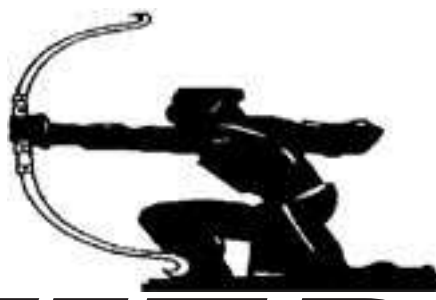


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Help restore the glory of the Phoenix

By John Lawrence

A £1 million project has been launched to restore the Phoenix to its art deco glory in time for its centenary celebrations and to make the cinema fit for another century of serving film-lovers.

The Grade II-listed cinema's ageing 1910 auditorium will be completely renovated and the exterior façade upgraded to give the building a smart new face. Interior and exterior art deco features installed in the 1930s will be extensively refurbished.

A new café and terrace bar with large glass windows overlooking the High Road will be one of the most striking features of the project, and one designed to keep cinema-goers coming to East Finchley from across north London.

Centenary target

The total cost of the project is £1,050,000 and the Phoenix is asking local people to support its fundraising campaign so that the restoration work can be carried out in time for the cinema's centenary celebrations in 2010.

A successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has raised 56% of the money and the Phoenix has been able to raise another large

slice through donations from organisations and individuals. This leaves £280,000 to find.

Chief Executive Paul Homer said: "The project will enhance the facilities available and make certain we are able to continue delivering thoughtful film programming on behalf of the people of north London. We urgently call on the generosity of our customers and supporters to help preserve this jewel in East Finchley's cultural crown."

The Phoenix is the oldest purpose-built cinema in constant operation in the country and is owned and run by a charitable trust. Among its patrons are film directors Ken Loach and Mike Leigh, actors Maureen Lipman, Michael Palin and Bill Paterson, and comedienne and writer Victoria Wood.

Continued on page 4 with details of how the Phoenix Cinema will be transformed.



Comedian and drummer Rowland Rivron (right) gives Roger Chapman something to smile about. Find out what on page 3.

Supermarket plan goes to appeal

By Janet Maitland

Controversial plans for a new supermarket at Stag Court, opposite the library, are back on the table. A planning application was turned down by the council in July but the applicant has decided to appeal.

This issue has divided local opinion. Those against the supermarket are concerned about the livelihood of existing shops, traffic congestion and parking problems. Those supporting the plan want a shop that is more convenient for people living at the northern end of the High Road.

Barnet Council rejected the plan earlier this year because it thought that the scale and site of the supermarket would have a detrimental effect on the vitality and viability of the centre of East Finchley. It was also worried about the impact of increased traffic and parking demands on already over-

stretched residential streets.

Anyone who wrote to the council or signed a petition during the summer should have been notified of the appeal.

If you want to express your views to the appeal committee you

have until 19 December to do so. Write to Dave Shortland, Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/19, Eagle Wing, House 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN, quoting reference number APP/N5090/A/08/2089653/NWF.

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A message

from the team

THE ARCHER team wishes all our readers, distributors and advertisers a very happy festive season and a peaceful and prosperous 2009.

Thank you once again for all your support over the last 12 months, and we look forward to continuing to serve the East Finchley community through the year ahead.

• THE ARCHER 2009 calendar now on sale - see page 3 •



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❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020
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Property deposit scam

By Janet Maitland

The Metropolitan Police have alerted *THE ARCHER* to a new scam involving flats and houses advertised for rent on the internet.

Victims of this scam have responded to adverts for properties for rent on sites such as Gumtree. They have been asked to demonstrate that they can pay a deposit by sending a sum of money to a friend or relative via a money transfer agent such as Western Union.

They are then asked to send a copy of the transaction receipt to the supposed landlord as proof of funds. What the victims don't realise is that the receipt contains enough information to enable the fraudsters to collect the money before their friend or relation can.

The fraudsters don't own the property they have advertised and the victim ends up losing their money.

"Both Western Union and Gumtree are making efforts to alert their customers to this type of fraud," said a police spokesperson.

Arrests for credit card offences

By Janet Maitland

Five men were arrested near East Finchley station at about 6pm on Saturday 8 November. A police spokesman said all five had been charged with credit card offences and bailed to return to a north London police station.

Labour candidate named

Dr Alison Moore has been selected as Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Finchley & Golders Green Constituency. She will stand in place of Dr Rudi Vis, who has held the seat for Labour since 1997 and is stepping down at the next General Election. Dr Moore represents East

Finchley ward on Barnet Council and is leader of the Labour Group.

Dr Moore said: "I have worked with Rudi for many years and know he will be a hard act to follow but I am determined to build on the work he has done, making sure constituents have a strong and energetic local voice."

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Planning Applications

Barnet Council

Grass verge at junction of The Bishops Avenue and Lyttleton Road, N2

Installation of an 8m telegraph style mobile telecommunications pole, with one antenna. Associated equipment cabinet and meter pillar.

Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, N2

Internal and external restoration and alterations to frontage, including construction of balcony facing High Road. Change of use of first floor office to cafe ancillary to cinema. Installation of air conditioning to building, including ducting to rear. Relocation of timber shed.

24 Deansway, N2

Single storey rear extension. First floor side extension. Roof alterations and extensions. New front porch.

263b East End Road, N2

Extensions to roof including rear dormer to facilitate a loft conversion.

16 Fortis Green, N2

Conversion of three flats into five flats following formation of front and rear light wells at basement level and alterations

to roof, including two dormers to facilitate a loft conversion. Installation of solar panels to rear and front roof slope.

308a Long Lane, N2

Single storey rear extension and two-storey side extension.

24 Ossulton Way, N2

Conversion of garage into habitable room.

40A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Roof extensions and alterations involving three rear dormer windows to facilitate a loft conversion.

9 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Renewal of application No. C08066N/06 being: Demolition of existing house, and erection of a two storey detached dwelling house with rooms in the roof space and lower ground floor.

Haringey Council

5 Church Vale, N2

Erection of rear dormer window with inset balcony and french windows, enlargement of side dormer window and insertion of two Velux windows to the front gable roof slope.

9 Southern Road, N2

Alteration of proposed mono pitch roof over street side extension to gable end with pitched roof.

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Cold comfort for Strawberry Vale residents

By Adam Castledine

Christmas should be a time of relaxation and fun yet for the residents of Strawberry Vale even the prospect of a simple Christmas dinner has become an unnecessary worry and a distinct uncertainty.

People living in the estate's 265 homes lost their gas supplies at the end of October. Repair work started on 12 November but was scheduled to take a minimum of 12 weeks. With 95% of residents left with no cooking gas, normally included in their rent payments, each home has been supplied with an electric cooker.

Costly cookers

But at a meeting with estate owners The Peabody Trust, on 11 November at the Green Man Community Centre, residents reported that the ovens were too small, their doors were fragile and they were difficult to fit safely into existing kitchens.

Another pressing matter was their cost. The cookers are using more electricity than expected and, with many families on small incomes, the cost is becoming increasingly prohibitive, especially for those with a meter system.

Compensation has been promised by the Trust. A weekly sum of approximately £6 was mentioned although, to the

derision of those present at the meeting, it was suggested that this would be paid in arrears.

Tracy Jones, 27, who has two children aged two and five, said: "It's ridiculous. I just wanted to spend my first Christmas in a new home, but we simply can't use the cookers they have given us." Ms Jones said £10 on her meter usually lasted two weeks, but she is now using that amount within four days.

