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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Chosen residents meet the Listening Leader

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council leader Mike Freer conducted a one-man 'Leader Listens' meeting at Bishop Douglass School after writing to 1,000 residents of a polling district in the East End Road area.

Issues discussed at the meeting included lack of youth facilities, the demolition of the Herbert Wilmott Centre, the future of Stanley Field and of the library, traffic calming in Church Lane, the "grottness" of Long Lane, blocked drains, long waits for response from the "cop shop", pigeons at Budgen's Corner, leaking water-mains outside Stokes Court, clustering of phone masts, the lack of a park keeper at Cherry Tree Wood, dangerous road junctions at Ossulton Way / East End Road and Fortis Green / High Road, and rats around the Peace Gardens.

However, there were concerns about the meeting being open to invited residents only and about the way it was run on the night.

Councillor excluded

The January meeting was not publicised beyond those residents who were formally invited. Local councillor Andrew McNeil was asked to leave before the meeting began. When some people challenged Cllr Freer's right to exclude Cllr McNeil, he replied that he could do so as the Leader and that the exclusion was because Cllr McNeil was not an invited resident.

Barnet Council confirmed to *THE ARCHER* that councillors not living in selected polling districts had been excluded from previous meetings. Cllr Freer said he didn't want the meeting turned into a party political event.

Those invited included several members of *THE ARCHER* team. One reported

that Cllr Freer said to her before the meeting: "I hope you're not going to write about this." Barnet Council said that the media were not invited as the meeting was for residents.

Close focus on electoral districts

Leader Listens meetings are planned for all 21 of Barnet's electoral wards annually. Each meeting is focused on only one electoral district within the ward, which generally includes between 1,000 and 2,500 electors. With four or five electoral districts within each ward, it could be several years before the people at January's meeting are invited back.

Following the meetings, all residents on the original invitation list receive minutes and updates of work carried out as a result of the issues raised.

Continued on page 3



Recent high winds caused a tree to fall on this car. Photo by John Dearing

Car wrecked by falling tree

By Daphne Chamberlain

A woman's car was wrecked and her son and his girlfriend were injured when a tree fell on them. Elizabeth Gardener told *THE ARCHER* that her son, David, had just parked in the driveway of Highgate Edge, Great North Road, when the accident happened.

She said: "David and Trish were going to pick up someone for dinner. David was getting out of the car, and Trish had just undone her seat belt. Suddenly this tree came crashing down on them. They were incredibly lucky that the accident wasn't even worse than it was."

David suffered a whiplash injury and Trish had a nasty

bump on her head and spine. They were taken to Finchley Memorial Hospital, and are still having out-patient treatment.

The car, a seven-year-old Hyundai, was a write-off in the

accident in January. Elizabeth, who lives in St Pancras Court, told us: "It only had 30,000 miles on the clock." She was told the tree had fallen because it had been unevenly pruned.



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Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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Fortis Green development turned down

By John Dearing

We reported in January that developers had applied to build a block of flats on the site of the old NHS clinic at 150 Fortis Green, and that local people had criticised the size and appearance of the proposed development.

Haringey planners have now refused the application on the grounds that the building would be too large and the density of occupation would be too high. This decision has been welcomed by local residents. No doubt a further application will be forthcoming, as the site is currently derelict. We await it with interest.

Man robbed in Regents Park Road

On Monday 21 January at 1pm, a 60-year-old man was robbed of his money in Regents Park Road. The three suspects then made off in a black car, possibly a Ford.

The suspects are described as 20 year-old males, the first a white man about 6ft tall, wearing a black tracksuit, and the second a white man about 5ft 8in wearing a wool hat and jumper. The third suspect was a black man wearing a hoodie top.

Police are currently investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses to come forward. Any person who has information on this matter can speak in confidence on 020 8200 1212.

Part of garden centre site for sale

By John Dearing

The Finchley Manor Garden Centre in East End Road closed several years ago. The parking area has been used on occasions as a lorry park but otherwise the main part of the site has been derelict ever since.

Various planning applications for its redevelopment have been submitted in the past couple of years, including a change of use to Retail (A1) and Office (B1), and more recently to convert the existing buildings into a medical centre and to demolish the greenhouses to make way for parking. All have been refused by the Barnet planners.

The edge of the site has a row of buildings which includes a house, a maisonette and some storage

buildings. This strip of land has now been offered for sale separately, with the suggestion that the buildings could be "modernised" and the storage area converted into a further maisonette. The future of the former garden centre remains uncertain.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

33 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extension including conversion of garage into habitable room. Construction of garden level basement with rear facing windows. Alterations to roof including side and rear dormer and roof lights to front to facilitate a loft conversion.

85 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single storey rear extension and two storey side extension. Alterations to roof including side glass dormer to facilitate a loft conversion.

16 Cherry Tree Road, N2

Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Extension to raised rear decking.

1 Church Lane, N2

First floor rear extension to existing flat.

Five Bells Works, 183 East End Road, N2

Conversion into a residential dwelling following construction of a first floor extension.

46A Hertford Road, N2

Installation of new metal staircase to rear of property

36 High Road, N2

Enlargement of the coach house (amendment to planning permission).

80 High Road, N2

Formation of additional floor and three storey rear extension and conversion of upper floors to three self-contained flats.

201-203 High Road, N2

Change of use from B1 (office) to

A1 (supermarket). (215sqm)

76 Leicester Road, N2

Single storey rear extension at ground level.

64 Market Place, N2

Replace existing windows.

Newstead Children's Centre, 1 Fallows Close, off Tarring Road, N2

Extension and alterations to form part single, part two storey building to provide improved facilities to existing centre.

Land adjacent to Eliot House, 40 The Bishops Avenue, London, N2

Erection of a two-storey dwelling house (plus rooms in roof space and basement accommodation), with associated landscaping. Formation of new access onto The Bishops Avenue.

East Weald, 59 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Partial demolition and rebuilding of existing service wing. Demolition of existing garages and erection of new garage and refuse store at rear accessed from Canons Close. New tennis court to rear garden and new boundary walls and gates to front boundary. Formation of additional parking spaces to front of property. Addition of single storey rear extension, extension of existing basement and alterations to fenestration. Addition of two roof lights to rear elevation.

4 White Lodge Close, N2

Demolition of existing two storey detached house and construction of new detached house comprising basement, ground, first and second floor levels

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From the Leader's Mouth

By Daphne Chamberlain

Items discussed at Leader Listens meeting

East Finchley Youth Facilities: Cllr Freer said this area is one of the better served in this respect.

Herbert Wilmott Centre was demolished because of asbestos. Two-thirds of **Stanley Field** must be sold to provide cash to rebuild schools. A "rolling base" for youth provision, i.e. a kind of mobile youth club, is the way forward.

Church Lane is not a priority area for accident prevention, but a survey, taking about six weeks, can be carried out.

Cllr Freer thinks that **Long Lane** is "one of the most horrible streets in Finchley", and its East Finchley end is beyond saving as a conservation area.

East Finchley Village centre has "a resurgent look, better than Church End".

Library: No plans to close. Although there is a smaller stock budget, this is misleading, as previous buying methods were inefficient. Will have automatic checkout system, which should free up staff. A question about the division of libraries into "leading" and "local" did not appear to be answered.

Blocked drains: Residents said they had been told that leaves were not cleared away until they had all stopped falling, but pointed out it was then January. Cllr Freer said he would look into it. He will also investigate leak outside **Stokes Court**.

263 bus: The Barnet Leader can do nothing but nag, but will continue to do that.

Phone masts: The Government has control over these.

Crime: Cllr Freer said that non-knife crime has gone down.

Cherry Tree Wood: This will, it is hoped, become a Green Flag Park and a Premier Park this year. Until then, cannot have a keeper.

Pigeon Corner: Hawks are not popular!

Chosen residents meet the Listening Leader... from page 1

Fade-out for Forums

Are the new Leader Listens meetings another nail in the coffin of Residents' Forums? Recently, Forums have suffered from extensions of their catchment areas, so people have to travel further to reach them. Barnet Council denied that there were plans to run them down, saying that the Leader Listens sessions were a means of trying to reach people who

might not ordinarily attend an area forum, and gathering direct feedback on council policies.

However, the Forums are open to everyone, including the media. They happen about every six weeks and councillors do attend, usually keeping a low profile and not engaging in party political backbiting. Barnet's paid officers (senior workers in Council departments) are also present. People can return as often as they like, whereas Leader Listens meetings are by invitation only.

