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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Plastic bag campaigners name the day

Saturday 1 December has been named as the launch day for the campaign to turn East Finchley into a plastic bag free zone.

As reported in *THE ARCHER* last month, shoppers and traders are being urged to stop using plastic bags and replace them with more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Information will be going out to every trader and posters will be appearing along the High Road in November.

A logo and slogan have been designed for the campaign. It shows a plastic bag caught in a tree, with the words 'Plastic's not fantastic. It's time to sack the bag'.

New bags made from Fair Trade cotton and printed with water-based ink are being produced for sale. Campaign organiser Sally Swann hopes traders will sell these instead of providing plastic bags and that shoppers will carry one with them whenever they make a trip to the shops.

Reuse and recycle

Sally said: "The response I've been getting so far has been good. There are lots of

ideas for how we can all make this happen. Reusing plastic bags is something everyone can do. And we've asked Barnet Council for a plastics recycling point on the High Road."

The campaign is being backed by REEF, the group of local businesses promoting trade and leisure in East Finchley. Traders and shoppers in East End Road are very much included too but Sally is appealing for volunteers to help her get the campaign off the ground there, as well as with all the other shops around N2.

East Finchley would be the first community in London to become a plastic bag free zone although other areas in the capital are thought to be making similar plans. The village of Modbury in Devon has already stopped using them.

Fortismere forges new links with N2

By John Lawrence

Fortismere School is seeking to build new links with East Finchley and encourage more applications from families in N2 as well as Muswell Hill.

September was an important date for the school as it moved into Foundation School status and, after many years of being a specialist technology college, changed its specialist status to Maths/Computing and Music.

In addition, following an excellent Ofsted report in which the school was described as having 'many outstanding features', Fortismere has been formally identified as a High Performing Specialist School and, as such, has been offered the opportunity to take on a second specialism, which will be Modern Foreign Languages.

Local admissions

Foundation status does not mean Fortismere will turn into a selective school. The governors say it simply gives them greater flexibility to steer and manage the development of the school.

Jane Farrell, Chair of Governors, said: "Foundation status transferred responsibility for admissions from Haringey Council to the Fortismere Governing Body. We intend to ensure that future admission criteria reflect the needs and wishes of the local community and are completely transparent."

"Being on the boundary of Haringey and Barnet means that the school will always welcome applications for places from families in both Muswell Hill and East Finchley."

The move to foundation status was opposed by some parents and staff, who formed the Keep Fortismere Comprehensive campaign group. The group says it will carry on campaigning for the school to

be run in the same way as if it had continued to be a community school.

Other plans put forward by the governors are to extend Fortismere's services to all local families by offering evening or weekend courses, such as Mandarin, Spanish, maths for parents, computing for beginners, website design, orchestra and instrumental lessons.

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Inside this issue:

Bus top move..... page 3
Barnet Civic Awards... page 4
Institute opening..... page 5
Young Archer..... page 8
Library swap..... page 9
What's On.....page 10

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

Leisure

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

Transport

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

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
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Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

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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

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team 020 7161 9014

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Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800 500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
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- ❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Barrier to cycling menace

Residents of Stokes Court in Diploma Avenue have campaigned successfully for barriers to be placed along the footpath outside their homes to deter dangerous cyclists.

Around 50 elderly people live in the residential home close to the tube station, many with mobility or eyesight problems.

The Stokes Court Residents Association says this makes them vulnerable to cyclists who ride at high speed up and down the footpath immediately outside their front door.

The footpath, which links East End Road to Diploma Avenue, has statutory signs in place indicating that no cycling is allowed but some cyclists ignore them and use the path as a short cut.

There have already been several near misses involving Stokes Court residents and there were fears that sooner or later a serious accident would happen.

After taking the matter up with Barnet Council in June, the residents' association has won agreement from the Highways department to install a chicane barrier on the path, which would force cyclists to slow down and dismount. A date for completion of

the work is still to be confirmed.

John Bagley, spokesman for the residents, said: "A barrier will be the best solution. Cyclists come down this path at a rate of knots. We understand it's a tempting short cut for them but it is potentially very dangerous."

Business lessons

Finchley Catholic High in Woodside Lane, N12, has been selected as one of only 51 schools in the country to take part in a major new national initiative to give young people an insight into the world of business and enterprise.

Young Chamber puts pupils in partnership with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry to help them learn from businesses nearby and across the city.

Virtual tour created for Barnet's museum

Church Farm House Museum is the first in the country to benefit from new technology that allows people to view interactive 360-degree panoramic views of the museum from the comfort of their own homes.

Potential visitors can get a flavour of the museum by logging onto the website www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk and panning round the 1820s kitchen, 1850s dining room and 1890s laundry room, as well as clicking on 'hot spots' for information on items such

as sugar cutters and washing dollys.

The innovative panoramic views were created by north London company Gilvers, after receiving a Renaissance grant from the London Museums Hub and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

33 Abbots Gardens, N2

Two-storey rear and side extension including conversion of garage into habitable room. Alterations to roof to facilitate a loft conversion. Garden level basement at rear.

16 Aylmer Road, N2

Demolition of existing house and erection of a detached three-storey block of five flats with associated parking and landscaping. New vehicular access.

38a Church Lane, N2

Creation of roof terrace at the rear involving replacement of first floor window with a door, access steps and fencing.

201 Creighton Avenue, N2

First floor side extension. Extensions to roof including rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion.

130 East End Road, N2

Change of use to cafe / patisserie (Class A3).

5 Elm Gardens, N2

Single storey rear extension.

Five Bells Works, 183 East End Road, N2

Change of use to office (B1 Class) with first floor rear extension.

36 High Road, N2

Rebuilding of the coach house and enlargement together with the change of use to residential accommodation. Single storey rear extension to shop, together with a new shop front and a first floor rear extension.

65 Manor Park Road, N2

Single storey side and rear extension. Single storey front infill. Change of use from shop to residential.

National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery (Former), Great North Road, N2.

Six cedar trees. Remove deadwood and storm damage only

Oak Lodge, Heath View, off East End Road, N2

Installation of demountable classroom to rear of school.

1-169 Old Farm Road, Strawberry Vale, N2

Security works to replace existing door entry phone and enclosed glazed screens to stair tower

Oak Lane Health Centre, Oak Lane, N2

Single storey rear and side extension to the existing building

Haringey Council

Land between 27 and 29 Aylmer Road N2

Provision of three outdoor lawn tennis courts with a pavilion and six car parking spaces (revised)

24 Fordington Road N6

Erection of ground floor rear extension, first floor side extension and alterations to first floor rear window and roof slope.

26 Fordington Road N6

Erection of single storey rear extension at ground floor, side and rear extension at first floor, alterations to roof slope and insertion of dormer window to attic store.

Clissold Arms, Fortis Green N2

Erection of side extension and new adjacent window.

22 Southern Road N2

Demolition of existing summerhouse and erection of garden studio. Conservation Area Consent for demolition of existing summerhouse and erection of garden studio.

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Bus stop fix has 'made it worse'

By David Melsome

A bus stop that was moved several yards along the High Road is in a worse position than it was before, claim traders.

The bus shelter and seating used to be outside PACEYS Newsagents at 103 High Road but Barnet Council moved them over the summer to a new site outside the Heck of a Wash launderette at 109 High Road.

One of the reasons given for the move was that northbound 263 buses could not pull in to the kerb fully, causing obstruction to traffic behind them. The new position is said to give them more room to pull in.

But launderette owner Hector Cisneros claims the change has made no difference to whether buses pull in or not and, what's more, the new position is potentially damaging to his business. He claims he was not properly consulted about the bus stop move.

