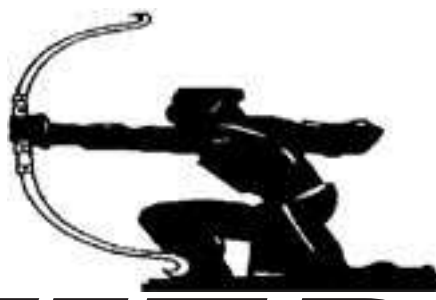


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Sport returns to Stanley Field

By David Melsome

Football was played once more at Stanley Road Playing Field when scores of people turned out to reclaim the open space as a recreational facility for the community.

After more than three years of lying unused and neglected, the field once more enjoyed the sight of striped shirts and the sound of cheering from the touchline as the Stanley Road Challenge Cup was played out.

The 2.4-acre site is under threat from development. Barnet Council, owner of the land, wants to use two thirds of the open space for housing and keep the rest for sporting use.

Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT) says that the remaining land would not be big enough for a single football pitch and wants to retain the whole site to enable provision of a full range of sports pitches and youth facilities.

Action plan:

use it or lose it

The FCDT organised the friendly match on Saturday 12 April and launched a ten step action plan urging supporters of the sports plan to use the field as much as possible, to write to council leader Mike Freer and local press, and to join an action committee. There are plans to make the kick about a regular Saturday event.

Sisters Alice and Tilda Donachie were two of the young people who turned out to watch the football. "We both went to Holy Trinity School and we were never allowed on the field because it was full of broken glass," said Alice. "It's a big space and it's being wasted," said Tilda.

MP's support

Finchley and Golders Green MP Rudi Vis said at the match: "People complain about the behaviour of young people but make nothing available to address their boredom. It's not good enough to get part of the land and use the rest for housing. We need the whole site."

Councillor Alison Moore said: "I think it's fantastic that so many are here today. It shows the support there is from local people for sports facilities in this part of East Finchley."

If you want to support the Stanley Road Campaign, hear future news about the site or join in a regular football game, contact Rob on 020 8883 4916.

See page 4 for more pictures - and the Soapbox on page 11.



Stanley Fields Football Competition. Picture by John Dearing

Beware Spanish scam

Yes, they are back. Police have notified us that Spanish lottery letters are back in Barnet. The warning is that they are ALL scams and should be ignored.

The letters promise the prospect of prizes in the Spanish lottery in exchange for your personal details. Do not reply in any way, including online, as this will flag up to the scammers that there is a real-life recipient.

The letters are all about identity theft. It is not possible to prevent them arriving on your doormat but it is easy just to resist temptation and throw them away. Interestingly, your address would have been obtained legally through mail order lists which are sold on

the open market. So just bin them.

Inside this month

Win tickets to see
An Audience with Prunella Scales and Friends
at the artsdepot.
See our competition on page 5.

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Council Tax 020 8359 2608
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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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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
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Drinkline 0800 917 8282
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OAP's Advice

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Faults on the line in Fordington Road

By Ann Bronkhorst

Copper is valuable, as residents of Fordington Road discovered to their cost when thieves stole some British Telecom copper cable overnight.

Residents woke on Monday 7 April to find that their telephone and internet connections did not work. When BT was contacted, says one resident, the initial response was that the fault lay "within the house". Neighbours soon established that the whole road was affected, however.

The thieves got access to the underground cable from somewhere in the Woodside Avenue area.

A Distribution Point (green box) in Lanchester Road was open, with cut wires strewn around and looking, one resident said, "as if someone had taken an axe to it".

Communications were disrupted for at least 70 households for most of the week, so residents who work from home lost precious time and money. At the time of writing, BT engineers were still working to resolve the

remaining problems.

In fact, thefts of copper cable are decreasing as fibre is steadily replacing copper in the access network, apart from the 'drop wire' (the final section leading to the customer's premises).

Accident on the High Road

On Thursday 3 April at 4.10pm, there was a collision between a blue Nissan Micra and a red Honda motor-bike on the High Road outside the Hollywood Bowl, Leisure Way, N12. The emergency helicopter and a traffic unit arrived shortly afterwards.

The victim, a 29 year-old man, was taken to a London hospital. At the time of going to press, he was reported to be in a stable condition and his injuries were neither life changing nor life threatening.

Summers Lane, the High

Police want to water down burglary

A new system to deter thieves and burglars is being installed in properties in Barnet. SmartWater uses chemically enhanced water to help safeguard property.

Burglars are sprayed with an indelible water solution, which can later be detected and traced back to its source, much like DNA profiling.