Cllr Freer told the East Finchley meeting that existing Residents' Forums were not well attended. A show of hands revealed that only six people had ever attended one. The Leader Listens meetings have so far attracted numbers ranging from six to 80. Details of Forum meetings can be found on www.barnet.gov.uk.

Curb your parking tickets

By Diana Cormack

Ingram Road resident Rachel Kolsky contacted The Archer to alert readers to another "over zealous" traffic warden incident.

In her part of East Finchley parking restrictions are between 10am and 6.30pm so, as well as purchasing annual parking permits, locals need a supply of visitor vouchers. These cost £1 each per day for any length of stay.

When Rachel's brother-in-law Lewis Lawton was visiting in early February he dutifully scratched out the required details and placed the voucher on the dashboard of his car, where it was clearly visible. It was still in clear view when he returned, only to find that a parking ticket had been placed under the windscreen wiper.

Apparently, the reason for this was that the voucher should have been folded over at the top and held in place by the closed window nearest the kerb: "so that the details below are clearly visible from outside the vehicle." Lewis Lawton regrets missing that particular instruction but, in a letter to Barnet parking authority, he maintains that it is written in the wrong place.

Poorly placed instruction

He feels that instead of being above the fold line it should be included below in the numbered instructions for using the voucher, making it more noticeable. Mr Lawton has asked for the current wording to be reviewed and appropriate changes made.

Rachel has also written to Barnet, pointing out that a car window could be disturbed and the voucher displaced, but on the dashboard it would remain permanently visible. Mistakes are not allowed because: "Once completed, altering any details on this permit will invalidate it".

At the time of writing both Rachel and Lewis have had their appeals to Barnet Council acknowledged but not answered.



Lilian Chavert Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

Prize winning Lilian keeps them guessing

By Daphne Chamberlain

Lilian Chavert wants to make this clear. She has not drawn the following character from life.

"The chief smiler, who also ran the place, was a tidy, plump, rather short man. Pastor James, they called him. His hands were soft, his nails manicured. His tie and shirt and socks and sweaters were always colour-matched. But there was something about his smile that was different. It was the smile the wolf would have had when he saw Little Red Riding Hood."

Pastor James is the villain in Lilian's short story, *Ibiza*, which won her the first prize in a fiction competition run by Writers' Forum magazine last October. As the magazine put it, it is "easy to recognise the characters in this pacy winning story, but not so easy to spot the ending".

This is by no means the only award won by Lilian, a Yorkshirewoman who moved from North Finchley to Stokes Court in East Finchley 13 years ago. A former teacher of children with

special needs, who later moved on to training special needs teachers, Lilian has been a published writer for 25 years. She is best known locally as one of the founder members of the East Finchley Writers' Group, but she also runs a poetry-reading circle in Stokes Court. "There is such a lively social life here," she says. "It's quite brilliant. My friends are always asking to come to our parties."

East Finchley Writers' Group, for published and beginners alike, meets every Wednesday at the Old White Lion at 6.30 pm. (See our Regular Events listings.) The Writers' Forum magazine (writers-forum.com for details) Lilian describes as the best magazine available for writers of any age.

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The photograph shows (from left to right) Gillian Palmer, John Pickering, Maggie Driscoll and Katie Dawbarn with the Martin Bird cake. Photograph courtesy Catrin Dillon.

New school flies high

By Catrin Dillon

The motto of the recently amalgamated Martin Primary School is "Flying High", and nowhere was that more apparent than during the school's official opening celebrations on Thursday 31 January.

The day began with a special assembly attended by the children, staff and governors of the school. The hall looked stunning with a special display depicting the "Flying High" motto with hundreds of beautiful and imaginative birds, created by the children.

The assembly consisted of very apt and moving speeches by headteacher Maggie Driscoll, chair of governors Helen Drake and our special guest, Gillian Palmer, head of children's services for Barnet Council.

They were interspersed by rousing and enthusiastic singing by the children of a collection of songs about the school composed by music teacher Alan Gruner, teaching assistant Jade Townsend and indeed the children themselves.

Deputy head Katie Dawbarn introduced the songs, whilst deputy head John Pickering gave a fascinating overview of the school's 95 year history, including details of punishments meted out in years gone by: definitely a thing of the past to the relief of all present.

Balloons fly high

The rain did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the school community as they assembled in the playground to witness the release of 500 yellow and blue balloons. Great cheers accompanied the balloons as they shot into the sky, aided by strong gusts of wind.

There were parties for the children in the afternoon, including the cutting (and rapid devouring) of two enormous and delicious cakes beautifully decorated with the Martin Primary School bird, specially made by Martin School grandmother Margaret Bates.

The school has thanked Budgens for their generous donation of goodies for the children's parties, and Tony's Continental for sourcing so many delicious clementines.

Headteacher Maggie Driscoll commented: "The celebration of the new school was a very special day, an opportunity to thank our staff for a smooth transition from two schools into one, and a chance to create an enjoyable occasion that the children will remember for the rest of their lives."

Stern teachers and hurdles in the road

Last month, we reported that Martin Primary School is looking for people to share their memories of the school in preparation for centenary celebrations in 2013. Here, Gwendolen Dale, of Leopold Road, recalls life at the school in the 1920s and 1930s.

I was most interested to read about memories of the Martin School. In my day, it was named The Great North Road School and there was an infants school, a junior school and a senior school. I went there when I was five.

My first teacher was Miss Abson, then came Miss Cooper, Miss Beaupré, Miss Moody, Miss Dollin and Miss Gillette. Somewhere along the line, I remember a Miss Franklin and a Miss Wescott, although I wasn't in their class.

During my first days in school, I remember Miss Abson teaching us the alphabet, putting a piece of paper into the shape of a pipe for the letter P. Thanks to my parents, I already knew the alphabet and could tell the time.

On my first day at school, I was seated in the front row of desks next to a boy called Charlie Euridge. When I showed him a picture of a boat I'd drawn, he said "Not bad". I remember names of several pupils I became friendly with: Peggy Adams, Molly Allen, Iris Gabriel, and one in my class called Jack Wilde.

Teachers, stern or smiling

In the mornings, we marched into the main hall to music played on the piano by Miss Dollin. As we marched along, Miss Moody would be standing outside her classroom tapping one foot in time to the music. She always looked so stern and, regretfully, I did not enjoy being in her class when I was nine.

I can remember Miss Cooper teaching us to knit a purl stitch, saying "Put the needle through the back". Miss Beaupré was nice but stern. I can see her now with her white hair tightly drawn back into a bun.

At age 10, I was in Miss Dollin's class. I liked her very much. She smiled a lot and was a kindly soul. She wore her hair in a big plait around her head. It was in her class that I tried to master decimalisation.

I was 11 when I went into Miss Gillette's class. She was a genial lady and I remember her efforts to teach me sewing, something I have not yet mastered.

Slave for a week

Then, in that year came the experience I did not enjoy. Each of Miss Gillette's pupils had to act as monitor for a week to Miss Piggott. I can still hear

her stentorian tone calling "MONITOR!" The poor little slave had to leave her desk in a lonely position near the stairway to rush to carry out Miss Piggott's orders. I expect she was really a nice lady but I was terrified of her.

As far as I can remember, I don't think I was too badly behaved except for throwing one pupil's cap over the wall dividing the playground from the allotments. But what a vivid memory I have of taking part in sports. I can see myself hurtling over the hurdles put out along the road running by the side of the school. 'Elf and Safety' wouldn't allow that today.

Remembering and moving on

Whenever I go to vote at Martin Primary School now, all the memories come flooding back. It's extremely doubtful if I shall be here for the school's centenary in 2013. I am going on 88 now and shall be moving to a flat near my dear relatives in Broadstairs. This is due to a combination of age and infirmity. I have rheumatoid arthritis which puts quite a different slant on life. Yes, I shall miss my dear East Finchley where I was born and this house in which I have lived for almost 70 years. But one of the lessons life has taught me is that, in spite of emotional feelings, it is practicality which is needed if one is to survive. I am hoping to be able to arrange for *THE ARCHER* to be sent to me.

Parakeets aplenty

***THE ARCHER* recorded parakeets in East Finchley nearly a decade ago and, according to The Finchley Society, they have been in Kenwood for nearly as long.**

The odd one or two have been spotted all round Finchley, but 15 of them have now flocked to Woodside Park, and seven to West Finchley.