Mr Cisneros said: "The bus stop is now obliterating my shop front and stopping it being seen easily from the road. It made much more sense for the stop to be outside the newsagents where people waiting for a bus could pop in to buy snacks or a newspaper."

The owners of the Cochin restaurant next door to Heck of a Wash are also objecting to the new position.

Consultation

Barnet Council said a full consultation was carried out at the start of the year, when documents were hand delivered to all owners of trading premises and notices placed in the local press and on site.

A spokesman said: "Subsequent discussions took place including a successful meeting on site. It was agreed that we would seek to relocate the stop

further northwards and manage this with no loss of parking facility overall. A letter was then delivered to all the traders in July advising them of the new layout. Traffic congestion in the area has reduced."

At the time of going to press, however, the road markings next to the bus stop had not been altered, so cars were still able to park across half of the bus stop space.

Coleman supports call for better bus service

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet councillor Brian Coleman, Deputy Chairman of the London Assembly, has come out in support of the campaign for a better bus service along the High Road.

In a letter dated 24 September to East Finchley Bus Watch's Hazel Burnett, Mr Coleman wrote: "I agree that the performance of the route 263 bus has been extremely poor. Your suggestion of augmenting the 263 with an extended route 17 is a good one."

He added that when, in the past, he asked for more resources to be diverted to the 263 route, he was told that the level of service was appropriate to the existing demand throughout its route.

This is what Bus Watch has

also been told on several occasions. In fact, it misses the point that demand is much higher on the part of the route between East Finchley station and North Finchley, the infamous "solo stretch". It also does not address the complaint that anyone travelling beyond Archway has to either change buses or use the Underground, which is out of the question for many people.

Brian Coleman continued: "You are quite right to make the point that if people are to be persuaded to abandon their cars and use public transport, it is vital that the public transport infrastructure is strong and flexible enough to cope. Enabling people to travel easily from their doctor to the hospital is certainly a key consideration, which a good bus service would undoubtedly provide."

One of the points made by Bus Watch was that the 263 serves a hospital at either end of its route.

Bus Watch on

Consultation Database

Hazel Burnett has also received another letter from London Buses, saying that the 263 is currently being fully reviewed. All suggestions and comments, including those for route 17 and services in the area generally, will be taken into consideration.

Bus Watch have accepted the invitation to be placed on the consultation database for London Buses. This means they will receive all consultation documents for Barnet.



Church Vale's spectacular water-spout. Photograph courtesy of Martin Bronkhorst

Water, water, everywhere

At the top of Church Vale the road has been up for some time. On the afternoon of Thursday 11 October the water was up, too, to tree-top height, and for more than two hours.

Someone 'went through a pipe' and it wasn't the Clancy Docwra road team, who were watching with amusement. The luckless man from Enterprise, a firm working for Thames Water, scrambled out from the hole he was working in followed by a massive water spout. That was at about 2.30pm.

At 5pm, a man in a van from Thames Water turned up and shut off the supply, but by that time one house and its garden had been thoroughly watered, the gutter all the way down Church Vale had become a stream and several schoolchildren had got joyfully wet.

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Stubbing out cigarette litter

Free portable ashtrays are to be handed out as part of a campaign by Barnet Council to discourage smokers from dropping cigarettes in the street.

Working in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy, the council will promote the message that dropping cigarette litter is illegal and can attract a fine of up to £80.

Posters depicting a camouflaged cigarette and the slogan 'However you disguise it, it's still litter' will appear around the borough. The ashtrays will

be handed out in Barnet's main shopping streets and at Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

The campaign comes as research commissioned by Keep Britain Tidy revealed that the level of cigarette litter on streets in England had increased by 43 per cent since the ban on smoking in public places was introduced in July.

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Honour Barnet's outstanding citizens

Don't miss your chance to thank someone who makes an outstanding contribution to life in Barnet. The council is asking residents to send in nominations for the borough's eighth Annual Civic Awards.

Those nominated will be recognised at a ceremony at Hendon Town Hall in February 2008.

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Maureen Braun, who will present the awards, said: "Barnet's Civic Awards ceremony gives everyone the opportunity to honour the people who contribute so much to our lives yet often remain unacknowledged."

Last year the council received 44 nominations. East Finchley winners included:

David Smith, of Abbots Gardens, for his service as a governor of Holy Trinity Primary School and his work with the Finchley Society

Sylvia Duthie, of Leicester Road, who served on the governing board of Holy Trinity for 10 years and is now involved

in the development of Wren Academy in North Finchley

Alnoor Thobani, pharmacist at Cootes in the High Road for 22 years

THE ARCHER's writer and photographer Craig Johnson, for his victim support work as a police officer and in recognition of his role in helping people during the bombings in London on 7 July 2005.

The awards are open to anyone living or working in Barnet. Previous award winners or serving councillors are not eligible for nomination. Nominations close on Friday 30 November.

For a copy of the nomination form, call 020 8359 7796 or email rachel.tansley@barnet.gov.uk or download it from www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards.

A taste of *THE ARCHER*

By Daphne Chamberlain

There was something familiar about the biscuits eaten by Friends of Barnet Libraries at their October coffee morning. Some time ago, organiser Ian Harvey grew tired of handing out all the usual suspects along with tea and coffee. Now he bakes biscuits illustrating the theme of each month's meeting. So when Diana Cormack and I went along to talk about *The Archer*, we found ourselves scoffing down "Archie" himself.

Many thanks to Ian for inviting us to meet both readers and non-readers of East Finchley's own newspaper. As these coffee mornings take place in East Finchley library, there were naturally quite a few locals in the audience, but also people from Muswell Hill, Church End, Friern Barnet and even Mill Hill.

These people only attend regularly because the programme of talks is varied and interesting. Friends of Barnet Libraries is a borough-wide organisation, and coffee mornings take place elsewhere in Barnet. The Friends helped create coffee lounges in all the borough's libraries.

They have also donated toys and "storytime sacks" to the children's sections, and 15 CD players to the Home Library Service for users needing audio books.



Archie takes the biscuit.

Photo by Diana Cormack

East Finchley coffee mornings are held in the first floor hall of the library between 11am and 12 noon on the first Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome, but please note there is no lift.

THE ARCHER includes details of the following month's meeting in *What's On*, but for further details, and for information on becoming a Friend, contact Ian Harvey on 020 8444 9406.

Family support from a star volunteer

By Janet Maitland

"Home-Start helps real people with real problems." These heartfelt words came from a mother speaking at the celebration of Home-Start Barnet's 10 years of supporting families, held at Mill Hill Golf Club on 6 October.

The occasion was marked by the presentation of a trophy to Barbara Smith, from East Finchley, who has been a dedicated volunteer for Home-Start Barnet ever since it began.

Home-Start provides support, befriending and practical help for families with at least one child under five who are experiencing stress or difficulties. Barbara is one of their trained volunteers, visiting families in their own home on a weekly basis.

Although Barbara also works three days a week, she has managed to support over 15 families in the last 10 years, staying with most of them for a year.

"Barbara just gets on with the job, supporting one family after another, always taking part in our ongoing training and other activities," said Linda Sansom, office manager.

Barbara describes her initial approach to new families as "standing back and waiting"; she is very conscious that building a good relationship takes time and a lot of listening. Her self-effacing wisdom struck me as just the right touch for people who are depressed, isolated, under stress or lacking in self-esteem.

Once trust has been estab-



Barbara Smith has been supporting families for 10 years. Photograph by Janet Maitland

lished, Barbara will do whatever is necessary, from taking families shopping to giving advice about parenting, always aware that "being a parent isn't easy and everyone does it differently".

