meant Anthony received a certificate and a cheque for £150.

Anthony said: "I can't believe it, I've never won anything before in my life." He has recently moved into a new flat in Fairway, High Barnet, and plans to use his prize money to buy a stereo.

His achievement is all the more impressive because the award scheme attracted entries from more than 200 colleges around the country that offer further education qualifications and were not limited to students with learning disabilities.

Highgate and holidays

Scenes of Highgate and local festivals were the centrepieces of the annual exhibition of paintings by the Highgate Watercolour Group.

Twenty-seven artists put their work on show and up for sale at Lauderdale House, Highgate recently, each with their own style and approach. The group was set up in 1980 and is part of the Highgate Society.

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YOUNG ARCHER



This statue of Janus is at the Colosseum in Rome. Picture by John Lawrence.

Looking back to front

By Diana Cormack

How many words do you know that begin with *jan*? Not many, I'll bet, except for *January*. But, if you were American, you would probably think of *janitor*, which is what they call someone who looks after a building such as a caretaker or school keeper. These people are usually in charge of the entrances to buildings and their title takes us way back to Roman times.

The ancient Roman god of gates and doorways was called Janus. He was shown with two faces looking in opposite directions, which was very useful for seeing who was coming and who was going, especially if you were trying to keep track of your enemies.

In the forum in Rome there was a temple dedicated to Janus. The doors were kept shut in times of peace, but when they were at war the Romans left the doors open ready to receive the victorious army on its return. The temple had 12 windows and four doors – a window for every month and a door for each season.

During the month of January, the Romans held festivals in honour of Janus and they made offerings of new food and new wine to him. They asked him

to forgive what they had done wrong in the old year and to make them happy in the new year.

As well as being the guardian of doors and entrances, Janus was also the god of beginnings, which made him the ideal god for the New Year. In fact, he was a doubly good choice because, with his two faces, he could look back at the year that had passed and forward to the one that was coming. Perhaps he was the first version of *Back to the Future*!

Funnies...

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho Cheese.

What do you call four bull-fighters in quicksand?
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Body art

makes its mark

Beautiful body art for children was one of the big hits at Holy Trinity School's bumper Christmas Fair in December.

Clive the tattooist was kept busy air-brushing animals and mystical patterns on to the arms and hands of pupils, and even a few parents joined the queue.

Young visitors also loved the Secret Room – no adults allowed – where they could pay £2 to buy and wrap a present for a grown-up in their lives.

There were craft stalls, bric-a-brac, two tombolas and a fabulous raffle, all raising money to help fund the school's activities in the year ahead.

As always, Holy Trinity parents made sure the food was a major attraction with dozens of homemade dishes on sale, alongside a mouth-watering cake stall.

Ellie Franklin from Year 5 gets her body art from Clive the tattooist at the Holy Trinity School fair. Picture by John Lawrence.



Festive fancy dress

By Helen Drake

The fancy dress competitions held at Martin Schools' events are always hotly contested and the one held at the Christmas Bazaar this year on 2 December was no exception.



Some Christmas puddings made an appearance at the Martin Schools' Bazaar. Photo by Philip Vallentin.

Children (with perhaps a little help from their mums, dads and grandparents) had been busy with the card, paper, glue and paints to create an abundance of costumes on a festive theme.

Good weather meant the outdoor zone in the playground with the "knock the hat off the snowman" game, along with giant Jenga and dominos sets, was hugely popular and the interactive whiteboard in the Junior School Hall was put to good use by those running the M-bay stall (Martin Schools' own version of e-Bay) giving bidders up-to-the-minute information on the success of their bids.

Those with a sweet tooth were catered for as well. On the chocolate fountain stall visitors were invited to dip pieces of fruit as well as the more naughty doughnuts and marshmallows into a cascade of warm melted chocolate – delicious!

Pupils visit Gunners' new home

In November, Year 6 children from Holy Trinity C of E School and the Akiva Independent Jewish School were invited to visit Arsenal Football Club's new home at the Emirates Stadium. The event was organised as part of the Kick Racism Out of Football campaign and started off with mixed teams from both schools playing in a mini-football tournament at a sports centre close to the stadium.