Shoppers speak out on Budgens

By Diana Cormack

Many local Budgens stores are now owned by independent retailers working in partnership with the Budgens company. Shoppers at their High Road premises have got used to seeing the name Mulberry Enterprises at the top of till receipts. Owner Shalil Bhatessa is planning a refit to the supermarket later this year, prior to which he is seeking the views of local customers about what they would like to see there. He has commissioned a series of survey evenings involving a cross-section of shoppers.

Organised and led by independent marketing manager Stephanie Rice the first meeting, which was held in the Institute, was attended by a representative group who were not afraid to voice their opinions, whether good, bad or ugly! It seemed that every possible related topic came under discussion. Other shops on the High Road were praised for the quality of their produce and the younger people in the group were particularly keen to see home-grown goods on offer. Crouch End's 'green' Budgens was much admired.

Obviously the High Road store has limitations because of its size, but there were suggestions of what could be got rid of to create more space and to supply what the people of East Finchley really want. If most of the group had their way, one of the first things to go would be the plastic carrier bags.

In the Fore

By Sheila Armstrong
The Noble Sage Gallery hosted its second *In the Fore* exhibition in February featuring the same artists from South India as previously. These vibrant works are mainly abstract and show well in the gallery's attractive modern space.

The artists, who have all exhibited extensively in India and are personally known to gallery director Jana Manuelpillai, include Achuthan Kudallar, one of the first artists to show at the Noble Sage when it opened in 2006.

At the crowded private view on 30 January there was a flash auction when three of the works were offered for sale to the highest bidders.

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Organic supermarket for Muswell Hill

By Daphne Chamberlain

Planet Organic has announced it will open a 4,200 sq ft supermarket, including an in-store 30-seat café, just round the corner from Muswell Hill Odeon, on the site previously occupied by the Bond and White DIY and bathroom store in Muswell Hill Road.

Comments from local residents include: "We need a new café in Muswell Hill like a hole in the head", "I like organic food, so I'll check it out", and "Thank God it isn't Tesco!". (Tesco were said to be interested in the site, which is virtually opposite Sainsbury's).

The site is next door to health food supplier Holland and Barrett, who are playing a waiting game. A member of staff told THE ARCHER that its new neighbour seemed to concentrate on fresh produce, while Holland and Barrett sold a lot of dietary supplements. So the two could be complementary, rather than

competitive. They were also hoping that Planet Organic would bring new customers into the area.

Planet Organic started in 1995 and already has stores in Westbourne Grove, Fulham and Torrington Place (off Tottenham Court Road). The Muswell Hill shop and another new store in Essex Road, Islington, are due to open this summer.

The company sells certified organic produce, with an emphasis on food in season. They say they are in close contact with their suppliers, and have "a British policy on buying meat, and British first for fruit and vegetables."

No parking at Park House

By Diana Cormack

Access to both the car park behind and the parking area beside Park House, opposite East Finchley tube station, has been blocked. Earlier this year the barrier between the unmade and made up parts of Brompton Grove was lowered. A heavily loaded skip was placed behind this barrier and for

a while a commercial-sized wheelie bin was positioned across the entry gates to the car park, which were chained and locked.

Park House has been up for sale since last summer. It was an integral part of the site involved in the Warning on Waitrose campaign run by local residents, prior to Hamp-

stead Garden Suburb Institute renting the building some two years ago. The building has been empty since the Institute moved out. In response to THE ARCHER's query, Barnet Council replied: "Barnet Council has blocked access to prevent unauthorised parking on a piece of land that the council owns. The public footpath remains passable."



Help keep the RSPCA clinic open

By Caroline Broome

The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic has been serving East Finchley from Market Place for over 50 years, providing a vital veterinary service for domestic animals and wildlife alike.

The trustees of the local RSPCA branch are responsible for maintaining the clinic entirely through voluntary help and charitable donations and now desperately need your help to save it from possible closure.

Most committee members have been loyal trustees for several years but a number have retired and replacements are required to form a full complement as a charitable committee.

Can you help?

RSPCA South East animal welfare manager Becky Kenny said: "Our volunteers and committee members are the backbone of our organisation and without them we would not be able to do all the fantastic work to help animals. We are looking for people with a commitment to animal welfare who want to make a real difference to the lives of animals locally."

Today's hectic lifestyle makes it difficult to commit to offering time to voluntary work. As a Trustee, however, you only need to spare the first Tuesday evening each month to attend committee meetings at the Clinic.

As a Trustee you will be involved in decision making about branch fund raising events and clinic matters, and hear first hand all about local and national RSPCA activities and initiatives.

If you think you can help, please contact Caroline or David Broome on 020 8444 2329. The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic is open on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5.30 - 7.30pm, with consultations starting at 6pm. In emergencies, ring the

RSPCA Harmsworth Hospital on 020 7272 6214.

Fancy a game of football?

Every Sunday morning a small group meets at Cherry Tree Wood for a game of four, five or six a side.

We have goals and a football, but need a few more players to keep the numbers up. We meet at 9am on the field near the playground. Just join us, or for more details call Danny on 07710 392971, or email Tibor, at tibor@themail.co.uk.

Arts Council cuts hit Community Focus

Community Focus, the inclusive arts centre based at artsdepot in North Finchley, has had its £50,000 Arts Council England annual funding withdrawn.

The charity has been the beneficiary of Arts Council funding since the charity was established in 1978. This helped the organisation to develop into the contemporary arts centre it inhabits today, supporting 300 class members, 20 tutors, 50 volunteers and hundreds more through outreach programmes in the borough.

CF specialises in working with people with disabilities

and learning difficulties, older people and members of the community dealing with mental health problems.

The charity openly welcomes offers of support. If

you are interested in fundraising for Community Focus or taking part in any of the centre's 26 classes, contact the charity on 020 8369 5483 or e-mail admin@communityfocus.co.uk.

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Picture by Paul Dearing.

Under pressure: the sign says there is a test under way on this new water main waiting to be installed in Tarling Road. So does this mean it passed or failed?

Under the hammer

Holy Trinity School is currently gearing up for its annual auction of goods and promises. As ever, there's something for everyone, ranging from a signed Spurs shirt to haircuts from Gus and eye test vouchers from Stewart Duncan.

A meal at the West End's Rainforest Café, horse riding lessons at Trent Park, concert and theatre tickets, and Ally Pally ice-skating vouchers are also among the lots up for grabs to the highest bidder in this year's Easter Auction Extravaganza.

For the first time, the bidding

will be staggered over a week, culminating in the main auction night on Friday 28 March. More than £8,000 was raised at last year's event, much of which has helped finance an upgrade of the school's computing equipment. The school's parents' association is again hoping for some fast and furious bidding.

Easter in East Finchley

By Rev. Michael Giles, Methodist minister
Easter is more than a long weekend, hot cross buns and chocolate eggs, enjoyable though they are.

We all need occasional MOTs on our lives and faith; Easter is an opportunity to re-tune our souls to God and do some 'spring cleaning' on our lives.

The Easter story

Throughout the Easter story Jesus and his disciples faced many issues. These include friendship, betrayal, courage, fear and hope.

Jesus had a wandering ministry for about three years which had brought healing and God's love to many people. Yet the religious authorities felt threatened and were looking for a way to get rid of him.

One of his closest disciples, Judas, betrayed him to the authorities who came in the middle of the night to arrest him.

Jesus was accused of being the 'King of the Jews' which could have been seen as insurrection against the Roman occupiers. His followers wanted to make Jesus their King because they wanted freedom and Jesus

gave them that hope. The title was thrust on him by followers and accusers for different motives. Jesus came as a King of Peace, not as a military King.

He was interrogated, then falsely accused in court before sentence was passed. The speed of events was breathtaking and the story ends with Jesus dying on a cross on what the church calls Good (God's) Friday.

But there's more...

Three days later two women friends found his tomb empty. Then various sightings of Jesus alive took place. One particular disciple, Thomas, would not believe unless he saw Jesus for himself. When he did, Thomas responded 'My Lord and my God'. The Church is a place to bring doubts and questions, but also to discover faith.

The Church is God's Easter People celebrating the joy, peace and freedom of following the living Jesus. 'Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Hallelujah'.

SwampRock's Mardi Gras party

By Betti Blatman

It was Mardi Gras party time with fancy dress and masks at SwampRock's Louisiana-style event on 2 February at the All Saints Art Centre in Whetstone.

