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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

New primary school in East Finchley

By Helen Drake

Martin Infant School and Nursery and Martin Junior School will amalgamate into a new, two-form entry primary school in September.

The new school will be under the leadership of Maggie Driscoll, the current headteacher of the Junior School.

The name of the new school is still to be decided, but events are being planned to mark the closing of the old schools and to celebrate the opening of the new primary school. Admissions procedures will remain exactly the same.

Adam Fagan, chair of the temporary governing body formed to oversee the amalgamation process, said: "This is an exciting development for the staff, pupils and parents at the schools, as well as the wider community in East Finchley. We will build on the strengths of the existing two schools and create an outstanding new primary school for East Finchley."

As reported in *THE ARCHER* in February, public consultation took place in January, followed by a period of statutory notice ending on 22 March.

As no objections to the proposal were received, the local authority determined that the amalgamation should proceed and that a temporary governing body should be formed; its first task would be the appointment of a headteacher for the new school. An advertisement was placed in the national and local press at the end of March and interviews took place early in the summer term.

Commitment to standards

In a letter to parents sent out on 1 May, Adam Fagan announced: "The appointment process was rigorous and robust, and I am delighted to inform you that Maggie Driscoll, the current headteacher of Martin Junior School, has been appointed to the post.

"Our new headteacher

shares the commitment and determination of the governing body and the local authority to raise standards and to create an outstanding new school for the community. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Maggie Driscoll, and in offering our support for her leadership of the new school."

Meanwhile, Martin Schools will be holding their annual Summer Fun Day on Saturday 16 June at their playing field in Plane Tree Walk from 12 noon to 3pm.



Headteacher Maggie Driscoll



Pipe line: why was this bevy of bagpipers sounding off at East Finchley tube station and Highgate Golf Club? Find out on page 5. Photo by Diana Cormack

Campaign grows to bring back park keeper

A petition has been launched to bring back the park keeper to Cherry Tree Wood. More than 100 people signed it in the first few days alone.

Barnet Council took the decision to axe the park keeper post earlier this year, leaving the much-loved park and woodland without a regular guardian.

The Council claims that all maintenance can be carried out by roving grounds maintenance teams but park users are concerned that the lack of a park keeper will lead to increases in litter and anti-social behaviour and a decline in maintenance.

The Chair of Barnet Council's Environment Committee, Councillor Matthew Offord, has refused to meet with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to discuss concerns about the loss of the park keeper. According to Councillor Offord, there are

"very little grounds either for horticultural or maintenance reasons" for there to be a full time presence at Cherry Tree Wood.

The petition, organised by

the Friends group, can be signed at the park's café or you can email your comments to the Friends at info@cherrytree-wood.co.uk.

See page 3 for more.

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Your contributions

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

Comments to THE ARCHER may be
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Barnet
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Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
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Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

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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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National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

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National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090
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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700

OAP's Advice

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Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Crime

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Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
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East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014



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

Two sentenced over man's death

Two East Finchley men have been sentenced to lengthy jail terms for the killing of Colin Browne on The Grange Estate in April 2006.

Aaron Gordon, aged 20, of Oak Lane, N2 was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation to serve a minimum of 30 years. He was also sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for possession of a firearm with intent, to run concurrently. Lamont Emesibe, aged 20, of Long Lane, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. Their trial took place at the Old Bailey.

Mr Browne, aged 38, of Leyton, was found dead on a patch of ground on The Grange. He had suffered several stab wounds and had been shot.

It is believed he was killed in a confrontation after travelling to the estate to find those who, in an earlier incident, had attacked someone he knew.

Warm weather warning

The warm weather is here, but this has led to a number of burglaries in the last month. They have happened because it has been made easy for the opportunist thief to walk in through open windows and patio doors.

Barnet Police are emphasising that residents need to be more cautious about leaving exterior doors and windows open and unlocked. Whenever the house is unoccupied, exterior doors should be locked and all ground floor windows should be closed and locked if possible. When residents are at home, care should be taken to ensure that all ground floor windows are closed and where possible locked before retiring for the night.

Detective Inspector Afiz Khan said: "It is a very important message: don't

Don't fall for these scams

Barnet Boroughwatch has warned people to be on their guard against two white males in their early 20s who burgled a home in the Oakleigh Park area of Whetstone.

They pushed a note through the victim's door claiming that they were police officers calling to install CCTV and, as a

result, were able to gain entry and steal cash.

Barnet Boroughwatch says that this new method is quite likely to be repeated across the borough. If anyone comes to your door with this tale, or if you receive a note to this effect, call the police on 999.

Barnet Trading Standards Authority has also warned that lottery scams, where victims are informed they have won huge amounts of money in overseas lotteries they have never entered, are reappearing in greater number. Again, the method has changed in that the fraudsters do not ask for cash up front, but wait until a subsequent stage of the claim process. Be aware that they are all scams.

Planning Applications

33 Abbots Gardens N2

Two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Roof extension and loft conversion with associated rooflights and dormer windows at the rear and side.

The Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Road, N2

Installation of garden shelter.

27 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing house and construction of a new single family dwelling.

12 Chamberlain Road, N2

Loft conversion involving the formation of rear dormer and part dormer / part second floor extension over existing back addition.

56 Church Lane, N2

Part single, part two storey side / rear extensions.

99 Durham Road, N2

Roof extension involving rear dormer. Ground floor rear extension.

36 High Road, N2

Change of use from coach house to office. Replacement of rear single storey building with new two storey building and link to a new single storey rear extension. New shop front. First floor rear extension.

Land O/S 66 High Road, N2

Two internally illuminated poster

display panels

60 Lancaster Gardens, N2

Erection of a three storey building containing eight flats.

Land r/o Hornbeams, The Bishops Avenue, N2

Erection of 2 two storey detached houses with rooms in the basement and roof space, with associated access road of altered vehicular access onto The Bishops Avenue following demolition of 'Hornbeams'.

307 Long Lane, N2

Conversion of house into two self-contained flats, including single storey rear extension to replace existing.

Mezes Restaurant, 212 - 216 High Road, N2

New shop front.

Oaklodge School, Heath View, N2

Single storey UPVC changing room.

51 Ossulton Way, N2

Loft conversion incorporating side and rear dormer window.

Pavement to front of The Five Bells, East End Road, N2

Installation of telecommunications equipment cabinet.

8 White Lodge Close, N2

Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement house.

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Café up for grabs again

At the beginning of May some of the borough's free weekly newspapers carried a notice from Barnet Council about the café premises in Cherry Tree Wood. It stated that the council was proposing to grant a lease of the kiosk and seating area and advised that any written representations about this should be submitted by 31 May.

At the time of writing, the café is being run by the tenants who took it over last year and is open every day from 10am to 5 or 6pm.



A pleasant place to meet and eat. Photo by Diana Cormack

We must protect Cherry

Tree Wood before it's too late

The loss of Cherry Tree Wood's park keeper has stirred a passionate response from readers of *THE ARCHER*. There are fears that the park could decline rapidly unless the park keeper is restored and money is found to improve areas that are already run-down. Here's a letter from one reader that seems to sum up these concerns.

“Dear Editor,

I moved to East Finchley last October, discovered Cherry Tree Wood and walk there nearly every day. Most of the walkways have been left to crumble away and are a hazard to anyone over 35 and a half.

