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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

New healthcare centre could threaten existing services

By Janet Maitland

Plans to turn Finchley Memorial Hospital into a major new healthcare centre offering GP services and pharmacy dispensing have raised fears that patients and pharmacists in East Finchley will be badly affected.

Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) is planning a shake-up of healthcare provision. Seven primary care centres will be developed, each providing a wide range of healthcare services. One of the main centres will be Finchley Memorial Hospital in Granville Road, N12.

New buildings and services

Finchley Memorial will be rebuilt and expanded to provide GP services, diagnostic services, pharmacy dispensing, urgent (unbooked) care, out-patient clinics, general health advice and specialist clinics *while continuing its function as a community hospital. The PCT will build on Bow Lane Playingfields, adjacent to the hospital, hoping to complete*

the redevelopment by 2012.

Charles Hollwey, PCT chief executive, said the primary care centres would allow some hospital services to be provided in a community setting closer to patients' homes. "Patients won't have to travel to hospital unless they really have to," he said.

Impact on GPs and pharmacists

The PCT stresses that GPs will not be forced to move to Finchley Memorial. However, the Department of Health has said that such new centres should set their practice boundaries "as wide as possible" in order to "stimulate competition".

GPs in East Finchley may therefore lose patients, which will have an impact on their PCT funding. Some GPs may decide to move to Finchley Memorial anyway, particularly if their current premises are cramped.

"If any of our GPs move," said a local pharmacist, who preferred not to be named,

"there will be a knock-on effect on pharmacists as well as patients."

Polyclinics next?

The plans reflect the government's intentions for all healthcare, right across the country. NHS London has recently consulted on a plan to set up "polyclinics" across London, which offer an even wider range of services than Barnet's planned centres, including opticians and dentists. Fifty one per cent of the 5,000 people who responded to the consultation were in favour of polyclinics - although a third were against. Barnet PCT may take this as a signal that the scope of the primary care centres could be broadened still further.

Dr Lawrence Buckman, chair of the BMA's GPs Committee, has stated that PCTs should be encouraged to invest in their local GP practices instead of setting up new centres, in order to avoid the risk of "unnecessary duplication or destabilisation".



Anthony Sparks is only eight, but he's got big ambitions. Find out more on page 7. Photo by Helen Drake

Festival preparations in full swing

By Rob Robertson

The East Finchley Festival takes place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June. The festival will run from 12 noon to 6pm and, as always, will be an annual celebration of what is great about living and working in East Finchley.

Top local bands and other artists will be doing their stuff on the two stages. Many of them will have been through the annual rock music competition known as the Battle of the Bands. This year's acts include The Idles, Sound of the Suburbs and, of course, the legendary Applelips Brothers.

Continued on page 4



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PO Box 3699
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WWW.THE-ARCHER.CO.UK

e-mail: THE-ARCHER
@LINEONE.NET

Voicemail & Fax:

Editorial/enquiries: -
08717 33 44 65

Advertising/finance: -
08717 33 45 28

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East Finchley
Newspapers

CHAIR
Kevin Finn

COPY EDITOR
John Lawrence

EDITORIAL TEAM
Diana Cormack
Daphne Chamberlain
David Hobbs

SUB EDITORS
Ann Bronkhorst
Wendy Devine
Pam Kent

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Alison Roberts

PICTURE EDITOR
Sarah Clackson

**FINANCE &
ADVERTISING**
John Dearing

DISTRIBUTION
Toni Morgan
Pam Kent

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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

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Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
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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
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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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Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team 020 7161 9014

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Trolley torment

Shops are to be penalised if they allow their abandoned trolleys to litter streets in Barnet. Around 1,300 trolleys are abandoned every year in the borough. The council is encouraging retailers to set up schemes to collect trolleys rather than face a fine.

Powers given to the council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, enable the council to charge shops who don't take their environmental responsibilities seriously. Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "Abandoned trolleys are a factor in creating a negative perception of an area and we hope this move will have a major effect on the number of shopping trolleys we have to collect. We are engaging with businesses and hope to have some positive feedback very soon."

Man arrested for threatening behaviour

By John Dearing
Following a dispute at the Post Office in Viceroy Parade on the morning of 25 April, police arrested a man for threatening behaviour of a racial nature.

Mobile robbery

On 10 May at 4pm, a 13-year-old boy had his mobile phone taken from him on the High Road. Two youths asked to see the phone, then snatched it and ran off.

The suspects were a black male, approximately 16, with braided hair, and a white male, approximately 17. Police are appealing for witnesses to call 020 8200 1212 in confidence.

Hold on to your plates

On average there are 40 thefts of number plates across the borough of Barnet each month. The stolen plates are used to clone vehicles. Police tell us that a simple yet permanent solution is just to pop a blob of superglue onto the screws holding the plate. The thieves will be unable to remove the plate without cracking it.

As you have already deduced, you won't be able to either. So unless you're thinking of changing your

number plates to the personalised one you have always wanted, this method is worth giving a go.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

34 The Bishop's Avenue, N2
Proposed underground pool hall to existing garden at rear of existing house and demolition and reconstruction of existing two-storey south wing.

7 Blandford Close, N2
Single storey rear extension. Loft conversion including roof extensions, rear dormer window and rear roof light.

11 Brim Hill, N2
Single storey rear extension. Loft conversion including replacement rear roof light and new side dormer window. Replacement windows and doors. New side door.

59b Fortis Green, N2
Extension to roof including rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion.

Islington & Camden Cemetery, 278 High Road, N2

Extension to existing office and construction of disabled toilet.

48 Lancaster Gardens, N2
Ground floor rear extension

348 Long Lane, N2

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

The Manor House, 80 East End Road, N3

Erection of synagogue. Variation of planning permission and Listed Building Consent. Demolition of existing Akiva School, link block, and caretaker's house.

53 Summerlee Avenue, N2
Loft conversion including side dormer window.

60 Trinity Road, N2
Demolition of existing garages and erection of two semi detached houses.

39 Vivian Way, N2
Ground floor rear extension. Rear bay window. First floor rear extension.

Alterations to front porch. Alterations to existing garage doors.

Haringey Council

77 Fortis Green N2
Erection of two front and two rear dormer windows, one Velux window to front and two Velux windows to rear elevations.

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Step-free station is years away

By David Tupman

Tube users will have to wait until at least 2013 for step-free access to East Finchley station, according to London Underground, and that would only be scheduled if a positive decision were made now in 2008.

Despite a recent large investment in the Northern Line under the controversial Private Finance Initiative, no lift was incorporated in the revamped station.

Vigorous representations have been made to local political figures and to Transport for London about the difficulties faced by passengers with mobility problems or with heavy luggage or pushchairs in negotiating the 30 steps to the station platform. Even men delivering supplies to the staff quarters above the tracks risk injury.

Brian Coleman, GLA assembly member for Barnet, has taken up the issue of access on behalf of local resident Annette Laycock, of Elmhurst Avenue, a keen reader of *THE ARCHER*. Not content with limp replies from the transport authority's customer relations people, Cllr Coleman went straight to the tube's managing director Tim O'Toole.

In his reply Tim O'Toole points to planning difficulties with East Finchley station's listed building status and to current funding priorities, though he highlights the fact that Finchley Central will have a lift by the summer of 2008.

Add 40 minutes to your journey

Obviously unaware of local travel congestion, Mr O'Toole suggests: "Finchley Central is nearby and is served by regular bus services from East Finchley and the High Street".

Yes, the message from the overlord of the Underground is that if you want step-free access to the tube, board the 143 bus at East Finchley station, which runs every 12 minutes, and alight at Finchley Central, a journey taking up to 30 minutes.

The message for readers of *THE ARCHER* is clear: get active and tell London Underground what you really think.