Peabody Trust response

Residents claimed that they found it hard to contact the Trust to report problems because phone lines were often jammed. The Trust said this would be addressed and a permanent estate manager would be appointed by December.

Peabody Trust spokesman Sean Gallagher said some residents could have gas in their homes by Christmas. He also stated that the Trust was sorry for the problems encountered by residents with the electric ovens but would address residents' concerns on an individual rather than a collective basis.

Monday Club milestone

The Monday Club has celebrated its third birthday with a special party and hopes to be a meeting place for even more young people in the year ahead.

The youth club is run by volunteers and meets once a week on Monday evenings at St Mary's Catholic Church Hall, High Road. It has done an excellent job of providing youngsters with somewhere to socialise, play games and sport and develop fun hobbies like dancing and DJing.

The party evening had more than 150 guests including John Parker, from the Youth Justice Board, East Finchley councillor Andrew McNeil and Father Tony, of St Mary's, amongst many

others.

Local businesses Chorak, Budgens, Casa Pepe, Iceland and all three local pizza outlets supported the evening by providing food and drink. Gift and flower shop 2 Destino arranged the décor.

Maureen Antoinette, one of the club's organisers, said: "It was a wonderful evening, with performances from our X Factor youngsters, and a visiting youth group. We look forward to the club growing and continuing to support young people."

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Every home in East Finchley deserves *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2009. With 12 fantastic photos evoking the beauty, oddities and everyday life of N2, as well as space to write your appointments, it really is the perfect Christmas gift.

The price is £5 and every pound raised will go to Contact, the charity based in Church Lane that works to improve the lives of elderly, disabled and isolated people living in East Finchley.

We're hoping to raise plenty of money to support Contact's crucial services, which include a befriending scheme, lunches and social events, and a free shopping bus.

Get your calendar delivered FREE to your door by filling out the order form on page 11, or find them on sale in these outlets: Lazy Sally Kiosk, Cherry Tree Wood; Phoenix Cinema; Black Gull Book Shop, High Road; Budgens, High Road; Lazooli, High Road; Cherry Tree Gift Shop, High Road; Tony's Continental, High Road; 2 Destino, High Road; Kokos, High Road; Coral's the chemist, East End Road.

Thank you for your support.



Snowball fights in Sedgemere Avenue. Calendar photo by Craig Johnson

Rivron and the angels

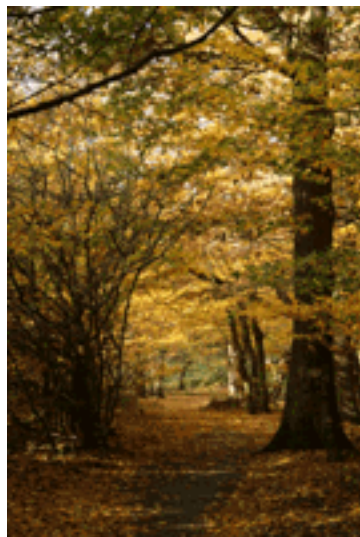
By Sheila Armstrong

Kaos Children's Choir for the integrated deaf and hearing is based in North London and the only choir of its kind in the UK. Celebrities Emma Thompson, Desmond Tutu and Roger McGough, to name but a few, donated drawings of angels to Kaos for this autumn's fabulous fundraising event at Ally Pally, which raised around £4,000 for the choir's next CD.

Celebrity auctioneer Rowland Rivron presided over generous bids for the often quirky drawings, with great enthusiasm. An angelic drawing of Gandalf by Sir Ian McKellen fetched £610, the successful bid coming from East Finchley's Roger Chapman, and an angel by Archbishop Desmond Tutu raised £600. A letter from Tutu observed that he thought he probably prayed better than he drew. The best artist was Joanna Lumley: she

really can draw. Many other celebrity drawings went for over £200 each.

Friends and supporters of the Signing Choir enjoyed a buffet and were entertained by their adult counterparts The Angels of Kaos sang their hearts out. This Crouch End-based choir sang pop songs with evident enjoyment. Many of its members can sign and their songs were signed on the night. Find more information on the choirs at www.thekaos.org.



Cherry Tree Wood. Calendar photo by Debbie Bartlett



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How the Phoenix Cinema will be transformed

By John Lawrence

If all goes according to plan with the Phoenix's £1 million refurbishment project, East Finchley will see its oldest entertainment attraction evolve into a venue that combines the beauty of the old with the wow factor of the new.

Chief among the new features for this 98-year-old building will be a snazzy glass-fronted café and bar area built on a first floor terrace at the front of the building in space currently occupied by offices.

The prospect excites the Phoenix's chief executive Paul Homer. "The terrace will overlook the High Road so will be a pleasant place for people to relax before or after a film," he says. "And if you're walking down the High Road from Fortis Green, you'll be on the same level as the bar. It will be a startling effect and will help to market the whole cinema."

Sensitivity to neighbours

Special sound barriers will be incorporated to ensure that no noise escapes from the new bar to neighbouring flats. This is one example of how Highgate-based architects HMDW have had to tread sensitively in this historic Grade II listed building. English Heritage have been consulted along the way.

Paul believes the project will restore the Phoenix to its glory days. He says: "The building currently looks interesting but it has seen better days and people feel sorry for it. When the work's done, it's going to be an exciting and vibrant place and people will be knocked out by it."

"It's unrealistic to think that a 1910 building can adequately serve customers in 2010. We need better food and drink facilities, for one thing. What we are doing will be in sympathy with the building. It has

been through many changes in its 98 years and this is its next evolution."

Refurbished inside and out

Inside, the auditorium will be repaired, completely relit and given a new paint scheme. The Phoenix's art deco features dating from the 1930s will be restored too and the whole of the exterior given a facelift.

The Phoenix is run as a charitable trust and Paul is calling on local people to help it reach its £280,000 fundraising target.

He says: "This is a really important project for East Finchley and for north London. The Phoenix has served the area for nearly 100 years and we try to give a lot back to the community by working with schools and other groups. We really hope people will want to do what they can to help."

You can find details about how to make a donation in our story on page 10.



Architects' drawings showing how the front (above) and side (below left) of the Phoenix could look by 2010. Courtesy Phoenix Cinema

Help restore the glory of the Phoenix

Film director backs plan

Ken Loach said: "The Phoenix is a special cinema with a special atmosphere. People's enjoyment of films is enhanced by the building itself. It is excellent news that it may be restored but it will only happen if the money is raised. Those of us who live near the Phoenix are very lucky; let's hope everyone can support this project."

Donations can be made online at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/support/campaigns, by post to Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, London N2 9PJ, or by contacting Paul Homer through the box office on 020 8444 6789 or info@phoenixcinema.co.uk.

continued from page 1.

Donations of all sizes are welcome. Gifts over £500 will be recognized on the 100 Years of the Phoenix: 1910-2010 timeline featuring the donor's name alongside their chosen year and the title of a film released that year.

Schools on the list

In August 2007, ex-Bishop Douglass pupil Mike Hughes, together with local businesses collectively known as REEF (Regeneration and Enhancement of East Finchley), launched community website east-finchley.com.

Mike has received a number of requests from schools to be listed on the site, so he is creating a new section for local schools, which will show the school logo and an introductory paragraph (60-100 words), along with a link to the school's website. Schools who would like to be listed can contact Mike at info@east-finchley.com.