Overflowing waste bins, none in or near enough to the tennis and basketball courts, so paper, plastic bottles and general detritus abound. Several benches are rotten, splintered and abandoned. Brambles and undergrowth are good but having too many looks like the Somme on a bad day.

When I went on 23 April a party had barbecued on the rise near the tube line and had managed to set fire to a tree trunk. Remains of the meal were scattered, plastic carrier bags and several red plastic or paper plates discarded at the picnic and elsewhere. Are you really allowed to make fires in this area? Other delights: two condoms and a miniscule under-garment hanging from a branch ... just a thong at twilight when the lights are low?

Point is this: it's a splendid space or could be and has the potential for all sorts of interest-

ing activities. But the general air of neglect makes me wonder if whoever is responsible might be considering letting it slide into disarray until shove comes to putsch and it becomes a nice place for a developer. I'm sure Tesco would be interested.

Barnet Council doesn't seem very interested in doing much. At the moment, there are so many cut and fallen trunks and branches that it looks like an unkempt timber merchant's yard. Are there any plans for fresh plantings?

And to make insult more injurious the authorities have withdrawn whoever it was who kept a watchful eye with the loss of Cherry Tree's park keeper. What is Barnet's responsibility? Does the area come under the auspices of the Corporation of London and might they be able to help?

It's time for those who have any interest at all in the environment to stand up and be counted. I imagine the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood could do with some support. Use it or lose it.

Yours faithfully,
Harry Greenberg,
Diploma Avenue, N2.”

Logs set alight by vandals

Houses that back onto Cherry Tree Wood have long been subjected to nocturnal noises from the park, whether or not the gates have been locked. Screams and shouts emanating from unseen revelers have become par for the course.

Lately, however, a new and more dangerous activity is taking place, one that is damaging to the grass and could feasibly spread to other areas. Fires are being lit, sometimes using the logs that have been left around to encourage insects and other wildlife.

This is beginning to happen in the daytime too. Sometimes it is sheer vandalism (one Fordington Road resident told *THE ARCHER* he had seen a group trying to set fire to the base of an oak tree) while sometimes people are making barbecues.

As the main gates nowadays are usually left wide open, cars with music blaring have been cruising onto the pathways late into the evening, as reported by a resident of Cherry Tree Road, who had also seen daytime picnickers driving in. A motorcyclist has also been seen driving around inside the gates.

There is a fear in some quarters that, with Cherry Tree Wood being so accessible, it could be possible that travellers might find it a suitable place to park their caravans.



Caption: Remains of an overnight fire. Photo by Diana Cormack

Groups to benefit from community cash

Projects to enhance the quality of life in Barnet will soon be benefiting from thousands of pounds in grant funding from Barnet's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The LSP has nearly £470,000 of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) cash to distribute to statutory organisations like the council or Primary Care Trust (PCT), or voluntary and community groups, who have ideas for improving the more deprived areas of the borough. LSP chiefs are hoping to receive proposals for projects costing upwards of £50,000 but will also consider smaller bids. NRF money is aimed at narrowing the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of the UK.

Reaching young people

This year, the emphasis is on projects which will have a significant impact on children and young people, and preferably involve young people in their design and delivery.

This round of funding comes only five months after the LSP distributed just over £120,000 of NRF money to 14 community groups, for mainly environmentally-themed projects. Councillor Mike Freer, Chairman of the LSP Executive and Leader of Barnet Council, said: “Nearly half a million pounds is available for projects to improve the quality of life in Barnet, which is great news for people living, working in and visiting the borough. We want to help deliver some lasting and sustainable projects which will make a real difference to people in Barnet, especially the younger generation.” The closing date for entries was 11 May and proposed projects need to be completed by 31 March 2008.

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The Happy Go Lucky dance group in action.

Photo courtesy Community Focus

Happy Go Lucky at the festival

By Daphne Chamberlain

Fans of the Happy Go Lucky dance troupe will be delighted to know they are back at the East Finchley Community Festival this year. The dancers, who are wheelchair users, will be performing at 2pm.

Since we last saw them, Happy Go Lucky have helped set a world record. Last July they went down to Trafalgar Square to take part in the world's biggest ever dance session for the Guinness Book of Records. "We had a really good time," said instructor Lesley Chownen.

Lesley, a former professional dancer and dance teacher from Sylvester Road, told *THE ARCHER* that they were also made very welcome at "Celebration of Life", a Christmas banquet held at Jesus House, Brent Terrace. They have been among the performers at this event for the last couple of years. In the past, they have also appeared before the Queen.

Like all entertainers, Happy Go Lucky get a real buzz from performing. When I visited the group at their rehearsal venue in the Community Focus section of artsdepot they told me how much they appreciate audience reaction. "The best part is the applause," said Elaine, a member for 20 years.

That evening they were very appreciative with their own applause too, as they sat back

to watch Balletomane.

This visiting company of dancers, who have been invited back again, entertained them with extracts from ballets. Community Focus Administrator Rossana Christianson told me that they have also been visited by a Spanish dancing troupe. Happy Go Lucky greatly appreciate these visits, as wheelchair access to theatres is still either impossible or extremely difficult.

At the East Finchley Festival, however, they will be visiting us. "Some of the faces have changed," said Lesley. "Some members have moved away, but others have come in." Whatever the mix, we welcome them back.

Stanley stall

There is still no further news about the fate of Stanley Road Field.

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, who is leading the campaign to save it from commercial development, will be running an information stall at the Festival. He hopes to meet and talk to supporters of the field there.

Festival countdown

Not long to wait now until the East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 24 June.

This annual celebration of all that is great about East Finchley runs from 12 noon to 6pm, with a carnival parade starting from the Green Man Community Centre at 11am.

Top local bands and performance groups will be taking the limelight on the two festival stages and East Finchley chari-

ties, community groups, artists and schools will be providing fun on more than 60 stalls.

Organisers are still looking for volunteers to help with festival organisation and to act as stewards on the day. If you think you can help, give Nick a ring on 020 8883 4916.

The event receives no funding and is entirely dependent on revenue from advertising, stalls and the raffle to keep running each year so do come along to enjoy the day and show your support for the community.

Remember the Free Festival?

Is there anyone out there who remembers the first East Finchley Free Festival in 1972 in Cherry Tree Wood, organised by EFNA, the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association?

If you have photos, programmes or other memorabilia you are willing to have copied for a small display about the story of the Festival, please contact Colin Rogers at colin.rogers@barnet.gov.uk.



'The Last Grand' at the Battle of The Bands. Picture by Colin Rogers.

Battle of the Bands

By Andy Shirlaw

The Constitutional Club was the venue for an entertaining and well-attended 'Battle of the Bands'. The privileged winners of the rock music competition are invited to play on the main stage of the East Finchley Community Festival on 24 June.

The bands started playing at 4pm and played through to 11pm. The judges, including local councillor Colin Rogers and Martin O'Donnell, Chair of the Constitutional Club, spent almost seven hours judging the contestants. They voted for each of the performing bands, for their entertainment value and originality.

Two East Finchley bands, Living Hats and Applelips Brothers, made the shortlist

and will play at the summer festival. Applelips Brothers have played on the main stage before and will be welcomed back to the festival.

According to East Finchley musician, Richard Gregory, who used to play the drums alongside George Michael and Ricky Gervais: "Appelips Brothers were fun and an entertaining band; the lead singer is a veteran entertainer. They are a good festival type band, when

the weather is good."