Joanna hosts for Spike

Actress Joanna Lumley, one of the patrons of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund, hosted a small dinner party at the home of the fund's chair Barbara Warren.

Seven guests were entertained to lively conversation and ate a delicious meal cooked and served by members of the committee.

Afterwards, Joanna was presented with a maquette of Spike Milligan made by the sculptor of the statue John Somerville.

While at the house in Wentworth Avenue, N3, Joanna opened the Copper Kettle Tea Rooms in Barbara's dolls' house by making a short speech and cutting a miniature ribbon across the doorway.

The evening raised £820 for the fund to place a bronze statue of the late comedian and writer at Avenue House in East End Road.

Joanna said: "The evening was just huge fun and happiness from the moment I arrived. It was great meeting Spike's supporters. Fingers crossed

that very soon it will become a larger-than-life reality."

The fund still needs to raise several thousands to meet its target. Contributions can be sent to the Secretary, Spike Milligan Statue Fund, 17 Abbots Gardens, London N2 0JG.

Civic Award winner

Belated congratulations to Tristan Green, school keeper at Martin Primary School, who was one of Barnet's Civic Award winners earlier this year.

Honoured for his services to the local community, Tristan was unable to attend the presentation ceremony at the Town Hall as it coincided with the birth of his third child.



Fire damaged the workshop and a car. Picture by Paul Dearing

Car workshop damaged in fire

By John Dearing

One person was hurt in a fire in a car workshop in King Street that caused extensive damage.

On 21 April a car being serviced at H&B Motor Engineers caught fire and burned fiercely. Despite the efforts

of staff working there, the fire could not be extinguished. The Fire Service attended and put the fire out.

While there was no obvious damage to surrounding premises, much of the workshop was severely damaged,

particularly the roof, and the car involved was destroyed. The owner suffered some burns and went to hospital for treatment but fortunately there were no major injuries. The workshop was back in business within days.

Longer route for 263?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Transport for London are considering extending the southern end of the 263 bus route beyond Archway to the Nag's Head, Holloway. However, they have not proposed any changes to the long "solo" stretch between East and North Finchley, where the 263 is the only through bus.

The 263 is one of several routes being looked at this year. The consultation period lasts only until 20 June, so East Finchley Bus Watch would like your comments soon.

The group is affiliated to Bus Watch West Haringey, whose Chris Barker has been consulted on local routes.

His reply to TFL was: "We are disappointed that you see no need to strengthen this service (the 263), particularly between East and North Finchley where loadings are often heavy. We are pleased with the proposal to link Highgate station with Holloway Road but would

prefer to see this done by an extension to North Finchley of the 17, which would also help with the East to North Finchley problem."

What do you think? Please send your thoughts to Hazel Burnett of East Finchley Bus-watch, and / or *THE ARCHER*. Hazel can be contacted on 020 8444 6824.

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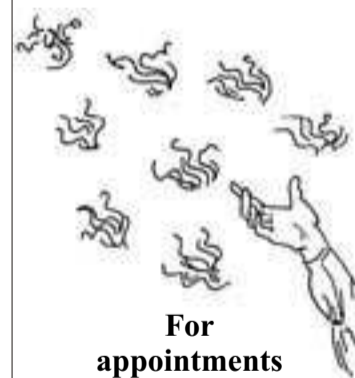
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Festival preparations in full swing

Continued from page 1

Other top-class entertainment includes a Dance Show and a kick boxing display from the Minotaurs Thai Boxing Gym.

As usual, there will be an opportunity to support local businesses and charities by visiting the stalls and to talk to the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team and the local fire service.

Helpers still needed

The festival organisers are still after volunteers to help with the organisation and to act as stewards on the day. Can you help? If so, please contact me on 020 8883 4916.

The organisers would like to acknowledge the generous contribution being made by Budgens to this year's festival.

Budgens will be donating food and takings from their stall on the day to the Finchley Community Development Trust.

The organisers are also grateful to the Metropolitan Police and to the co-ordinator of the French Market, which took place recently in East Finchley, for their support.

However, in general, the festival receives no direct funding and is entirely dependent on revenue from advertising, stalls and the raffle to keep running each year. So come along, enjoy the day, buy some raffle tickets and support your local community.

One more thing: keep your fingers crossed for a bright, sunny day!

Festival timetable

Community Stage

12pm: Natascha Leonie
12.55pm: Dhoom Foundation
1.10pm: Martin Primary School
1.45pm: Dance Show
2pm: Community Focus Group, Happy Go Lucky Dance Group
2.20pm: Finchley Children's Music Group
3pm: East Finchley Monday Club
3.20pm: Angels of Kaos
4pm: SWON (Symphonic Wind Orchestra)
4.50pm: Kick Boxers
5.10pm: Simply Saxes

Main Stage

12pm: official opening of festival followed by Dhoom Foundation
12.15pm: The Idles
1pm: Antigua Joe
1.15pm: The Bridge
2pm: Mr Skitz aka UK Reps
2.15pm: Sound of the Suburbs
3pm: Mr Smiley N2
3.15pm: The Last Grand
4pm: Jinxt
4.45pm: Festival Raffle
5pm: Applelips Brothers

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

Fake leaflets and car thefts

In the past three months the number of apparently abandoned vehicles being removed from the streets of Barnet has increased. These vehicles tend to have either no insurance or no tax and to have been declared 'off the road' to the DVLA.

Recently there have been reports that fake leaflets have been left on cars and, if the leaflets have not been removed within a certain period, an unauthorised removal van has towed the car away.

Barnet police are asking people to be extra vigilant. If you have declared your car off the road, please check it regularly. If you notice a leaflet, remove it immediately, take down all the details displayed (name and contact number) or take a digital photograph of it.

If you do see a vehicle being removed, please record the registration numbers of both the removal vehicle and the one being towed and report the matter to the police.

Police are investigating these incidents and are



Photograph by John Lawrence

appealing for witnesses to come forward. Any person who has information on this matter can speak in confidence. The

number to call is 020 8733 5877 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Where have all the runners gone?

By Victoria Davenport

As I write this one week after the London Marathon, the woods and streets are empty. Where have all the runners gone? Well, like me, they are probably being lazy slobbers for the first time in months, guilt-free! The last few weeks before the Big Day are known as 'tapering'. This means that while you're reducing your running drastically, panic is setting in. For one thing, you're convinced all your muscle strength and endurance is seeping into the mattress every night.

Then you start to obsess over what to wear, how to fit all your gels into your bag, and most of all whether you will remember how to walk, much less run, 26.2 miles. You start to have pre-marathon nightmares; mine consisted of being stuck going round and round Canary Wharf, the bleakest part, like a trapped hamster.

Weather woes

This being my second time in the Marathon, while the buzz was still there, the sense of unbearable excitement was dampened down significantly by the weather. Uncertain whether it was preferable to die of heat, or freeze, I compromised with layers.

Foolishly, I abandoned my long-sleeve top at the first loo stop (the sun was out then). Being someone on the verge of hypothermia most of the time, when it started to pour and blow five minutes later I realised that was one of the dumbest things I had ever done. Sure enough, wearing only a bra, charity vest, shorts and soaking wet gloves, within minutes my legs had seized up; within an hour I considered asking a bystander for a sweater, *please!* or even St John's ambulance for a silver cape, although running in one would be tricky. Speed went out the window. All I craved was



Flora - V Davenport

warmth, by any means.

Support and kindness

The sun peeped out briefly, quickly followed by hail and wind. Despite the foul weather, the crowds were as massive and wonderful as ever, and a huge difference that makes. I also remain amazed by the sheer organisation of the Marathon by the Flora people. How do they get all those kids to stand in wretched weather cheerfully handing out bottles of water and personally wishing you luck? I am especially indebted to whoever opened my goody bag for me at the finishing line because my fingers were too frozen. Of course, having sworn never ever, ever to do that again, I was online with millions of others the next day, entering for next year's ballot.