Barnet Police say SmartWater is just one of the tactics they are employing to target criminals. Burglary, they say, is a priority crime and every

allegation will be investigated.

Detective Superintendent David Tucker said Barnet Borough had a high residential population, with areas of high deprivation, but police were committed to targeting crime across the whole region. In the past three months there have been 115 arrests for burglaries in Barnet Borough.

There has been a 7.8% increase in burglaries this year but Barnet Borough Commander Stephen Kavanagh noted that this came after a 16% decrease in burglaries in 2006.

He said: "We would like to remind people of the importance of remaining vigilant. Keep your keys in a safe place away from doors and windows, which should be locked to deter burglars from temptation."

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

East Finchley Cemetery Lower Chapel, East End Road, N2
Replacement of existing roof slates to both pitches including the replacement of felt, battens and provision of insulation. No increase in height of the roof.
East Finchley Station, N2
Fitting of 'stick on' tactile tiles to platform surface behind coping stones.
8 The Bishops Avenue, N2
Erection of low front boundary wall

with brick piers and two gates.

48 Church Lane, N2

First floor rear extension.

80 High Road, N2

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

6 Ossulton Place, 148 East End Road, N2

Single storey rear extension and alterations to roof including rear and side dormers to facilitate a loft conversion.

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Super marché invades

East Finchley was transformed into a French market from 28-30 March by stallholders from Normandy. Dozens of stalls lined the High Road from the tube station up to Iceland.



A taste of France on the High Road. Photo by Diana Cormack

There was a villagey atmosphere amidst the aroma of hot food bubbling away. There were queues to eat on the spot or take away, with other food stalls selling dried fruit and nuts and a range of French cheese and sausages to accompany the French bread. Other stalls sold items ranging from bed linen, floor mats, handbags, hats, jewellery, knitwear and umbrellas.

Enfin, le soleil

The French market was brought to East Finchley by

Philippe Basset of Streets Alive UK Ltd. The same organisation introduced recent French markets in Whetstone and Temple Fortune.

Would the stallholders fancy returning? "Yes, but with the sun," laughed one, obviously appreciating the return of fine weather after a rainy first day.

Customer satisfaction

Richard Gregory, an East Finchley resident, said: "I liked it. Obviously some of the produce, such as the bread, was quite pricey. I bought saucis-

son, which was really good and tasty, even if it was £4. Ben, the dog, got hold of the walnut bread!

"My overall view was that the market made the High Road look more colourful and more lively; it was quite a good location, too. I think for the traders it was quite successful. I look forward to having it again," he added.

Elena, also a local resident, said: "The baguette I bought was baked next to the stall and it was nice and warm. I was expecting more prepared foods, like soups and pates and traditional produce."

Finchley Community Development Trust publicised the event, and also talked to local traders next to the site. Trust spokesperson Rob Robertson told *THE ARCHER* that any stallholders needing electricity provided and paid for their own generators. They also paid for a skip for their rubbish, which they cleared up themselves. Rob Robertson said that there had been a very positive response to the French market and another one is planned for the autumn.



The aftermath of the fatal accident on the Great North Road.

Picture by John Dearing

Driver killed in accident on Great North Road

By John Dearing

An accident on the Great North Road on Thursday 10 April left one person dead and one seriously injured.

At around 5pm, a green Mondeo was, according to one witness, travelling south from the area of the Tube station up the hill at considerable speed. Opposite the Hexagon car showrooms, it suddenly swerved right across the road, turned over in the air, crossed the pavement and crashed into the brick wall beyond it. No other vehicles were apparently involved and the reason for the accident is not presently known.

The emergency services attended and fire crews had to cut the car open to free two of its three occupants. Efforts were made to revive the driver at the scene by the Ambulance Service and a doctor.

All three occupants were taken to the Royal Free Hospital at Hampstead where the driver, 43-year-old Stephen Wheatcroft of North Hill, was pronounced dead. A teenage girl remains in hospital with serious head injuries. The third occupant, thought to be in her 30s and the mother of the teenager, suffered injuries to her arm and back. After treatment she was discharged from hospital.

Initially, the High Road was closed at the junction with Fortis Green, but around 6.30pm it was reopened as far as The Bishops Avenue. The Great North Road was closed from there as far as the junction with Woodside Avenue for several hours after that.

Kinks collection meets its Waterloo Sunset

By Diana Cormack

After many months of refurbishment, the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green is now up and running with the traditional local emerging as a fully-fledged member of the gastro pub brigade. This is reflected throughout in the décor, furniture and layout.