The other competing bands which will also be playing at the festival are: The Last Grand; Fleet Street; Kilndown and Minus IQ. I really look forward to listening to all the bands again at the East Finchley Summer Festival (I hope it won't rain!) and encourage all *ARCHER* readers to join us at this fantastic annual celebration of local creativity and friendship.

Bikes, baths and biodegrading

By Ann Bronkhorst

When Christmas was over, where did your Christmas tree go? Not, surely, over the fence into someone else's property: most of us draw the line at that. But it's widely believed that a sad old Christmas tree, if tossed into woodland, might (eventually) biodegrade.

Dozens of wizened brown Christmas trees lined Creighton Avenue on 28 April, waiting to make their final journey. They were just one result of a massive clean-up of Coldfall Wood by 43 volunteers, led by the Friends of Coldfall Wood and the playing field, with Haringey Council's co-operation. The high turnout included a number of enthusiastic children. Two truckloads

of rubbish were cleared, mainly from the Creighton Avenue side of the wood.

Linda Alliston, Chair of the Friends, says: "The clean-up was a tremendous success; many thanks to everyone involved." Typical of the volunteers' spirit were two who, she says, "got down and dirty in the stream extracting a bath weighted down with mud, water and sediment. Their determination to get it out was something else... and they succeeded."

A second (full) bath was also found and removed, along with two motorbikes and several cycles. One of these was in good condition and has been sent to the police for return to its owner. Smelly unwieldy mattresses were tackled, too, as well as the usual toll of plastic

and glass bottles.

Litter out, logs in

The litter pickers didn't clear any logs or dead wood, however, in spite of some people's concerns about potential fire hazards. Coldfall Wood is full of piles of logs deliberately left there for several reasons. Some will be used in the construction of the reedbeds; most will rot down naturally, providing homes for various insects, which in turn encourage birds and small mammals. Already a bat box and a bird box have been put up, with more to follow, and notice boards for a Nature Trail are in place.

To find out more about the wood and its Friends, including Haringey's Coldfall Wood Management plan, visit www.coldfallwood.info.

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Forty years on the clock for GLH

Celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the GLH taxi firm in East Finchley started in its forecourt opposite the tube station when the Pinstripe Highlander Pipers gave a terrific bagpipe display.

Later, managing director John Scott gave out prizes and thanked drivers, riders and office staff at the annual GLH staff awards and birthday celebrations held at Highgate Golf Club. East Finchley resident Zoë Powers was presented with the staff award of the year.

Other award winners were Dominic Anthony (senior manager of the year); Peter Ross (department shield); Anthony Dunning (passenger department), Mick O'Brien (despatch department) and Robert Hurley (auxiliary). The award for best new employee went to Sonia O'Connell.

GLH was delighted to be joined by *THE ARCHER*'s

Diana Cormack and guests of honour Richard Whistance and Jonathan Ekin, co-founders of the C-Change Trust. GLH has been working closely with this UK-based charity to offset the emissions created by their organisation (*THE ARCHER*, May 2007).

Jonathan, the guest speaker for the evening, said being green wasn't just about planting trees and emphasised how proud C-Change were to be working with schools and colleges to help educate further generations to take care of the world.

John Scott thanked local residents and customers both old and new for their continued support over the past 40 years.

New venue for singles

By Betti Blatman

Contact, a social group for unattached singles, launched one of their weekly events at a new venue, The New Brunswick Pub, Dartmouth Park Hill, Highgate on Saturday 28 April. The relaxed, house party atmosphere was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Kevin Best, one of the landlords, met Adrienne at one of Contact's events last February and now they're engaged to be married. It was a success-

ful Contact match and they've provided the group with a successful venue (must be good karma!).

Contact will be back at The New Brunswick on Saturday 23 June and return thereafter on 21 July, 18 August and 15 September. For further details, contact Julie on 020 8366 8596 or www.contactsingles.co.uk.



Brian Lenane, Andrew Fyfe and Cormac McCormack of Bishop Douglass School. Photos by Diana Cormack

Marathon runners earn their medals

By Diana Cormack

This year's Flora London Marathon took place under the cruellest of conditions. The majority of participants had spent months training in cooler and more clement weather but the heat on Sunday 22 April would surely have sapped Pheidippides himself. Even the most experienced athletes found it hard going, so one can only imagine the effect it had on those new to the event.



Victoria Davenport

It was the first marathon for Bishop Douglass teachers Andrew Fyfe, Brian Lenane and Cormac McCormack and for Durham Road resident Victoria Davenport; the second for Paul

Homer, manager of the Phoenix cinema and the third for Matthew Hales, also of Durham Road, who ran with Frank Gillespie of Fortismere Avenue. Under the circumstances, completing the course became more important than the time taken to do so, yet they all put in a creditable performance and most of them intend to do it again.

"Everyone could do it with the proper training even if you've never run before,"



Paul Homer



Matthew Hales

Victoria told *THE ARCHER* and Matthew pointed out that there are marathon training programmes, hints and helpful suggestions on the internet. Serious training usually begins in the New Year and in 2008 Matthew is hoping to get

local runners together, through this paper, and produce a group diary for readers. Meanwhile, if you would like to donate to any of the charities chosen by our East Finchley runners, doing so online attracts 28% extra through Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer. Visit www.justgiving.com/bishopdouglass3 (for the Anthony Nolan Trust), www.justgiving.com/phoenix-paul (for the Phoenix Cinema Trust), www.justgiving.com/flm victoria (for The Children's Society), www.justgiving.com/matthewhales01 (for The Teenage Cancer Trust).

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Fake parking ticket stunt backfires

By Diana Cormack

Parking tickets are never funny, so when I found a Fixed Penalty Notice firmly stuck to the windscreen of my car, which had been legally parked outside my house, I was not amused. Further investigation revealed the words "3 points and a £60 fine". I ripped open the see-through plastic envelope to find it contained an advertising strip from *Phone City*, the mobile phone store on the High Road.

The store's manager seemed bemused at my objecting to this method of promotion and even asked if I understood what was being advertised (which was a hands-free phone, amongst other things).

A sticky joke

He maintained that over 3,000 such notices had been distributed locally and that nobody had objected, in fact it had been taken as a joke. People to whom I have since spoken did not find it funny but, unlike them, I did not have to clean the thick layer of adhesive off my car's windscreen as I insisted that someone from the shop did that.

The area in which I live has had unpopular parking restrictions imposed on it since the opening of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, so it is a sensitive subject of which the shop manager seemed to be ignorant. At my insistence, he assured me that no more of these fake penalty notices would be appearing; in fact, I



found the closing date for the special offer being advertised had already passed.

Drivers in Muswell Hill who were also targeted in this advertising stunt have not taken it well either and local councillors are following up their complaints. One annoyed customer told *THE ARCHER* that she would not be using the shop again.



Alastair Greenway performs acupuncture on a canine patient.

Pin the tail on the doggy

By Dawn Powell

Once labelled as being 'new age' (in British culture at least), alternative therapy has become much more mainstream. So much so that it is now possible for even man's best friend to get a spot of acupuncture.

Alastair Greenway, who practises in the north London area, has been operating his acupuncture veterinary service for the past three years. He

treats dogs, cats and horses for a range of illnesses. He says: "Generally, acupuncture is more effective for long term chronic diseases, especially chronic pain. For example, we have a lot of success with arthritis, hip dysplasia and various causes of chronic back pain such as intervertebral disk disease."