At least when the knees go, when the mind goes (whichever goes first) I can volunteer to hand out water and put medals around necks at the finish line. And what an honour that will be, as well. Something to look forward to in old age!

Donations for Victoria's good cause are still welcome: cheques payable to The Children's Society, to V. Davenport, 21 Durham Road, or online at www.justgiving.com/victoriadavenport1. Special thanks to Mr & Mrs Patel, East Finchley.





It's no picnic in the park

By Diana Cormack

Despite appealing to Barnet Council over the years, The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood's request for bigger and better litterbins has been ignored.



Just waiting for the rats. Photo by Diana Cormack

With people flocking to the park to picnic and play during the spell of hot weather in May, the present provision proved inadequate yet again. This resulted in scenes reminiscent of the dustmen's strike in the 1970s, with piles of rubbish heaped around some of the overflowing bins. It was particularly bad near the children's playground.

One local resident told *THE ARCHER*: "I have been coming here for over 40 years and I have never seen anything like it. It's disgusting. I brought my children here to play, but I'm not bringing my grandchildren any more."

Another, watching a squirrel nibbling away at some discarded delicacy, commented: "It'll be rats next."

The Friends have consistently asked for bigger bins with lids, which would prevent

animals scavenging and dragging debris over the area. They would also like more bins to be provided. Looking at the state of the park recently, no one could argue with that.

Timber!

By Betti Blatman

Two trees in East End Road were recently felled, leaving unsightly stumps where they once stood proud outside the convent walls and opposite the garden centre.

When asked why they had been chopped down, Barnet Council said that regular inspections had found the trees had significant decay in their trunks and base. This made them a risk to traffic and pedestrians along this busy main road. The council said it would replace both trees during next winter's planting season.

What on earth are they thinking?

By David Melsome

Six friends are setting out on the road trip of a lifetime, attempting to drive from East Finchley to Mongolia in just 30 days.

Travelling in three battered old Daihatsu jeeps, the group will ride 10,000 miles of potholes through France, Slovenia, Bosnia, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to arrive at their final destination Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia.

The friends are Michael Maher, Andrew Davidson, Pete Harrison, Tom McGrath, Andy Smith and Anjohn Shome, all from East Finchley.

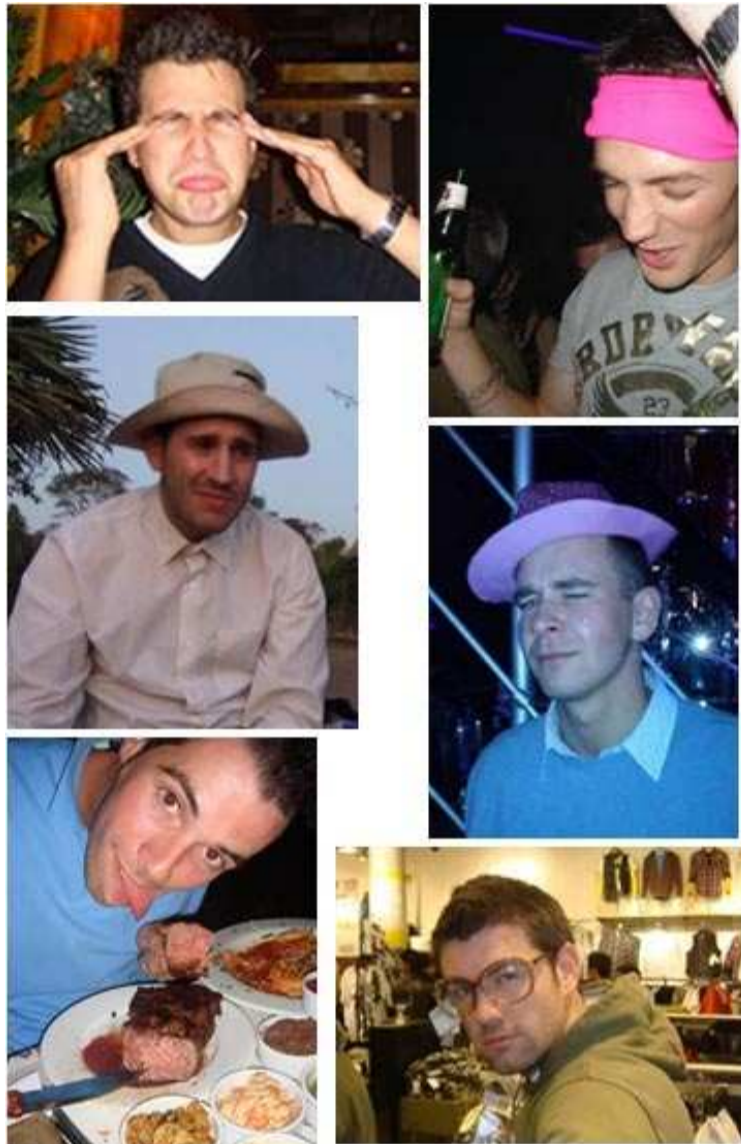
And why are they doing it? For charity, of course. In this case, they're raising money for Save the Children Mongolia and the British Heart Foundation.

At the end of the journey they plan to auction their vehicles (if they're still in one piece) to raise even more cash for the Children's Development Protection Foundation of Mongolia.

Michael said: "We are financing the trip entirely from our own pockets with any money raised in sponsorship going direct to charities. So far we have raised just over £2,000 mainly through friends and family although we hope to at least triple this before we leave."

Their chances of making it all the way are anyone's guess. Their website asks: "What on earth are we thinking? Will any of the three cars make it past Iran? Who will be attacked by a yak? Is camping at the side of the road in Turkmenistan really a good idea?"

The journey starts from N2 on 27 June. To find out more and to make a donation of your own, visit www.themongolwayround.com. Good luck, gents.



Mad drivers. Clockwise from top left: Anjohn Shome, Andy Smith, Pete Harrison, Andrew Davidson, Tom McGrath and Michael Maher.

Going, going, gone...

By Diana Cormack

Earlier this year *THE ARCHER* carried reports about the state of the 15 newspaper stands on the pavement outside the tube station. In February we pointed out what a poor welcome they gave to people arriving in East Finchley. In May we praised Barnet Council for cleaning them up and removing a few. Now all of them have gone! Could this possibly be due to the influence of *THE ARCHER*? Probably not.

Barnet told us: "The council removed the newspaper stands from the public footway next to East Finchley tube station on 8 May as they were causing an obstruction and were a distraction to road users. They could potentially be resited inside the station if Transport for London gives its agreement."

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A Sherlock Holmes mystery that never dies

By John Lawrence

For an actor who spends his evenings playing Sherlock Holmes in a one-man show, Roger Llewellyn is unmoved by the adoration surrounding the world's greatest detective.

"I know a lot of Sherlockians and I play to his fans all around the world but I don't buy into it at all. I read the books, of course, but I don't watch the films. When I'm asked to explain his appeal I struggle to do so," he says.

Dramatic performance

Roger performs *The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes*, which comes to artsdepot in North Finchley in June. It's a spine-tingling mix of murder, mystery and the occult, based on the concept that Arthur Conan Doyle deliberately killed off his most popular creation but couldn't prevent him coming back to life in the most dramatic fashion.

"It's a one-man show but it's not me sitting in a chair chatting," Roger told *THE ARCHER*. "I play seven characters and it's old-fashioned acting, a big dramatic show. The audience really gets involved and feels part of the action."

Holmes is still a hero

When pressed to explain the mystery of Sherlock's enduring appeal, Roger puts it down to a nostalgic longing for a time when good always triumphed over evil, along with a fascination for old London town in the days of gas lamps and fog. Some of Sherlock's most passionate fans these days are in Japan and the USA.