"Volunteering has been a real boost to my own confidence," said Barbara. "And it's really satisfying that I've been able to help such a wide range of people."

Please, Mr Postman

Whilst driving home around midnight during the postal strike at the start of October, one *ARCHER* correspondent noticed two men in Royal Mail jackets on the roadside near Nazareth House in East End Road.

Were they making a very early collection of mail for the next day or had they just left the picket line somewhere? Still pondering their purpose, our correspondent arrived home and switched on the TV to find the film being shown was *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.

Teenage beauty

By Helen Drake

Stuck for Christmas or birthday present ideas for your teenage daughter? Beautician Mandana, based at Jennie Mann on Church Lane, might have the solution.

She is launching a new prescriptive facial developed especially for teenagers on her Open Day on 29 November, 9am-9pm, when all products and gift vouchers will be offered at a 10% discount. Mandana is also extending her opening hours on Thursdays until 5pm so that teenagers have the opportunity to book appointments after school.

Having been approached by several clients asking for solutions to their teenage daughters' skin problems, and having a budding teenager herself, Mandana has developed a facial to meet the needs of this age group. At a more affordable price of £25, the facial concentrates on cleaning and black head removal.

Gentle but effective

"The approach is gentle but with a very effective result, using *Sothys* products to suit the needs of each individual skin," says Mandana. "Obviously I can't change and cure a hormonal imbalance within the body, but I think teenagers like my own daughter can neglect to carry out very basic skin care. With the right advice, products and routines, a lot can be done to achieve a fresher, healthier skin."

Between 3pm and 5pm on the Open Day, Mandana will be offering free taster sessions of her new teenage facial on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, phone Mandana on 020 8365 2284 (9am-3pm) and 020 8447 0854 (6pm-8pm).

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Royal audience for youth films

The Princess Royal introduced a special event at the Phoenix Cinema on 25 September showcasing the work of 40 students from eight schools in Barnet and Enfield.

Students had worked on the short films with the help of Barnet Action 4 Youth, a branch of national crime prevention charity Crime Concern, of which Princess Anne is president of patrons.

Many of the films had messages about the situations young

people can fall into when they lack love or a sense of belonging in their lives.

Princess Anne told the audience that work like this by Crime Concern had a significant impact in reducing exclusion, improving behaviour and raising attendance at school.

Library looks to the future

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library Users Group and Barnet staff are attempting to salvage something from the wreck of the library's lottery hopes.

Failure to gain lottery funds has meant the end of plans to install a lift to the upper floor, but EFLUG told us they are hoping to press on with some community schemes involving voluntary work.

EFLUG members Polly Napper and Leslie Gilbert had a meeting with Tricia Little, head of Barnet's Libraries Department, and her Area Manager, Veronica Padwick, at the end of September. A follow-up meeting was planned for the end of October.

Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER*: "East Finchley community representatives are discussing what opportunities there could be for services from East Finchley in the future."

The Users Group is also developing a publicity programme, saying: "There is so much good stuff in the library that's worth promoting, and the notice board outside is rather minimal."

The lottery bid was built around establishing a borough-wide dyslexia centre, and *THE ARCHER* understands that Barnet are still looking at enhancing materials about dyslexia from the existing budget.

Dyslexia talk

There will be a talk on dyslexia at the Friends of Barnet Libraries Coffee Morning, in the East Finchley library hall between 11am and 12 noon on Friday 7 December.

Space trekkers raise funds for Bobath Centre

By Kirsty Middlemist

It was a beautiful sunny day, on 22 September, when members of the Space Youth Café embarked on their seven-mile sponsored walk in aid of the Bobath Centre for children with Cerebral Palsy.

Seven young people and four adults took part in the trek, which began at Space in East Finchley and ended at Barnet Brookside Methodist Church. On the way, the group called in at Finchley and Manor Drive Methodist Churches. The day ended with a sleepover at East Finchley Methodist Church.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As well as the satisfaction of helping others, members got the opportunity to get to know each other. There

was also time to rest sore feet and eat ice cream during leisurely pauses in local parks.

The walkers' efforts raised about £600 for the Bobath Centre on East End Road.

If you are aged between 11 and 16, you are very welcome to join us at Space on a Friday evening between 6.30pm and 8pm. Please contact Kirsty Middlemist on 020 8951 4112, 07879 840817 or write to youthfandh@aol.com for more details.

Where the Art is

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Institute's Arts Centre, on the other side of The Causeway behind East Finchley station, was opened officially last month. Institute Principal Fay Naylor and Chairman Malcolm Davis said that moving into the £6 million purpose-built centre was like coming out of a dark tunnel, but they warned of a continuing struggle ahead to repay their financial loan.

Although the building, designed by Rivington Street Studios, has already become one of the Open House sites opened to the public every year, it still needs sponsors to complete its furnishing and equipment.

The move to East Finchley from the Suburb has attracted 2,000 new students, and MP Rudi Vis praised what The Institute has already achieved. He loved the mix of British and foreign students of all ages (up to 96), abilities and incomes, saying it was in the original tradition of the Open University.

Fleur Adcock, winner of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, who has lived in East Finchley for 44 years, told *THE ARCHER* she was delighted to open the Centre. "It's wonderful to have it in the area, and an honour for me to open it. I've never opened anything before - except jars of marmalade or suitcases at the airport." She looked forward to "the hum and buzz of creativity in this building".

Sponsors welcome

With opportunities for income-producing partnerships, The Institute hope to achieve a balanced business plan in the next three years, but there is still a lengthy list of items needed for the new building.

A former student of sculpture, Mrs Meenal Mehta, and her husband, Madhoo, have donated very generously to the Centre, sponsoring ground-floor rooms, and a plaque was unveiled in their honour. The Institute will welcome all offers of help, from £14 for a dustbin to £18,000 for accessible toilets. Please contact Andree Koval on 020 8829 4139 for further details.



Madhoo and Meenal Mehta by the plaque commemorating their sponsorship of the Arts Centre. With them is the designer of the plaque, Geoff Stocker, who teaches digital art and computer studies at The Institute. Photograph by Andree Kaval

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Alto de Perdon Pilgrimage Memorial (790m). Photograph by Bill Tyler

To be a pilgrim

This summer, Finchley Society president Bill Tyler set out to walk almost 500 miles in a month along the Camino, an ancient pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. He was raising funds for the North London Hospice and TreeHouse, the national charity for autism, which has a school in Woodside Avenue. Here, he recalls the pain and the pleasure of those 30 days in June.

It was wet and heavily overcast at St Jean Pied de Port, a meeting point for the centuries-old pilgrimage routes from northern France to Santiago de Compostela. Thick, lowering cloud obscured the mountaintops and the forecast was bad. However, the weather improved overnight and the local tourist office gave a thumbs-up for 'Go'. So off set a straggle of walkers at their own or their companion's pace and loaded with backpacks, some hung with the scallop shell symbol of St James, whose tomb we were heading for almost 500 miles away.

The route of the Camino is generally well marked but no one had told me how tough some of the terrain is, even for a pretty fit walker. There are rough and steep sections that badly punish feet and legs and I suffered with bad blisters. Several toes were quite severely bruised and muscles screamed achingly at times, too. There were days when I couldn't walk comfortably and had to rest or take a bus or train to keep on schedule.

Another hiatus was the loss of my wallet, or more likely its theft, and that's no joke in a small town where no one seemed to speak English. Amazingly, I was lent enough money to keep me going for a few days while my wife Diana and Western Union came to the rescue with transferred funds.