Featured band Elvis Fontenot and The Sugarbees are so well respected that they play regularly at the French Quarter Festival in New Orleans, with their unique mix of Cajun, Zydeco, Rock 'n' Roll and Swamp Pop. They were supported by SwampRock's legendary DJs, Flying Home and Lil' Queenie, to make it a hot rockin' night to remember.

The next SwampRock event on Saturday 5 April features The Rockin' Cajun Dawgs playing Cajun Rockin' Rockabilly Blues. Contact Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or check www.swamprock.org.uk.

Holocaust Memorial Day

By Betti Blatman

On 27 January, I attended Barnet's seventh Holocaust Memorial Service at Middlesex University, Hendon, where this year's theme was "Imagine ... Remember, Reflect, React".

Councillor Brian Coleman, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Community Safety, opened the service followed by a welcome from Barnet Mayor, Councillor

Maureen Braun, and a reading of *Belsen Silence* by Barnet Council leader Mike Freer.

Approximately 700 people listened to Cantorial Singers and Alyth Youth Singers; pupils from The Ravenscroft School, Barnet, reading the Barnet Statement of Commitment; speeches by Professor Michael Driscoll (Vice Chancellor, Middlesex University) and His Excellency Dr Vahe Gabrielyan (Ambassa-

dor of the Republic of Armenia to the UK); Suzie Behl's emotional *A Survivor's Story* about her father, and Major Dick Williams recalling his experiences at Belsen.

As the service unfolded, I turned to the elderly gentleman sitting next to me, who had earlier mentioned that he was a survivor from Auschwitz, and the expression on his face told a story of its own.

Six million buttons... and more

By Betti Blatman

I recently visited the "6 million +" Buttons Exhibition at Brent Cross Shopping Centre, created by Leeds-based artist Antonia Stowe, and commissioned by Kirklees Museums and Galleries as part of their Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in 2006, to commemorate the industrial scale of the Holocaust and recent genocides in the Balkans and Africa.

The buttons in the exhibition were contributed by hundreds of school and college students, and members of the public. Buttons were chosen by the artist for a number of reasons. Each button is unique in shape, size and colour, like each person. Buttons remind us of the millions of garments left behind at the gates of the concentration camps. Buttons hold fabric together, an analogy for each individual who holds a family or community together. Buttons once removed from a garment are vulnerable and serve no purpose. Buttons are enduring, lasting long after garments have faded and unravelled. Buttons connect the past to the present.

Further donations of buttons can be sent to Kirklees Council which owns the exhibition and they will be added the next time it goes on display. The address is: Kim Strickson, Community History Projects Co-ordinator, Kirklees Museums and Galleries, The Stables, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield HD5 8DJ. The telephone number is 01484 223811.

Holocaust lessons not being learnt

By Jeremy Havardi

The lessons of the Holocaust are still not being learnt, a local educationalist has warned. Louise Heilbron, who works for the Imperial War Museum's fellowship programme, sounded the alarm as she organised a Holocaust memorial event at Finchley Reform Synagogue, attended by dozens of students.

She said: "The ignorance of the Holocaust is unbelievable, even with older people. You only have to open the papers or turn on the television and it is recreated. Today in 2008 in Kenya the same thing is happening." Nonetheless she was delighted with the reaction from students who were "rewarding to work with".

Bob Kirk, who came to Britain in 1938 as part of the Kindertransport programme, also spoke to the students about his experiences. He agreed that Holocaust Memorial Day had a vital role to play in today's society.

He said: "It is so easy to forget what has happened and there are people who pretend that it never happened. It is important to keep the message out there and explain what went on." He had a simple and powerful message for today's young generation: "You have to be sensitive to what is going on around you. You have to be prepared to react if something is going wrong. You must not be quiet."

Holocaust Memorial Day has been held annually since 2001 on 27 January, the day of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Easter Services in East Finchley

Holy Trinity Church

Palm Sunday, 16 March, 10am, Blessing of Palms and Parish Communion. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 7pm, Holy Eucharist. Maundy Thursday 20 March, 8pm, The Eucharist of The Last Supper followed by the Vigil before the Altar of Repose until 10pm. Good Friday 21 March, 10pm, The Good Friday Liturgy. Easter Day 23 March, 10am, The lighting of the Paschal Candle and Parish Communion.

St Mary's Catholic Church

Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm, St Mary's Celebration of the Passover. Passion (Palm) Sunday 16 March, Masses at 8.30 am, 10am, and 12 noon, Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 9.50am, Morning Prayer and Mass. Tuesday 18 March, 7.30 pm, The Sacrament of Reconciliation & Confessions. Holy Thursday 20 March, 10am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, and 8pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper and watching at the Altar of Repose

until midnight. Good Friday 21 March, 10am, Procession of Witness from St Margaret's URC, Victoria Avenue, and United Act of Worship, and 3pm, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion, and 7.30pm, Stations of the Cross. Holy Saturday 22 March, 10am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, and 7.30pm, The Easter Vigil. Easter Sunday 23 March, Masses at 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon. Easter Monday and throughout Easter Week, 9.50am, Daily Morning Prayer and Mass.

All Saints' Church

Palm Sunday 16 March, 8am, Mass, and 10am, Parish Mass with Blessing of Palms. Monday of Holy Week, 8pm, Mass. Tuesday of Holy Week, 11.30am, Mass at Christ the King, Gordon Square, and 8pm Mass. Wednesday of Holy Week, 10am and 8pm, Mass. Maundy Thursday 20 March, 6.30pm, Confessions, and 8pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watch until midnight. Good Friday 21 March, 11am, Confessions, and 3pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Holy Saturday 22 March, 8pm, The Easter Vigil followed by refreshments. Easter Sunday 23 March, 8am, Mass, and 10am, Parish Mass of Easter Day.

East Finchley Methodist Church

Good Friday 21 March, 10.30am, Service of meditation and reflection. Easter Sunday 23 March, 10.30am, Family worship and Holy Communion.

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Matinée shocker

Graham Chambers lives within walking distance of the Phoenix Cinema but recently drove to Muswell Hill to see a film at the Odeon. As he explains, it turned out to be an expensive afternoon out.

Early last year I read *The Kite Runner* and found it absorbing, informative and rather sad. Recently I mentioned to my wife that the film of the novel was showing at the Odeon in Muswell Hill.

"Fine," she said, having been responsible for me reading the book (after her). "We'll go on Tuesday afternoon, get concessions for ancient people, put the car in the car park, tear the parking ticket in half, give the bottom half in at the cashier's desk and get the parking charge refunded."

All of the above seemed okay, and we did just that. Unknown to me our problems started when I inserted the funds into the parking machine in the Odeon car park. We received the ticket, tore off the perforated end, and presented it to the cashier's desk. A chap behind the desk passed over £1.50, and we bought two tickets for old people, then joined the other four people seated in the auditorium to see the 2.15pm showing.

The film had all the qualities of the book and we both left satisfied and happy, until we got to the car and found that it was clamped.

Your time's up

At first I thought I had parked in a restricted area, but a swift

glance showed that was not the case. Then I realised that £1.50 did not cover the 120 minutes of the film, in fact it only covered one hour. *Mea culpa*.

However, I did wonder whether the cashier, returning £1.50 to me, had assumed that we OAPs had paid £11 for two tickets with the intention of leaving the auditorium halfway through the film? I didn't pursue this question. I have found that when you get past 70, there are a number of things that you no longer pursue.

So we had a quiet word with the manager who I think was convinced that we were not trying to rob Odeon Cinemas of £2 in parking fees. He telephoned the clamping company to release the car. He also very kindly reduced the fine from £100 to £50.

As interesting as the film was, I am not yet convinced that it was actually worth £61.00 for two tickets (concessions) and the use of the car park, particularly as the clumper only took about an hour and ten minutes to return and release the car.

Silents, please

As part of its Silent Film series the Phoenix Cinema is offering a unique opportunity to screen your own short film. The Phoenix wants film-makers of all backgrounds, both established and aspiring, to enter its Silent Film Competition, with the winning entry being shown before a screening of Eisenstein's classic *Battleship Potemkin*, the last in the silent film series, in November.

The cinema is looking for interesting, innovative pieces of work that make the most of the silent film format. Entries can be black and white or colour, digital or film and do not have to be brand new productions. There is no need for a musical accompaniment. Films must be no longer than ten minutes in duration.

Submit your entries on DVD

format - along with clear contact details and a short biography about yourself - to Silent Film Competition, The Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, London, N2 9PJ, by no later than 30 June 2008.