Holy Trinity School reports: "We then walked to the stadium and were impressed by its size. We were taken up to the 49ers restaurant (named after Arsenal's 49 games without a loss in the league). We went and sat in the seats of the stadium and were told some facts. Then Gunnersaurus came to see us!

"There was a presentation by the community team from Arsenal about the work they do both in the Holy Land and Africa, and about the multicultural aspect of their team. The theme for the school presentations was 'light'. We, Holy Trinity, did a

presentation about Advent and Christingle, and Akiva did a presentation about Hanukkah. Both groups of children learned lots and thoroughly enjoyed the day."

Unfortunately, that enjoyment was somewhat dimmed by the fact that stadium management did not let the children have a tour of the stadium. One of the accompanying teachers told *THE ARCHER* that when they asked about this, the reason they were given appeared to be monetary, though the tour had been given last year and still happens at other top football clubs.

All hands on deck

Young sea cadets turned into waiters and waitresses for the evening to serve their annual fundraising Christmas meal.

The young members of Finchley Sea Cadets cooked and served a delicious four-course meal to around 80 guests at their base in Long Lane.

With a disco afterwards, the evening was a great success and helped to raise funds for the group's activities.



Children are getting the Yoga bug

Today's children are often billed as either relentlessly hyperactive or lazy couch potatoes. Could yoga help? Luisa Cotardo finds out from East Finchley yoga teacher Laura Gate-Eastley.

Laura, why did you start teaching yoga to children?

After practising yoga daily for over seven years and teaching adults for two years I wanted to be able to offer this wonderful gift to children.

Why can yoga be important for children?

The moment a child starts school and spends time sitting at a desk they start to lose the natural flexibility in their spines. Yoga develops strength, stamina and flexibility as well as mental benefits. It helps with building confidence, improves concentration and helps them sleep better.

You teach through YogaBugs. What is that?

YogaBugs is UK-based but now has teachers worldwide. It's a training course which gives teachers the skills to teach yoga to children from the age of two to seven. The sister company Yoga'd Up teaches yoga for eight to 12-year-olds.

Can you describe some exercises done during your class?

In YogaBugs classes we take the children on a 30-minute adventure by telling a story; they interact with me by acting out the poses of the characters. Every week is different, we can be on the moon, underwater or in the jungle. Although they are learning traditional yoga poses we have fun with it.

Which is the one they have most fun with?

They really love being animals: Buster the dog, Dolly the dolphin, Mr Cranky the crab. Another favourite is answering the telephone, which involves bringing a foot up to the ear while sitting down: great for hip flexibility as well as making us all laugh!

Can these exercises improve their lives?

Parents tell us that their children sleep better after a yoga class. Having children focus inside themselves for a few moments brings a sense of centre and can really calm things down. It's a skill that will certainly have its uses outside the yoga class.

For more details or a demonstration at your school or nursery contact Laura on 020 8346 8198 or 07984 201843 or by email at: lauralotus@gmail.com.

Youth group with reason to celebrate

By Diana Cormack

Members and supporters of the East Finchley Youth Group gathered at the Methodist Church Hall, High Road, for a party to celebrate their first anniversary. The large turn out impressed the guests, who included Councillors Alison Moore and Colin Rogers, along with Judge John Parker who works with young offenders, representatives from the community police and Robina Spinks, representing the East End Road Youth Group on the Thomas More estate.

Tu Destino, the High Road florists, ensured things went with a bang by donating and decorating the room with beautiful balloons that could also be taken home. A wonderful spread of food was prepared by

those volunteers who regularly help the youth group, which is backed by the East Finchley Christian Fellowship.

A host of entertainment much appreciated by the audience was provided by mostly local youngsters. These included seven-year-old Luena Martins-Aguira rocking the audience with three power-packed songs, the teenage Matthews brothers rapping their own words accompanied by Vishal's music mixing and a girls' dance display supported by a youth group from south London. Des Brown was MC at the event in November and he also gave a shorter version of his previous talk to the youth club about how the rest of your life can be affected by the choices you make. (as reported in "Saying No to Knives" in *THE ARCHER* July 2006).