Ancient landscapes

From rough track to stony path, boggy morass, farm track to asphalt road, the Camino passes through hugely varied landscapes: the cloud-covered Pyrenees, rolling arable farmland, flat plains, forests, pastureland and valleys with rushing rivers. Many of the villages are semi-ruinous and populated almost entirely by the elderly, as highly mechanised farming has driven younger families to the towns and cities.

Pamplona, Burgos and Leon are the major cities en route but there are also many quite large towns, all incredibly clean and beautifully paved, as are some of the more important villages. The magnificent cathedrals - Burgos, Leon and Santiago - and the many fine churches and ancient buildings along the way are remarkable but particularly memorable was, for mile after mile, the complete lack of man-made noise: just the hum of insects savouring the myriad wild flowers along the path verge and, above it all, the trill of skylarks.

Almost all the hostels and pensions I stayed in were spotlessly clean and inexpensive. Wonderful meals of local produce, especially fish, were incredibly good value. Along the way I passed the time of day and some evenings with German, Austrian, Scandinavian, Canadian and Dutch walkers, only the French and Spanish keeping rather to themselves. Most people, including a few families with children, were serious pilgrims but others were doing it for the experience and

some, like me, raising money for charities. Most impressive was a group of Austrian students who had walked all the way from Vienna.

Time to pause

The attempt to do 490 miles in a month was over-optimistic, although beforehand two veterans of the Camino had said it was quite feasible. I managed only 250 on the route itself and another 20 or so with various diversions but after 23 days of moving on almost continually I felt completely 'walked out'.

So I travelled by other means to Santiago de Compostela, arriving six days before my booked return flight. This gave me the chance to go to Finisterre, the very end of the Camino, for a dip in the Atlantic off the westernmost point of Europe, and to get to know Santiago pretty well. There can be few nicer places in which to have to spend four or five days.

The amount I've raised in donations, to be split equally between the Hospice and TreeHouse, is more than £11,500, a fantastic response from my many very kind sponsors.

Juggling home and work

Many mums who saw their children start school for the first time in September may now be hoping to return to work.

An award-winning social enterprise set up by a group of north London mothers aims to help them search for a suitable job.

Women Like Us provides skills advice, job search support and confidence building for women who may have put their career on hold.

Margaret Cheng, Director of Coaching Services, said: "We are keen to highlight to

the thousands of mums across north London who want to return to work, that it is in fact possible to find jobs that match their experience, that are local and also fit around family life."

Founded in 2004 by two working mums, the enterprise has helped more than 3,000 women to date and has been recommended by the Prime Minister's Women and Work Commission for rollout across the UK.

Women Like Us can be contacted on 020 7281 6522 or at www.womenlikeus.org.uk.

"Serious charge against a Finchley woman"

The crimes of the so-called Finchley baby-farmers shocked the public at the beginning of the 20th century. Ann Bronkhorst tells how they were discovered.

On the evening of 12 November 1902, the Black Bess Coffee Tavern in the High Road must have looked inviting, but Annie Walters, a short, stout woman of 54, probably hurried on round the corner to a house in Hertford Road. She was responding to a telegram sent to her lodgings in Islington, which read: 'Five o'clock tonight, Sach Finchley'.

Earlier that day, a baby girl had been born to an unmarried woman. The Hertford Road premises where the birth took place was one of a growing number of private lying-in homes. Local papers carried regular advertisements for it: 'Doctor recommends comfortable home; skilled nursing; every care; terms moderate'. 'Terms' often included a fee for providing discreet adoption arrangements. The proprietress, Mrs Amelia Sach, in her late-twenties, claimed to be a certified nurse and midwife; sometimes a doctor attended difficult births.

Short-stay fostering

Annie Walters was not, however, a caring relative of the new mother but a regular visitor to the home. She described herself as a 'short-stay foster mother': extremely short-stay. She had been seen in various parts of London carrying doll-like bundles and, the following day, had just such a limp bundle with her in Whitechapel. It was never seen again.

Annie had chatted openly at her lodgings about her foster-mothering and the fine adoptive homes she found for babies. Her landlord, a police-

man, was sceptical. So was his colleague, Detective Constable Wright, who trailed her and her bundle across London to South Kensington railway station. The bundle contained a baby, a boy this time, dead for at least eight hours.

When arrested on 18 November 1902, Annie told the police: "I never murdered the dear. I only gave it two drops in its bottle, the same as I take myself." The drops were chlorodyne, a morphine-based narcotic.

Second arrest

The Hendon and Finchley Times broke the news locally on 21 November in a long article beginning: "Considerable sensation was caused in East Finchley on Tuesday night by the arrest of Mrs Sach." Although at first denying that she knew Annie or had ever given her any babies, Amelia's story shifted several times. She maintained her innocence, however, and professed horror at Annie's crime: "Do you mean to say that these babies are dead and that she has killed them?"

But witnesses came forward, many items of baby clothing were found and Amelia was soon heavily implicated. At the inquest on the three-month-old boy found dead in Annie's possession, the jury took five minutes to find Annie guilty of wilful murder and Amelia an accessory before the fact. Both women would face trial a fortnight later at the Old Bailey.

The story of the Finchley baby-farmers' case will be concluded in a later issue.

Light up a life

North London Hospice is offering the chance to remember someone special by symbolically sponsoring a light on the horse chestnut tree in the hospice grounds.

This is the 10th year of the annual Light Up a Life event and for the first time all the lights will be low-energy bulbs.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one can contact community fundraising manager Theresa Bowman on 020 8446 2288.

All sponsors will be sent a card containing the name of the loved one they are remembering. They can also choose to attend the tree lighting ceremony on Sunday 25 November.

The hospice, based in Woodside Avenue, N12, provides end-of-life care for people of all denominations in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

It relies heavily on fundraising to meet its running costs.

A long pedigree

Estate agent Prickett & Ellis celebrated 240 years and nine generations of trading with a special dinner at Kenwood House, Hampstead.

The company, which trades as Prickett & Ellis Tomkins at 36 High Road in East Finchley, made its first property auction in 1767. More than 200 guests attended the lavish celebrations.



Record audiences at Arts Festival

By Geoffrey Hanson, Festival Director

'Variety,' they say, 'is the spice of life,' and it was the variety in this year's East Finchley Arts Festival that drew so much favourable comment from the many who attended. Audience numbers were up on previous years and the whole event had a real feeling of festivity.

Writing this the day after the Festival ended, it is difficult to single out any one item or event but clearly Dame Emma Kirkby's concert with the English Consort of Viols drew a full house and an enthusiastic reception whilst the London Mozart Players and Rimantas Vingras gave me great personal pleasure with their performance of my new Piano Concerto.

Bruce Purchase as Dr. Johnson in a one-man drama especially written for him by John Wain held us spellbound for an hour and a half. Poet

Children's storyteller June Peters made a very successful first appearance at the Festival, delighting younger members of the community and their parents with her lively and original programme.

The Art Exhibition in aid of the North London Hospice concentrated on local artists and, together with the bucket collections, raised around £2,500. Thanks, East Finchley. I hear that there have been requests from Muswell Hill residents to know more about the Festival. See you next year!



Festival Director Geoffrey Hanson, Rimantas Vingras and the London Mozart Players. Photograph by Saulius Mendelis

Fleur Adcock succumbed to a bout of 'flu but Elaine Feinstein held the fort with an intriguing description of her work.

The performers in the Rivers of Babylon concert presented their material with freshness and obvious enjoyment, clearly shared by the audience. The Lunch Hour Recitals were a new idea, justified by the support they received.

Jennifer Bate put the organ at All Saints Church through its paces, whilst Patrick Naylor and Tim Robinson gave a beguiling recital of guitar music.