Bomb victims remembered

Five residents of Abbots Gardens who were killed in a V2 rocket attack in 1944 were remembered in a special commemoration on Saturday 15 November.

Some of the area's present day residents gathered to mark the anniversary of the bombing that destroyed houses in Abbots Gardens and damaged many more in surrounding roads.

Those killed in the attack were Arthur John Fulford, aged five, Alice Helen Payton, aged 64, June Lamperd, aged 14, and Ruby Lamperd, aged 39. Florence Anne Eveleigh (age unknown) was taken to hospital after the bombing and died five weeks later.

THE ARCHER will carry a full account of the bombing and its impact on the local community next month.

Artist defends free speech

By Ann Bronkhorst

Those politicians and bankers implicated in the current financial chaos get short shrift from British cartoonists. We have a tradition of witty, even savage ridicule, but try that in some other countries and the artist, comedian or writer can end up in jail.

East Finchley artist Charles Thomson, founder of the Stuckism movement (see *THE ARCHER*, August 2008) often speaks out about politics and the art world. He and the Stuckists have campaigned for two years on behalf of fellow artist Michael Dickinson, who has been facing a charge of 'insulting the dignity' of the Turkish prime minister.

In 2006 Dickinson, who lives in Turkey, displayed a collage entitled *Good Boy* in which a dog had the head of the prime minister, a nuclear missile for a tail and a stars-and-stripes lead. Piles of banknotes underlined the artist's view of Turkey's relationship with the USA. The Turkish authorities took offence.

Charges dropped

After several court hearings Dickinson was acquitted of criminal charges at the end of September. The court decided *Good Boy* was "within the limits of criticism". Charles Thomson suggests that Turkey's hopes for membership of the European Union may have influenced this verdict. He adds: "Freedom of expression and the right to comment on political leaders are principles essential for any EU member state."

Michael Dickinson, expressing his thanks, said that without the support of Charles and the Stuckists the verdict could have been quite different: a two-year prison sentence.

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Pressure for direct bus to Royal Free Hospital

By Daphne Chamberlain

London's Mayor has been asked to support calls for a bus route from North Finchley down the High Road to East Finchley, then via Kenwood to Hampstead and the Royal Free Hospital. The Green Party, who made this proposal, are compiling a petition to show local support.

Local Buswatch Chair Hazel Burnett told *THE ARCHER*: "This route would be particularly useful as more and more people in this area are being referred to the Royal Free. It would also give us another bus service between East and North Finchley, which is increasingly necessary in view of Barnet's expected population explosion in the next 10 years."

Several readers have told us that a direct link to Hampstead is long overdue, and how vital it is to have an easier journey to the Royal Free. As one said: "Not all of us have cars, and parking would be a nightmare anyway."

Current routes too long

Another said: "Transport for London's route planner gives 54 minutes for the current journey from East Finchley to the Royal Free by the 263 or C11 services, and 27 minutes by tube to Camden, then 24 by bus. By car, the AA route planner says 15 minutes. Says it all for me."

Noel Lynch, Chair of East Finchley Green Party, told us: "My daughter had to take that journey [by public transport] recently, with her child and mother-in-law. It took her nearly two hours to get there. Our other objective is to improve the North Finchley/East Finchley bus service."

Mayor's support

When Green Party member Darren Johnson, who will be Chair of the Greater London Assembly from next May, asked Boris Johnson for support, the Mayor replied that a direct route to the hospital was preferable, and said he would ask Transport for London to investigate the feasibility of introducing one. He also undertook to ensure that TfL would liaise closely with the constituency member and local council.

Meanwhile, local Greens have been providing petition forms at information stalls in East Finchley. For more information, call 020 8445 6312 or email eastfinchley@greenparty.org.uk.

Volunteers work for Cherry Tree Wood

By Ian Cormack

Despite a recent snowfall, the works relating to the Big Lottery grant obtained by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood commenced on a late October morning.

At 10am an intrepid band of volunteers from BTCV (British Trust of Conservation Volunteers) arrived by minibus and started unloading their equipment. Two youngsters who rolled up were unfortunately not allowed to help as they were under 16.

Clearing the clutter

After a quick brew-up, head honcho Gillian gave a very clear briefing about how to use the various tools and how to keep safe. Then everyone started clearing brambles, elder and invasive ash, maple and other unwanted clutter from areas by the railway and the unofficial path up to the playground, including the fenced area.

They worked with good heart and cheer in cold, damp conditions. All the debris had to be taken to the Summerlee Avenue entrance ready for shredding and removal by Barnet Council's contractors. At lunchtime, organic soup from the Lazy Sally café was much appreciated.

The motley crew of men and women, young and old, waged and unwaged gave up their day



Gillian demonstrates how to hack it.. Photo by Ian Cormack

to help improve the amenity of our Wood and we should be grateful for their generosity. BTCV itself makes a fairly nominal charge for all the organisation and transport.

Bulbs and bird boxes

There is a similar day coming up on 9 December and another in spring 2009, when it is anticipated that bird boxes will be made. The spring day may be on a weekend so anyone

with an hour or two to spare is welcome to join the Friends' working party.

Native bulbs are due to be planted and some areas may need to be ring fenced by dead hedging or chestnut palings to give them a chance to regenerate. The Friends ask park users to bear with them while these areas are out of bounds as the work will be for the longer-term benefit of the Wood.

Oooh! Aaah!

By Carolyn Drake

Large crowds gathered in Martin Primary School field on Thursday 6 November, eagerly awaiting what turned out to be a breathtakingly beautiful firework display.



Children munching on toffee apples at the fabulous Martin Primary School Fireworks Display. Photo by Helen Drake

Just after 7pm, headteacher Helen Morrison led an enthusiastic vocal countdown to the event and Colin Searle unleashed a dazzling series of sky-filling, multi-coloured fountains of light.

The event was organised

by the PCTA, in conjunction with the Finchley Community Development Trust and The East Finchley Festival. The organisers would like to thank Budgens for the generous donation of food and drinks, plus everyone who sold tickets in advance.

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Market stirs up a French flavour



Jerome Demuliere cooks up cassoulet at the French market.. Photo by John Lawrence

The French market made a successful return to East Finchley from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 November. Fashion and household goods, along with foodie treats, were snapped up by shoppers and there was a real buzz along the High Road.

Jerome Demuliere, who was stirring huge pans of cassoulet, reported good business on the Saturday although rain plagued the traders for a second year running on the Sunday.

Children's health centre opens in Oak Lane

East Finchley has become the home of the only health centre in the borough dedicated to the care of children. Oak Lane Children's Health Centre was officially opened at the end of October by Esther Rantzen, founder of the children's charity Childline.

Established at a cost of over £1.5 million, the centre will provide a wide range of services including immunisation, child development, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy. There is also specialist care available for children with dental problems which cannot be treated by their family dentist. Youngsters with mental health problems will be catered for under a special service from the centre run by Barnet, Haringey and Enfield Mental Health Trust.

Beat the burglars this Christmas

By Sergeant Lee Benham

Here are our tips for making sure you don't become a victim of burglary if you are going away for Christmas.

Make your home look like someone is living in it. Use automatic timer switches to turn your lights on when it goes dark. Don't leave the curtains drawn as this is a sure sign the house is empty.

Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries, bring bicycles inside the house and consider leaving important documents or valuables with family or friends.

Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may overhear details of your absence from home. Don't put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your destination.

General tips on home security

Fit mortise locks (kite-marked BS 3621) or bolts to all outside doors, and locks to all accessible windows. Install an approved alarm system.

Mark belongings visibly and permanently with your



postcode and house number. Keep a list of the make, model and serial number of these items and take photos of any valuable items that can't be marked. Ask us for advice on how to get post-coded property stickers to put in your windows.

Most burglars get in through a back door or window, so lock all side or back gates and add trellis to the tops of walls and fences. Remember, if you have lost your keys but can still get in, so can a burglar.

Put tools away and lock your garage and shed with security locks. If you have to leave a ladder outside, lock it to something secure.

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at East Finchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

East Finchley library makes it to 70

By Daphne Chamberlain

Our local library celebrated its 70th birthday in October. Described variously as the great survivor, East Finchley's most distinctive building, the area's last civic building, and the most attractive building in Finchley.

Opened in 1938 by Alderman Pike, Mayor of Finchley, it was the third of the new borough's public libraries, following Church End in 1933 and North Finchley in 1936. Councillor Collis, Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, was issued with the first reader's ticket and borrowed the first book.

Afterwards, tea was served in the Lecture Hall. In 2008, readers were offered slices of a birthday cake made by one of the staff.

Intended for all the community, "the professional worker, the artisan, the student and the general reader" (including children), its opening hours then might surprise some people today. The Reading Room was open from 9am to 8pm, and the Adult Lending Library from 10.30am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, apart from Bank Holidays. There were full-time Children's Library staff, too, running a range of activities in the Junior Room right from the start.

Surviving the ups and downs

Since its opening, our landmark building has survived the Second World War and Barnet's proposed resiting of the library within a Waitrose store



East Finchley Library's birthday cake, made by a member of staff. Photo courtesy Barnet Libraries.

opposite the Underground station. In August 2003, local residents Tony Hart and Polly Napper both applied successfully for Grade-II listing for the building, and five months later we heard the result of the Council's public consultation. East Finchley had voted overwhelmingly for the library to stay put.

It's been a bit of a switch-back ride since, with the downgrading of the library and the disappointment of being refused lottery funding.

Staying positive, though, one schoolchild said recently: "It's a lovely library, and everyone uses it." Congratulations, East Finchley Library, on your first 70 years.

THE ARCHER is interested in anything you may have to tell us about the library - past, present or future. Our contact details are on page 2.



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Cross over crossover

By Diana Cormack

A proposal to construct a vehicle crossover by dropping the kerb to allow access for parking in a front garden has upset many residents in Summerlee Avenue. They feel that Barnet's statutory consultation has ignored their objections and that the Council is prepared to progress the application despite a local petition against it.

Health and safety

The area in question is at the southern end of the avenue, near the main entrance to Cherry Tree Wood. Being close to a popular park, the road can be very busy at times. Objectors claim that cars exiting from off-street parking would be a danger, particularly to children running along the pavement ahead of their parents. The health and safety aspect was presented at November's Finchley and Golders Green Area Forum.

There is also the fear that, if the proposal is approved, other residents might be encouraged to do the same and spoil the street scene further as well as reducing the number of parking bays available. As yet, no other residences here have a dropped kerb.

Parking space concern

Barnet Council believes adequate parking space is available because there are 77 resident parking bays but only 69

resident parking permits issued. This ignores the bays used by visitors. One resident asked: "If there are so many parking spaces, why does one house need a driveway?" Current ecological thinking has brought about a recent change in the law which now requires planning permission if homeowners want to cover a lawn with anything other than specially designed porous paving or gravel.

Prolonged analysis

Summerlee Avenue is part of the Controlled Parking Zone operating Monday to Saturday 10am - 6.30 pm. Barnet issued a questionnaire on East Finchley's CPZ, to be returned by 31 July 2008. The objective was to see if local people's needs were being met. When *THE ARCHER* enquired about the outcome the Council said: "The data is currently being analysed and results should be available to view within the next month."

Spooktacular success

By Yvonne O'Reilly and Liridona Ahmeti

A Halloween party was the first event organised by the East Finchley Youth Panel and was held at Martin Primary School on 31 October with the support of the local police and the Finchley Community Development Trust.

The East Finchley Youth Panel is a group of 15 to 17-year-olds who live in East Finchley and organise local youth events. Tickets were £3.50 for ages 12-17 from the Finchley area but others were more than welcome to come.

With a live DJ playing all the latest and greatest hits, a chocolate fountain and hoards of delicious food and drink, including a Halloween punch, there was much to celebrate. The hall was covered in spooktacular decorations which continued to amaze the party goers throughout the evening.

The night was a success with a great turnout, brilliant costumes with prizes and rosettes awarded to the best dressed. The panel are hoping for an even better turnout to their next event at Christmas which will include a spectacularly comic and entertaining pantomime. For more information on the panel contact Moe on 020 7161 9014. A very special thanks to Robina, Tristan and Stan who are much appreciated for all their help.

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Rugby trio in top three

By Lisa Omar



Photo courtesy Lisa Omar

Three pupils from St Theresa's RC Primary School, East End Road, took part in the Annual Grasshoppers Mini Rugby Festival hosted by the Grasshoppers Rugby Club at Chiswick, south west London. These boys were representing Finchley Rugby Club in Summers Lane, Finchley, where they enjoy playing rugby every Sunday morning.

Emmett Galvin and Stephen McCarthy played for the Finchley Under Nines and Mo Galvin played for the Finchley Under Eights. Both teams played very well and both finished third overall which was a great achievement given the number of clubs there were from London and Middlesex. Well done, boys.

Art for sale

On the first weekend in December four local artists will be joining forces to display and sell their work under one roof.

On show will be paintings, prints and cards by Tark Butler, of Bedford Road, ceramics by Daphne Carnegie, of Lewis Gardens (whom Terence Conran puts in his top ten of ceramicists), wood turning using local sources by Barry Jackson, of Park Hall Road, and jewellery hand made by his daughter Lucy Spratt.

Enjoy a glass of wine and browse. You may well be able to find something suitable to buy for Christmas, including *THE ARCHER* calendar, which is being sold to raise money for the local charity Contact. The event will be held between 11am and 5pm on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December at 17 Park Hall Road. Call 020 8883 0806 or 020 8442 0283 for further details.

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Comfort and joy

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy has produced a CD of Christmas songs and carols to raise money for children with cerebral palsy.

Comfort & Joy is the work of Jennie Cassidy, a professional singer whose daughter Martine attends the centre for treatment. She and her musician friends recorded 24 of their favourite seasonal songs including *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, *Away in a Manager* and *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

The CD costs £9.99 and can be purchased at selected shops in East Finchley and Muswell Hill including Les Aldrich, or from the Bobath Centre at 250 East End Road, N2. It can also be ordered by going to www.bobath.org.uk or by calling 020 8442 2275.

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Teachers and children enjoy a healthy start to the day at Manorside's breakfast club.

Healthy bodies and healthy minds

By Julia Bramson

From the nursery, where children have been heard discussing how calcium, found in milk, is good for the bones, and throughout the school, the children at Manorside Primary School know what's good for them. Healthy School Status means that Manorside has been recognised as a school that embraces everything from healthy food to physical activity.