However, he will consider taking on a patient only after they have been to see a traditional vet. He explains: "I use acupuncture in a complementary way, not as an alternative. It is essential to have an accurate diagnosis before acupuncture can be considered, and this will need a traditional veterinary work-up. Some diseases will have better results with acupuncture and concurrent medical treatment."

Good patients

According to Greenway, the treatment does not usually hurt the patient. He says: "Occasionally animals will notice the odd needle going in, but they are

normally very accepting of the treatment. Some seem to enjoy all the attention!" He offers a home visiting service to make things more comfortable for patients, which he says makes them "much happier."

While it may seem slightly unusual to give acupuncture to your pets, it is not a new practice. Greenway explains that in ancient China, acupuncture was used to treat horses on the battlefield and was considered a vital therapy. But, he says, the ancient Chinese never would have thought of using it to treat cats or dogs. Looking on Greenway's website, it certainly seems that acupuncture is an effective therapy as there are several glowing testimonials. Margot Gough claims her badly limping and timid 11-year-old Labrador Chrise was transformed into an 'energetic, pain free and happy, beautiful girl' following acupuncture.

For more information, visit www.acupuncture-vet.co.uk.

St Mary's

Summer fair

A summer fair in aid of St Mary's RC Church will be held on Saturday 16 June from 12 noon to 3pm in the church hall at 279 High Road. Admission is 50p.

Stalls will be offering bric-a-brac, cakes, craft, exotic cuisine and Fairtrade goods as well as afternoon tea and coffee. Other activities include head and shoulder massage, lucky dip, nail painting and a tombola. There will be entertainment for children, including a bouncy castle and face painting.

Wood to host mini mini marathon

By John Lawrence

If your children enjoyed the excitement of watching the London Marathon back in April, now is their chance to take part in a running event of their own.

The Bobath Centre in East End Road is staging its first Big Fun Run on Sunday 8 July in Cherry Tree Wood to raise funds for the therapy and education services it provides for children with cerebral palsy.

The day will be a family fun day with prizes for the biggest fundraisers and the best fancy dress costumes.

The running distances will be family-friendly, too. Older children will be able to run up to 1,500m, roughly three times round the park, and younger children can cover a shorter distance.

"If we can get 300 local

children and their parents to have some fun, get some exercise and learn about the work of the Bobath Centre, then it will be a good day out," said run organizer Janine Redgrove.

Staff at the Bobath Centre, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, are hoping the Big Fun Run will become an annual event that the whole community can enjoy.

Fundraising manager Kevin Gillespie explained: "We are part of the community but sometimes we hide our light under a bushel. We'd like people to know more about what we do."

Around 300 children use the Bobath Centre every year. Fundraising is essential because the ratio of therapists to children can be as high as three to one.

Entry forms for the run can be picked up from the centre from Monday to Friday, by contacting Claire on 020 8442 2275 or by emailing kevin@bobathlondon.co.uk.

Young swimmers

We updated you last month on the success of young Cophall club team swimmers Lauren Chapple and Alice Pearson but got their addresses muddled up. Alice lives in Hertford Road and used to go to Martin School, while Lauren, from Alexandra Park, attends Fortismere. Sorry to both girls and good luck in future competitions.



Green space disappears

ARCHER reader Stephen Barry took this photograph of the green space outside the Northern line contractor's gates on the Great North Road, immediately opposite The Bishops Avenue.

The flowers and grass that used to occupy the space have been killed off by the contractor's vehicles which park there during the week. It has also become a bit of a rubbish tip and looks as if it hasn't been cleaned for months.

Barnet Council told Mr Barry several months ago that the contractors working on the line would be returning the green space to its former attractive condition but there's no sign of that happening yet.

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Watching them watching us

By John Dearing

Following last month's official opening of the CCTV cameras in East Finchley, *THE ARCHER* was invited to visit the Barnet Council control centre to see the system in action.

The cameras started operating in November 2002, with about 30 cameras, and new locations have been added gradually. In a typical month, the centre will log around 140 incidents, a measure of its effectiveness.

The core of the facility is a darkened room with a bank of video monitors along two walls, which monitor CCTV cameras sited all over the borough. The operators can turn and zoom cameras, make video recordings, print still images, and link the police control centre to a particular camera.

Operators watch for traffic problems, criminal activity, public order issues, and anti-social behaviour, especially in known problem areas. They are trained to watch for unusual behaviour, and certain types of body language. When, for example, a fight breaks out, the operators alert the police control centre by radio.

Sometimes the police will



The CCTV camera view of The High Road. Picture courtesy LB of Barnet

request further coverage, such as the current location of a suspect, who is quite likely to have remained in the area. Police requests for evidence are coordinated by police liaison officers, who visit the centre on most days to review footage.

Many uses for the community

An equally important role for the Barnet CCTV system is to monitor graffiti and fly-tipping, which can lead to the perpetrator having to pay for the clean-up, contributing to council cost-savings. Graffiti and fly-tipping are effectively deterred by CCTV.

Other roles include watching out for missing persons, cracks in pavements, dangerously overhanging trees, and alerting the water company to leaks.

It is said that crime and anti-social behaviour simply moves away from the cameras, but in practice, after an initial drop in incidents, criminal elements become blasé about them and move back to the areas where they would normally be active.

So-called 'hoodies' who apparently seek to disguise themselves from identification will frequently be seen looking directly at a camera to see which way it is pointing!

Lupus Day

By Daphne Chamberlain
World Lupus Day occurred last month, which meant that Sippy Azizollah was collecting for Lupus UK in Budgens.



Sippy Azizollah collecting for Lupus Day in Budgens.

Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

Sippy, who suffers from this serious but largely unpublicised condition, told us: "I can't get over how generous the people of East Finchley are. They were throwing money in my bucket like there was no tomorrow. Altogether we collected £100, which was fantastic. I just want to thank everyone."

In true Sippy style, the giving was two-way. She brought along a home-baked chocolate cake to keep up shoppers' stamina, while Budgens gave away chocolates and pizza helpings.

Around the globe on the same day, fellow sufferers met

together, prayed, distributed publicity, and organised money-raising events.

Lupus is a potentially life-threatening auto-immune disease affecting more than five million people worldwide, of whom nine out of ten are women. A huge majority of these contract the illness between the ages of 15 and 44. A sufferer's immune system turns on their own body, with the

resulting inflammation causing widespread pain and fatigue. It can seriously damage vital organs, and can also interfere with the treatment of other conditions.

Lupus UK is a registered charity. To find out more about the illness or to help the work of this charity, visit www.lupusuk.com, call 01708 731251, or email headoffice@lupusuk.org.uk.

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Maureen Clemetson at the Monday Club

Youth club needs a new home

By David Melsome

A popular youth club enjoyed by up to 40 young people each week may have to close unless it can find a new home.

The Monday Club has been running at the Methodist Church Hall in the High Road since October 2005 but unfortunately its popularity means it has outgrown the premises.

Organiser Maureen Clemetson is appealing for new accommodation in the middle of East Finchley where her group of nine to 15-year-olds can meet once a week.

The club is run entirely by volunteers and plays a vital role in the community. Now the Wilmot Centre in Eagans Close has been demolished, it is one of the few places left in the area where youngsters can get together and enjoy themselves.

Maureen said: "We have a fold-away pool table, table tennis, card games and art classes. Volunteers come in to do hair and nails, which the girls love, and record mixing. We have boys and girls, black, white and Asian, and because we are on neutral ground, not

one particular turf, they all get on. To lose something like that would be terrible.