East Finchley Youth Group meets at the Methodist Church Hall in the High Road on Mondays between 7pm and 8.30pm.

This had us foxed

Residents living near Cherry Tree Wood were puzzled when a note from estate agents Foxtons was delivered through their doors.

The letter was requesting properties for sale in Springcroft Avenue and Brompton Grove for a serious buyer who was said to be ready to pay the full price and 'knows your street well'.

Sadly, it appears the buyer may not be as well acquainted with the area as the note suggests. Brompton Grove is a dirt road running alongside the wood and, apart from one side door, has no houses directly on it at all.

Calling all women entrepreneurs

By Avril Macdonald

How would you like to join a group of ambitious women with an entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to help each other?

Finchley Women in Business Network wants to put like-minded women together in a structured yet informal environment to help generate more business for one another.

We meet once a month over lunch at the Meze Bar on the High Road – a time chosen as the most convenient and productive for the many members with children and families.

Members are from a cross-section of businesses and include solicitors, web site designers, printers, alternative therapists and many others, but we all encourage each other in our shared aim, that of wanting to expand our businesses.

We have agendas, and the meetings are formal without being stuffy but will always be friendly and supportive.

Each lunch group allows one person per profession to minimise competitive conflict between members and there is a training session at each meeting to help members focus on marketing their business and themselves. All members have an opportunity to do a presentation about their business.

For people who work from home it's a great way to meet other business women and, although I am a member of a number of business organisations, I find that the Women in Business Network is the friendliest. It has also produced a number of business leads and opportunities.



Women in Business - Therese Lawton (left) and homeopath, Penny Hill, modelling Therese's jewellery.

Members can visit any of the other 20 existing groups as long as there is no professional clash and there are a further nine being set up, all in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Essex.

So, if you think you would like to visit the group, or to consider nearby groups, you can

check whether your profession is represented by visiting the website www.wibn.co.uk where you can see for yourself what WIBN can offer your business. Our next meeting is on Thursday 1 February. For further information contact Avril Macdonald on 020 8444 3849.

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❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
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❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
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❖ **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.

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❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
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❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 8 & 22 Jan 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.

Virtuoso guitarist wows artsdepot

By John Dearing

Some 30 years ago, I first had the pleasure of watching Martin Simpson live at a folk club in Suffolk, and listening to his singing and his astonishingly good guitar playing. Three decades, countless live performances and many, many albums of recorded music later, I am still enthralled by his playing.

On 30 November, he appeared in the Studio Theatre of artsdepot, accompanied by the melodeon player Andy Cutting, a former colleague in the June Tabor band. They played a selection of English folk tunes such as *Little Musgrave*, about the cuckolding of Lord Barnard and the subsequent violence, songs by modern writers such as Randy Newman (*Louisiana 1927*, about the terrible floods of that year), American folk tunes about the Civil War, about poor folk travelling about by (illegally) riding the freight trains, and some self-penned compositions.

The Granemore Hare described hare coursing from the hare's viewpoint, and *The Lakes of Ponchartrain* related the sad story of young Willie who went swimming in notoriously dangerous waters and

was inevitably lost, much to the anguish of his mother and his girlfriend.

Martin Simpson played conventional acoustic guitar, banjo, and a wooden framed slide guitar. He plays mostly in the finger style (rather than with a conventional plectrum) and his arrangements are rich, complex, and highly melodic. His singing is emotional, sometimes harsh, and his voice is strong and expressive.

Andy Cutting, aside from accompanying, played a couple of solo pieces, one a traditional folk tune, the other written by himself, and showed himself to be a fine musician, worthy to be on the same stage.

Martin Simpson seems to spend much of his time in America and France, but whenever he returns to England, if you get the chance to see him live, take it.

An Evening with Maureen

By Betti Blatman

Actress Maureen Lipman became involved with the North London Hospice after a friend spent a year there and even more so after the death of her playwright husband Jack Rosenthal.

Tales from her family life and her 40 years in showbusiness made a fascinating and amusing evening for a jam-packed audience at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, in aid of the hospice's crucial work.