Roger Llewellyn

Roger has his own nostalgia for East Finchley. He lived in Twyford Avenue for two years in the early 1970s while he trained as an actor at RADA.

"My grant in those days was £11 a week and my rent was £6 a week so I didn't have a lot to live on," he recalls. "I remember the area very well: the blossom on the trees as I walked back from the tube station, and shopping for food at Sainsbury's in Muswell Hill."

Roger has toured the world for almost a decade with a massively successful solo show *Sherlock Holmes in the Last Act* and he's hoping Sherlock's new stage adventures will keep him busy for many years to come.

Tickets for The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes on Thursday 19 June at 8pm cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are available from the artsdepot box office in person or by telephone on 020 8369 5454.

A spring dish from Cyprus

This recipe comes from Anna Angeli, of Bedford Road, who runs a website giving recipes and tips on Greek cookery.

Anna says: "This is a very popular Cyprus dish and, due to the abundant vine leaves in the summer, it is made regularly. You can easily buy preserved vine leaves, vacuum packed and stored in brine."

Fresh vine leaves need blanching for a few minutes in boiling water until they go darker. Pre-packed leaves need freshening under running hot water.

In a large bowl, mix the rice, minced meat, chopped onion, tomatoes and one spoon of the puree. Add the seasoning, mint, salt and pepper. Open one of the vine leaves vein side up and pinch off any stalk. Place a tablespoonful of the mixture in the bottom stalk end of the vine leaf, then fold the bottom part up, tucking in the sides, and continue rolling

Koubebyia -

also known as Dolmades or Stuffed Vine Leaves

You will need:
40 vine leaves
1 small packet of minced meat (lamb)
1 cup long grain rice
1 can of chopped tomatoes
(or 5 ripe tomatoes peeled and chopped)

A few spoons of tomato puree
1 chopped onion
A handful of chopped fresh mint
or 1/2 tsp dried mint
Salt and pepper
A drizzle of olive oil
Juice of 1 lemon
1 cup water to simmer

into a cigar shape, quite tightly. Place the rolled vine leaves in a medium saucepan, close together and in one direction, with the next layer lying in the opposite direction.

Make a stock from two cups of warm water, the remaining tomato puree and any excess juices from the rice mixture. Drizzle with a little olive oil. There should be enough stock to completely cover the stuffed vine leaves. Add the juice of 1 lemon. Take a plate that fits inside the saucepan, turn it upside down and leave it on top;

this will put pressure on the koubebyia so they stay compact and do not float about and undo while cooking. Put the lid on and bring to the boil for 10 minutes on high heat, then simmer on medium heat for 30 minutes. Allow to cool. To serve, place a large serving dish on top of the saucepan, then quickly tip the pan over so the koubebyia comes out moulded in the parallel layers, or take out one by one.

For recipes and regular news, visit Anna's website www.desperategreekhousewives.co.uk.

A much needed Youth Club

By Diana Cormack

Two years ago The Monday Club was launched at the Methodist Church on the High Road. It proved so popular for youngsters aged nine to 15 that last Christmas the membership list had to close, having reached 200. It also had to move to larger premises and is now based in St Mary's RC Church Hall.

Fortunately this is near Martin Primary School, which generously allows use of the playground and field for basketball and football. The club won the first Stanley Road Challenge Cup so football coach Joe Strong deserves praise, as do fellow volunteers from the Methodist Church who run the youth club. These include main organisers Maureen Antoinette and Maureen Clemenson, with Alan Brand, Bianca Ferreira da Silva, Mameh Kabbah and Rita Kerrison supporting wherever needed. Three local lads in their 20s, Charlie Morris, Ricardo Stewart and Vish Patel, give invaluable assistance.

Something for everyone

Hands-on training in nail art from Naomi Bates has persuaded both boys and girls to look after their nails. Art activities such as collage, face painting and hair braiding feature strongly and the children can play indoor games including table tennis and pool.

Funding is always a problem, but visits have been made to Southend, Alexandra Palace ice rink and TV programme *The*



Eyes down at the Monday Club. Photo by Diana Cormack

Slammer. Club members have been involved in street dancing in Reading, youth theatre and a locally made film *The Milkman*.

What the Clubbers say

Mia, aged nine: "I started going to the youth club when I turned nine and I liked it so much I kept going. I like going because I get my nails done and make things."

Kerisha, aged 13: "The Monday youth club is a fun place to come. I like MCing on the mic. All the youth workers are really

nice and lovely."

Tanya, aged nine: "I enjoy Monday Club because you get to do new activities and make new friends."

So concerned are Maureen Antoinette and Maureen Clemenson about the lack of provision for young people locally that they have visited Rudi Vis at the House of Commons to discuss the matter and would like to heighten public awareness about it.

Let *THE ARCHER* know your views on this issue. Our contact details are on page 2.

Seen and Heard On the box

Viewers who watch Dom Joly's *Complainers* may have recognised one of the settings. He often introduces a topic in the Channel 5 programme whilst standing in front of the recycle bins near Martin Primary School, with the Esso garage in the background.

Deliverers wanted

Could you spare 30-45 minutes a month to help us deliver *THE ARCHER*? We're a community newspaper and we rely on volunteers to distribute the paper to more than 9,000 households in the East Finchley area.

We currently have a few delivery rounds that aren't being covered, some short, some a little longer, and we'd like to get *THE ARCHER* to people in those roads again.

Copies of the paper would be brought directly to your door around the start of each month and you can deliver them in your own time.

Here are the rounds that are currently going begging:

- Long Lane, west side only from Church Lane to Brighton Road

- Fallows Close, Simms Gardens and Vanderville Gardens
- Lyttleton Road (Gurney Drive, Cornwood Close, Greenhalgh Walk, Market Place, Hill Rise)
- The Grange (part)
- Cornwood Avenue
- Twyford Court, Long Ridges and Fortis Green (part).

If you can spare a little time each month to deliver one of these rounds, it would be much appreciated. Please contact us at the-archer@lineone.net or 08717 334465.

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Champion in the making

By Helen Drake

When his dad suggested Muay Thai (a martial art a bit like kick boxing) as an after-school activity, Anthony Sparks wasn't sure it was for him. "But," he says, "I went to the Minotaur Gym in Burnt Oak and had a go and I liked it."

At the first assembly after the spring holiday, Anthony, a Year 4 pupil at Martin Primary School, spoke about what he does at his Muay Thai classes and showed his three trophies, two of which he won during the school holiday.

Protective kit

Anthony describes his training kit: "I have to wear Thai boxing shorts which are loose and make it easier to kick. I wear a t-shirt and Thai boxing gloves when I am training on the pads or punch bags."

"When I am sparring or fighting I wear a body shield and a head guard to stop me from getting hurt, a gum shield to protect my teeth, shin and instep pads and a groin guard."

After that initial visit to the Minotaur Gym, Anthony started training three times a week. He progressed quickly and his trainer, Chris Knowles, suggested he should take part in a competition.

"It's my choice"

His first fight was last year when he had just turned eight years old. His second was a "win or lose" fight and he won it. His third was an inter-club fight but his opponent pulled out at the last minute. Anthony was matched with another boy who turned out to be a three times champion. It was tough but he did very well.

Anthony explained that



Champion ambitions: Anthony Sparks. Photo by Helen Drake

despite some differences in age and ability, children are matched by height and weight. "It's my choice to get in the ring to fight".

So what does Anthony like about Muay Thai? "You get really fit - you do lots of skipping. I've learnt about self-defence and discipline and know that I have to work hard and do my best all the time, not only when I am training. It's helped me to concentrate and focus better and I've made a lot of new friends at the club." And his ambition? "To be the world's Children's Muay Thai Champion" of course!

For more information go to www.minotaurgym.com.