"The Church Hall is a delicate place and there are too many children to make it comfortable to meet there for much longer so we have agreed to leave by the end of October. We don't want to close the club but we do need a good-sized room that is central to East Finchley."

Maureen, who has lived on Strawberry Vale for 18 years, believes the number of young people who flock to the club each week is a sign that the area desperately needs better facilities for teenagers.

"In the short term, we want to keep the club going wherever we can," she said, "but in the long term the council really needs to replace the Wilmot Centre and give young people somewhere to go."

If you can help Maureen find suitable accommodation for the Monday Club, call her on 07931 586740

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YOUNG ARCHER

Put your dad down on paper

Father's Day is on 17 June and as the Mother's Day competition at The Cherry Tree shop was such a success they just couldn't leave out the dads. So the gift shop at 172 High Road will be holding a similar competition for children aged ten and under.

All you have to do is a painting, drawing or collage of your dad on an A4 piece of paper. Every entry will be exhibited in the shop windows. You must remember to put your name, age and contact details on the back.

First prize will be a £20 Cherry Tree gift voucher and the two runners-up will each receive a £10 gift voucher. The deadline is 17 June so get creating. For more information pop into the shop or call 020 8883 4369.

Children stage a truly classy opera

By Julia Hughes

With breathtaking performances from all involved, *Dropped!*, an opera about celebrity, football and friendship written by Year 5 pupils from Manorside Primary School, met with rapturous applause from its audiences.

From the superbly composed overture, to scenes that were both comic and dramatic, every moment of the production was one to savour and marvel at, especially knowing it was the work of nine and 10-year-olds.

Since last September when Manorside Opera Company was formed, the children have been involved in every aspect of staging a production. A display showing the development of the opera was on view at the after-show party. There were mood boards for costumes and a model of the set, all hinting at the huge learning curve that this nine-month long journey must have been for everyone involved.

As the opera began, it was clear that this wasn't just about the performers. Everyone had their part to play from wardrobe

and lighting to the company manager. These jobs were crucial to the opera and had been applied for by the children months before.

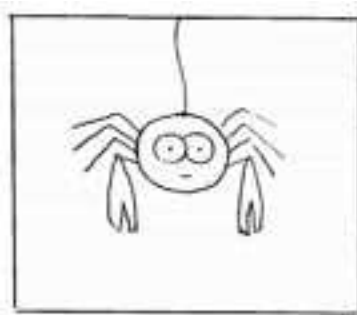
There was help from the Royal Opera House who implemented their Write an Opera course by seconding members of their staff to advise the pupils at every step, from set design to lighting. The other two adults involved were Miss Walker, the Year 5 teacher, and Mrs Malhotra, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the best was brought out of the children.

All this hard work culminated in outstanding performances. Everyone from the orchestra and performers to those working behind the scenes surpassed themselves, making the audience forget that these were children.



Brooklands pupils and staff celebrate their Barnet Healthy Schools Award

Spiderama
by Ashley



Grab spider

We want our playground back

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard
A few months ago I wrote to *THE ARCHER* regarding the playground at Tarling Road estate, between The Grange and the North Circular. I have since learned there has been a problem with Japanese knotweed growing inside and, after it was hacked down, the playground was sprayed to prevent more growing.

Obviously, with poisonous chemicals around, it is unsafe to use at present; hence the 'Keep Out' signs, although bad behaviour that went on inside has also been mentioned. I'd still like to think that when the knotweed problem is over, refurbishment of the playground with sufficient thought and TLC would lead to a place that children could really appreciate and have fun in, rather than behave anti-socially.

I have since started a public petition for everyone in favour of upgrading the playground to forward on to Barnet Council and our local MP. I have already had quite a response and I have listened to everyone's comments and ideas.

Although some have suggested more car parking spaces or housing on the site, I am especially interested in what local children want there. If anyone reading this would like to add suggestions or their names to the petition, please contact me through *THE ARCHER*.

Children make the healthy choice

By Jane Pendry

On Friday 4 May, Brookland Junior School pupils and staff were delighted to receive a Barnet Healthy Schools Award from Zena Carrick, project leader at Barnet Council, at a special school assembly.

In order to gain the award, head cook June Kirkham and her kitchen staff produced well-balanced healthy meals, while teachers delivered dedicated lessons and assemblies on healthy food choices and balanced diets.

A competition to design a balanced school dinner was also a great success. Winners Mia Jacobs, Eloise Gibbins and Amy Goodman will see their meals served this term.

One spectacular result of the initiative was a large mural that helps to explain healthy food

choices to pupils. The dynamic mural was designed by talented pupils Kelly Joseph, Gabby Kaye and Francesca Gilbert, and painted by learning assistant and professional fine artist Claire Knight.

Head teacher Heather Blackmore said: "Working towards this award has made a significant impact on our pupils' eating habits. Having made a range of healthy food available to pupils, it has been gratifying to see more and more of them make healthy choices."

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

Children who have passed their cycling proficiency test can now cycle to school unaccompanied.

The tag rugby team played very well in a tournament held at Bishop Douglass School.

A fashion show with great bargains from well-known stores was held in aid of school funds.

A cake sale raised £70 for schools overseas. Sainsbury's matched this amount for the benefit of Holy Trinity pupils.

Year 5 pupils and staff had great fun on a two-day trip to Gilwell Park Adventure Centre where they learned new activities and outdoor survival skills.

Martin Schools

The PTA is busy organising the Summer Fun Day which takes place on Saturday 16 June.

The new allotment is a huge success. Each infant class has its own strip in which they are busily growing and tending plants.

The nursery outdoor area has been refurbished, providing equipment to stimulate the imagination and encourage physical development.

At the end of May during Walk to School Week infants will take part in a sponsored walk on the school field to raise money for the charity Whizz Kidz.

Plans are being made for a curriculum week entitled Water Week. Starting on 18 June there will be cross-curricular activities focused on art, science and personal, social and hygiene education.

St Theresa's RC School

A courageous Mrs Curtis scaled Mt Kilimanjaro in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer charity. She wore the school hat for the climb and shared her experiences with the excited children on her return.

Both chess teams played well in the English Primary Schools National Championships held at Haberdashers' Aske's School. The Under 11s achieved fourth place behind Haberdashers', Brookland and Westminster Schools.

Ladies connected with St Theresa's enjoyed being pampered when the school held an Indulgence Evening.

Come to St Theresa's RC School Summer Fayre on Saturday 23 June from 12 noon until 3 pm. There will be prizes, food and loads of fun!

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



Two weekends for East Finchley Open

This year's East Finchley Summer Open will take place over two weekends: Saturday 30 June - Sunday 1 July and the following weekend of Saturday 7 July - Sunday 8 July.

This year's event should have a real creative "buzz" about it. A wide range of fine art and superb craft will be on display in the artists' homes, providing a unique opportunity to meet the artists and buy or commission original artworks, without the costs normally incurred in galleries.

A number of additional exhibitions will take place (see list below) where you can get a preview of the eclectic artwork ahead of the Open House weekends in July. Most of the venues are within easy walking distance of each other and entry to the artists' Open Houses and other venues is free. There will be additional displays in shop windows on the High Road, such as Kokos.

Maps of the different venues will be delivered to homes in N2 nearer the time as well as being available on the website www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk and in East Finchley Library.