At the start of the day, children can attend Breakfast Club. At only 50p it is affordable, and those children who attend are at school on time having had "the most important meal of the day". Babs, who runs the Breakfast Club, also happens to be the PE co-ordinator and is responsible for running many of the popular after-school sports clubs, from football and dance to multi-skills. Another familiar face from Breakfast Club is Diane who teaches yoga to the infants as well as an after-school yoga club for staff.

Fresh food and no sweets

School dinners at Manorside are cooked from scratch on the premises, using organic ingredients where possible. The menu choices available allow for specific dietary requirements. Those who opt for packed lunches hoping to sneak in some sweets can think again. The "no sweets policy" in the school means exactly that. Letters are sent home with suggestions for healthy packed lunches.

Having said that, there is the occasional sweet treat and the headteacher was recently overheard praising the chef's sticky toffee pudding.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Jack's reward

By Michael Reilly, Year 12, Christ's College Finchley

During the year a student was chosen for each month, for their contribution to either the school or the local area or both, to receive the Jack Petchey award. The award consists of a framed certificate and £300 to be spent on a part of the school of their choice.



An outstanding performance by Reo Masuko of Year 8 playing a classical piano piece. Photo courtesy Christ's College.

On Tuesday 11 November, a special awards evening was held at artsdepot in North Finchley to celebrate the achievement of the winners. Students from all over Barnet were presented with a boxed medal by the Mayor of Barnet and two VIP guests from Barnet FC.

Recognising effort and achievement

The Jack Petchey Foundation works to promote aspiration and achievement among young people by actively funding and supporting schools and youth organisations. Through the awards scheme schools and youth organisations are encouraged to recognise and reward the special endeavour and outstanding achievement of young people in the community.

At the awards evening there were performances from most of the schools, showing their skills in dancing and singing, both solo and in choirs. Christ's College Finchley had its own outstanding performance by Reo Masuko of Year 8 playing a classical piano piece.

The award winners from Christ's College were: Michael Reilly, Gregory Miknich, Nicholas Kokkinos, Taylor Flanagan-Clarke, Hamza Habib, Lorin Okada, Soo Wei, Hao-Chun Hsu, Christopher Chua and Mowleesan Amaralingham.

The Boy in the Almunia shirt

By Daphne Chamberlain
East Finchley's Jake Lawson, aged six and a half, is an enthusiastic Arsenal fan. So, when he and his mum heard that the Gunners' goalkeeper, Manuel Almunia, was coming to the Phoenix back in September, naturally they had to be there too.

Manuel was there to introduce *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, but unfortunately, Jake was not quite old enough to see this moving film. However, a lot of people were pleased to see him in the foyer in his Almunia shirt, waiting to catch a glimpse of his hero.

Jake Lawson at the Phoenix



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

Links with Bishop Douglass Science College in Hamilton Road are proving positive and providing a lot of support. Science, maths and IT topics have benefitted so far.

The school is taking part in the National Anti Bullying Week. Boxes of presents have been sent off after a wonderful response to the Samaritans' Operation Christmas Child. A mufti day was held with children out of uniform bringing goods to support the tombola stall at the Christmas Fair.

Following a decision made by the School Council, new goalposts have been delivered to the infant and junior playgrounds.

Martin Primary

The school held a non-uniform day

when children paid £1 to wear pink and raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Martin's music specialist Alan Gruner has made a CD of his own songs for four to seven-year-olds. Called *Icky and Wicky*, it is available at the school office.

The football team is proudly wearing new kit which was kindly provided by Budgens.

Two mixed teams from Years 5 and 6 performed well in Barnet's Tag Rugby competition held at Bishop Douglass School.

St Theresa's Catholic School

Headteacher Mr Lyons left on Saturday 15 November for China where he will be visiting St Theresa's partner school in Shunde. The Year 6 children have produced a day in the life of a St Theresa's

child as a photo story whilst the other classes have also prepared some projects to show.

Every child participated in National Anti-Bullying Week with activities such as circle time, drama, role play, discussion and art and poetry, to make sure that every child is aware of what bullying is and what they can do about it.

Manorside Primary

The Autumn Disco was another huge success. Thanks to the Parents' Association for all their hard work.

The nursery garden and playground are now close to completion with new purpose-built storage for all the bicycles and garden toys. Year 1's classroom has been transformed by a cleverly thought-out wall that provides a cosy area for quiet time.



Famed director chronicles city life

By James Luxford

Just weeks after being one of the few independent cinemas to be part of the London Film Festival, the Phoenix Cinema once again welcomed the film industry through its doors, this time for a very special screening with director Terence Davies.

The 63-year-old, who is renowned for his outspoken opinions on Hollywood as well as his award-winning films such as *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives* and *The House of Mirth*, was in East Finchley to screen his new movie *Of Time & The City*, as well as taking part in a Q&A after the film. The film has been heralded as a masterpiece and was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.

Of Time & The City is a chronicle of his hometown Liverpool. Archive footage combines with classical and contemporary music, as well as a narration from Davies himself. Both a love letter

and a lament, it casts its eyes over the development and, in some cases, destruction of the society

in which he grew up. It is a work that anyone who has grown up in a city can appreciate.



Veteran film director Terence Davies in a Q&A session with journalist Ian Haydn-Smith after a screening of his eulogy to the Liverpool of his childhood.. Photo courtesy Phoenix Cinema.



Harpist Margaret Knight plays at the 100th birthday celebrations at Finchley Memorial Hospital. Photo by Sippy Azizollah.

Finchley Memorial Hospital celebrates centenary

By Sippy Azizollah

The story of Finchley Memorial Hospital dates back as early as 1896 when the residents of Finchley needed a local hospital due to a smallpox outbreak. It was in 1908 that Finchley Cottage Hospital, as it was then known, opened with 18 beds on a site at Fallow Corner given by Ebenezer Homan.

On Saturday 18 October, the hospital celebrated its 100th birthday with a marquee party. Chair of Barnet PCT Sally Malin welcomed Daniel Homan, who talked about the creation of the hospital by his great, great, great, great grandfather.

Music and dance

Entertainment for the celebrations was started by harpist Margaret Knight and next on stage was a group of Barnet College students who performed a dance routine based on medical remedies and the war.

Museum of nursing

To the side of the main tent was a smaller one housing a museum of nursing through the ages and also showing beautiful pictures of poppy fields painted by children in the area.

There were also activities going on inside the hospital. You could get your blood pressure tested and have a breath test to see how healthy your lungs were. I'd like to give special thanks to Louanna Prince, press officer for Barnet PCT, for taking the time to show me around on what was a really fantastic afternoon.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Franchise of Solace

These are dangerous times. Money is not enough, there is no view to a till, diamonds are not really forever and tomorrow may not be dying, but it sure smells funny. Now is the time for a man for all seasons, a man who is more than a man for any reason. Now is time for the fantasies of an old Etonian to come to life. Now is the time for Bond.

Bond is not just Bond, he is a complete lifestyle. It's a world of girls, guns and guts lifted straight out of the 1950s and dropped into a cinema near you. They may have updated, modernised, regenerated and restyled him, but Bond is still Bond. And Bond girls are still everything Ian Fleming wanted them to be. Only an ex-public schoolboy could drag as many double meanings as Fleming does every time he introduces another 20-something beauty.

When it comes to Bond girls, what can be more obvious than Pussy Galore who starts off as a committed lesbian but ends up in bed with Bond. Then there's Mary Goodnight, or when Ian Fleming wanted to get blindingly obvious, Holly Goodhead. Don't forget Plenty O'Toole or Honey Rider emerging naked from the sea in 'Dr No'. Only a schoolboy of limited imagination wouldn't get the message.