The Fidelio Piano Quartet made a welcome return visit to the Festival and played with their usual élan and flair. Dave Burman's London Vintage Jazz Orchestra drew the Festival to a close with a rousing programme played to an appreciative full house.



Anniversary fun in Fordington Road. Photograph by Linda Mitchell

Fun in Fordington Road

By Fordington Road resident, Linda Mitchell

On 15 September, the residents of Fordington Road held a street party to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first houses being built there.

Julia Richardson, a resident whose grandfather built the houses, came up with the idea. Some of the neighbours hosted meetings to discuss ideas and plans. Eventually, a date was fixed, and permission obtained to close the road to traffic for the day.

Amazingly, the sun shone! Everyone brought food and drink for the refreshment tables, and one neighbour made a beautiful "Happy Birthday" banner, which stretched across the road. The lamp-posts were all decorated with garlands and balloons.

Another neighbour set up a jewellery stall, where children could make their own necklaces and bracelets with the lovely beads provided. Everyone wore a sticker with their name and house number, and a game of "House Bingo" proved as popular with the adults as it was with the children.

It was great fun to sing along

to the karaoke machine: GPs, solicitors, surgeons, builders, all enjoying a sing-song together. Later in the day, a treasure hunt was organised and was a great success. The children had a lovely time running races down a car-free road.

A particular group worked very hard to make sure that the day went well, and it certainly did. We had good food, drink, music, bubble machines, laughter and, most of all, such friendly neighbours.

Of course it was over all too soon. It would be good to make it an annual event by celebrating the celebrations of the previous year.

War injuries you cannot see

By Diana Cormack

A fund to help those seriously wounded during World War I was set up by Earl Haig not long after hostilities ceased, with poppies made by the disabled soldiers themselves being sold to raise money. The red poppy is now recognised as the symbol of remembrance for victims of any conflict since then in which this country has been involved.

But in 1919 another charity, Combat Stress, was established to help the thousands of soldiers suffering from shell shock.

Combat Stress says that the number of psychiatric casualties of war is far greater than those killed or physically disabled. It is the only UK charity that supports British ex-servicemen and women who have been profoundly traumatised by their harrowing experiences on active service. Since World War II, some 85,000 veterans with a variety of psychological injuries have been helped. With current

conflicts, the present number of 8,000 clients is sadly steadily rising. The youngest is 19.

To help veterans rebuild their lives the charity has three specialist centres in Ayrshire, Shropshire and Surrey, which offer short-stay remedial treatment, providing respite care, psychiatric support and occupational therapy. Help at home is available, too, with support from professional regional welfare officers all of whom have been in the services. Combat Stress works in cooperation with other service charities, the NHS, the military and the government.

Combat-related psychological injuries can also have a huge impact on families, friends and carers. Combat Stress would like to do more to support these often unrecognised victims, as well as to continue its lifelong commitment to clients. For all this it needs funding. To help or to have more details contact Combat Stress at Tyrwhitt House, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0BX, telephone 01372 841619 or visit www.combatstress.org.uk.



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YOUNG ARCHER

A flying guy

By Diana Cormack

Most of my childhood memories of Bonfire Night are of big communal bonfires, hot drinking chocolate, singed jacket potatoes and cinder toffee.

My dad was in the Royal Air Force and on any base where we lived the young airmen billeted there would start building the bonfire in the middle of October. It was always carefully constructed with spare wood and burnable bits from aircraft hangars that none of us kids could ever lay our hands on. If we dared to add anything to the construction our pieces might disappear or we would find them carefully laid aside, so we quickly learned to hide them away. Then on the night of 5 November we would bring them out to hurl onto the fire, trying to make it last longer when it was starting to die down and the jacket potatoes were beginning to appear.

This could be quite late, so we had to be careful about the time in case our parents dragged

us home to bed, but the bonfire took a long time to burn because it was so big. Its height also made it difficult to put the guy on top and he had to be lowered from the ladder of the fire engine, which was always stationed nearby for safety. Although we did "penny for the guy" with our own home-made guys, the airmen made a special one for the bonfire. He would be dressed in RAF uniform wearing big, furry flying boots and with flashing light bulbs for eyes.

In those days people brought their own fireworks to set off; nowadays we have more organised displays like the one on Martin School's field, which is much safer for everyone. So "Remember, remember the fifth of November" but don't forget to stay safe and to follow the firework code.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Local primary schools have been holding book fairs, which enable children and parents to choose and buy books together, and schools to get a share of the profits.

Holy Trinity

There was a wonderful response to the Harvest Festival Appeal, with donations being sent to Homeless Action for Barnet.

To celebrate Black History Month each class took part in a dance workshop led by MAPS (Motivation and Personal Success). Following this successful day, some excellent artwork was produced for display.

On the school's "Meet the Teacher" day Michael Whitworth, head teacher of the new Wren Academy, gave a talk to parents.

The results of the school uniform consultation are being processed.

Children have designed their own Christmas cards to be professionally printed.

A group of recorder players took part in a masterclass hosted by Martin Primary School.

Martin School

The hard work of amalgamating into a single primary school is going very well.

Elderly people from the Ann Owen Centre joined the infant classes for a harvest assembly. They were delighted with the biscuits made for them by Year 2 classes and with the communal collection of harvest food gifts.

Key Stage Two pupils learned about the charity Splash Aid, which provides water for African villages. They will learn more about issues of poverty in the world through the school's citizenship curriculum, learning about what it means to be a global citizen. A non-uniform day raised £250 for Splash Aid.

In the first sports fixture of this academic year, twelve children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in Barnet's Crops Country Running event. They won the shield, coming first out of eleven competing schools!

A group of Year 4 pupils attended a work shop with well-known recorder player Alan Davies.

The school has joined the Clothes Collectors Scheme and has its own purple re-cycling bin, so raising money and helping the environment.

Manorside School.

The start of term saw the launch of a Walk to School campaign where children are rewarded for walking to school at least once a week.

September visits included Year 4's trip to the Byng Road Environmental Centre to do pond dipping and insect studies and Year 5 at the British Library as part of their RE work.

Years 4, 5 and 6 visited the Countryside Centre at Lea Valley as part of their science work.

The ever-popular breakfast club will be starting 15 minutes earlier at 7.45am after half term.

Back to school for Manorside parents

By Julia Bramson

Parents were invited to stay behind at Manorside School, Squires Lane, on Monday 8 October for an evening explaining how maths is taught at the school. For many parents, teaching has changed a great deal since they were young so the evening was an excellent opportunity to see how their children were learning to get to grips with, and enjoy, numbers.

Everyone assembled in the main hall to be taken on the numeracy journey from Nursery to Year 6 by the Deputy Head, Ms Wilson. Other teachers were on hand to explain how the children are made to feel comfortable with numbers and truly understand them. Once this has been achieved, the child is able to enjoy maths and, of course, wants to learn more.

The parents were then split into four groups, or classes, and attended maths lessons taught by teachers from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. At the end of each lesson a bell rang, and the class moved on to be taught by another teacher.

The evening was a great success, so much so that Ms Wilson plans to make it a permanent fixture in the school calendar. There are also plans to have a crèche facility to allow parents who couldn't otherwise attend to bring their children with them.



Parents at Manorside School learn about maths with teacher Ms Wilson

Martin Primary's school journey

At the end of September Year 6 spent a wonderful week in Weymouth with PGL Adventure Holidays. Afterwards they worked hard on individual books describing their experiences. Activities included abseiling, climbing, orienteering Jacob's ladder, trampoline, volleyball, dragon boating, rifle shooting, problem solving and quizzes. The following extracts from long reports by Freddie and Miles give a taste of things.

"It seems slightly unreal like something out of a storybook and with my friends doing tremendous activities. Although I'm quite nervous, also a little scared. I've never been away from home for so long."