For more information about the competition or the silent film series, please contact Mike, Katrin or Paul at The Phoenix on marketing@phoenixcinema.co.uk or 020 8442 0442.

Screen test

The Phoenix Cinema is starting a regular quiz night at The Bald Faced Stag pub, High Road, and is looking for keen film fans to build up teams and to have a 'screen off' with each other.

The quiz is hosted by renowned film writer and all round amazing film buff Ian Haydn-Smith and takes place on the third Monday of each month.

Just show up on the night with your fellow film enthusiasts to make a team. It's £5 per team with a maximum of six people per team and there will be prizes. Strictly no texting allowed!



Jeanette Thornton retiring as chair of East Finchley Advice Service. Photograph by Janet Maitland

A passion for social justice

By Janet Maitland

"If you've got money you're okay, but if not, you don't even get the things you're entitled to," declares Jeanette Thornton, who has just retired as chair of East Finchley Advice Service in Church Lane.

Jeanette describes her motivation for voluntary work as just the need to "get out of the house." But she has a passion for social justice that must form the backbone of the Advice Service and the many other organisations she is involved in, such as Barnet Law Service and Camden Tribunal Unit.

Jeanette's voluntary work has been informed not only by her experience as a magistrate, but also by living in Malaysia for many years. This has given her an insight into what it must be like to be faced with the complexity of housing, immigration and benefits law when English is not your first language, and when "even the Income Support application form is 32 pages long".

Despite having to survive on a very tight budget, the Advice Service helped more than 3,000 people last year. Its funding from Barnet Council, the Milly

Athorp Charitable Trust and The Lottery Fund pays for just three part-time workers. It would not survive at all without the 30 volunteers who man the centre every weekday and the 12 volunteer solicitors who run the legal advice sessions every Tuesday evening. The management committee is also entirely made up of volunteers.

As Jeanette's 20 years of service to this vital local resource comes to an end, she asked *THE ARCHER* to stress that new volunteers are always needed and that the future of the service depends on them. So if you have a few hours a month to spare, please contact the manager on 020 8444 6265. The website is www.efas.org.uk. Full training is provided.

Life begins in the

Third Age

March is North London University of the Third Age Awareness Month, when members volunteer to help and welcome prospective new recruits.

If you are retired or semi retired and would like to continue adult learning in a relaxed and easy manner, you can visit East Finchley Library on 12 March from 10am to 12 noon where members will be on hand to answer your questions.

There are more than 50 groups to choose from, including French/Italian languages, History, Bridge, Science, Handicrafts, Music, Architecture and many more. Groups also visit galleries, exhibitions and the theatre.

You do not need any kind of degree, just an interest in furthering or adding knowledge to a subject you never had time to either finish or begin. Or better still, you can share your knowledge with others, the true meaning of university.

There are no exams and no pressures, just the chance to meet like-minded men and women, and all at a very reasonable cost

Other libraries hosting the awareness days, again from 10am to 12 noon, are: Highgate on 8 March, North Finchley on 15 March, Archway on 15 March, Muswell Hill on 15 March and Hendon on 22 March. If you cannot make these dates, phone membership secretary Barry Davis on 020 7226 7658.

Mahnaz

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Bishop Douglass headteacher Angela Murphy and students with cultural attaché Jose Pascoal.
Photograph courtesy of Bishop Douglass School

A first for Bishop Douglass School

By Diana Cormack

A partnership between the Portuguese Embassy and Bishop Douglass RC School is offering children and adults the chance to learn Portuguese. Cultural attaché Jose Pascoal visited the school in Hamilton Road to celebrate the start of the partnership, which is aimed at promoting cultural understanding and academic achievement.

For the first time in a Barnet school, Portuguese will be taught at Bishop Douglass, which has over 30 pupils for whom it is the mother-tongue. This reflects the number of native Portuguese speakers in the local population, who may have come from Angola, Brazil or Portugal.

A teacher supplied by the Portuguese embassy will give lessons to school pupils and members of the community on Thursdays. Isabelle Goursade, manager of the school's additional needs department, sees the alliance as providing an opportunity for students to take GCSE and A-levels in their

first language, thus helping to build their confidence in other subjects.

Languages thrive

Over half the 812 pupils at Bishop Douglass are bilingual and the school is keen to maintain cultural ties across the community and to foster parental involvement. Teaching languages is one of the ways it achieves this. Polish is already taught to Barnet residents and hopefully Romanian will soon be on offer to outside students. Lithuanian is next on the agenda.

If you are interested in learning any of these languages, please phone Isabelle Goursand on 020 8444 5211.

Milk Man on our doorsteps

By Lucy Chamberlin

It's not everyone who gets the chance to be in a film even as an extra, but for some lucky 14-year-olds from The Monday Club, it was an opportunity which came knocking on the door. Kerisha B Clarke, Myles Akinwumi and Thomas and James Ellard were picked to join the cast of Milk Man, filmed at the end of January in Chapel Court, East Finchley, and the AS Food & Wine shop, Highgate.

Director James Rumsey (who also lives in Chapel Court) has a background in film and currently freelances for Associated Press. He wrote *Milk Man* four years ago, and is personally funding its filming. Main roles are played by his friends, some of them East Finchley residents, so the project has become a very locally-focused event.

"You start out making a film and get to meet all your local community too," says James, who was amazed by people's cooperation. Not only did neighbours generously lend their houses and give up their right to go out at the weekend, but Barnet Homes allowed the crew to repaint the stairwell.

Milk Man is a 'social comment' film about the breaking of routines and the lifting of

barriers. Eponymous lover of milk and protagonist Brian has to be forced out of his shell to realise the potential of the community around him. Director James wants to get the edited version shown at festivals, and may even try to hold a special screening at the Phoenix Cinema to thank all who have donated their time to it.

Search for the stars

By Carolyn Gilbey

This is an exciting year for the Finchley Children's Music Group, as it marks the local choir's Golden Jubilee. The group intends to commemorate this milestone with a year-long musical celebration, culminating in a spectacular reunion concert, with former choir members from the last 50 years singing along with children from the current choir.

There's just one problem. Choir records only go back 10 years and it is proving difficult tracking down the singing stars of yesteryear. Thousands of names have passed through the ranks but they have been lost to time.

The Finchley Children's Music Group was founded in 1958 to give the first amateur performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noyes Fludde*. Since then, the choir has gone from strength to strength giving frequent professional performances and offering local children a fantastic grounding in singing and music.

Grace Rossiter, the choir's Musical Director, has already started putting the children through their paces in readiness for the reunion concert which will take place at St John's, Smith Square, Westminster, in early December 2008. Meanwhile, a team of crack choir investigators are busy trying to track down the elusive former members.

"It would be wonderful," said Grace, "to have founding members of the choir singing along with our current members, while their children and perhaps grandchildren watch proudly in the audience."

If you are a former choir member, you can get in touch at info@fcmg.org.uk or with Carolyn Gilbey on 020 8444 8418.

Mr Hilborne's African adventure

By Julia Bramson

Steve Hilborne, headteacher of Manorside Primary School in Squires Lane, N3, is spending most of this term teaching at schools in a remote northern area of Namibia. He is working there with a number of teachers and regional inspectors, thanks to the international development charity VSO and the National Association of Head Teachers.

Since leaving the UK, Steve has been in contact with his school via text message and email. The staff have heard all the ups and downs of their headteacher's early days in Namibia, from his observations on his surroundings: "The countryside is just a mixture of ochres, sage greens, purple and saffron", to how the health workers there warned him that he would probably get malaria.

When writing this, Steve was quick to add that it was just another of the worst-case scenarios he has been presented with, none of which has so far been realised.

Football, with no ball

Now settled in, he has been able to observe some of the differences between African edu-

cation and British schools, and has already made some good friends. He is living amongst teachers and next door to a traditional homestead made up of round huts with thatched roofs. The children are poor and walk miles to get to school, but play football with rolled rags or fruit husks and are very happy.

Before Steve Hilborne left for Namibia, he talked to the children at Manorside about where he was going. When he comes back, they will hear all the stories, and learn more about the country and see his photographs.

Such a trip brings home to the children the differences between cultures and it is one of the many advantages of Manorside having International School status.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

An Ofsted inspector visited the school which had been chosen at random to be part of a fact finding mission into the teaching of numeracy. Children from Years 2 to 6 were treated to a special performance by the English National Touring Opera. As well as enjoying the show, they were given the opportunity to be opera singers themselves.