The message they didn't get was the same one the folks who made the film didn't get either, the idea that these girls might have something other than sand between the ears. In the books they are more than eye candy; in the films, eye candy is all they are. The latest in a long line are Olga Kurylenko as Camille, the number one Bond girl and, fresh from stabbing Alec D'Urberville in the BBC version of *Tess*, Gemma Arterton as Agent Fields. Maybe she should have hung on to the knife.

Now we have a new Bond, a new film and a new franchise. The new Bond is an advert for watches, airlines and cars. Even Coke gets in on the act with Coke Zero Zero Seven; and there's still the Aston Martin.

And, finally, the plot. Not that the plot matters, all anyone needs to know before settling down with the popcorn is that the baddies are bad, Bond is good and that, just when it looks as though the world is doomed, a public school-educated, tuxedo-wearing, glorified civil servant will save the world. Shame it doesn't happen like that in real life.

Sights and sounds of childhood

Neil McNaughton grew up in Liverpool at the same time as Terence Davies. He was at the *Of Time & the City* screening and here gives his impression of the film.

Though I am now a Finchley resident, the film made a great impact on me as I am a contemporary of Terence Davies, also brought up in Liverpool, albeit in a middle class suburb, unlike his very working class roots.

For Davies, childhood was firmly rooted in his sense of place. He defined his childhood in terms of the sights and sounds of the city.

The film could have been made about anywhere, he insisted, as long as the movie maker had the same kind of relationship with their birthplace.

More character

These days East Finchley certainly has more character than it used to, but whether it can develop any of the iconic symbolism of Liverpool must be open to considerable doubt. Such was the discussion, along with many other reactions, mostly positive, among members of the Phoenix Film Club which met at the Bald Faced Stag later.

The club meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Just go to the early evening performance and assemble in the front bar of the Stag afterwards for a lively discussion on the latest film.



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- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and Improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 0208 444 7217
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-14 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 8 & 22 Dec** 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** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages. Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music events. Contact Carole Lareman 8810 7454 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
- ❖ **Traditional Music** in the Alexandra pub, Church Lane from 8.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

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- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, 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
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tuesdays 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita Shaw 8886 6140.
- ❖ **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.

Working with Doctor Atomic

By Ann Bronkhorst

The second of the Phoenix Cinema's live-from-the-Met opera screenings, on Saturday 8 November, was doubly remarkable.

Composer John Adams chose a unique subject for *Dr Atomic*: that pivotal moment in 1945 at Los Alamos, USA, when a team of scientists created the atomic bomb. And attending the screening was one of the creative team from the Met production, choreographer and dancer Andrew Dawson.

During a relaxed Q&A session at the end, it was clear that Andrew had greatly enjoyed seeing the opera again, in the new format. He admired the use of the low-tracking camera and wide angles, and said the sound was astonishing. In fact, during the terrifying and moving climax of the opera the cinema seemed to shake with the reverberation of the explosion.

Finding the physicality

As the whole huge cast finally gathered to face the "shape stupendous" Andrew must have recognised groups and individuals with whom he had worked in rehearsal. Using the Feldenkrais method, through which strength and resilience are developed for bones as well as

muscles, Andrew helped all the singers and actors to build movement characterisation.

Forexample, Doctor Atomic, the cultured, complex Robert Oppenheimer, "was in reality a tall, thin gangly man, very wired," as Andrew told me earlier. Baritone Gerard Finley, with a very different physique, needed "to find Oppenheimer's physicality".

For the New York production Andrew also worked on the use of shadows and the entire visual aesthetic, with designer Julian Crouch and director Penny Woolcock. He is delighted that the English National Opera production, due next February, will use the same set, creative team (including himself) and principal singers. Andrew looks forward to "creating a whole image from the sum of its parts" once more, and hopes this opera's "important world story" will have a resonance for British audiences, too.

The Phoenix Metropolitan Opera season continues until May.

The joy of jazz

By Caroline Ayre

If you haven't already been, I would thoroughly recommend the monthly dinner and jazz nights at The Bald Faced Stag. On our visit, the music from singer Zara McFarlane and her trio was a great mix of recognisable classics with their own twist and we all agreed her voice was silky smooth.

The jazz was a great accompaniment to our meal and, while we were worried at first that it might be a bit too loud for us to have a conversation, we were soon proved wrong. In fact, we found ourselves wanting

to listen rather than talk.

The Bald Faced Stag holds this night once a month, usually on a Tuesday, so keep your eyes open for the next one as it's a great way to spend a cold winter's evening.

Review: The Churchill Plot

By Lucy Chamberlin

At the end of October, the Incognito audience gathered to watch *The Churchill Plot*, a new play written and directed by Tony Bilbow and Mike Fentiman.

Despite lacking a certain unity, the play took us on a farcical and enjoyable ride through the nation's entertainment during the 1940s and 1950s, including Dan and Doris Archer, Vera Lynn and Dick Barton, Special Agent. It subverted events and added an unlikely plot to kidnap and replace Winston Churchill.

In the know

With the cut glass accents of a BBC newsreader and the odds on the Germans winning the war, its humour was certainly well-received, but one wondered if the play would have been so successful with another audience.

It was, moreover, at times so packed with references to contemporary characters and events that it somewhat lost its own integrity as a performance.

Nevertheless, Mike Mende's transformation into a bumbling

and incompetent Churchill was pure genius, whilst Bob Bradick provided comic melodrama with his portrayal of a dastardly airman in leather. Rusty Ashman made a wonderful Pierre and Hieronymus Bosch, and Peter Kenyon's rapid switching between contrasting parts was startlingly impressive.

It was a large cast for such a small theatre, yet with their usual aplomb the set designers and dressers conspired to create a masterpiece, effortlessly transferring us from London to Paris to Berlin and back again. The wardrobe crew should likewise be highly commended for the costumes, particularly Mr Churchill's, which really excelled.

Alan Ayckbourn's 'Season's Greetings' will run at Incognito in Friern Barnet from 1-6 December.



Ceramic artist David Waller, who teaches at The Institute Art Centre, was one of the many artists showing their work at the East Finchley Open Winter Fair. Photo by John Lawrence.

Art in every shape and form

Hundreds of people flocked through the doors of Martin Primary School for the annual East Finchley Open Winter Fair on Sunday 16 November.

Ceramics, photographs, paintings, jewellery, clothing, mirrors and special treats were all on show and up for sale. A donation to local charity Contact on arrival gave every visitor the chance to enter a free prize draw to win an original work of art.

Homemade cakes and hot food did a delicious trade and

gave everyone a respite from scouring the dozens of colourful stalls.

East Finchley Open is a group of local artists who also hold open weekends in July. Contact, based in Church Lane, supports elderly, disabled and isolated people in the community.

What's On...

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

Saturday 6 December

- **Buffet Supper Concert** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm; **London Ripieno Orchestra & Singers** perform *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach, In Terra Pax by Gerald Finzi, Flute Concerto by Geoffrey Hanson and Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi; tickets for concert and supper, £15, pre-booked only; concert only, £10. Bookings: 020 8444 9214.

- **Martin Primary School's Christmas Bazaar**, Plane Tree Walk, N2, 12 noon to 3pm.