She introduced herself as a Yorkshire lass from Hull, a 60-year-old actress, widow, mother, daughter, sister and writer. In case anybody was wondering about the varied streaks of colour in her hair, they were a necessity while she was working with Joanna Lumley on television's *Sensitive Skin*, although she felt like a "closet blonde".

Being a widow, she reflected on her late husband Jack and remembered that her mother never understood what he did for a living. When he was looking out of the window, Maureen had to explain that he was thinking.

Jack found it difficult to write about himself and died before he could finish his autobiography but Maureen decided to finish it for him. Although Jack is the only person to have won Bafta awards three years running, she remarked that it was puzzling why, in recognition of his outstanding achievements, the BBC didn't run a series of his plays after his death.

In her 40 years in the business, apart from periods of childbirth and illness, she hasn't stopped working and is a workaholic as she finds it difficult to say no, except to 'celebrity' TV shows, which she won't do.

A writer she may be but she considers herself innumerate. When she visited Las Vegas,

she thought gambling was not for her until she "won loads of money three times" but was then informed she was using the coin change machine.

As part of the evening, Maureen performed Joyce Grenfell's sketch *First Flight* as well as her own piece *Diner*.

For more information on North London Hospice contact the fundraising office at 47 Woodside Avenue, London N12 8TF or by telephone on 8446 2288.

A masterful Journey's End

By Lucy Chamberlin

Incognito Theatre Group excelled once again with its November production of RC Sheriff's *Journey's End*. Marking the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and supported by the Royal British Legion, the play seemed to have lost none of its original impact since it was written in 1929.

The impressive set comprised a dug-out that was perhaps a little too cosy, but the depiction of trench politics was masterfully done.

Sheriff scripts a delicate balance of characters: Stanhope, the highly-strung young captain whose only remaining courage is found in the whisky bottle, Osbourne, the practical lieutenant and 'uncle' to all, and second lieutenants Hibbert and Trotter, who could not be more different in their respectively neurotic and bluff approaches to the war.

As the shells fall and the death missions are ordered, mundane conversation, stiff upper lips and comedy from Mason the Orderly belie the emotional tension affecting



Geno Washington and Jack Brown. Picture by Yvonne Brown.

Geno casts a spell for Jack

Legendary soul singer Geno Washington was the star of a show at Lauderdale House in Highgate to raise money for the Jack Brown Appeal. Betti Blatman was there.

When Geno Washington read about the plight of five-year-old Jack Brown, from Barnet, who is suffering from a rare form of cancer, the singer wanted to get more involved.

The result was a concert at Lauderdale House in Highgate on Saturday 25 November, where Geno and the Ram Jam Band performed many of their well-known songs.

Geno dedicated *I Put A Spell On You* to Jack, who was in the audience. Jack's parents, Yvonne and Richard, are desperately trying to raise enough money for their son to receive treatment in America. Money raised from the evening will go towards Jack's appeal.

The Ram Jam Band are Orlando la Rose (saxophone), Neil Pyze (saxophone), Steve Bingham (bass), Geoff Hemsley (drummer) and Andy Wil-

liams (guitar).

At the same concert, the crowd was treated to entertainment by Chris Jagger (brother of Mick) playing rub board, guitar and harmonica while singing a great range of songs; followed by Damian O'Shea whose unique voice adapted songs from rock 'n' roll to Dr John including *Go Johnnie Go* and *Goin' to Louisiana*.

For more information on Jack's condition and his appeal, visit www.jackbrownappeal.org or contact Mikee (SUBS- this is CORRECT) Tring on 07702 191 478. You can donate by sending a cheque to The Jack Brown Appeal, c/o The 2 Simple Trust (a registered UK charity 1113954), Enterprise House, 2 The Crest, London NW4 2HN.

What's On...