The main place for drinking is at the front, with some comfortable-looking leather armchairs and sofas set beside low level wooden tables, whilst the bar itself is in the larger back room. This is where the dining tables are too, complete with wooden church chairs which could have you praying for a cushion if you sat for too long. A large galley kitchen is flanked by a covered area outside. The menu is interesting and there is a good range of drinks, but don't go there looking for any bargains.

Don't go looking for much memorabilia either. The Clissold was celebrated as the pub where Ray and Dave Davies, founder members of The Kinks, gave their first public performance in 1960. Fans were reputed

to travel from all over the world just to drink there and gaze at or even add to the collection, said to be of signed beer mats, tee-shirts, record sleeves and photos. There was much discussion as to whether any of this would remain (*THE ARCHER*, April 2007).

Toilet trip for fans

Well, the answer is plain. All that is left following the refurbishment are some framed photos situated in the alcove housing the toilets. It would be interesting to find out what has happened to the rest of the memorabilia, but at the time of writing *THE ARCHER* was waiting to hear from the manager. It would also be interesting to know exactly what used to be on display so, if you can remember,

please let us know. Our contact details are on page 2.

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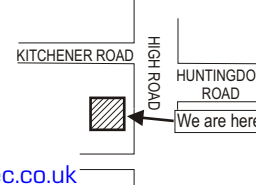
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NEW
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Sport returns to StanleyField

from page 1



Lads and dads went head to head in the Stanley Road Challenge Cup football match on Stanley Field. Our photos by John Dearing show the players in action. Great to see the field being used by the community once again.



Garden centre blossoms

When Finchley Manor Garden Centre in East End Road re-opened on the Easter weekend at the end of March, the bad weather conditions affected custom but there's now been a good response from local residents buying a wide variety of plants, shrubs, compost and terracotta pots and planters. Management at the centre told us they intend to stay open for as long as possible.

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The night the earth moved (for some of us)

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley was one of the places in London most affected by the February earthquake. The British Geological Survey told us: "Intensity varied a lot in London. The N2 district was certainly one of the areas that seem to have felt the earthquake most strongly."

Places with soft soil sediments, like clay, are more likely to notice a distant earthquake. Why, though, did some people feel the effects strongly while near neighbours felt nothing at all? The answer isn't just that the latter were all heavy sleepers.

People's sensitivity may be influenced by the building they are in, local ground conditions, and variation in the strength of shaking even over short distances. Generally, people at rest feel effects more than those standing or walking, and those on upper floors more than neighbours on lower floors or outside.

Here are some of your stories:

Thelma Kalyvides, Creighton Avenue: "I was watching television, and felt the tremor quite violently. It scared the living daylights out of me. As I have problems with my spine and legs, I thought it was something wrong with me. I heard rumbling, but thought, my goodness, that plane's flying low."

Janet Maitland, Trinity Road: "When your wardrobe starts to shudder in the early hours of the morning, the last explanation that occurs to you is an earthquake. I sleepily assumed it must be a large intruder, struggling to get out. So, on the count of three, I took a deep breath and flung the wardrobe doors open. Finding nothing, and not believing in ghosts, I went back to sleep, assuming that I'd experienced a brief, albeit exotic, mental health problem. I'd forgotten about it by the time I woke up. Even when I heard about the earthquake, I didn't make the connection for several days."

A reader, Howard Walk: "It was quite definite. I got out of bed to see why the glass in my bookcase was rattling."

A reader, Baronsmere Road: "The tremor lasted for about 30 seconds. Being near the High Road, I'm used to noise and vibration from traffic and the Tube, but that disturbs the whole house. This was underneath my sofa, as if I was being shaken off my perch. I heard rumbling, and the chandelier was swinging very gently. I did think it might be an earthquake."

Sue Warlow, Juliana Close: "I was awake at 1am but in bed. I heard a noise, and my bed shook. At first I thought it was someone slamming a door and running up or downstairs next door, but that wouldn't cause the house to shake so much. Then I thought maybe there was an explosion somewhere. I must have fallen asleep soon afterwards. I am wondering if I also felt the aftershock, as I woke suddenly about 4am. Of course, I didn't know it was an earthquake until I heard the news in the morning."

Find out more about earthquakes on the British Geological Survey website, www.bgs.ac.uk.

Strange tales of London life

By John Lawrence

Once you've had an article published in *THE ARCHER*, you could be forgiven for thinking you'd reached the summit of the publishing world. One of our contributors, however, had one more literary dream she wanted to come true.

Janet Maitland reports regularly for this paper but is also a long-time fan of *Smoke* magazine. For the uninitiated, *Smoke* describes itself as 'a London peculiar' and celebrates the quirkiness, drama and fun of life in the capital.