The Teachers' International Continuous Development Programme is enabling one teacher to visit Berlin and two to go to Adelaide to further their understanding of teaching and learning strategies. This is funded by national bodies.

Martin Primary

After learning about the planets and listening to music on the theme of space, Year 5 visited the Science Museum to look at the space exhibits. Year 1 pupils have learned to programme a robot to move around their classroom.

A non-uniform day was held to raise money for "Wings of Hope", which supports a school in India and an orphan centre in Malawi.

Children in 4W are taking part in a Barnet scheme combining the themes of Malawi and recycling, which helps them to understand their role as global citizens and the importance of being environmentally friendly. Congratulations to Hannah Barrett, who has been selected for Middlesex County Cricket Under 11 Girls' Squad.

Manorside

Saracens Rugby Club have been in the school for half a term to share their ideas on healthy living and rugby with years 2, 3 and 4

All 28 members of the Science Club visited London Metropolitan University for a fantastic and fascinating day where they made all sorts of scientific contraptions from marble runs to clocks, and more.

A table top sale, the brainchild of children in Year 5, raised £50 for Homeless Action in Barnet

The 14 February Fancy Dress Disco was a huge success, with the dance floor filled with children and teachers for the duration.

The school's PE and IT subject coordinators are off to Beijing in May as part of the International Schools programme.

St Theresa's

A quiz night was held on 1 February. Congratulations to Mary Rowland and her team who triumphed by one point over their nearest rivals and well done to the eight teams who competed in a fun evening. They raised £600 towards the children's funds.

Congratulations to Ciaran Rowland, Sam Coade, Sean Robinson, Conor Rock Scanlon, Alex Canal, Tommy France, Max Baker, Stephen Lui, Meabh Rowland, Christian Snodgrass, Matt Bacarese Hamilton, Jean Paul Williamson, Isaac Biney, Tea Anya Earle and Dario Devine for coming 4th in the Barnet School's Chess League 2008.

The Friends of St Theresa's held a cake sale that raised £181.50.

The school football team is enjoying a run of success. They played against Northside and won 3-0. They also played against All Saint's and won 3-1. The team from Year 5 won the Livingstone Elimination Tournament beating 16 other schools. The school is now through to the Borough Finals.

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Visitors always welcome



March at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

So many great films were released in January and February that we have, understandably, missed a couple; such is the lot of a single screen cinema. So in March we're having a couple of weeks of playing films that we've not had the chance to show yet.

The Kite Runner, which opens on 7 March, is set in Afghanistan and tells of the unlikely friendship between two boys whose lives are changed forever when the Taliban take political control of the country. Wonderfully adapted from Khaled Hosseini's novel, it's a powerful and touching film.

From 14 March, we're playing *The Orphanage*. Produced by Guillermo Del Toro, it's a high-class thriller, set in an abandoned orphanage, that will stay with you for days. Very much in the vein of Del Toro's directorial work, the film is dark and atmospheric. It's scary but it is certainly not a schlock-movie. The film is directed by Juan Antonio Bayona; he sent in a show reel of his work to Del Toro, who was so impressed he offered to produce Bayona's debut

feature. And this is it.

As ever we have some great matinée screenings on Sunday afternoons in March. On 9 March we launch Hitchcock's *The Lodger*, the first in a series of great silent films with live piano accompaniment. Over the rest of the year we'll be having silent film events which really show off the great acoustics of our barrel-vaulted auditorium. On 30 March, we have the Phoenix films of 2007 as voted for by you. We'll be screening *The Lives of Others* and *Control*, both of which are excellent pictures.

One highlight for April is the new Mike Leigh film *Happy-go-Lucky*. I hope to see you at the Phoenix soon. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 and our website is www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Guess that gadget

By Sheila Armstrong

Maurice Collins gave a fascinating talk at the end of January to the Finchley Society based on his collection of antique gadgets. Society members turned out in force and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Maurice, of Beech Drive, made the occasion interactive by inviting the audience to guess what each gadget was for before going on to talk about it. Prizes were given for correct answers.

The gadgets ranged from his most prized possession, an early 20th century Teasmid from New Zealand, to hot water hair curlers, a dynamo-powered shaver and a brothel alarm clock.

Starting more than 30 years ago with his son, he began by combing rubbish tips, finding many treasures there over the years, but of course now he uses eBay.

His collection is housed at home but he has plans to open a museum in Shoreditch in 2009. He has written two books, *Ingenious Gadgets* and *Eccentric Contraptions*, all the proceeds of which go to Kith and Kids, the charity Maurice set up to help families of children with learning difficulties.

Maurice has the honour of appearing in the book *Eccentric London (the Bradt Guide to Britain's Crazy and Curious Capital)*, by Benedict le Vay. The caption accompanying his photograph describes him as an eccentric collector. What's more, *THE ARCHER* gets a mention too. Under the heading *Twelve Rather Strange Sculptures*, it describes our old friend Archie at East Finchley tube station and part of it says: "The Archer was by Eric Aumonier and has since become the district's emblem: the community newspaper is called *THE ARCHER*."

Natacha plays

Jazz Café

East Finchley resident Natacha Atlas is an Arabic/world music artiste known for her Middle-Eastern crossover.

She had a top 10 chart hit in France with an Arabesque cover version of the famous Françoise Hardy song *Mon Amie la Rose* for which she won an award for best female singer in France in 2000. She is off to Los Angeles for a recording and will return to perform at the Jazz Café, Camden, on 8 April. Check www.myspace.com/natachaatlasofficial

Something you really ought to see

By Janet Maitland

The artsdepot in North Finchley is the only London venue hosting *Something I'll Never Really See*, a touring exhibition of photographs from the V&A collection, featuring over 40 images by leading contemporary photographers.

The exhibition is startling. The images are huge, their sharp colours bursting from the white walls, their subject matter compelling. A Russian fisherman huddles over a hole in the ice, bundled up in layers of fabric and plastic, looking like a clumsily wrapped parcel. A strangely expectant bathroom interior turns out to be a set constructed for the pornography industry. A teenage Kate Moss stands gawkily under some fairy lights in mismatched knickers and vest, as if in a documentary about anorexia.

Playing with the truth

The images belie the notion that photographers merely try to reflect the real world. The exhibition shows us that, like painters, they interpret reality by playing with the truth and blurring its boundaries.

Some of the photographers in fact deliberately satirise the relationship between painting and photography. *Photography is Dead, Long Live Painting*, by



Gavin Turk: Portrait of *Something I'll Never Really See*, 1997, © the artist/Victoria and Albert Museum, London

David Hockney, is a photograph of two images of yellow sunflowers side by side, both in the style of Van Gogh, one image a painting, the other a photograph. *Action Photo*, by Vik Muniz, is a photograph of a picture he painted (in chocolate syrup) of Jackson Pollock, the artist, painting a picture.

At the heart of the exhibition is the concept that photography

gives us the chance to observe something that we'll never really see, because photographs not only translate rather than depict reality; but also capture moments in time that will never exist again.

The exhibition is at the artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, North Finchley, until 31 March. It's open every day from 12 - 4pm and entry is free.

Meet the new man at the Windsor Castle

By Linda Dolata

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, familiar to many as previous landlord of The Five Bells pub in East End Road, has recently brought his charm and expertise to The Windsor Castle pub, in The Walks, off Church Lane.

His pub has a real buzz of activity around it these days. There is Thai food freshly cooked on the premises by experienced chef Dang, available every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 4pm until 9.30pm, and all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, alongside an English menu, and Sunday roast with all the trimmings.

Patrick hosts a pub quiz every Monday and Wednesday, commencing at 9pm, and he says he's quite happy to host an earlier one as well if someone comes forward to organise it.

There are no plans to get Sky TV (hurrah), but there are plans to put on live entertainment on

Saturday evenings.

There is already a small, but very pretty beer garden, and plans to open a much larger one at the back of the pub to cater for families with children, especially in the summer.

There has been a beer house on the site of the Windsor since the late 1700s, close to what was the Old Drovers' Road, one of

the toll-free back roads of the district. Cattle, sheep and pigs were driven down here to the weekly pig market at Market Place, or onwards into London.

To celebrate his arrival, Patrick is offering 50p off your first drink if you visit The Windsor Castle in March and take this article with you.

LOOKING FOR A CAT

Many cats and kittens needing good homes; some single, some in pairs.