Tudor and Hilary Spencer enjoy an afternoon tea break with Helen O'Toole. Photo by Diana Cormack

Beauty spots

Cottage gardens in East Finchley opened their gates to the public on Sunday 18 May. Tudor and Hilary Spencer's wheelchair friendly garden in Stanley Road, along with gardens in Trinity Road and Long Lane, attracted over 170 visitors. The Spencers' densely planted garden has eight distinct areas and includes raised areas, some of which are used for growing vegetables. Designed to be completely wheelchair friendly, it is probably the only garden in East Finchley which includes a life belt, strategically placed on the fence alongside the heron-proof pond.

Two of those deer spotted from time to time in the area live in the garden of 399 Long Lane. So do other appealing ornaments, including gnomes and a red toadstool, nestling among a profusion of plants. Dense planting and a minute pond still leave a choice of seating (some under cover) in this tiny but sociable garden for owner Jonathan Maitland and his friends. Amazingly, the garden is only two years old. Two other beautiful gardens in Trinity Road were also on show to raise funds for the National Gardens Scheme.

Do you have a blocked drain near you?

By Diana Cormack

Finding a blocked drain isn't that difficult these days. Just take a look as you walk along the streets or even through the park. At the time of writing those near the Lazy Sally Kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood are completely clogged and could perhaps cause back up problems to the café's own drainage system. Recent rainstorms produced roadside pools in some areas as water failed to flow away effectively. But don't despair: Barnet Council can clear things up.

The council told *THE ARCHER* that a contractor clears each of the borough's gullies (drains) once a year. Also, a number of gullies within the borough are designated as 'vulnerable' due to a history of flooding in the local area and it is planned that these gullies will be cleaned six times a year. Some gullies are missed during the annual cleaning when access is blocked by parked cars. However, if residents have specific concerns over gullies they can report them to the council via online reporting forms at www.barnet.gov.uk/online-services/online-services-forms.htm or by calling the Customer Care Unit on 020 8359 2000. Officers from the council will assess the need for



Full to the brim. Photo by Diana Cormack

a gully to be cleaned and when this is done there is no charge to either local residents or the person making the report.

High hopes, low turnout

Who would not want to know about an organisation that aims to reduce waste, increase co-operation and give more say to the individual? It seems that few are interested.

Have you lost a ring?

THE ARCHER is hoping it can reunite a reader with something that is precious to them. Bethany, a pupil at Holy Trinity School, saw a glint in a puddle in Market Place and bent down to pick up what we think is a wedding ring.

Her mum handed it to us and now we'd be happy to reunite it with its owner. The ring is gold and has a distinctive pattern along with an initial and date carved on the inside.

You can get in touch with us by email on the-archer@lineone.net or by phoning 08717 334465. Please give us the date and initial on the ring.

The Finchley Society tells us that the talk they hosted by Michael Lassman on 24 April about the Local Partnership Strategic Community Group was poorly attended.

The group includes senior representatives of the NHS, the police and Barnet Council and, by law, must engage effectively with the community.

The aim is to promote co-operation on common problems, searching for solutions that are not wasteful of time and money. The group also tries to promote happiness and a good fellow feeling.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Smart 10-year-olds

watch the show

By Hester Girling and Aaliyah Hassan, Year 5, Martin Primary School

During school hours, the production team from Sky TV called asking if any year 5 classes were interested in going to Elstree studios to be part of the audience for *Are You Smarter than a 10 year old?* Our teacher was emailed with times and dates and everyone was very excited.

On the day we all had to arrive at school by quarter past eight. It was really cool to be in school so early. Some of the class woke up really early because they were so excited.

Once we arrived by coach we all had to be security checked. Our bags were looked into and we all got a wristband to wear. Then we entered a large marquee to have a snack before going on to set.

We got into our seats and before we met Dick and Dom we all had to make noises for the director. He recorded the laughter and the oohs and ahhs so that these sounds could be added later. We also saw two camera people climbing very small rope ladders to get to the cameras above our heads.

The show started and we all got to meet Dick and Dom. Sometimes we had to pretend their jokes were funny even though they weren't. The show was very thrilling and exciting and we all clapped like crazy. The contestant we saw won £25,000. She was going to buy a bungalow with her winnings.

During the show we were not allowed to leave our seats. This was because they did not want to film gaps in the audience. Even in breaks they did not like us leaving our seats otherwise they would put somebody else in them.

Finally the show ended and we got back on the coach to go back to school. We were disappointed that it was over but we all had great fun.

Old and new fun at the fair



A dalek, a sunflower and a recycling hero were all part of the fancy dress parade at Holy Trinity School

Good news and bad from Coldfall

By Ann Bronkhorst
While the marathon runners were pounding the London streets, Cindy Blaney was getting her exercise in a fairly unusual way. Over 30 feet up an oak tree in Coldfall Wood she was installing large wooden boxes as potential nesting sites for owls.

Cindy's usual beat is Highgate Wood, where she is a woodkeeper, bat expert and regular contributor to Treetop News, the newsletter about Highgate Wood.

Helped by Keith Good, a Friend of Coldfall Wood who made the boxes, and protected by proper climbing gear, Cindy took great care over the alignment and attachment of the nest-boxes. The chosen site overlooks a clearing and should provide the open outlook that owls prefer for their hunting. Owls are known to live in the nearby cemetery and local naturalists want to attract them to the wood as natural predators on rats and pigeons.

The bad news

When Keith and Cindy started their work, the fire brigade were just finishing. They'd been called into the wood to put out a blaze started by people who'd set up a barbecue and subsequently burnt it out. They'd chosen a cleared and 'deadhedge' area where coppiced trees are budding again and, it was hoped, dormant flower seeds might germinate this spring. Instead, the burnt-out barbecue, charred logs and glass bottles made a depressing sight.

In spite of the rain that morning, Cindy and Keith were planning where to site their next nest-box, one that's ideal for a kestrel family. If only owls and kestrels could be trained to swoop down on human vandals...

Good old favourites like sack races and a coconut shy gave a traditional feel to this year's Holy Trinity School summer fair. They were hugely popular with children and parents and helped the event go with a real swing.

A fancy dress parade for the infants opened the fair and there was a large crowd on a dry sunny day enjoying the tra-

ditional attractions, along with new-style fun in the form of nail art and speed stacking.

Irresistible homemade hot food and cakes were in demand all afternoon. Out on the field, dads, teachers and ex-pupils took their turn in goal for a penalty shoot-out competition.

Every penny raised from the event on Sunday 18 May will be used to buy equipment and fund activities for the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

Two teachers who visited primary schools in Adelaide, South Australia during the Easter holidays are keen to implement some of the ideas they picked up there.

A sponsored mountain climb by the Windust family raised £305, which they would like to be used for buying new books for the school.

The nursery children are enjoying their new climbing apparatus, supplied by contributions to Holy Trinity School Association.

A glittering fashion show arranged by the HTSA raised £350.

Martin Primary School

Following the school tradition, breakfast was provided for Year 6 children during SATs week so that they could relax together before the tests.

Sessions are being held for parents and carers new to English, giving them a chance to meet and practise their speaking skills.

Budding cricketer Hannah Barnett did well in her first county cricket match, when she played for Middlesex Under 11s Girls against Sussex at Horsham.

The PTA is busy organising the Summer Fun Day to be held on Saturday 14 June.

St Theresa's RC Primary School

The children were encouraged to walk to school for a week, starting on Monday 19 May. They were also asked to become "Sound Detectives" and record their observations in their diaries.

Reception and Y2 pupils took part in an "Art Auction" selling their paintings to their parents and friends. The money raised will be divided between their class charities.

All the children and staff at St Theresa's said goodbye to Pat Zullo, who had been a dinner lady at St Theresa's school for 20 years. Pupils made special leaving cards and everyone wished her and her husband every happiness for the future.