It is written largely by Londoners who enjoy revealing the underbelly of the city where they live. Articles have included the changing view from the windows of the C11 bus, the strange case of the Highgate vampire and a roundup of London's campest statues.

Capturing London's energy

Janet is a regular reader and was delighted when a story she submitted was accepted by the editorial team for the next issue.

Janet said: "I love London with a passion, so discovering *Smoke* was like joining a club of other fanatics. I love the way *Smoke* captures the energy of London. I love the way the editor rejoices in places like Dalston market, Penge and North Woolwich. The magazine shuns the obvious, the well trodden, the cliché - and it's very funny sometimes."

"I've even said to friends that I would die happy if I could just be published by *Smoke*. It had become a mission."

The magazine appears in

selected bookshops roughly every four months, with the next issue due out in May. You can get a taster of past issues from the *Smoke* website: <http://home.btconnect.com/smoke/>.

In the meantime, here's an extract from Janet's story called *The Pret Run*. Set mainly in the City, but also in Borough Market and Spitalfields, it's about two people driving round London collecting left-over sandwiches from Pret a Manger outlets for a charity for homeless people. They form a bond, which gets broken. One survives, the other doesn't.

"As we wove through the myriad tiny alleyways, I shouted directions and looked out for places we could park. Then, with the engine running and Dave watching for traffic wardens, I banged on each cafe door, waving my clipboard. At the depot in Southwark, Dave had explained that the real task was to get to each Pret before the bin men did:

Sometimes, the sandwiches were already shoved into bin liners which I just had to grab and load into the back of the van. Sometimes, I had to sweep the sandwiches off the shelves myself. And sometimes we'd arrive at the same time as the bin men, so I'd wave my clipboard at them instead. Later, the evening shift would take the sandwiches to the night

shelters and soup kitchens.

It was a hyperactive version of Monopoly, played for sandwiches rather than property. I played it every Wednesday afternoon. Along with African drumming classes (Monday), jazz dancing (Tuesday), counselling sessions (Thursday) and a gardening job (Sunday), the game was helping me fight the depression that had suddenly crept over me a year after the car crash that had killed my partner. I almost preferred the initial trauma to that feeling of grey pointlessness."





Residents protest at plans to open new supermarket

By Janet Maitland

Hundreds of local residents were horrified to learn of a recent planning application to open a new supermarket on the ground floor of Stag Court in the High Road, opposite the library.

"East Finchley's village feel should be protected," said Phil Prentice. "We don't need a new supermarket." Phil encouraged his Creighton House neighbours to email Barnet Council if they felt the same way.

Mr Erden, manager of Onur Food and Wine store at 222 High Road, submitted a petition of 321 signatures to Barnet Council's planning committee. "My main concern was the increased traffic, noise and parking problems," said Mr Erden.

Barnet informed *THE ARCHER* that the application, submitted by Summed Survey LTD, was withdrawn in March. It was therefore not considered by the planning committee. "Local opinion would have been taken into account if the application had reached the committee," said Bill Campbell from Barnet. "The impact on the local area would have been one of our main considerations."

Local objections effective

THE ARCHER tried to dis-

cover if the owners had been influenced by hearing about the local protest informally. Summed Survey LTD, agents for the owners, confirmed that this was the case. Although they had advised the owners to proceed "as there was a chance that the application might be successful" the owners had decided against it.

Christo and Co, letting agents for the office space on the ground floor of Stag Court, may have inadvertently contributed to a rumour that the proposed supermarket was a branch of Tesco. John Morrell from Christo told *THE ARCHER* that the planning application was in fact an appeal, which had been turned down by Barnet.

However, Barnet informed us that Christo was probably getting mixed up with an application to open a Tesco on Ballards Lane. The planning committee had indeed turned down that application, and the subsequent appeal last year.



The ground floor of Stag Court is still vacant.

Photo by John Lawrence

Meet the Phoenix

Would you like to know how the Phoenix is run, why it plays the films it plays or sells what it sells at the kiosk? Perhaps you have some ideas about what you think it should be doing as an organisation.

At a free special event on Sunday 11 May from 2pm you'll have the chance to meet the people who run the Phoenix and ask questions about all aspects of the Phoenix Cinema Trust.

The Chief Executive, Film Programmer, Trustees and other colleagues will be there and to round off the afternoon at 4pm the cinema is showing Neil Jordan's *The End Of The Affair*, a scene of which was filmed in the Phoenix auditorium.

Win tickets to see Prunella Scales

Best known for her role as Sybil in *Fawlty Towers*, the much-loved British actress Prunella Scales is to take to the artsdepot stage in North Finchley to explore the lives of English eccentrics, both real and fictional.