If you think you can help get in touch with the local cat charity

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Iyengar Yoga Studio, Leicester Road, London N2 9EA.



Regular Events

SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. 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 Writing Workshops.** poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: All Stars Special** 3, 17 & 31 Mar 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.

Soprano date for Easter Passion

Welsh soprano Elin Manahan Thomas will be singing the soprano role in Bach's *St John Passion* in a concert with Finchley Choral Society in Hampstead.

The performance will take place in the beautiful Baroque church, St John-at-Hampstead, Church Row, NW3, on Saturday 15 March at 7.30pm.

A highly experienced choral singer, Elin has sung with the country's leading chamber choirs including the Sixteen, the Gabrieli Consort and the



Elin Manahan Thomas. Photograph courtesy of Finchley Choral Society

Monteverdi Choir. Her solo career is now taking off and she has appeared at major concert venues including the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall and is in the middle of a five album record deal.

The *St John Passion*, the first and shorter of Bach's two Passion settings, describes the latter days in the life of Christ. St John-at-Hampstead Parish Church, which was consecrated during Bach's lifetime in 1747, is an ideal setting for

this dramatic and sublime choral masterpiece.

Young conductor Grace Rositer picks up the baton for her first major concert leading the Finchley Choral Society. Grace is the conductor of other north London choirs and orchestras, including the Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London and the Finchley Children's Music Group. Tickets for the concert are available by telephoning 020 8346 9230.

An audience with William Roache

By Diana Cormack

Since *Coronation Street* began in December 1960, William Roache has played Ken Barlow, making him the world's second longest actor in a continuous role. He took on the TV part reluctantly, after his agent persuaded him that it would be good for his career, as it would encourage people to come and see him in the theatre.

Forty-seven years later an enthusiastic audience in the artsdepot, North Finchley, waited eagerly to hear the only original member of the *Street* cast describe his life on and off the screen.

In a confident and friendly manner he talked about his childhood in Cheshire and at boarding school in North Wales. Following family tradition, he studied medicine before being called up for national service. William spent five years in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, serving in the West Indies, Germany and Oman, and reaching the rank of captain.

Unsuited to medicine, he decided to follow his childhood dream of acting, which eventually led to his role in a new gritty drama series set in Manchester. Originally called *Florizel Street* and meant to last for only 13 weeks, it had a huge impact on the viewing public and the rest is television history.



William Roache MBE. Photograph courtesy artsdepot

Chronicling the Street

The second half of the evening revealed much more about the UK's longest-running soap, with members of the audience asking an amazing variety of questions. Many of them obviously had long and accurate memories of events in the programme. Some of these events are described in Roache's book *Soul on the Street*, which also alludes to how this deeply thinking man's own spiritual understanding has developed, for he has studied many religions and searched for some knowledge of what might happen after death.

Happily death is not yet scripted for Ken Barlow. Despite being retired, the erstwhile writer for his local newspaper is to help out in the neighbourhood café Roy's Rolls: a different role for Ken, but one that William Roache will certainly get his teeth into.

Intense drama at Incognito

By Lucy Chamberlin

Mothers and sisters, infertility and illegitimacy, religion and science, history and journalism, past and present, lost and found: these were just some of the issues confronting us in Kate Atkinson's play *Abandonment*, the latest triumph from the tiny Incognito theatre in Friern Barnet. Despite its length (we didn't vacate our seats until nearly 11pm) the performance was a compelling one, and Brian Davies's direction brought out the elements of black comedy and pathos blended so carefully in this very female drama.

Protagonist Elizabeth's slight confusion was perfectly captured in Diane Lefley's portrayal. Middle-aged, estranged from her husband, and the recent buyer of a creaky, musty old Victorian house, her existence has been reduced to squabbles and reminiscences. Promiscuous journalist sister Kitty (played with great aplomb by Georgie Russell), lesbian best friend Susie (Moira Wallace) and Lady Bracknell-esque mother Ina (Jill Sly) all encroach on her new-found space, as pretences are gradually dropped and frailties exposed. With the revelation that Elizabeth was 'found' wrapped in newspaper in a gentlemen's toilet, the play takes on some of the surrealism of an

Oscar Wilde invention, and this feeling of the 'extra-ordinary' increases with the frequent reappearances of Victorian vision Agnes Soutar.

The deconstruction of the present by the past is illuminated in Atkinson's build-up of short scenes and the deliberate bareness of the Incognito set, which allows us to juxtapose the feelings of one era with those of another. The characters' panic-stricken refrain "What about me?" grows louder, and the curtain falls on what is more a neat ending than resolution.

Incognito will be performing *Breaking the Code*, by Hugh Whitemore, from 31 March to 5 April, and *Abigail's Party*, by Mike Leigh, from 19 - 24 May.

Sisters' show extended

By Betti Blatman

It's not surprising that artsdepot in North Finchley extended *The Solomon Sisters' stay for an extra night on Sunday 27 January.*

Their blend of Yiddish cabaret, comedy and glitz was a sensational show. As the audience were being seated, they heard evocative Kletzmer music. Then, after Penelope Solomon's Yiddish-flavoured humour with a range of comic impersonations and characterisations, she was

joined by Madeline and they transformed themselves on stage into glitzy cabaret stars in full eveningwear. We heard the blend of their powerful harmonising voices with a range of Yiddish and English songs with choreographed dancing.

Later on, they both appeared through the audience onto the stage with a hilarious sketch of "Jews Speak Yiddish". Further information on www.solomonsisters.com.

What's On...

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

Saturday 8 March

• **Spike Milligan Statue fundraising quiz**, 7.30pm at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Chestnuts, The Walks, N2.

Sunday 9 March

• **Explore the history of East Barnet Village** in a guided walk with Paul Baker. Meet outside East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, at 2pm. Further details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

• **Brush up your Shakespeare - Almost a Revue**, presented by Amici del Arte, East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm; free admission with collection in aid of Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Monday 10 March

• **Community Focus** and Barnet College Foundation Degree in Performing Arts public performance of a new drama; artsdepot, North Finchley, 3pm. Admission free but booking required on 020 8369 5483.

Tuesday 11 March

• Innovative dance company **CandoCo** stage a unique promenade performance on all levels of the artsdepot building involving 40 dancers from across Barnet. 4pm and 6pm, admission free. Call artsdepot on 020 8369 5454 for more information.

Saturday 15 March

• Sights and scents of spring: **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show** takes place at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, from 2-4pm. Summer bulb sale; refreshments. £1 non-members; members and under-18s free. More information from 020 8455

8741 or hgs@hortsoc.co.uk.

Sunday 16 March

• **In the Footsteps of the Famous:** explore the history of High Barnet in a guided walk with Paul Baker. Meet outside High Barnet tube station, top of Meadway, at 2pm. Further details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Thursday 27 March

• **In the Footsteps of the Famous in Finchley**, a talk by Paul Baker to The Finchley Society, 2.30pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Everyone welcome. Entry for non-members: £2.

Saturday 12 April

• **Springtime is Swingtime:** the 40-piece **BBC Elstree Concert Band** plays music from the Swing era, jazz numbers and popular melodies from films and musicals, St James's Church, St James's Lane, Muswell Hill, N10; adults £15 and children under 16 £5. All proceeds to the North London Hospice. Tickets from The North London Hospice Fundraising Department on 020 8446 2288 or 2 Lauradale Road, London N2 9LU or on the door.

What's on at artsdepot,, North Finchley.

Saturday 8 March, 8pm: Adroitness: IJAD dance. **Sunday 9 March, 8pm: Lies Have Been Told** - Rod Beacham with Phillip York. **Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 March, 8pm: The Steppfather / And Who Shall Go To The Ball:** CandoCo Dance Company. **Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 March, 7.45pm: A Perfect Ganesh:** Phizzical Productions. **Saturday 15 March, 8pm: Grief Encounter Charity Comedy Night. Saturday 5 April 8pm: Flamenco Express.**



Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Go green and make a difference

By Yvonne O'Reilly and Camilla Hodgson
Millions of people still don't recycle and they are slowly killing our planet. It's time for them to start.

Did you know that 60% of the rubbish that we throw away every day can be recycled? That's a lot of rubbish that goes to landfill unnecessarily, polluting the surrounding area, damaging the landscape and devastating the natural habitats of animals.

Recycled paper produces 73% less air pollution than paper made from raw materials, and it takes 24 trees to make just one ton of newspaper. Not only would it benefit the atmosphere if more paper was recycled, it would help prevent de-forestation, a problem that will result in serious consequences if allowed to continue.