The East Finchley Open was launched in 2003, offering an exciting point of contact for artists and craftspeople living in or around N2. The EFO's first challenge was to open members' homes and studios to share their art with the local community, an event recreated annually with increasing success. More than 20,000 people see EFO events and activities

each year.

The EFO is an established and inclusive group of local artists and crafts people, working in an exciting range of media. Members include ceramicists, photographers, painters working in diverse styles, a wicker basket weaver who grows her own materials in East Finchley, jewellery makers, sculptors and textile designers, as well as calligraphers, tapestry designers and silk painters and a milliner!

You can also meet the artists of East Finchley and see some of their work at the East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on 24 June.

Additional exhibitions:

The Noble Sage Gallery, 2a Fortis Green Road, 13-17 June: an eclectic mix of art showing a sample of work from each EFO artist.

Chorak, 122 High Road, 1 June-28 July: EFO members' paintings, prints and photographic work.

Jennie Mann, 63a Church Lane, 30 June-1 July and 7-8 July: EFO members' sculptural and ceramic work.

Phoenix Cinema, High Road, throughout June: members' paintings, prints and photographic work.

Monkey Face Bar, 114-116 High Road, throughout June: members' paintings, prints and photographic work.

Get your pet micro-chipped for a fiver

By Caroline Broome
Your local Finchley Golders Green and Hendon RSPCA clinic offers a year-round pet micro-chipping service, but for the month of June only, we are offering this service for £5 per pet (usual price £10).

The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic is in Park Road, East Finchley, and opens on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.30-7.30pm.

Cats, dogs and rabbits are the most likely candidates. Just take your pet along to one of our regular clinic sessions in June or telephone 020 8365 3910 during clinic hours for more details.

On Sunday 24 June we will have a stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Park, where in addition to fund raising, we offer you the opportunity to talk to committee trustees about what's involved in becoming a volunteer.

Did you know?

Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde invented the = sign in 1557 because he was bored with writing "is equal to" in his equations. He said he chose the two lines because "noe 2 thynges can be moare equalle".



Babies love bubbles! Photo by Diana Cormack

Stepping into new experiences

By Diana Cormack

After having their first babies three years ago, local friends Jo Girling, Sonia Lapwood and Karen Roberts got together to set up a parent and baby group. This was briefly interrupted when their second children came along, but has been up and running again since last October.

Stepping Stones is held on Thursday mornings in the Baptist Church on Creighton Avenue. Between 10.30am and 11.15am children under three years of age can experience such things as songs and rhymes with musical accompaniment, percussion instruments, puppets, parachute games and stories as well as starting to develop their social skills through mixing with others. It also gives parents and carers the chance to talk and relax with adults and perhaps get some advice and support should they need it.

All are welcome at the group which is run on a drop-in basis, though there is a maximum

limit of 20 youngsters. Former teacher Jo is the storyteller whilst the musical skills of Sonia, who used to work in the fashion industry, come very much into play. When *THE ARCHER* visited, Karen, also in the fashion trade, delighted the children as she activated a bubble machine in the large and airy meeting room.

As well as supplying a variety of activities, healthy fruit snacks are provided. *Stepping Stones* interactive playgroup costs £5 per session or £45 for a block of ten with concessionary rates for siblings. For further information drop in at the church for a leaflet or call 07957 278860 or 07712 890884.

Midnight Walk for women to help children's hospice

On Saturday 30 June Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, in conjunction with the North London Hospice, is running a Midnight Walk for women only. Noah's Ark hopes to have over 200 women taking part to raise money for their cause. Entry costs £15, which includes the registration fee and a commemorative T-shirt.

The circular route connects both sites of the North London Hospice, starting at St Michael's Hospital, Enfield and continuing to the North London Hospice, Woodside Park which will be the 6.5 mile mark and half way point for those wishing to do the full 13 miles.

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is a charity set up in 1999 with the aim of establishing a

children's hospice service for youngsters with life-limiting conditions living in North London and South Hertfordshire.

In 2006 a new and exciting phase started, with the beginnings of a community service enabling the charity to fund a Respite Nursery Nurse who offers help and support within the family's own home. It is hoped that one day its community services will be complemented by an 'in-house' facility. With almost no financial backing from the Government, however, Children's Hospices must raise all the money themselves

to build and run these essential lifelines.

That's why they need your support. If you have the time, energy, or indeed, money to help Noah's Ark achieve its aim please do look through its website or get in contact with them. There are so many ways you can help them make a difference.

Why not start by joining them for the Midnight Walk on 30 June? Contact Priya on 020 8449 8877, email info@noahsarkhospice.org.uk or visit the website noahsarkhospice.org.uk.

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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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 ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
 ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
 ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.

DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
 ❖ **Ballroom 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** - 11 & 25 June 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.
 ❖ **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.
 ❖ **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 7-9 pm, Green Man Community 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.



Mephistopheles (Harry Meacher) and Andromeda (Catherine Eccles). Picture courtesy Traffic of the Stage.

Pact with the Devil

By Sheila Armstrong

John Cooper, local playwright and director of Traffic of the Stage Theatre Company, brought his latest play 21st Century Faust to the Gatehouse Theatre in Highgate in May. He was collaborating again with Harry Meacher, who both starred in and directed the play.

The agnostic Faust, a modern day professor of philosophy, is propositioned by a leather-clad Mephistopheles and barter his soul so that he can become the most powerful man in the world. The play's characters fence with the major philosophical positions in an entertaining way and a multi media screen adds a cosmic dimension to the play. The devil's three rubber-clad female accomplices add a bit of spice. You don't need to be familiar with Goethe's Faust to enjoy an entertaining evening with a serious argument about the power of love.

Formed in 1986, Traffic of

the Stage has toured throughout the UK and abroad with Shakespeare and other classics. The company works extensively in theatre in education, touring shows such as *Introducing Shakespeare* and *The History of the Theatre* for both GCSE and SATs.

Both John and Harry's new plays feature regularly at London's fringe theatres: *The Education of a Lap Dancer* (Cooper) and *Cardboard Dreams* (Meacher) have both been produced recently.

For more information on Traffic of the Stage productions go to www.trafficofthestage.com.

A Death on the Ocean Wave

By Daphne Chamberlain

Friern Barnet's Incognito Theatre welcomed their audience aboard the pride of the White Star line for a transatlantic voyage last month. No, this was not yet another Titanic drama. We became third class passengers on the SS Royal Thrush, with a close-up view of murder and mayhem on the top deck.

Celebrity shipmates included the Prince of Wales (1933 version), Wallis Simpson, Noel Coward, Japanese Emperor Hirohito, Celia Johnson, and a goose-stepping painter with a hybrid accent and a small black moustache. Surely his real name was not McShicklegruber?

Film mogul Hiram Firebucket met a violent end, Captain Ahab continued his battle with a certain whale, and Purser Prescott saw to the comfort of the ladies. Meanwhile, a young seaman called Attenborough spouted some strangely familiar dialogue.

The piece built up gradually, really taking off in the second act, when chuckles joined up into a steady guffaw. The murderer was eventually unmasked, only to escape by

air with aviator Amy Johnson, who had recently dropped in.

Casting, acting and costumes were excellent, doing justice to a sparkling script from Tony Bilbow and Mike Fentiman. These two writers, known for their work in television and radio, have now created four plays for Incognito. One of the aims of the theatre group is to present new writing, and the success of the Bilbow / Fentiman combination guaranteed packed houses for every performance.