The Book Fair was a tremendous success. A huge thank you to Mrs Cannon and all the parent helpers, plus everyone who made a purchase. The event raised £800.00 to buy books for the library.

Manorside Primary School

Mr Hilborne returned from Namibia at the start of term.

Year 3 had a great time on their trip to the Tutankhamun Exhibition at the O2 Centre.

Our PE and IT subject coordinators went to Beijing in May as part of the International Schools programme. Not only did they visit Chinese schools and saw how they teach, but they also witnessed the preparations for this year's Olympic Games.

Years 5 & 6 enjoyed the school journey over half term, on board the Fellowship Afloat.



Headmaster and teachers from St Theresa RC School in fancy dress. Photograph by Lisa Omar

Characters come alive for World Book Day

By Lisa Omar

A book is the keyhole into your imagination and opens up the world for us so let's all enjoy the fun of reading books.

To celebrate this year's World Book Day, St Theresa's RC Primary School in East End Road joined in the fun by dressing up as their favourite book characters. There was a wonderful turnout with every child making a magnificent effort, as well as the teachers. During the day, a special assembly was held where all the children proudly showed off their costumes.

Healthy weight, healthy kids

Barnet Council is looking for primary school children to take part in two new MEND programmes in Barnet. The programmes, which start in September, aim to support parents and help their children get to a healthy weight by teaching families about nutrition and making exercise fun.

Part of a national scheme, the programmes consist

of 18 evening sessions over 10 weeks which include an hour of physical activity for children at each session plus information and support for parents or carers. Taking part is free. Two programmes will be run from September with 30 places available for children from across the Borough. Parents and carers interested in finding out more about MEND in Barnet can phone Christine Morris on 020 8359 6360.

**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Chips with anything

They say that every dog must have its day, but what about frogs, they get a whole 365. And it's not just frogs, there's toilets, languages and, just to prove a point, dolphins and they had last year as well. Yes, welcome to the weird and wacky world of the United Nations international years. And this year is special, because it is the year of the potato.

Who would imagine that the humble spud should get a year to itself? It has been a long time coming, about 8,000 years in fact, because that's when the men in white coats think South Americans first started cultivating them. So what if it took 7,500 years for potatoes to arrive in Europe and until 1680 for the spud to achieve the ultimate nirvana and become a chip? It's still something to celebrate.

Chips, or French Fries as the Americans used to call them before France decided not to help invade Iraq, are not even French. Like Hercule Poirot they actually started out in Belgium. Some blame the British and the First World War for depriving the Belgians of their birthright, but the Americans were calling them French Fries long before that. And the French? Well, it's not the first time they've been credited with something that's not theirs.

But spuds aren't only about chips. You can boil them, bake them, roast them, turn them into flour, make glue and even turn them into fuel for your car. They only thing you can't do is eat them raw, well not if you're human, because we can't digest raw potatoes.

Potatoes are about the only foodstuff that contains just about everything you need to stay healthy. They've got vitamins, carbohydrates and nearly everything else apart from protein. They're not even fattening, well not until you've added butter or cheese or fried them, or fried them and dipped them in chocolate. Which, I guess, brings us back to chips and the original First World War convenience food as invented by the British Army: egg and chips. It's everything you could want in a meal and could be cooked in one pan, in a trench, anywhere. Don't you just know it makes sense!

Picture editor

THE ARCHER team is looking for a picture editor. Could you spare a little time each month to organise our photographs for each edition? A small amount of Photoshop work is required to make them ready to print but nothing too complicated. You can also get involved in how the paper is laid out.

THE ARCHER is a community newspaper run entirely by volunteers. If you are interested, please contact us at the-archer@lineone.net or 08717 334465 or pop along to meet the team at our regular meeting at 11am on Saturdays in The Bald Faced Stag, High Road.

A Naughty Ninety

By Daphne Chamberlain

A genuine "people person" celebrated his 90th birthday last month. East Finchley's Reuby Hyams told *THE ARCHER*: "People are the most important thing to me. Society's problems are caused by lack of respect, for ourselves and for each other. I hate ignorance and bullying. The greatest sound in the world is laughter, especially from children and young people."

Reuby's wicked wit continues to bring laughter into a lot of lives. Well known for his work with the Fairacres Monday Club and the Friendship Clubs at Norrice Lea and Muswell Hill, he has a flair for writing poetry, both comical and deeply serious. That came to light in the army in World War Two.

Recording a life

His war was an eventful one, and he is a former Vice-Chairman of local Jewish ex-servicemen. Some of his wartime memories are lodged in the Imperial War Museum, but now he is busy taping his autobiography for his family. He and his wife of 49 years, Rene, have a son and daughter and two grandsons, Jordan and Riley.

"Keep your brain alive and keep a sense of humour", is his advice to senior citizens. Reuby is a real Cockney, born in a First World War air raid within the sound of Bow Bells, but he and Rene moved to Finchley when



Reuby Hyams with wife Rene. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

they married. They have lived in Hendon Lane, Broughton Avenue, and three addresses in Elmhurst Crescent since 1954.

He pays tribute to Barnet Social Services for their help with his recent physical problems, but describes Rene as the rock of his life. "We argue, but

You only sit once

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley artist Caroline Wade has started a line in instant portraits. You or a loved one sit for an hour in the Borghese Luce Arte designer light gallery in Crouch End on a Saturday, and come away with a pencil or charcoal likeness, costing £35.

Someone who has done just that is John Hajdu, president of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association. He told *THE ARCHER*: "The idea came about because it was my birthday, and I have never done anything like this before. It was very enjoyable and painless! It's nice to be able to support and encourage a local artist."

Caroline, who lives in Fortis Green, has been taking professional commissions since 2000. With an honours degree from Exeter and training from the Byam Shaw School of Art and the Prince's School of Drawing, she specialises in painting and drawing people.

She always tries to capture the character of the sitter as well as their physical likeness, which is obviously easier to do in several sessions. That, though, takes about 15 to 20



Caroline Wade at work on an instant portrait

hours, either in the studio or in sitters' homes. Caroline says she realised that time and cost could put some people off. So for them her additional gallery work is a tempting alternative.

Couples can book double slots, and children from three years upwards are seduced into sitting still by watching a selec-

tion of DVDs.

So, whether you want an instant portrait for yourself or as a present, call 020 8444 0652 or email info@faceportrait.co.uk, for enquiries or to book a Saturday session (starting from midday). Find out more about Caroline and her work on www.faceportrait.co.uk.

Powerful music of peace

North London Chorus's forthcoming concert will provide an evening of powerful music by 20th century pacifist composers in response to man's inhumanity to man.

Karl Jenkins's *The Armed*

Man: a Mass for Peace is dedicated to the victims of Kosovo, Benjamin Britten's *Cantata Misericordium* depicts the parable of the Good Samaritan, and Michael Tippett's *A Child of our Time*, from which the choir will sing the Five Negro Spirituals, is a celebration of the human spirit in the face of oppression. Don't be put off by the dark themes. It promises to

be an evening of uplifting, dramatic and tuneful music.

The concert takes place at St James's Church, Muswell Hill on Saturday 28 June at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £8-£16 from 020 8444 2142 or Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10, or at the Chorus's stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June, or at the door.

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- ❖ **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
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- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
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- ❖ **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. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk

MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves 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
- ❖ **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: All Stars Special** 9 & 23 June at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - 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. Carole 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.

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
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 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.



Seen, Heard & Touched

Community art centre Community Focus (CF) has launched its first gallery dedicated to exhibiting the work of people with physical disabilities, learning difficulties, older people and adults with mental health problems.