In conjunction with artsdepot, we've got two tickets to give away for *An Audience with Prunella Scales and Friends* on Sunday 15 June at 8pm.

In this lighthearted performance, Prunella Scales explores the world of eccentrics through readings drawn from prose, poetry, biographies and diaries, interspersed with limericks, anecdotes, and quotations. Accompanied by fellow actor Clive Conway on flute, and Christine Croshaw on piano, she introduces the audience to a wealth of colourful and remarkable English characters who have enlivened and entertained us through the ages.

English eccentrics

The performance includes stories of odd and endearing characters such as Joshua Norton, self-proclaimed Emperor of the United States of America; William Cope, the Green Man of Brighton; William Buckland, who ate anything and everything from a bluebottle to the heart of King Louis XIV. There are also stories of more familiar names such as Lewis Carroll, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Sir Thomas Beecham, Lord Byron, Beau Brummell, Dr William Spooner, and Oscar Wilde.

Tickets for the show are priced £19 (£17 concessions) and are available from the artsdepot box office on 020 8369 5454 or online at www.artsdepot.co.uk.

The Archer needs a volunteer distributor for Brim Hill

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Esther opens photographic show

TV presenter Esther Rantzen opened the Roots and Wings exhibition at artsdepot in North Finchley celebrating the work of its arts programme for refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and newly arrived communities.

Working with professional female photographer, Poppy Szaybo, the images were all created by women aged between 16-85 years, from countries such as China, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Congo, Eritrea and Uganda, many of whom had never used a camera before.

The result was a fascinating, vibrant and personal collection of photographs, exploring identity, language, cultural heritage, family, and making new lives in the UK.

Inga Hirst, Education Manager at artsdepot, explained: "The Women and Girls' Refugee Groups meets at artsdepot every week. The aim is to improve the confidence and self-esteem of those that come along, women

who are often isolated and may suffer physical and mental health problems as a result of the trauma that has led them to seek refuge in the UK.

"Through the skills they have learnt, the women have begun to develop language and communication skills, express their feelings and experiences, and have fun with new found friends. This exhibition is a real celebration of their achievements."

Roots and Wings is a key part of artsdepot's overall education programme and is run in partnership with Barnet Refugee Service. It receives support from The Tricia Landau Foundation, Barnet Youth and Connexions and Barnet Schools and Learning. The exhibition ran from 8-22 April.

John Betjeman's Finchley connection

By Daphne Chamberlain

Visiting St Pancras Station recently and being disappointed with its vast emptiness, I was delighted by a circle of camera-carriers round one of the statues on the concourse. No, I'm not talking about the giant Lovers. All the attention, on the day I visited, was on the human-sized statue of Sir John Betjeman.

Most of us know of him as a former Poet Laureate, a railway enthusiast and a campaigner to preserve certain Victorian architecture, including the façade of St Pancras Station. How many of us, though, know that he was the first Patron of The Finchley Society, and helped to preserve Hawthorndene, the historic house at the entrance to Strawberry Vale estate? I certainly didn't, until a chance remark alerted me.

The battle for Hawthorndene, with its unique architectural interiors, took place in the early 1970s. It was saved from demolition after a determined campaign led by The Finchley

Society. Signatories on a petition to preserve it included local GLC Councillor Jean Scott, Sir John Summerson, architectural adviser to the Crown Commission, cartoonist Osbert Lancaster, The Finchley Society's Vice-President, Spike Milligan, and John Betjeman.

"Long live Finchley"

Finchley Society archivist Maggie Ferguson confirmed for us that John Betjeman was Patron from 1971 to 1984. The Society's Newsletter of January 1971 contains a message from him, congratulating them on their efforts to save the Express Dairy Farm. He wrote: "Long live Finchley and its

Whole lot of singing going on

By David Melsome

Some people said it would never happen but members of the original line-up of 1970s chart group Guys n' Dolls have reunited. Guys n' Dolls had two top ten hits in the UK, including *There's a Whole Lot Of Loving* in 1975.

The group is made up of Dominic Grant, Julie Forsyth (Bruce Forsyth's daughter), Paul Griggs, Martine Howard, David Van Day and Thereze Bazar. David and Thereze went on to have their own hits as Dollar in the late-1970s.

Paul Griggs works as a solo act and performs regularly at the Finchley United Services Club in Ballards Lane, as well as running his own entertainment agency, Village Entertainments.

The reunion - the first time they had sung together in 27 years - came about for a major television show in Holland. Guys n' Dolls were always a much bigger act in Holland than over here, scoring 12 hits in all. In 1977 they had the best-selling Dutch single of the year with *You're My World*, which completely flopped in the UK.