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

Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:

Wednesday 10 January, 8pm, **An Audience with Maureen Lipman**; Thursday 18 January, 7pm, **Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company**; Saturday 27 January to Thursday 1 March, 12pm - 4pm, **Enchanting Taiwan**; Thursday 25 January, Friday 26 January and Monday 5 February, 8pm, **Omid Djalili: No Agenda**; Friday 26 January, **Folk in the Foyer**; Saturday 27 January, **London Youth Dance**; Sunday 28 January, 7:45pm, **Israel Piano Trio**; Thursday 1 February, 8pm, **Jeff Mirza**.

Saturday 17 February
SwampRock's Mardi Gras party:

Red Hot Louisiana sounds return to SwampRock at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, from 8pm. Whiskey River will play their own blend of Hot Zydeco, Steamy Cajun, Rockin' Blues and good old fashioned Rock 'n' Roll. Lil' Queenie will be joining them on rub board for SwampRock's authentic Bourbon Street Mardi Gras Party with beads and masks. Large dance floor, non smoking, admission £9. Further information from Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth on 01727 830280. Also see www.swamprock.org.uk.



Letters to the editor

Not out of the woods yet

Dear Editor,

It is good news that Thames Water has at last taken some action to tackle pollution of the stream that feeds Coldfall Wood (*THE ARCHER*, November 2006). But it is too early to celebrate.

Seven houses out of several hundred are a tiny proportion of those yet to be checked. Pollution is as bad as ever. Today the stream had its very own oil slick, and the wood reeks of petrochemicals because of a discharge of pollutants into the stream.

Urgent and extensive action is required to prevent further incidents of this kind.

Yours faithfully,
Sarah Hutton
Address supplied

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

I predict a riot – maybe

It's that time of year again. The recycling bin is overflowing with the proof of your conspicuous over-consumption and the cat is suffering from turkey poisoning. All across the country, soothsayers and the mentally deranged are staring into crystal balls, examining the entrails of goats and aligning Mars bars with Uranus in a desperate attempt to persuade you that they can see the future. It's a game for all the family and, having stared long and hard into the bottom of a beer glass and aligned Cherry Tree Wood with Waitrose, I realised that I could join in.

You don't need crystal balls to know that the Northern line will be miserable, or that England won't win the Rugby World. You do need a serious reality gap to predict that Elvis will be found hiding in Budgens. My 2007 predictions might have nothing to do with balls or goat entrails, but they might happen and that's the worrying thing about them.

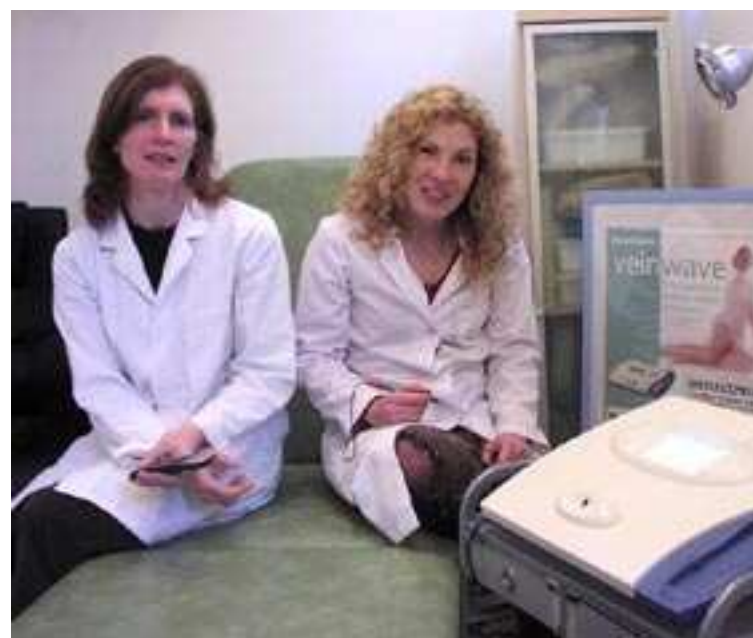
I foresee Scotland undoing 300 years of misrule by declaring independence on 1 May. This will be followed by a mass census where all true Scots will return to their ancestral homes to celebrate and give the English time to rebuild Hadrian's Wall to make sure they can't get back in.

In fields across England that are forever muddy, tents will be erected, camp fires lit and small boys forced to honour the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts whether they like it or not.