The newly constructed space, located in the entrance of the CF studios based on level 2 at artsdepot, had its official opening on Thursday 15 May to celebrate the unique exhibition *See, Hear and Touch*. The exhibition presents an interactive installation of plaster casts and moving sound sculptures created by adults and young people at the centre, in collaboration with deaf artist Abigail Hirsch.

Head of Programming Caitriona Dunnett said: "The CF gallery will be a great opportunity for emerging artists of all abilities to showcase their artwork in a supportive environment. We're looking forward to seeing a diverse

array of work exhibited in the new gallery; it's a really exciting time for Community Focus."

Alongside the rotation of monthly exhibitions, a series of talks and artist-led workshops will be programmed at the centre, which currently runs more than 22 inclusive arts courses and projects. CF will also present work by artists who are addressing themes connected with disability, mental health, age, or issues affecting disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

Visitors are welcome at the CF studios between 10am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

See Hear and Touch will be on show until Friday 13 June.

Film quiz flummoxes

the experts

By Neil McNaughton

Do you know how many Bond films have been made or which cinema movement was led by Jean-Luc Godard? If you do, you might win one of the Phoenix Cinema's new quiz nights at the Bald Faced Stag.

Fifteen teams of up to six took part in the contest organised by question master Ian Haydn Smith on Monday 21 April. This was the fourth quiz of its kind and they are proving to be extremely popular.

The show was nearly stolen by local resident Anthony Wonke and his pals who were out celebrating his Bafta award from the previous evening, a gong he picked up for his documentary series *The Tower*. Sadly for them, while they may have been experts in making films their knowledge was not quite enough to get them more than halfway in the finishing order.

Could you be a contender?

Film buffs mingled with regulars who either thought they knew more than they actually did, or filmgoers who just wanted to enjoy themselves. Every round was different and original, with themes such as James Bond, French films, films from the forties and fifties, film music and famous screen quotations.

Prizes consisted of champagne and free tickets for

future Phoenix presentations. Ian Haydn Smith led the proceedings with huge enthusiasm, good humour and, occasionally, a few concessions to some of the more outlandish attempts at accurate answers.

The Phoenix quizzes will be held at the Stag every third Monday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. All you have to do is turn up with a team of up to six, or perhaps if there are fewer of you, join up with others. Entry costs £5 per team.

Lean in

summer

Sunday double bills at the Phoenix Cinema in June and early July will celebrate the work of director David Lean.

Oliver Twist, *Brief Encounter*, *In Which We Serve*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Great Expectations* are among the masterpieces being screened. For full details, contact the box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

A modern twist to a classic tale

By Daphne Chamberlain

Some thrillers depend on that final twist, and once it's twisted there's no point in revisiting the scene. Others keep you going back for more. One of those others is *Gaslight*, which was the Guild Players' April production. I also found something new in this 70 year-old drama by Patrick Hamilton. For the moment, let's just say "Columbo".

Performed countless times on the stage and filmed twice, with the 1944 film loaded with Academy Award nominations, this is the story of a young wife who appears to be going mad, her enigmatic husband and an unconventional detective.

The role of the wife, which won Ingrid Bergman an Oscar in 1944, holds the play together. She is on stage virtually all the time, and the serious subtext is the terrible vulnerability of Victorian women. Mrs Manningham, played brilliantly by Rachel Kudlick, was lucky, but too many women were trapped in abusive marriages or even imprisoned in asylums.

Intelligent detective work

What saved Mrs Manningham was the timely arrival of the detective. Or should I say Columbo? Stuart Shrank's

questioning of the husband ("Do you think, sir...?") reminded me irresistibly of Peter Falk, which just added to the evening's enjoyment.

Ian Antony-Paul, as Mr Manningham, was most convincing in his bullying moments, which made it all the harder to see why his wife was apparently still half in love with him.

Sally Martin and Caroline Wallace were excellent in their supporting roles of household staff, and the production was skilfully directed by Judith Shrank.

The Guild Players, who welcome all members of the community, are based at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, N3. For further information, visit their website at www.guildplayers.org.uk, or call 020 8441 7696.

What's On...

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

Saturday 7 June

- **A walk around Queen's Wood**, led by Lucy Roots of Friends of Queen's Wood, and arranged by the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association. The walk covers history, ecology, geology and flora, and includes a visit to the organic garden. Meet 11am at the Lodge Café, Queen's Wood. Contact John Hajdu on 020 8883 8114 or hajdu.clarion@talk21.com to take part.

Sunday 8 June

- **Explore the famous site of The Battle of Barnet of 1471** on a guided tour. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2pm. Also: **Barnet Ghosts guided tour** on 29 June. Phone 020 8440 6805 for details.
- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 8pm; Mona Abboud, mezzo soprano and clarinet, Violada Cunha, mezzo soprano, and Philip Mountford, piano, play a programme of works by Quilter, Fauré, Villa-Lobos and Gershwin. Admission in aid of Barnet Carers Centre. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Saturday 14 June

- **A midnight walk for women**, to raise funds for the North London Hospice. A 13-mile walk from St Michael's Hospital, Enfield, to the Finchley Catholic School, Woodside Lane. Contact Nicola on 020 8446 2288 or moore@northlondonhospice.co.uk

Saturday 21 June

- **Spike Milligan Statue Fund Raising Quiz**, 7.30pm for 8pm at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Chestnuts, The Walks, N2.
- **An Evening with Jonathan Miller**, doctor, comedian, director, writer and raconteur. All proceeds to the North London Hospice. Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, 8pm. Tickets £25 to include refreshments. Booking: 020 8446 2288 or 020 8883 4736. Tickets also available on the door.

Sunday 22 June

- **Bike ride for the North London Hospice**. 20 or 40-mile circular route from Queenswood School, Hatfield. Entry costs £15 including buffet lunch

and jazz reception. Details from fholaan@northlondonhospice.co.uk.

- **Jewish Community Centre Opinion Soup**: 'Can Israel Survive Another 60 years?' David Landau, outgoing editor of Israel's most famous newspaper, Haaretz, discusses Israel's future with journalist, Jonathan Freedland. 7.30pm, Hampstead Town Hall, NW3. Tickets £10 from 020 7431 9866.

Saturday 28 June

- **Open Day at The Institute**, 11 High Road, N2, 11am-4pm. Admission free. Everyone welcome.
- **Muswell Hill & district Horticultural Society Summer Flower Show**, 3pm in North Bank, Pages Lane. Teas and cakes, raffle and plant stalls. Admission 50p.
- **North London Chorus and Orchestra** perform works of peace by Karl Jenkins, Michael Tippett and Benjamin Britten; 7.30 pm, St. James's Church, Muswell Hill. Tickets, priced £8-16 with £2 concessions, from 020 8444 2142.

Sunday 29 June

- **Gardens open for charity**: 15 Lytton Close, N2, with light refreshments and teas. Admission £3, children free, 2-6pm. Also 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10, homemade teas. Admission £2.50, children free, 2-7pm.

Thursday 3 July

- **Courtauld Uncorked** at artsdepot, North Finchley, 6.30-8.30pm. Enjoy a glass of wine and discover how The Courtauld Gallery, one of the finest small museums in the world, has built up its remarkable art collection. A unique opportunity to learn about the history and inner workings of The Courtauld Gallery.

What's On at artsdepot

Environmental Fayre, Sunday 15 June, 11am - 3pm; **An Audience with Prunella Scales**, Sunday 15 June, 8pm; **The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes**, Thursday 19 June, 8pm; **Folk in the Foyer**, Friday 20 June, 8.30pm; **Oliver!**, Wednesday 25 - Sunday 29 June, 7.30pm and Sat/Sun 2.30pm; **Manet to Matisse** exhibition, Friday 27 June - Sunday 3 Aug, 12-4pm.



Letters to the Editor

Where do we park now?