Saturday 6 - Sunday 7 December

- **Open House Art Show and pre-Christmas sale** with work by local artists Tark Butler (paintings and prints), Daphne Carnegie (ceramics), Barry Jackson (wood turning) and Lucy Spratt (jewellery); 17 Park Hall Road, 11am-5pm. Details from 020 8883 0806 or 020 8442 0283.

Sunday 7 December

- **Holy Trinity Primary School's Christmas Fair**, Eagans Close, N2, 12 noon to 2.30pm.
- **JCC Jewish Comedy 4 Kids**. A half-day workshop taught by renowned comedy writers and performers, Ivor Baddiel and Bennett Aron: an opportunity to discover, write and perform your own Jewish comedy. For ages 8-11. At artsdepot, North Finchley, 2-5pm. Price: £30. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866. www.jcclondon.org.uk

Wednesday 10 - Saturday 13 December

- **The Guild Players** present *Aladdin*, a pantomime for all ages; 7.45pm each evening, plus 3pm on Saturday; Ballards Lane Methodist Church Hall, N3. Box Office 020 8346 6337.

Friday 12 December - Sunday 4 January

- **Big Wooden Horse and Brighten**

Dome present *The Night Before Christmas*, a magical tale for the festive season for children aged three to seven. £10 adults / £8 children and concessions. Family tickets admitting four priced £32. Tickets available from box office on 0208 369 5454 or online at www.artsdepot.co.uk. Signed performances: Wednesday 17 December at 1.30pm and Saturday 20 December at 12pm.

Saturday 13 December

- **SwampRock** festive party night of **Red Hot Jump Blues, R'n'B & Boogie Woogie** with a welcome return of the amazing Big Boy Bloater and his Southside Stompers supported by SwampRock's resident DJs Flying Home and Lil' Queenie at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ. Doors open 8.00 pm. Entry £10. Contact Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or www.swamprock.org.uk

Sunday 14 December

- **Arts and Crafts** at Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill, N6, 11am-6pm. Entrance by voluntary donation.

Saturday 20 December

- **Carols and Christmas music** for the family, with the **Finchley Children's Music Group**, Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, 7.30 pm. Adults £8, children £1. Tickets from box office on 020 8346 9230 or at door.

What's on at artsdepot

Rhona Cameron, Thursday 11 December, 8pm; **Folk in The Foyer**, Friday 12 December, 8.30pm; **Piccadilly Dance Orchestra**, Thursday 18 December, 7.30pm; **New Art Club - The Notcracker**, Friday 19-Saturday 20 December, 8pm; **The Joyful Company of Singers**, Sunday 21 December, 5pm.



Letters to the Editor

Agro to ambulance left me shocked

Dear Editor,

I was terribly shocked by the behaviour of a woman motorist recently. She was screaming and hooting her car horn at the ambulance trying to treat my mum who couldn't breathe and was in severe pain in Sedgemere Avenue. She argued with the paramedics, saying she had a home to go to and wanted them to move the ambulance.

The paramedics said to her: "What if it was one of your family being treated by the emergency services and someone was tooting the horn and saying 'hurry up'. Haven't you heard of reverse?"

Where has the community spirit gone lately?

Name and address supplied.

Playground must be saved not sold

Dear Editor,

I was interested to see mention of the "run down" Halliwick Recreation Ground in the October issue of *THE ARCHER*. Back in September, a Haringey resident who belongs to Friends of Coldfall Woods informed me of rumours that Barnet Council might be planning to develop the park for social housing.

Initially, I expressed scepticism at my friend's concerns. However, my thoughts quickly turned to our council's current determination to sell off Stanley Road Playing Fields. What guarantee was there that Halliwick might not be next?

Curiosity took me on a dog walk to Halliwick. I can recall in the 1970s a reasonably well-kept park with attractive shrubberies, rose beds and ornamental flowerbeds. There was also a quaint little building used as a tool shed, known as "The Pavilion", which sported a working clock. In addition, the park had full-time staff most of the day.

All these have disappeared, ripped out, razed to the ground, or made redundant by municipal vandalism. Two modern vandalised playgrounds have replaced the old-fashioned stuff. One was "closed until further notice" and the other one, for children up to seven years, bore graffiti proclaiming: "Thug life forever".

Last January, Barnet Council leader Mike Freer claimed at his Leader Listens meeting in East Finchley that Stanley Road Playing Fields must be sold to pay for the refurbishment of local primary schools. The news that Barnet Council has probably lost £27 million in the Icelandic banking saga is well known. Less well known is that this sum was part of the £40 million earmarked for improving all Barnet's primary schools.

If the improvement programme is not to be almost totally abandoned, Councillor Freer's logic would ominously dictate the selling off of many public spaces.

Yours faithfully,
Steve Norman,

43 Elmshurst Crescent, N2.

Editor's note: Councillor Mike Freer was quoted in a recent edition of the *Hendon and Finchley Press* denying that any of the £40 million borrowed by Barnet Council for the school regeneration scheme was part of the £27 million deposited in Icelandic banks. He said any loss would be covered by the council's reserves.

Whose interests are being served?

Dear Editor,

Janet Maitland's excellent article on page 1 of the November edition of *THE ARCHER* raises a matter of concern, not just for the people directly affected, but for everybody in Barnet. When the London Borough of Barnet planning department says the revised application was "submitted as a new application", this means that objections relating to a previous application are not taken into account, and new objections should be made.

However, the previous objectors do still have a valid interest in the new application, and the planning department should recognise this and give them proper notice of the new application, rather than using the fact that it is a new application to provide an excuse to ignore these people. Indeed, it could be argued that their previous objections make it essential that they are notified, which clearly did not happen in this case.

The LBBC planning department would no doubt say that it followed the due process to the letter, but if some enterprising planning consultant retained by the objectors thinks otherwise, and decides to lodge a judicial review, LBBC could find itself facing all the costs and expenses of having to prepare for a court case. If this is lost by LBBC, it could find itself with a bill for several hundred thousand pounds. All of this, of course, will ultimately be paid for by the long-suffering Barnet Council taxpayers.

Speaking as one, I object to this. Even if it doesn't happen this time, if the planning department continues to take this view, it will happen sooner or later. Why can't it make sure that it notifies everybody who could possibly be affected, whenever an application is received?

It is time that our elected representatives took a close look at the activities of the LBBC planning department to ensure that it looks after the interests of everybody, including council tax payers.

Yours faithfully,
John Dearing
Address supplied.

Supermarket fears are no false alarm

Dear Editor,

Alexandra Rook (Letters, *THE ARCHER*, October 2008) condemns the 'negativity' that has characterised the response to proposals to turn the empty unit in Stag Court into a supermarket. However, in constructing her argument she relies too much upon supposition and caricature of opponents' views.

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.

While all local residents would like to see the empty unit in use, yet another convenience store, to go along with the other three in the immediate area, is not the answer.

To suggest that 'false alarms' have been raised about the impact of the proposed store on other traders is to ignore the very real concerns of several local traders, one of whom took the trouble to organise a petition against the proposals.

This is less a case of wanting to snuff out the opposition than a recognition that 'more of the same' will not help the vitality and diversity of the High Road, but could, in these precarious times, result in one or more of the existing shops going out of business.

However, it is when she comes to the issue of parking, that Ms Rook's arguments really fall apart. Dismissing concerns about increased congestion and parking problems, she argues that most shoppers would go to the store on foot. Yet, there is already severe displacement of parking into adjacent Leslie Road, caused by people stopping there to use the shops, offices and facilities around the corner on the High Road, which would only be exacerbated by the proposed supermarket.