Recycling also helps to prevent desertification, so you are not only helping the planet but also contributing to sustainable development that will benefit generations to come.

Not recycling is wasting the world's resources. This will eventually lead to them running out. We rely on oil for everyday activities and trees are necessary for our survival. With these gone we can't survive and the world's economy will eventually collapse, not to mention the devastating impact it will have on our planet.

It's essential for everyone to do their bit for the environment in as many ways as they can. A simple way to start is to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. What you don't need, don't use. Buy products that are environmentally friendly, for example those without unnecessary packaging, and look for recyclable materials. Reuse unwanted items by giving those that still have life in them to charity shops or donation centres. Recycle and refrain from throwing everything straight in the bin. Much of what you don't think is useful can be made into something new and beneficial.

Recycling is the number one way to help save the planet, so don't hesitate; do your bit for the world and go green.

Letters

Not a pretty site

Dear Editor

In her article ('Not a pretty sight', The Archer, February 2008), Diana Cormack rightly draws attention to the detritus greeting travellers arriving at East Finchley station. Not only are the upturned newspaper stands a venue for discarded rubbish (possibly an East Finchley entrant to the Turner prize?), but the general dilapidation of the forecourt to the Grade 2 listed building really gets my goat.

Wherever you look, poor planning, neglect and indifference to the townscape show through. Pedestrians have to fight with cars as each negotiates the entrance. Litterbins have lost their black outer casings. The so-called plant troughs are weed-abundant. Of the six trees established in the 1990s, only two and a half remain. The crumpled street sign gloriously scribed as 'beware of rising bollards' is worthy of a Carry On film script.

The list of problem areas is very long so I do hope the recently established Regeneration and Enhancement of East Finchley group (REEF) might like to put their weight behind this worthy project. After all, first impressions do count.

Yours faithfully,
David Tupman
Leicester Road, N2

Check up on your MP

Dear Editor,

Those with access to the internet may be interested in the following website which will inform you of everything your local MP does within Parliament; things like questions in the House, and voting history, to name but two. The website is www.theyworkforyou.com.

Yours faithfully
Andrew Taylor
Western Court, N3

Mixed wards and general misery

Dear Editor,

On arrival at Barnet General Hospital recently, the ambulance crew wheeled me to the nurses' station where I remained for two and a quarter hours. Meanwhile, there was no rest for the nurses and doctors who were busy attending to the needs of their many patients. Never mind claiming that when Chase Farm Hospital's A&E department is downgraded Barnet Hospital will work more efficiently. Won't there be more patients then and only the same amount of space?

Barnet General is a new hospital but still has curtained partitions which give very little privacy. I was finally allocated a bed in a mixed ward where I was the only woman. Initially it did not worry me but then something completely changed my attitude. My eyes were closed. I was just dozing, having been in pain for nearly 24 hours, when something suddenly caused me to take a look. There, standing beside me in the wee small hours, was a male patient.

Incidents like this render the patient insecure, hardly the environment to aid recovery. This is a brand new hospital but the Department of Health no longer aims to eliminate mixed wards.

I was discharged at 2.30am on a freezing cold winter's night wearing only a nightgown and dressing gown, totally exhausted with all the pain, lack of sleep and still too ill to eat anything. Luckily I could get a taxi but what happens to people who cannot afford one?

After just four hours sleep and still unable to eat, I had to return to Barnet General for further investigation, followed by a further wait of two and a half hours in the freezing cold Accident and Emergency waiting area. The latter was so badly designed that every time a patient entered, an icy blast accompanied him/her.

As I looked around the waiting area my eyes alighted on the Major

Incident Room. In normal times the hospital struggles to cope with all the patients and lack of beds so how on earth could it handle a major incident? The mind boggles.

The staff I encountered were caring, informative and industrious people, real professionals working in a very stressful situation of too many patients and insufficient beds. These were not the people who created these problems. How grateful I am that they managed to take the edge off the excruciating pain I had.

Yours faithfully,
Sheila Ertughrul
Leopold Road, N2.

Lights are no embarrassment

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article on page 3 of the February edition, REEF may think that the Christmas lights are an embarrassment, but I don't. They are an attractive way to imbue the High Road with the spirit of the festive season. While they may now be provided by Barnet Council, they are essentially the same lights that the East Finchley Traders' Association worked so hard to acquire in the not-so-distant past. If Lawrie Chivers and the other people involved at the time see that article they would, in my opinion, be entitled to be more than a little upset. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you.

Yours faithfully,
Richard Cranham,
High Road, 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.

OBITUARY

Mrs Winnie Hanton

Mrs Winnie Hanton was buried at the St Pancras cemetery on 31 January, which would have been her 97th birthday. Winnie had lived in Leicester Road for over 40 years and was well known to residents and shopkeepers in the area. She used to enjoy sitting on the seat outside the Iceland store to have a chat with local people. A tribute to her popularity was the collection made by neighbours, which provided flowers for her funeral and a generous donation to the North London Hospice.



Mrs Winnie Hanton. Photograph courtesy Diana Cormack

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Vigours. Photograph courtesy of Ben Kelly

Vigours set to make it big

By James Luxford

East Finchley's creative roots are well known, with a youth theatre and cinema both prominent in the community. However, a young local band wants to do the area proud by making it big.

The Vigours have not been together long. However, 2007 saw them make their mark on the London music scene, as well as winning some fans abroad. Band members Joe Mallon and Andreas Yiannikaris both come from East Finchley.

From Channel 4 to Korea

The band began performing on the pub and club scene and quickly gained a reputation for their lively sets, which include the energetic *Rave To Remember* and the rousing anthem *Victory March*. Their unique sound attracted the attention of Channel 4, who first featured their music in their *War and Terror* documentary earlier last year. In October, the band was featured in a plotline for the teen soap *Hollyoaks*.

The highlight of their year, however, was headlining the Jecheon International Music and Film Festival in Korea. Their set was met with a rapturous recep-

tion, leading to more dates in the country and a single release via various Korean music sites.

New release

In 2008, The Vigours are looking to consolidate the success of the previous year by releasing a new EP, entitled *Give Us A Sign*. The release includes new songs *The Naught Sweeney*, *Keep Running* and *The Great Debate*, with old favourite *Victory March*.

Drummer Mat says of the new recordings: "We've got loads of different influences, so I think if we picked four other songs you'd get a slightly different impression of us. But there's some underlying thing that's The Vigours. Not just in the lyrics, but in the instrumentals you can still very much tell it's us."

The next step for these Indie up 'n' comers will be for the music industry to give them a sign. Until then you can check out their new EP on the internet, at myspace.com/thevigours.

Marathon madness for mere mortals

By Victoria Davenport

Having been rejected three times by the Great Ballot in the Sky (don't give up hope, people do get in), this year I was chosen for a second year and once again find myself running in the Flora London Marathon for charity.

This is to the amazement of family and friends and looks of 'Are-you-totally-insane?' To run 26.2 miles is one thing, to raise a minimum of £1,500 for charity another. Sometimes the latter feels harder (so cough up, folks!).

What does it mean to run a marathon? Well, terrifying, terrific and sheer insanity all rolled up together. The first time is certainly different: harder, more exciting and simply the best thing I'd ever done. You can't beat thousands of people calling out your name for four hours or more. Andy Warhol, eat your heart out.

Second time, I'm slightly more blasé, but have got myself a personal trainer, having been told I don't have a muscle in my body so how can I run at all. Thankfully, he loves his work and has lots of determination and enthusiasm, although I have to remind him that I am a 'mere' 27 years older than him, so, um, can't quite work at the time or pace that he does.

Strugglers and puffers

We are all out there now, slogging our guts out, fat, thin, fit, unfit, old and young. When I pass struggling and puffing runners, I want to say, "Keep going, you can do it!" I have far more sympathy for them than for the sleek and muscle-bound in their tight-fitting Lycra. So what would I say to all of you who are struggling and terrified? You can do it. Stick to a schedule (the *Runner's World* magazine weekly marathon



Illustration by Victoria Davenport

training is terrific, as is *Marathon Running for Mortals* if you overlook the crazy sub-three hour times). Don't push yourself, get plenty of rest, try not to worry about speed and time.

No, I can't bring myself to say enjoy it, because, let's face it, it's hell. But you will feel terrific for having done it. If you wish to contribute to The Children's Society, for whom I am running, please go to: www.justgiving.com/victoriadavenport1



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