"When we arrived at PGL I could see it wasn't just a normal place. There were quad bikes revving on a track, a group of children doing archery, some kids on mountain bikes and then the bay with the sea stretching into the distance."

"The first activity was archery. It was really brilliant. I learnt to handle the bow properly and also shoot. I was surprised to find that I was quite good and never once did I hit the grass!"

"We had sensory trail, which was exciting for us because we didn't know what it was. It turned out to be a series of activities using our senses apart from sight. We smelled each other's shoes to find our own and spelled our names in sign language of deaf/blind language. But by far the best activity was when we had to follow a rope around PGL blindfolded."

"My favourite activity was Zip wire. We had to climb up a pole then we got onto a small platform about 10 metres up with no wall to stop you falling off. You were then strapped into a harness, after this the instructor asked you if you were ready but he didn't

give you a chance to speak and soon you were whizzing off at 30 mph 10 metres up. It was totally amazing."

"After dinner it was time for the night walk. I saw a bat that might have been a noctule! We

walked through a wood where the instructors said there were spiders which dropped on your head and bit you, which I didn't believe. On the way back the bay looked beautiful with all the lights."

School of the future

Building plans have been revealed for Finchley's new school, Wren Academy. An estimated 1,200 parents and children saw the proposals for the first time when they attended two open evenings at the school site in Hilton Avenue, North Finchley.

Wren Academy has been designed by architects Penoyre and Prasad, one of Britain's foremost building design companies, to be environmentally sustainable. Building work is scheduled to start in February

2008 and last until December 2009.

The first intake of Year 7 children will arrive in September 2008, by which time the core buildings will be in place to enable full-time teaching.

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Library swap

By Daphne Chamberlain

Don't be surprised if younger people around East Finchley suddenly become very interested in New Zealand. That's where our popular Children's and Youth Librarian for the last nine years, Rachel Reilly, will be working until the end of March. She is doing a job swap, exchanging with Jolene West from South Auckland.

Job exchanges, once quite common in the library world, rarely happen nowadays. In fact, Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER* that they can't remember another one in this borough, but Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Learning Infrastructure, believes that exchanges benefit both the staff involved and the users of the library. He says: "We have a range of services that are always increasing, and having staff with this kind of experience will help us develop innovative and exciting projects to attract residents to Barnet's libraries."

Rachel will be working in Otara, at Tupu, New Zealand's only Youth Library, which was built in 2001 to serve a largely Maori and Pacific Island population. It might be the other side of the world, but we can check the library notice board to see how she is getting on.

Polly Napper, of the East Finchley Library Users Group, whose children are among Rachel's customers, told us: "This sounds exciting. She's an absolutely excellent librarian."

She works so hard promoting the service in local schools, and all the kids love her. I hope she has a fantastic time."

Jolene has already popped in to Barnet before doing a bit more travelling. Cllr Marshall says she "has forsaken her New Zealand summer to work in East Finchley. So please give her a friendly welcome to cheer her up through the winter months."



East Finchley library's Rachel Reilly will have to get used to some different library activities like this Samoan dance workshop during her time at Tupu library in New Zealand. Photograph courtesy of Jade Asije

Hockey teams aim for goal flood

By Duncan Hooper

Winter has arrived in East Finchley and many residents are spending their Saturdays trotting over to Brent Cross to buy warm clothes and early Christmas presents. Not so Ankeet Khimasia, Dave Evans and Marc Scut who, armed with 36.5 inches of carbon composite stick, make the short journey to Whitefields School, North Finchley, to play hockey.

Their club, Mill Hill, draws its players from across north London to compete in leagues stretching across Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The men's

firsts, despite a disappointing relegation from the premier league last season, are hoping to bounce straight back. And although some of the team seem to have attained the perfect bouncing physique over the summer, Captain Pete Lazlett has set his hopes high.

"What we're looking for is a bit of climate change," he said. "Last year we had a bit of a drought up front but this season we're aiming for a goal flood."

With club record goal scorer Ryan Schlanders hobbling about up front as lethal as ever, and a defence so experienced they still pay their match fees in shillings, promotion nevertheless remains a real possibility.

Women on the up

As for the ladies, both sides have a stronger platform to build on than their male counterparts with the second team earning a well-deserved promotion last year and the firsts picking up from a disappointing start to finish comfortably mid table.

All the teams welcome new players and anyone wishing to get involved can contact duncanhooper@hotmail.com or simply turn up to training at Compton AstroTurf, off Summers Lane, North Finchley, on Wednesdays from 8pm.

Christmas party invitation

By Daphne Chamberlain

Are you 60 years old or more? Do you live in the area immediately around Bishop Douglass School: Hamilton, Manor Park or Brackenbury Roads, Sedgemere Avenue, Briar Close, the Thomas More Estate, or that particular bit of East End Road?

If so, Year 10 pupils of Bishop Douglass School are inviting you to a Christmas party on Wednesday 12 December.

Be at the school between 6pm and 6.30pm for a welcoming glass of sherry, followed by a full three-course dinner with wine at 7pm. Then settle back to enjoy entertainment, plus a bingo session, and presents from Father Christmas. The school will organise transport

for anyone who needs it.

The pupils themselves have arranged fund-raising events throughout the year to pay for the party. They are organising the whole event, and will greet and wait on their guests. If you are a senior citizen local to the school, please let them know if you would like to attend, telling them of any special requirements. Telephone 020 8444 6690, preferably before the end of November.



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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Purge and control

In the weird world of shock horror headlines, anything goes. The Morning Mule has caused apoplexy by announcing that the complaining classes are drinking more Californian Chardonnay than is good for them. This can only mean one thing: the moral elephants have run out of easy targets.

It used to be easy for your average moral elephant: just go out, find out what the poor people are doing and stop them doing it. Now they're trampling over everything in the name of God, justice and the middle class way of life. Then it's time for the ground glass and vitriol letters demanding the return of flogging and a total ban on fun. The biter's getting bit and I can't stop laughing.

It's a long time since the sanctimonious got clobbered by the moral elephants. Normally they can drive through life in their four-wheel drives, double parking outside schools and complaining that smoking a cigarette in the same country as their perfect child is tantamount to murder. Not any more. Now you can light up in front of them and when they complain ask them how much wine they drink. Next time they complain about you knocking back a four pack of 'Old Brain Death' you can point out that South African wine is just as bad.

The hypocrites who talk about 'responsible drinking' and sneer at you for checking out the best value beer offers before settling down to watch the football have had it coming for a long time. Not everyone wants to drink Californian Chardonnay and they certainly don't want to be told off for having a fridge full of beer. So to see the elephants turning on each other and bickering about how much wine they are allowed to drink is enough to put a smile on anyone's face. Yes, the sanctimonious classes are getting it now. Revenge is sweet and mine's a pint.

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Regular Events

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- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes at Holy Trinity Church. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or visit www.stretchingpeople.co.uk

DANCE, DRAMA & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday evenings for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 0208 444 7217
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group** Creative writing 6.30pm every Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Joanna 8883 0941 or joanna-brunt@cybergal.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** 12 & 26 Nov at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood**. www.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.
- ❖ **SwampRock** live music events. See www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Traditional Music** in the Alexandra pub, Church Lane from 8.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

Big Draw proves a big draw

By Nicola Sim

Finchley residents turned out in force at Community Focus on Saturday 13 October to take part in the nationwide Campaign for Drawing celebration, The Big Draw.

Proving that drawing doesn't have to involve a pencil, visitors of all ages and abilities collaborated with artist Orly Orbach to create a working installation that took over the studios of artsdepot in North Finchley.