This friendly little theatre, which has nurtured local talent (including David Jason) for more than 60 years, is hidden behind the Health Centre in Holly Park Road, N11. For further information, call 020 8361 8310 or visit www.incognit Theatre.com.

June at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager
Deepa Mehta's final film in her Elemental Trilogy *Water* launches June for the Phoenix. Never a stranger to controversy, Mehta faced a delay of four years because of opposition from fundamental Hindus. The film deals with how Indian society treats widows and it does not hold back in its criticisms. As a young widow falls in love with a man of a lower caste she attempts to break the restrictions around her.

Subsequently, *Tell No One* opens on 15 June. This is a taut French thriller reminiscent of films such as *The Vanishing*, *Vertigo* or *The Fugitive*. Alex Beck believes his wife to have been killed by a serial killer eight years ago, but when he's sent an email and the police reopen the case he can no longer tell what's true. Is she even still alive? Relentless suspense and multi-layered plotting create a truly exciting film.

As ever, we have a great selection of repertory films in June. Sunday 3 June sees a Zhang Yimou double bill of his wonderful UK debut *Raise the Red Lantern* and his most recent poetic epic *The Curse of the Golden Flower*. Our double bill on 10 June has a space theme with Tarkovsky's classic *Solaris* and Danny Boyle's attempt to jump-start the sun *Sunshine*.

The much talked-about *Half Nelson* comes to the Phoenix on Sunday 17 June in a double bill with *Echo Park, LA*.

Every Saturday morning at the Phoenix we have our Kids Club. Films in June include *The Reef*, *TMNT* and *The Tigger Movie*. At only £2 a ticket and with a fun activity beforehand

it's a great way to spend Saturday morning. Box office: 020 8444 6789 and more details at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Brazil in focus

An exhibition of work by photographer Hannah J. Taylor focusing on the unique architecture of Brazil's capital city is on show in London.

Hannah, who lives in East Finchley, captures the striking beauty of the modern urban landscape of Brasilia created by architect Oscar Niemeyer in the 1950s. For the past four years Hannah has specialized in architecture and modern cities. She has collaborated in numerous exhibitions and was featured recently in the Royal Photographic Society Journal under the title 'Coming Up Fast'.

The Brasilia Project exhibition is on show at Brazilian Contemporary Arts, 22 Chiswick High Road until 16 June. Opening times are Monday-Friday, 10.30am-6.30pm. For more information, visit www.brazilian.org.uk.

What's On...

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

Sunday 10 June:
Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society will be opening 21 members' gardens to the public, including two in Trinity Road and Long Lane, from 2-6pm. Tickets (£5) and full details of venues on the day from 4 Asmuns Hill, NW11. Children under 15 free. Teas at selected gardens (not included in entry price).

Wednesday 13 - Sunday 17 June:
 Exhibition of work from each **East Finchley Open** artist, previewing the main EFO weekends on 30 June-1 July and 7-8 July; Noble Sage Gallery, 2a Fortis Green. For details, contact the gallery on 020 8883 7303.

Saturday 16 June:
Dietrich Kessler Memorial Concert, All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 7.30pm. **Endellion String Quartet** play Mozart, Webern and Schubert. Tickets £15 to include wine, from 020 8444 6630. All proceeds to the Kessler Instrument Collection Trust Fund.

Friday 22 June - Tuesday 31 July
 Barnet Open: exhibition of work by north London visual artists, ranging from ceramics to photography, installation art to oil paintings; artsdepot, North Finchley, 12-4pm. Free entry.

Saturday 23 June:
Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute Open Day, 11am-4pm, 11 High Road, East Finchley. Meet tutors and find out about more than 600 adult courses. Live music and dance, art and crafts exhibition - something for all the family. Children can watch a juggler, have their faces painted and explore a fire engine. Admission free. More details: 020 8829 4141.

Saturday 30 June:
North London Chorus and Orchestra perform *Five Tudor Portraits* by Vaughan Williams, *The Season of*

Singing by King and *Let Us Garlands Bring* by Finzi; artsdepot, North Finchley, 7.30pm. Tickets £18, £14, £10 (concessions £16, £12, £8). Box office: 020 8369 5454.

Saturday 30 June - Sunday 1 July and Sunday 7 - Sunday 8 July:
East Finchley Open weekends; come and see original art work by East Finchley's creative community in the artists' own homes; various venues. Visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk for full details or see leaflets at East Finchley Library.

Friday 6 July:
Friends of Barnet Libraries present *"Memories of the 50s"*, a talk by Terence Atkins, Vice Chairman of Barnet and District Local History Society; 11am-12noon at East Finchley Library. Everyone welcome. Refreshments provided. Further information from Ian Harvey on 020 8444 9406.

Mondays in June and July:
Art appreciation classes open to all, with guest tutors, artsdepot, North Finchley, 7pm-8.30pm, £8: 11 June, *Ghent Altarpiece*, exploring fifteenth century religious iconography and the work of Jan Van Eyck; 18 June, *A-Z of Art History* (Part II), an alphabetical journey through the history of the visual arts; 25 June, *Movement in Visual Art*, from Greeks to contemporary work, a study of how artists depict movement; 2 July, *Abstract Expressionism and the Spiritual*, a look at post-war installation and performance works; 9 July, *Georgian Furniture*, when does furniture become a work of art? For tickets, contact the box office on 020 8369 5454.

Weekends throughout June and July
Guided walks in High Barnet and Monken Hadley; Barnet Ghosts, Battle of Barnet etc. Further information from Paul Baker, 8440 6805.



Letters to the editor

Don't blame the black cabs

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to read the letter in the May issue regarding black cabs at the tube station (*Black cab hazard*). This in my opinion is a very selfish attitude from a car driver. The writer should try walking through the station forecourt during rush hour when all the cars are trying to drop off. Those cars are the ones that cause problems and create a possibly dangerous situation, not the cabs that are usually parked out of the way. Maybe this driver should try walking to the station. After all, it is more healthy than driving, better for the environment and means one less car on the road.

Yours faithfully,

Name and address supplied

Ugly bridge is a danger

Dear Editor

I would like to change the bridge over the railway in East End Road. It is ugly, unfriendly and dangerous. The pavements are very narrow. The panels covered in graffiti should be replaced with large mesh, as used in the next three bridges to the north. How about building a pedestrian bridge on the north side?

Yours faithfully

John Findell

Prospect Place, N2

Footnote: THE ARCHER is aware that many people are worried about walking along this section of East End Road. We have publicised this concern several times, and two local people have asked at the Finchley Forum for improvements to the bridge. They suggested several solutions, and received the following response from Barnet in January 2000.

The council stated that the bridge itself belongs to London Underground, while Barnet is responsible for surface maintenance and drainage of the road and footway. Barnet's chief traffic engineer at that time said he had been told that the bridge could not be extended. Attaching a footway would mean re-locating LUL cables, which run on the outside of the bridge. LUL had already vetoed a similar proposal for the bridge at Finchley Central, because of interference to their cables.

The minimum cost of installing a separate footbridge at that time (seven years ago) would have been £200,000, and Barnet said there was "no accident justification" for that expense.

A suggestion to remove one pavement and widen the other was dismissed because it would entail expensive structural work to prevent the bridge slewing to one side.