In a demonstration of building prowess that has not been since Tesco last built a hypermarket, William Blake's 250th birthday will be celebrated by the building of Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land. Or, failing that, a reasonably inaccurate model will be built out of left-over beer cans in a field just outside Milton Keynes.

2007 marks the 350th anniversary of Oliver Cromwell turning down the offer of the throne and republicans will try to persuade his descendants to tell the Queen they've changed their minds and would like to have a go.

None of this might come true, but I can predict one thing with certainty. On 2 June, Classic FM will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Elgar's birth by playing his entire works, in 10-minute chunks, scattered randomly throughout the day.



Judith Costa & Mary Goulbourn. Picture by John Dearing

Wave goodbye to veins

By Daphne Chamberlain

If you have thread or spider veins that are too small for injections but big enough to make you self-conscious, you might be suspicious of advertisements promising to get rid of them. That is until East Finchley's chiropodist/podiatrist, Mary Goulbourn, offered to demonstrate a new removal technique called Veinwave.

Before my fascinated eyes, veins round Mary's own ankles simply disappeared. Veinwave works by thermo-coagulation, via a fine electrolysis-type needle, covered with an insulating sheath. Only the very tip comes into contact with your veins.

Encouraged by the demonstration, I let Mary loose on a few threads around my nose. I could certainly feel the needle, with some areas more sensitive than others, but the sensation was only like a series of pinpricks.

After-effects were a few blotches, which disappeared very quickly, and some faint marks like phantom veins, which were broken down by the body in a couple of weeks. On my second visit, Mary

greatly reduced even the biggest vein, leaving me very pleased.

Facial veins are usually cleared with a couple of visits. You may need one or two more to get the best results on the legs, but not nearly as many as laser treatment would take.

Mary and her East Finchley Foot Clinic colleague, Judith Costa, are both qualified Veinwave practitioners, and are treating a growing number of clients at their base in Utopia, Leicester Mews. "As a chiropodist, you see how many people have this problem," Mary told me.

For more information, ring Mary or Judith on 020 8444 2123. They are offering free consultations until the end of March.

January at the Phoenix

By Phoenix manager Paul Homer

January is traditionally a great month for cinema, and 2007 is no exception. We open the month from 5 January with the last film by the great Robert Altman, *Prarie Home Companion*, based on Garrison Keillor's popular weekly radio show in mid-west America. The film is hosted by GK himself and proves yet again how adept Altman was at bringing together differing storylines to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. The stellar cast includes Woody Harrelson, Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones and Kevin Kline.

Following straight on from 19 January is the latest film from another director who pulls together different story strands in one film, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's *Babel*. Taking place across three continents with an ensemble cast of who's hip in world cinema at the moment, the film examines different cultures and lack of understanding between them.

If you visit the Phoenix in January you will notice that we have (finally) finished installing our new seats. The new seats are in a traditional cinema chair design but with much better padding to create more comfort. They are backed in a lovely cherry-mahogany wood, giving a warm rich feeling. We have also increased the leg room for the seats on the flat part of

the auditorium, giving a better cinema experience all round.

Sunday double bills are as much a part of the Phoenix's reputation as our main features and there's one in particular that I would recommend. *Red Road* and *London to Brighton* play together on the afternoon of Sunday 21 January. Both films have been made by young British filmmakers, and they are both excellent examples of the talent of filmmaking in this country. *Red Road* is a raw dissection of the effect of CCTV in modern Britain and won the Jury Prize at Cannes. *London to Brighton* takes similar themes to another great British film *Mona Lisa*, but is updated for today's world. The directors of the films are young and in tune with modern Britain. I can't wait for their next films.

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LOOKING FOR A CAT



Crafty paradise at artists' fair

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Open (EFO) artists and craftspeople provided a present buyer's paradise at their Winter Fair at the end of November. The venue at Martin School was packed out, with visitors asked to contribute towards the work of Contact, our local good neighbourhood scheme, as their admission fee. Contact, whose volunteers staffed the entrance foyer, benefited by £720. A spokesperson told *THE ARCHER* they were delighted with the response. *The Royle Family's* Liz Smith, who has recently moved into the area, picked three prizewinners from the public who had contributed, prizes being original pieces of artwork donated by EFO.