If the shop was successful, people would park somewhere on Leslie Road in order to pop in, ensuring that even fewer parking spaces were available for residents along this street.

Just as some of us were motivated in our objections to the Waitrose development not by nimbysism but by a concern that it was just in the wrong place on the High Road, so, in this case, objectors will have considered the advantages and disadvantages of the location, and decided that the latter significantly outweigh the former. To suggest otherwise is to misrepresent the debate.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Morey and Amina Yaqin
Leslie Road, N2.

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Goodbye to Dorothy, 104

By Daphne Chamberlain

Mrs Dorothy Jerrome's funeral took place on 29 October, her 104th birthday. She might have had a chuckle about that, because Dorothy loved to laugh.

Born Alice Helen Ditcham, she came to East Finchley in 1911, when she was six. Apart from brief spells working away as a young woman, and early married years in Church End, she lived in Lincoln Road for the rest of her life.

An accomplished pianist and dancer, Dorothy also played the double bass. She worked for 50 years with the WVS, loved her garden, pot plants and cats, was always immaculately dressed, and was a prolific reader and puzzle-solver.

Her neighbour, Sue South-erly, described her as a thoughtful friend and "incredibly strong in spirit". After the deaths of her husband, Sidney, in 1999, and then her brother, Russell, in 2002, she lived alone in her large



Dorothy Jerrome (then Ditcham), aged seven

house. When it was broken into, her response was: "Just wait till I get my hands on them!"

After a stroke a couple of years ago, she was determined to return home to look after her cat, Twiggy. Dorothy was a remarkable woman, who appreciated her good fortune, and enjoyed to the full her long and happy life.

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Jack Brown photo by Yvonne Brown

Jack's hopes for the future

By Betti Blatman

Two years ago I met Jack Brown and his family at an event in aid of the campaign to fund treatment for his neuroblastoma, a rare childhood cancer. The Barnet boy was then seriously ill and his family inspired many in the community to do all they could to help.

Recently, I met Jack's mother Yvonne for an update on Jack's progress. The seven-year-old is doing well and is back at school full time, although taking time out for his treatment means he's slightly behind in his schoolwork.

High dose treatment ahead

Yvonne said: "Jack is currently on a combination of drugs including a low dose chemotherapy agent. The combination works well in the laboratory and is now being trialled in children with neuroblastoma in the USA. Jack's doctors at Gt Ormond Street hospital were amazed at how good he looks and have decided to support the trial. This is wonderful news as it means some of the drugs will be prescribed in the UK, and we will only have to buy about three others from the USA.

"Jack's next set of scans are in December and he's been offered a chance out of the blue to have high dose antibodies at Sloan Kettering in New York, even if he remains clear in December. He's never had

high dose antibodies before, only the low dose, and so it is an exciting prospect, as these are designed to kill off any microscopic residual cells that scans may not pick up.

"But the treatment is expensive and we want it to become available in the UK; we are working towards this end, and so the fundraising continues."

Firefighters raise funds

Community support is still there. White Watch firefighters at Finchley Fire Station raised funds for Jack at Waitrose in North Finchley on Saturday 8 November by giving families and shoppers a chance to climb on board their fire engines. White Watch was also holding a Disco and Charity Auction on Friday 28 November in East Barnet.

For further information visit www.jackbrownappeal.org or you can send a cheque to The Jack Brown Appeal, c/o The 2 Simple Trust (a registered UK charity 1113954), Enterprise House, 2 The Crest, London NW4 2HN.

Tantalising turkey trivia

By David Hobbs

As Christmas approaches and we turn our attention to overeating, spare a thought for the large beast destined to grace the average dinner table. Here are 12 things you probably didn't know about turkeys.

- The Spanish introduced turkeys to England in the early 16th century.
- The modern domestic turkey is descended from the North American wild turkey and was first domesticated by the Aztecs. It was their main source of meat and eggs.
- Left to their own devices, turkeys can live for 10 years.
- Turkeys are not as stupid as you might think. It is a myth that they stand around looking at the rain until they drown.
- Wild turkeys can fly, not very far, but far enough to get up into trees. Fortunately for Bernard Matthews, domestic turkeys can't fly.
- Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national symbol of the United States, but it lost out to an eagle.
- Abraham Lincoln's son kept a pet turkey in the White House.
- The most popular commercial breed, the White, is so large that it cannot breed naturally.
- Before the Second World War, most people in Britain ate goose at Christmas and turkey was considered a luxury food. Ebenezer Scrooge buying the Cratchits a turkey in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a sign of this, especially as the Cratchits already had a goose.
- The American 'Thanksgiving Turkey' is a 20th century idea. People used to eat pork ribs as pork was only available between November and January, but you could get turkey all the year round.
- If you have a fryer big enough, you can deep fry your turkey. It takes about 45 minutes.
- Norfolk has long been the main centre for breeding commercial turkeys in the UK. From the 17th century onwards they used to be fitted with shoes and walked to markets in London.

Pharmacy opening hours over the holiday period

- **Thursday 25 December:** 10am - 2pm, CW Andrews, 32 High Rd, East Finchley N2 9PJ. Tel: 020 8883 1559.
- **Friday 26 December:** 10am - 2pm, Coral Pharmacy, 129 East End Road, East Finchley N2 0SZ. Tel: 020 8883 0442.
- **Thursday 1 January:** 10am - 2pm, Reena Pharmacy, 222 Regents Park Rd, Finchley N3 3HP. Tel: 020 8346 3532.

Christmas services in East Finchley

St Mary's Catholic Church

Sunday 14 December: Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner, 2pm; Carol Service, 6.30pm. Tuesday 18 December: Advent Penitential Service, 7.30pm. Wednesday 24 December: Children's Christmas Mass, 6.30pm; Midnight Mass, preceded by Carols from 11.30pm. Thursday 25 December: Masses at 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon. Friday 26 December: Mass with Morning Prayer, 10am.

All Saints' Church

Sunday 21 December: Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies, 6.30pm. Wednesday 24 December: Children's Service with Carols, 3pm; Midnight Mass of Christmas with Procession of the Christ Child and Blessing of the Crib, 11.30pm. Thursday 25 December: Mass of the Dawn, 8am; Mass of Christmas Day with Carols, 10am.

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 21 December: Carol Service by Candlelight, 6pm. Wednesday 24 December: Nativity Play and Blessing of the Crib, 6pm; Midnight Mass, 11.30pm. Thursday 25 December: Parish Communion, 10am.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Sunday 7 December: Advent Service, *Bethlehem Baby Brilliance*, 10.30am (crèche provided and activities for children and young people). Sunday 14 December: All Ages Together Carol Service with a presentation by the children and young people, 10.30am (crèche provided). Sunday 21 December: Carol Service, 10.30am (crèche provided and activities for children and young people); Carols By Candlelight, 6pm. Thursday 25 December: Christmas Morning Family Service, 10.30am.

East Finchley Methodist Church

Sunday 14 December: Christmas Gift Service for Deptford Mission and H.A.B., 10.30am. Sunday 21 December: Christingle Service, 10.30am; Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm. Wednesday 24 December: Christmas Eve United Service at Finchley Methodist Church (Ballards Lane), 11.15pm. Thursday 25 December: Christmas Day Celebration Service, 10.30am.

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