Guys n' Dolls said: "It was



Forgotten band from 70s reunites in Holland..

a very hectic but enjoyable 36 hours. We performed two songs live with a full orchestra so, no pressure! It was great to be together after such a long time and any past differences were forgotten."

Paul Griggs told *THE*

ARCHER: "It was suggested that if the complete original line-up reformed there'd be a possibility of concerts. We've since heard that our first show is to be at the Heineken Concert Hall in Amsterdam on Saturday 28 June."

Find out more about our choir

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus will be 'at home' at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June. We hope, dear readers, that you will come and visit us, particularly if you fancy singing in a choir.

We would like to encourage new members to join us, and not only in the tenor section. The (normally) immutable law of choral life, that there are not enough tenors and too many altos, has been suspended, and we are looking for voices in all sections. Among other things, we would like to make it possible to sing works that need larger forces.

We are a friendly and inclusive lot. We sing music from the 16th to 21st century and our age range, while not quite as extensive, is from student

grant to freedom pass.

Our stall will have a display of our glorious past and our forthcoming concert, and we will be on hand to provide details of choral life with us and of how to join.

If you are not interested in singing, come and see us anyway. Some of our members will be doing a bit of busking including excerpts from the

marvellous music we are singing a week later at St. James's in Muswell Hill. So you will get an idea of how we sound, either to sing with or to listen to, or both.

You can also find out more about us at www.northlondonchorus.org.uk or for the internet-challenged call the NLC Secretary on 07711 3744468.

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A register of licensing applications can be inspected at Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. Appointments to inspect the register can be made by telephoning 020 8359 7995 during office hours. Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Barnet, Licensing Team at the address above, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than 26/05/2008.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

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Visitors always welcome



Putting on the style

By Diana Cormack

The March issue of *THE ARCHER* carried a report about a motorist in Ingram Road who had been issued with a penalty notice, despite leaving a visitor parking voucher clearly visible on his car's dashboard. This was his mistake: Lewis Lawton should have held it in place with the car window nearest to the kerb, following the instructions on the voucher.

His sister in law Rachel Kolsky told us that the penalty notice has since been withdrawn, apparently because the parking ticket had not been fully completed. As yet, neither she nor Lewis has had a reply to their specific appeals, which involved the positioning of visitor vouchers and the wording on them.

However, *THE ARCHER* has discovered that in some areas of the borough visitor vouchers have already been altered. As long as nine months ago new

hook-shaped vouchers were introduced. These have to be attached to the vehicle's rear view mirror, where they should remain for the traffic warden to inspect. Barnet says that eventually the hook-shaped vouchers will be used throughout the borough. Outstanding old stock is still being sent to "less busy zones". Presumably this includes East Finchley, unless there are readers who have already received the new style visitor vouchers?

Making a stand for cleanliness

By Diana Cormack

THE ARCHER's article pointing out the state of the newspaper stands outside East Finchley tube station seems to have had some effect. In February reader Eugenia von Piccardio brought the area to our attention saying: "It's not very nice for visitors or locals to look at."

If they were not partially full of soggy old newspapers, many of the 15 stands were being used for litter although there are plenty of litter bins nearby. The surrounding pavement was not a pretty sight either, unless you were a rat.

However, a phone call to

Barnet Customer Services seems to have done the trick. Not only has the litter been cleared away, but some of the stands have been removed too. So well done to those responsible for cleaning the place up and let's hope people manage to keep it that way.



Spot the difference. Above: how it was, and below: a better welcome to East Finchley. Photo by Diana Cormack



Advertising squeezed in High Road crash

An advertising hoarding was demolished in a collision at the junction of Kitchener Road and High Road on 18 March. Witnesses said a car travelling north was in collision with the hoarding and another car parked there. Police were soon on the scene of the accident. The advertising hoarding has since been removed. Our pictures were taken by John Crivellari at Plummers.



Spring clean

By David Attfield

Cherry Tree Wood was given a much-needed spring tidy-up on Sunday 16 March, thanks to a litter pick organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Wind and rain kept the number of participants to low double figures but, as anyone visiting the park over the following days could vouch, the small group made a big impact.

Around 20 sacks were filled with debris of various sorts. As ever, among the beer bottles and crisp packets were some unusual items: this year's tally included a smoker's pipe and a very bent basket-ball hoop.

The event benefited from the support of Barnet Council, who provided equipment and two park keepers to help out on the day, a sign perhaps of

more positive relations between the Council and the Friends. Sadly, litter is already building up again. Happily, a local Brownie plans to run a similar event in the summer.