Participants experimented with giant paintbrushes, food dyes, ink and printing blocks and were inspired by mysterious objects and words to devise their own stories or theatrical dramas.

Friedi Baldeweg, a volunteer from East Finchley, said: "There was an exceptional amount of enthusiasm and the atmosphere was really friendly and encouraging. It was great to see people of every age enjoying expressing themselves through art."

Community Focus is a charity that specialises in creative and performing arts for all members of the Barnet community.

Community Focus is running an Open Exhibition where you could get your art work put on show and even on sale. Anyone wishing to submit their work should collect an application form from the charity's office on level 2 at artsdepot or download it from the website www.communityfocus.co.uk. The exhibition will be open to the public at artsdepot from 10am to 5pm on 10 - 14 December.



The Big Draw at Community Focus

Va-va ZUM

By Betti Blatman

On 21 September the original gypsy-tango band ZUM brought their stunning new show to North Finchley's Trinity Church Centre. There was phenomenal fiddling from Adam Summerhayes, sensational jazz soloing from Dave Gordon on piano, awesome bass virtuosity from Jani Pensola, stunning accordion mastery from Eddie Hession and supreme lyricism from cellist Chris Grist.

Each musician entered the hall separately, adding their instrument's music to the culmination of a jazzy interpretation of tango which then became interwoven with bluesy and passionate gypsy sounds with seductive beats, chilled grooves, pumping rhythms and cataclysmic frenzy.

All ZUM's music is written and arranged by Adam Summerhayes and Dave Gordon. The group, who are preparing

for a new album, were inspired by their recent tour of mid-west USA and played *Roof Top Highway*, which featured Cajun and Zydeco influence.

There was a wonderful interaction between all the musicians, with separate melodies merging in a fabulous finale of *Toe Tapper for Jessie*. The audience's standing ovation expressed their delight at the explosive performance.

Give me Moore

By Linda Dolata

Until the end of March there is a unique exhibition of the sculptures of Henry Moore at Kew Gardens. It is the first time a display of this size has ever been attempted. There are 28 pieces in all, some brought from their usual location in Perry Green, Hertfordshire, where Moore lived and worked, others from more distant locations. It will be many years, if ever, before such a huge and impressive exhibition is mounted, so do make time to go and see it.

Moore intended his pieces to stand in space so that they could be seen from all angles, and this is precisely what Kew has been able to do. The individual sites have been chosen with great care, and not only do the sculptures enhance Kew, but the gardens add to the pieces and allow the viewer really to see them.

There are events on at Kew throughout the year. For more information visit the website at www.kew.org.

Stallholders required for Winter Fayre

Are you interested in holding a stall at the East Finchley Winter Fayre at Martin Primary School on Saturday 8th December?

If you have something to sell (art & crafts) or a talent to share (magician, facepainting) or, alternatively, have anything

you would be happy to donate we would be delighted to hear from you.

Stall hire is £20 with all proceeds going to East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact. For further information or to reserve your space please contact Sian or Tareshia on 8444 1162.

What's On...

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

Monday 5 November

- **Firework Display** at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, 6pm.

Saturday 10 November

- **Spike Milligan Statue Fund Raising Evening; On the Home Front** by H&S Productions, a look at life in wartime Britain in story and song. East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, 7.30pm.

Sunday 11 November

- **East Finchley Farmers' Market**. 10am-2pm at Martin Primary School, High Road, N2. Call Wayne Atkinson on 077 579 808 48 or visit www.green-artisan.org.uk.
- **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's Fungus Foray on Hampstead Heath**, guided by an expert. Meet 10am at The Wells Pub, Well Walk, Hampstead, NW3. Cost £5. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult; under 10s free. No dogs. Details from Michael Franklin on 020 8458 5846 or hgs@hortsoc.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Methodist Church concert**, High Road, 8pm; pianist Colin Wharton plays Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt, Chopin and Gershwin. Free admission. Collection in aid of Asthma UK. This venue is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 November

- **Southgate Opera** presents *Kismet*, at Wyllotts Centre, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 2HN. 7.30pm every evening, and 2.30pm Saturday matinee. Call 01707 645 005, or see www.scoopera.co.uk.

Saturday 17 November

- **Muswell Hill Craft Fair**, an excellent place for Christmas shopping, 10am-4pm, Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10. In support of North London Hospice. Jewellery, pottery, scarves, woodwork, bags and stained glass products, as well as Christmas cards and decorations. Admission £1 for adults.
- **Christmas Sale** at the RSPCA Small Animal Clinic, Market Place, N2, 12noon-3pm.

Sunday 18 November

- **Art Fair**, East Finchley Open annual event, 10.30am-4pm, Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, off High Road, N2. Original and affordable work by local artists, many different arts and crafts. Refreshments. See www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk. Free admission with suggested £1 donation to neighbourhood charity Contact.

Thursday 29 November

- **The Finchley Society** hosts a talk by John Rickard on The Statue of La Delivrance (The Naked Lady): an enquiry into its history. 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. All welcome. £2 entry for non-members.

Thursday 6, Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December

- **The Guild Players** present *The Fumblings at Friar's Bottom*. 7.45pm at Ballards Lane Methodist Church Hall, N3. Telephone 020 8346 6337.

Friday 7 December

- **Friends of Barnet Libraries** host a talk by Mrs K. Lansbury on **dyslexia**. 11am – 12 noon at East Finchley Library. Refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 8 December

- Special charity performance of *A Christmas Carol* in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, **Chickenshed Theatre Company**, Southgate, 3.30pm. Tickets £15 (£13 concs) from 020 8449 8877.

Saturday 15 December

- **North London Chorus** celebrates 30 glorious years with a programme of choral classics: Messiah Part I, Pergolesi Magnificat, Bach Cantata BWV 133 and Schoenberg Friede auf Erden (Peace on Earth); St Michael's Church, Highgate, N6, at 7pm. Tickets from 020 8883 8123 or from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, N10. Retiring collection for the North London Hospice.

What's On at artsdepot, North Finchley

- **There's Something About Simmy**, Tuesday 6 November – Saturday 10 November, 7.30pm; **More of Me - Stephen K Amos**, Thursday 8 November, 8pm; **Claire Martin**, Sunday 11 November, 8pm; **Tango Siempre** presents *Tango:Nuevo*, Wednesday 14 November, 8pm; **London Jazz Festival, Voices / Body / Space / Beat**, Friday 16 November, 6pm; **Creative Routes 07 - Inspired by the work of Raymond Briggs**, Friday 16 November – Sunday 13 January 2008; **London Jazz Festival, Juliet Kelly**, Sunday 18 November, 8pm; **Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company** presents *The Dancers' Cut*, Thursday 22 November, 8pm; **Moishe's Bagel**, Wednesday 28 November, 8pm.



Letters

Windsor's a hidden treasure

Dear Editor,

I have recently moved back to East Finchley, and my local pub is the Windsor Castle just off Church Lane. I can't help noticing how quiet it is in there and I suspect that people new to the area just don't realise that it is there as it is a bit hidden away.

This is an absolutely super little pub with lots to offer, including a pretty beer garden (so somewhere for smokers) that you would not know was there unless you go through the pub. There's also a comfy bar, decent food, real ales, friendly staff and a safe atmosphere so that, as a single female, I feel quite comfortable to sit and read the paper.

Best of all in my opinion, it is not dominated by a giant TV screen blaring out the latest scores, although there is a perfectly good set, so that you can keep a weather eye on what is going on in the sporting world.

It's a great place for a civilised meeting with friends. Please, readers, give it a go.

Yours faithfully

Linda Dolata

Address supplied

Which is your favourite pub in East Finchley? Get in touch and tell us why. Write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA 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.