Acknowledging that safety issues concerning the bridge had been raised a number of times, Barnet said the only option they could consider would be widening both pavements, which would obviously narrow the roadway. The official statement said there was probably no other interim solution until the bridge needs replacing, or money becomes available through a local development.

Do you have any ideas for improving the look and safety of the East End Road bridge? Please send your comments to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N28JA or email the-archer@lineone.net.

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

Phone masts are multiplying

Dear Editor,

Outside the Five Bells Public House on East End Road there are two mobile phone masts. One, the smaller one, has been there for a long time, the other, newly erected, owned by 02, is gigantic. Barnet Council turned down applications for their erection but because of some weakness in the legislation was powerless to stop the companies going ahead anyway. The council tried to negotiate with them but they just ignored them.

In this little corner of East Finchley, there are also two more applications going on: one for a mast outside Nazareth House, a hundred yards from the Five Bells, and the other in the spire of Holy Trinity Church on Church Lane. The battle against this latter mast has been going on for some time between the church and the residents. The church wants this mast so that it will gain them extra income.

The masts on the pavement outside the Five Bells are a few feet away from the garden of the pub where, particularly in summer months, families sit outside with their children to eat and drink. There are at least seven schools in the vicinity and East End Road is the regular route for children walking to their various schools. This is also a residential area with families with children.

Why do we need more and more masts? We must admit we have a mobile phone which we find very useful on occasions but it has worked perfectly adequately for years. While there are questions about the safety of these masts which have never so far been answered successfully, we feel there should be safeguards against where they are placed.

Yours faithfully,
Jenny Cohen and Liz Cohen,
Talbot Avenue, N2.

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

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A trip back to Tudor times

Marian Bunzl gives us an update on life inside the North London Chorus.

When we heard that our summer programme would include *Tudor Portraits* by Ralph Vaughan Williams we thought: doublet and hose and headless wives, what fun! But we soon discovered that the people we are singing about are much earthier and much more peculiar.

Based on 16th century poems by John Skelton, we have to portray, among others, a disreputable alehouse keeper and her questionable methods of brewing, an equally disreputable priest, and a bereaved spinster lamenting an unhealthy relationship with her recently deceased sparrow. Another interesting rehearsal period for us.

But perhaps the most interesting thing about our June concert is the venue. We are

performing at the artsdepot in Finchley. The choir will be very pampered: no more changing in a freezing crypt. There are spacious dressing rooms, with showers and full-length mirrors, hairdryers and plugs for heated rollers, and that's just for the men.

No more hard pews and craning necks for the audience. There are raked tiers and cushioned seats. For once there are plentiful loos so no more queuing for the one and only toilet.

So, never mind the music, feel the comfort, and come and see us perform this unusual and lively work. The bar is not under our control, so unfortunately we cannot repeat our offer of a free glass of wine for *ARCHER* readers but we will be able to renew it at Christmas.

The North London Chorus performs *Tudor Portraits* on Saturday 30 June at artsdepot, North Finchley at 7.30pm. For tickets, call the box office on 020 8369 5454.

THE ARCHER: volunteers needed

THE ARCHER is produced entirely by volunteers for the benefit of the community in East Finchley. We currently have two vacancies on our team:

Online Editor

We're looking for someone who has the skills to redesign our website www.the-archer.co.uk and to keep it up to date.

Photo Editor

We need someone who can co-ordinate the photographs submitted to us each month and prepare them for printing. Our stock of images from previous editions is also in need of organisation. Must be proficient in Photoshop or similar.

Could you give some time each month to fill one of these roles? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Come and meet our friendly team any Saturday at 11am in Maddens pub, High Road, or visit our stall at East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on 24 June to find out more. You can also email the-archer@lineone.net or leave a message on our phone line 08717 334465 and we'll get back to you.

Cyclists wanted to prove their mettle

By Nick Bloom

Keen cyclists are invited to try some challenging rides from East Finchley on Sunday 24 June starting at The Big Chef on the High Road.

The 100km (66 miles) ride goes via Potters Bar into the rolling Hertfordshire countryside and back. Anyone can take part on any bike, tricycle, tandem or recumbent, though under-18s need parental consent. Entry in advance is £4, CTC & AUK members £3. On the line entries £5.

The 200km challenge sneaks north of the Chilterns via the Tea Rooms at Marsworth, to the top of Brill Hill with a view from the windmill of Muswell Hill. Entry in advance is £5, CTC & AUK members £4. On the line entries £7. Further information from 020 8365 3806 / 07768 354010 (nick@saddlesore.org.uk) or Bike and Run on the High Road. Download entry forms and routesheets from www.saddlesore.org.uk.



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Joyce Arram, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator of Summerlee Gardens with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team. Photo by Diana Cormack

Cold calling gets frozen out

By Diana Cormack

A venture between the Metropolitan Police, the Fire Brigade and Neighbourhood Watch to discourage cold callers from knocking at your door could be coming your way. Sponsored by BT, the idea is to put up signs advising those intending to call at your home that they are entering an area where residents do not buy goods or services from uninvited sales people. Paul Hammond of Barnet Borough Watch told *THE ARCHER* that in some areas where the scheme has already started the number of cold callers has dropped dramatically.

Genuine callers will carry an identity card with a photograph and be happy to make an appointment or wait while you phone to confirm their identity, but some people who turn up at your door unannounced may not be so accommodating. There is a chance that they might be distraction burglars hoping to gain entry to your home to steal things or bogus callers ready to rip you off in some underhand way. "No Cold Calling Zones" are intended to empower communities to tackle the issue of

unwanted callers and to provide increased confidence in combating doorstep crime.

Chandos Road, Cherry Tree Road and Summerlee Gardens have been volunteered as the first places in East Finchley to have the signs installed. If your street wants to join in, talk to your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator or contact the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team on 020 8721 2845.

Summer fun at Holy Trinity School

By Claire Mugridge and Caroline Hunt

On Friday 4 May, Holy Trinity School hall was transformed for a fundraising fashion show. Around 100 people packed the hall to applaud the models (a mixture of mums and pupils) as they strutted their stuff on the catwalk, modelling clothes from Per Una, Principles, Gap and other big names. After the show, there was a chance to buy clothes and, with business brisk, several hundreds pounds were raised.

A week later, and despite some unpromising weather, parents, children, staff and local residents were out in force at the Holy Trinity School Summer Fair. With great food, a fancy dress parade, and lots of different stalls and activities - including 'bash the rat', a penalty shootout, and the ever-popular arts corner - the event was a great success raising more than £3,200 for the school, much of which will be used to help fund an update to the school's computing equipment.

The 'Relaxation Zone' - with mini makeovers, nail art, henna 'tattoos' and haircuts from TD Hair Designers - proved hugely popular, but the biggest draw of the afternoon was the infamous stocks. Headteacher Tim Bowden and Year 3 teacher Robin Jacobs were the main men in the firing line and both got a soaking as the children (in the main) queued up to hurl soggy sponges - often from point-blank range!



Headteacher Tim Bowden accepts his punishment



Girl cricketers join up here

Monday night is Colts night at Finchley Cricket Club in East End Road. It is also the night when girls from age five to 13 can receive training for the game in which England's female teams have performed impressively in the past.

You'll be coached by two of the Middlesex Women's Squad, who started playing their cricket at Finchley Cricket Club. You won't be on your own - a group of girls started playing last year - and you don't need any experience, as complete beginners are welcome. For more details contact Dee McLean on 020 7485 3397.

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