If you are interested in the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, you can contact them at info@cerrytreewood.co.uk or by writing to 88 Summerlee Avenue, N2 9QH.

Safety options for Church Lane

Barnet Council says it will consider the best options for speed control and traffic management in Church Lane.

Last month, we reported on a safety petition organised by nine-year-old Izzy Engler following a car crash outside her house. Residents are asking for vehicles to be slowed down on the road, which links East End Road and High Road.

The options being considered by the council are a 20mph speed limit, signs at either end warning motorists of concealed junctions and one-way restrictions, junction signs at Long Lane and King Street, liaison with local schools to improve pedestrian safety and the extension of the cycle lane from Leslie Road to East End Road.

Barnet Council told us that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the area's environment sub-committee on which option or options are most suitable.

Indelible ink

If you want to hear about one of Finchley's hidden gems, go to Avenue House in East End Road on May 29 where Eileen Kenning will be talking about the Stephens Collection, a museum of writing material and equipment, and about the history of the Stephens Ink Company.

She will show the film *Blue Black*, the story of the Stephens family and how the ink was developed. The Finchley Society talk starts at 8pm. Non-members are welcome with an entry fee of £2.

Dr Henry Stephens invented the famous blue black ink in 1832. His son Henry then marketed it worldwide. When he died in 1918, he bequeathed Avenue House and its estate to the people of Finchley.

Watch it, Ken

A reader reports that she nearly ran over London mayor Ken Livingstone on 10 April. The near-miss happened when he and his entourage were crossing the road near the Phoenix Cinema end of Fairlawn Avenue. Apparently Ken had to take a step back, but gave a winning smile of apology.

Lily Powell

Mrs Lily Powell, the great-great-grandmother of the Five Generations story in our February issue, passed away on Easter Monday. We send our sympathy to all her family and friends.

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YOUNG ARCHER



A celebratory shake up

By Martin Primary School teachers Gilly Clifford and Clare Lewis

As part of Multicultural Week, Martin Primary School pupils were not only shaking around to the sound of African drummers and Indian pop, but their classes had a shake up too. Each classroom was transformed into a country across the globe ready to welcome children into a new culture.

We split each class in half and joined them with another year group, so teachers sometimes had Year 1 and Year 5 in the same class. The timetable was pretty complicated and took a while, but it was worth it, as the children and teachers have really got to know each other.

Each teacher prepared an interactive lesson set in a country of their choice and the children rotated from class to class during the week making prayer carpets, using chopsticks or perhaps tasting foreign dishes.

"I liked it when we made masks in Italy and I spoke Hungarian too!" said Badar, a Year 2 child.

A feast of languages

It's not only the children and

staff who were active participants; Martin Primary School welcomed parent readers to read in different languages, as well as celebrating with the local community as part of their International Evening. "I've enjoyed speaking and hearing different languages," said Waldir, in Year 4.

Multicultural Week was a huge success and such a bonding experience for a newly amalgamated school. The whole school worked together to make it happen and the children showed remarkable maturity in taking responsibility for each other. The week was perfectly summed up by Anna in Year 1 who said: "I've learned so much about the world. We have so many languages and people from different places in our school."

Chess prodigy aims high

By Diana Cormack

In the past eight years, 12-year-old Dominic Norcliffe-Brown, of Church Lane, has come a long way in the world of chess. Introduced to the game by his grandfather at the age of four, Dominic developed his skills at Brookland School, where he was first selected for the school team while he was still in the infants. He continued to play for Brookland throughout his time there, coached then, and now, by John Fleetwood.

Now a pupil at The Latymer School in Edmonton, Dominic plays for the school and for Muswell Hill Chess Club. Having played very well in the London Junior Chess Championships in Harrow between Christmas and New Year 2007, Dominic achieved a part-qualification for the England Junior Chess Squad. At the end of March 2008 he took part in the England Squad Championships at Liverpool

John Moores University. With three wins and three draws out of his six games, Dominic scored 4.5 points, thus comfortably ensuring his selection as a member of the England Junior Chess Squad.

Dominic will be playing matches for the England team over the course of this year and hopes to be travelling to the Czech Republic with the squad early next year. The future could hold many such trips for him but



England Junior Chess player Dominic Norcliffe-Brown. Photo courtesy of Gail Norcliffe

at the moment, Dominic tells *THE ARCHER*, what he is really looking forward to is receiving his England squad shirt.

Want to help the RSPCA?

By Caroline Broome

If you are 16 or under you can help the RSPCA in many ways. Here are a few ideas:

Get into fab fund-raising

Have a great time and raise money for your local RSPCA branch at the same time. Bake cakes and biscuits and sell them to school friends. Set up a second hand book or bric-a-brac stall. Give up your favourite treats for a week and donate the money you would have spent to the RSPCA. Grow plants and vegetables and sell them to family and friends.