Artwork on offer on the 36 stalls offered something for most tastes. Catching my eye (and sometimes my purse) were exquisite examples of woodwork, hand-painted silk scarves, jewellery worked in stones and in feathers, paintings, photographs and tapestries. I always had someone in mind for these presents, but the hardest thing was making sure it wasn't always me!

Topping up stamina on a very cold day were members of the Martin PTA, who organised

food provided by parents, with takings going to their funds. Appropriately, Martin's junior head teacher Maggie Driscoll had a few words to say about linking the school with the community.

The EFO has two regular annual events – the Winter Fair and the Summer Open – when members invite the public into their homes and studios. Their aim is to be a vital part of our community, both by promoting locally produced art and craft, and by using their talent to support community concerns.



Liz Smith at the Winter Fair. Photo courtesy of EFO

Angels of the stars

A multitude of angelic artworks by celebrities including Alexei Sayle, Meera Syal, Jamie Theakston, Carol Smillie and Jonathan Ross went up for auction in aid of north London performing arts charity The Kaos Organisation.

The money raised from the event at Avenue House, East End Road, in December will be put towards the production of a DVD and CD of the award-winning choir for deaf and hearing children.

Incorporating singing and British Sign Language interpretation, Kaos regularly entertains audiences with performances of original Songs of Kaos, all written by or especially for the group.

Comedian and TV presenter Rowland Rivron, whose children attend the group, said: 'Kaos is worth having kids for.' For more

information on the choir, call Ali on 07950 359209 or email kaos_angels@yahoo.com.

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Film director Terry Gilliam talks to the audience at the Phoenix Cinema. Picture by John Lawrence.

Gilliam warns of indie cinema threat

By John Lawrence

Acclaimed film director Terry Gilliam warned during a special visit to the Phoenix Cinema that independent film making was under threat as never before.

Gilliam, who lives in Highgate, was in East Finchley for a question-and-answer session after a showing of his latest film, *Tideland*.

He told the audience that good independent cinemas such as the Phoenix were in short supply and this had a knock-on effect on the number of low-budget films being seen by the public.

Gilliam, the director of *Brazil*, *The Fisher King* and *Twelve Monkeys*, said: "This is a tough time for independent film makers and independent cinemas. There are plenty of independent films being made but there are fewer places to get them shown."

Tideland is Gilliam's own independent film. He was forced to seek funding for it from a number of small-scale Canadian film companies because Hollywood moguls shied away from its subject matter.

Critics have not been kind to it, but a show of hands at the Phoenix revealed that this audience of Gilliam fans loved it, most saying it was 'beautiful' as well as many finding it 'disturbing'.

Based on the cult book of the same name by Mitch Cullin, it looks at the world through the eyes and imagination of

10-year-old Jeliza-Rose as her drug-addicted mother and father die around her and she comes to terms with a new life in the wide open spaces of the Prairies.

"There's no chance that this film would have got through the Hollywood system but it's very dear to me," said Gilliam. "When I first read it, the story was never-endingly surprising. To me, it's about a young child being amazingly resilient about everything that can be thrown at her."

Unusually, the film begins with a short speech by Gilliam

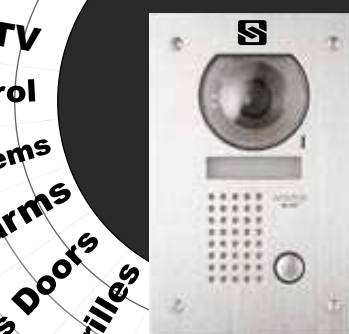
himself urging his audience to leave their adult preconceptions behind and to try to remember what life is like as a child. "Did you like that?" he asked the Phoenix crowd. "Hitchcock used to do it so I thought I'd give it a go."

Before signing autographs in the foyer, the 66-year-old Gilliam announced that his on-off project to make *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* starring Johnny Depp may be on again. He said: "The money may be available. The trouble is, by the time Johnny's free to make it, I may be dead."

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