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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November at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema general manager
Cate Blanchett reprises her role as Queen Elizabeth in *The Golden Age* which opens November at the Phoenix. It's another wonderfully rich film about the Royal court in Tudor England under one of the country's greatest monarchs. Very ably supported by Geoffrey Rush and our own local hero Clive Owen, the film is sure to delight audiences with its grand sets, resplendent costumes and wonderful locations.

Our second main feature of the month is a complete contrast to *The Golden Age*. The adaptation of Monica Ali's novel *Brick Lane*, opening on 16 November, reflects modern Britain through the eyes of the community in Whitechapel. It's full of genuine warmth in its portrayal of Nazneen and her family. The film is one of the first to tackle with real intelligence the theme of multiculturalism. While there will be many to follow, few will be as strong as this film.

Opening on 23 November is the latest from the fantastically talented Wes Anderson. *The Dar-*

jeeling Limited shares much of its style with Anderson's previous films *The Life Aquatic*, *The Royal Tenebaums* and *Rushmore*. There are great performances by Owen Wilson, Jason Schwartzman and Adrian Brody as three long-lost brothers who take a journey on the Darjeeling Limited train across India and in doing so remember the times they have been through as siblings. It's smart, wacky, poignant, and comes with a fantastic soundtrack - certainly one of the films of the year for me.

The Phoenix box office is on 020 8444 6789 and our website is www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Hallelujah for the North London Chorus

By Marian Bunzl

Next month, the North London Chorus will celebrate its 30th birthday with a special concert of Christmas Advent music, including Handel's *Messiah* (part 1), Bach, Pergolesi. Oh, and Schoenberg.

Yes, we flinched too, but actually it is very user friendly to singers and audience alike. In fact, it is quite stunning and only lasts for 10 minutes.

We are inviting former members to come along and, as a grand finale, join us in raising the roof with the Hallelujah Chorus (not strictly in part 1, but one can't have the *Messiah* without the Hallelujah Chorus).

May we invite you to celebrate with us? We shall be

keeping the bar open after the concert and *ARCHER* readers along with their partners will be welcome to a free glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or two.

The concert takes place at St Michael's Church, Highgate, at 7pm on Saturday 15 December.

Tickets are available on 020 8883 8123 or from *Les Aldrich Music Shop*, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, N10 (020 8883 5631).



Artists Clare, left, and Denise in front of their work at the exhibition in South Carolina. Photograph by Dawn Powell

Art with a purpose

By Dawn Powell

East Finchley artist Denise Wyllie visited the United States in September to help promote awareness of ovarian cancer. Denise and her art partner Clare O'Hagan exhibited their work at a gallery in Charleston, South Carolina, for Ovarian Cancer Awareness month.

The exhibition showed a range of their mixed media pieces on Rosalind Franklin, a scientist who made a significant (and for a long time, unrecognised) contribution to the discovery of DNA. Franklin's scientific career was tragically cut short when she died of ovarian cancer at the age of only 37.

Denise says their work on Franklin is an example of their philosophy of making 'art of relevance, substance and beauty.'

This is not the first time their work has been used to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. For the past three years, their art work has been awarded to winners of the Rosalind Franklin Excellence in Ovarian Cancer Research Award, established by the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.

Through the OCNA, a US based organisation, their work is used regularly to support campaigns to raise awareness about ovarian cancer. The contacts they have made from being involved with the alliance led to their exhibition in Charleston.

The exhibition was successful as it raised funds for the Ovarian Cancer Foundation as well as general awareness of ovarian cancer. The local press took an interest and the pair even appeared on local TV station *Low Country Live* to talk about their work. Denise says: "It was scary but everyone was very welcoming."

Denise and Clare are now working on a short documentary about the people they met in Charleston.

Institute table-top sale

By Lucy Chamberlin

The Institute held a 'table-top shop' at its High Road venue on Saturday 29 September. Two of its ground floor rooms were filled with stallholders and their wares.

This time round the funds went to the Arts Centre, but other charities may be supported in the future. The idea is to make the sale a regular event, held on the last Saturday of every month. The next event, a Christmas gift and craft-orientated extravaganza, will take place on Saturday 24 November from 2-5pm.

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Ramadan: more than just fasting

By Shama Husain

Another Ramadan has ended and we have celebrated Eid ul Fitr. Muslims are blessed to have such a special month in their calendar. This is the month in which the Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a joyful time of family togetherness. We wake up while it is still dark to eat, pray, and make our 'intention' of fasting for the Almighty. We fast from before dawn till sunset.

Non-Muslim friends wonder how much of a hardship fasting is. In fact, to go without food or drink is only one aspect, and it is no sackcloth and ashes routine.

Looking inwards

What is important is this is a month of extra prayers and asking Allah's forgiveness. We cannot expect Allah's forgiveness if we are not aware of the pain and sorrow we may have caused others. Therefore this is a time of great introspection and of re-assessing our lives.

Our fasting teaches us self-awareness, patience and humility. It proves we have strength to adapt to a different routine (easier said than done; I certainly missed the caffeine input).

Looking outwards

We are more aware of the hardship others suffer when deprived of essential commodities and are eager to respond to their needs. Therefore during Ramadan Muslims are expected to give *zakat*, the money we give annually to 'purify' what we earn in the year.

It is wonderful to sit around the table waiting to break our fast. Our first morsel is usually a date, an instant pick-me-up with its sugar content. And of course I loved my caffeine-laden tea that followed.

Thirty days of fasting are followed by the celebration of Eid ul Fitr. It is wonderful to see all age groups and many different nationalities in their finery greeting each other at the mosque and praying together. It is a day of thanksgiving, gifts for children and visiting elders amongst family and friends, feasting and festivity.

Another Eid follows in two months and ten days time. But that, my friends, is another landmark in the Muslim calendar. Watch this space.



Rachel Kolsky on the Great Wall of China. Photograph by Brian Merison

N2 message spans the world

They were a long way from home but that didn't stop two sets of travellers proudly wearing their 'I ♥ N2' shirts.



The photo is of Mike, Rosie and Zack Solomon in Capetown Botanical Gardens. Photo by Hilary Solomon.

The Solomon family, of Bedford Road, wore theirs on holiday in South Africa. Mike, Rosie, Zack and Hilary got some funny looks as they drove along the main coastal highway between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. The road is called the 'N2'.

While China is soon to bask in all the publicity surrounding the 2008 Olympics at least some of China is now aware that N2 itself has plenty to offer after Rachel Kolsky wore hers on a trip to the Great Wall, near Beijing.

Rachel was on a group trip, which included another East Finchley resident, Brian Merison, on a journey from Beijing to Tibet.

The N2 shirts and other items are part of the campaign to promote East Finchley, its shops, restaurants and arts and leisure facilities.

Behind the barricades

A politically passionate book taking readers behind the scenes of the Spanish Civil War is to be republished this month. *Behind the Spanish Barricades* is eminent journalist John Langdon-Davies's eyewitness account of the fighting that swept through Spain in 1936.

His experiences led the writer to establish the Plan International charity to provide displaced and orphaned children with food and shelter. Celebrating its 70th birthday this year, Plan now works with more than a million children in 49 developing countries.

Mr Langdon-Davies's daughter Debbie, who lives in Southern Road, off Fortis Green, said there had been a real groundswell of interest in her late father's work recently.

She said: "Many people have said that he should still be in print, and now one of his most politically passionate books will be read again by a new generation who will find that his observations are still relevant today."

Part of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to Plan International. It is available in hardback for £15.99.

The Archer needs a volunteer distributor for Kitchener Road & Beresford Road

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