Dear Editor

I'm writing this with considerable anger and bewilderment at our local council's decision to implement double yellow lines on Manor Park Road. There are not enough spaces to park on Manor Park Road as it is and now the council at 1pm on Wednesday 14 May decided to make matters worse.

Where on earth are we supposed to park our cars now? I have telephoned the council design team today and got the usual spiel that it's legal and everything was done through the courts without ANY resident's objection.

I didn't receive a letter from the council informing me of this matter and neither did any other local residents. No wonder there wasn't an objection because we never received the letters in the first place, but we all know what's coming next, don't we?

This is just the start of the council implementing parking restrictions to fleece more money from local people. It's an unfair and underhand move from our local council and I would like to see these lines disappear just as fast as they were painted.

Yours faithfully,
Mr Gallagher
Manor Park Rd, N2



Cracking the flags

Dear Editor,

We thought you would like to see this photo of the broken paving stones on the path leading from Edmunds Walk to The Causeway. This path is used by hundreds of people every day on their way to and from East Finchley station and there is an accident waiting to happen. Requests to Barnet Council for them to be replaced have so far been to no avail.

Yours faithfully,
Norman and Nina Pampel,
Edmunds Walk, N2.

Supermarket plan is not

Tesco

Dear Editor

With regards to the proposed new supermarket in Stag Court (*The Archer*, May 2008), I can reassure people that it was myself, an independent local businessman, and not Tesco or any other large multiple behind the planning application.

My intention is for a local supermarket for local people. I cannot see how this would therefore cause any impact on traffic.

I believe that this would be a benefit to the local community especially for elderly residents who have trouble getting up to the main shopping area, particularly in winter.

I take issue with the suggestion that "hundreds of local residents were horrified" by the plan. The only objection I am aware of was organised by another retail outlet in East Finchley High Road. Surely competition is healthy for the area and not the reason to refuse a planning application.

Contrary to your suggestion, local people have in fact indicated to me that a local supermarket would be welcomed here and are not opposed to the plan.

I hope I have allayed any false fears and put to bed any misplaced rumours that this is to be a Tesco store or some other large chain, which I am concerned, may have been behind any objection and petition.

Yours faithfully,
Sarfra Dostezad,
Exchange Close, N11

Quake rocked me

Dear Editor,

Referring to your article on the earthquake (*The Archer*, May 2008), being a bad sleeper I was sitting in my kitchen having a cup of tea and reading a book when the chair I was sitting in rocked twice. It felt as though someone was pulling it from the back of me and was quite a strange feeling.

Yours faithfully,
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Old Farm Road, Strawberry
Vale, N2

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We're on the ball

Dear Editor,

We thought it was all over for Stanley Road field: years of neglect and the council trying to sell it for housing. Luckily, opposition was strong but I was still surprised to hear about a football match this April (*The Archer*, May 2008).

Roger and Kate Chapman, of the Friends of Stanley Road Field, had been there a week earlier and worked hard to hack down shrubs and fill in potholes so a match could be played. Other members were there on the day of the match, asking people if they would like the games to become a regular event.

Considering all the controversy about younger folk not having enough places for recreation, I find it slightly surprising that no one has mentioned the nearby Market Place playground, but that is missing a lot of equipment and is unsuitable for anyone over 12. It is not practical to use for sport either, so COME ON, STANLEY FIELD.

Yours faithfully,
Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Fortis Green, N2

Football heroes of Stanley Road

Dear Editor,

Having seen your article about the football match on Stanley Road playing field (*The Archer*, May 2008) I could not resist sending this picture of the football team of Holy Trinity School taken on the field in 1962.

My son being one of them makes me wonder how many of these young men recognise themselves today. Like my son, they must be around 57 years old.

I do enjoy your paper every month. Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,
Gwen Nutting,
Sedgemere Avenue, N2.

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.

Wildlife Diary

By Linda Mitchell

Last winter was incredibly mild. I recorded days in January and February as HOT! Towards the end of November, birds fed constantly at the feeder. Once again the parakeets took control, but jays, blackbirds, dunnocks, etc, retrieved bits as they fell.

By January the squirrels had again perfected the art of leaping from the apple tree onto the nut feeder. It is quite a long drop, and it was such a sight to see both squirrel and parakeet hanging on at the same time. The parakeet was completely undeterred. By the time I had run for the camera, both had vanished.

In late February, a pair of swans flew across, heading towards Hampstead. Not such a beautiful sight was the sparrow hawk, which has visited several times.

Fox cubs chase each other around the garden at night, oblivious to the mayhem they cause in the flower borders.

As the weather warms up the frogs will return, I hope, along with ladybirds, butterflies and bees. I saw a TV report that said many species of butterflies may be wiped out, due to the constant rain we had last summer. Apparently it affected their life cycle badly.

It is about three years now since I saw any sign of the hedgehog. I wonder if any other people still see them in their gardens.

Let's hope this summer will be drier than last year, and that we can all enjoy the wildlife in our gardens.

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Tony Berkman - Art Foundation Student at Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. Picture by Richard Wakefield

'Excellent ethos' at Manorside

Ofsted inspectors have praised the quality of teaching at Manorside Primary School in Church End, Finchley, calling it "imaginative and challenging". Their inspection took place at the end of March and the report is available to read at www.manorsideprimaryschool.co.uk.

Inspectors said there was "a relentless drive to succeed" at the school, and it has a "considerable record of accelerating progress". This can be seen in the development of the children's skills and abilities. From the time children start at the school progression is monitored so the leadership team is able to identify next steps for improvement.

Another observation by the Ofsted inspectors was that "an excellent ethos underpins all aspects of school life". Parents are overwhelmingly supportive, and appreciate the opportunities created by the school, where every child can succeed.

The range of additional activities that support learning and personal development were also described as outstanding. These activities included a project run in conjunction with the Royal Opera House where pupils composed and performed their own opera.

Another example cited was when Year 6 pupils recently worked with a scientist in exploring the 'fitness for purpose' of everyday objects such as sliding doors.

A happy place

In a letter to the children of Manorside, the Ofsted inspector explained the findings of the report: "We saw how the teachers inspire you to learn and we agree with you that lessons are fun. So much so that we were often reluctant to leave the classroom - we were learning quite a bit too!"

Commenting on the way that children from such diverse backgrounds play so well together, the inspector quoted a parent who said, "There is a genuine community feel to



Manorside children are all smiles at their school's Ofsted report. Photograph courtesy of Manorside Primary School

Manorside. The older children are really nice to the younger kids. It is a happy place".



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Summer art is here again

By Ann Froomberg

Our very own talented East Finchley artists and craftspeople are working hard and gearing themselves up for their Open Houses 2008 event, which will take place over two weekends, 5-6 July and 12-13 July, from 11am - 5pm.

The East Finchley Open (known as the EFO) has been running for five years. It is a dynamic voluntary group of over 40 artists and craftspeople, living or working in or near N2, and is the most successful of its kind in north London.

EFO members open their homes and studios to the public once every year to share their art in a very personal way. Visitors will be able to talk to artists in a relaxed environment, purchase work (at artists' prices, without gallery commissions) or simply feast their eyes on beautiful creations in domestic settings.

The artwork is rich and varied, each artist exhibiting his or her individual work. Paintings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and jewellery will be among the exhibits, all of a very high standard.

How to find us

The 2008 EFO catalogue should arrive through your letterboxes in good time, with details and a map of venues. Artwork will also be on display at Chorak, the coffee shop and bakery in both East Finchley and Muswell Hill; at Jennie Mann, the florist and gift shop in Church Lane; and at Kokos, the High Road shoe shop.

For the first time the EFO will hold a Big Tent art exhibition at this year's festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June, where you can catch a preview of the Open Houses' artwork. Catalogues will also be available there. For further information check out the EFO website on www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk where you can find artists' individual web pages.

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