You can just about do a sponsored anything! How about a sponsored skate-a-thon, sponsored silence, sponsored dog walk, sponsored hula-hoop? The list is endless. So decide what you're going to do, set a date and then phone the RSPCA on 0300 1234 555 for a sponsorship form.

Recycling is one of the easiest ways of raising money for RSPCA, whether it's mobile phones, stamps or printer toner cartridges. Phone RSPCA on the same number and ask for a recycling bag, drop your items in it, then post it off - no stamp needed.

A few guidelines

Please remember that under 16s can't collect money door-to-door or on the street with a box, buy or sell raffle tickets, have alcohol on tombola stalls, or run a fund raising event alone: there must be a responsible adult present.

The RSPCA can take no responsibility for any injury, loss or damage caused or sustained as a result of fund raising events in aid of RSPCA.

If you would like further information or advice please pop into the RSPCA Small Animal Clinic in Park Road, East Finchley, during opening hours for a leaflet. The clinic is open on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm, with consultations starting at 6pm and finishing at 7.30pm. In cases of animal emergencies ring Harmsworth Hospital on 020 7272 6214.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

To celebrate World Book Day in March, each child was given a £1 book voucher. The Scholastic Book Fair provided £183 to supplement books in the school library.

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in an Electricity Science Challenge at Bishop Douglass School. The groups cooperated to make a moving vehicle. Year 5 team won joint second prize of £50 of science equipment for the school.

Children from Holy Trinity took part in the seven mile Big Fun Walk to raise money for the North London Hospice.

£195 was raised for Sport Relief, with both children and staff taking part in the one mile challenge.

An auction week at the school was another great fund-raiser, this time for school funds. Special items were opened to bidding in the playground every day and the week culminated in a grand auction and quiz night where some truly spectacular bids were placed.

Manorside Primary School News

Science Evening was an enormous success as it showcased work from every year and there were plenty of interactive experiments and displays.

Year 4 enjoyed the Saracens Rugby Festival following on from the team's involvement in a rugby programme and related activities at the school.

Barnet Film Festival was popular as children from Years 2, 3 and 5 all enjoyed a trip to the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley.

The whole school is looking forward to the return of its headteacher Steve Hilborne, who has been in Namibia as part of a VSO initiative. The seamless transition from his leaving to his return is a tribute to the leadership skills of deputy headteacher Elaine Wilson and the fantastic staff throughout the school.

Martin School

For World Book Day the children made books based on their favourite stories, then read them to others throughout the school.

Children were encouraged to use their £1 World Book Day vouchers at the Scholastic Book Fair, which was held in conjunction with a cake sale organised by the PTA. Parents baked over 500 cakes and raised £140 for school funds. Money is being saved to refurbish the school library. Martin School is again participating in World Maths Day, enabling them to compete against children around the world.

Years 5 and 6 took part in the inter-school challenge for National Science and Engineering Week. The focus was on electricity and the task was to build a moving vehicle to compete in a race. One of the school's teams came second in this.

Tomorrow's world today

By Julia Bramson

As part of a programme of events celebrating Science & Engineering Week at Manorside Primary School, Science Evening on 13 March was an opportunity for parents to explore and learn, and find out from their children how science is taught today.

The evening kicked off with a slide presentation showing the science work that had taken place during the week so far, followed by a number of experiments performed on stage by Year 6 children.

After this, parents were encouraged to visit all the stands dotted around the school halls where representatives from each year group explained the experiments and displays. Keith Turner, the Governor who helps with Science Club, created fascinating displays using light, an overhead projector and assorted plastics.

The interactive displays and experiments in both school halls included slime, racing balloons, bubbles and volcanoes. There were opportunities to test the soundproofing qualities of different materials, watch small

explosions and try your hand at engineering using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Science Inspector Steve Marshall showed his enthusiasm with a few tricks of his own. These included blowing out a candle from across the stage and other experiments with air.

The overriding impression left on parents was that science at Manorside is fun, and children are much more likely to learn if they enjoy what they are doing. It was a fantastic evening, and well worth it, especially if you had thought science was dull.

**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Song and dance

Once upon a time when men were men and James Bond didn't need to be invented, musicals meant Broadway and Rogers and Hammerstein and dancing girls and more cheese in the plot than the cheese counter at Sainsburys. Not any more. From the moment that some bunch of lunatics decided to cram a whole load of secondhand Abba songs into an unbelievable plot, the not-so-great and not-very-good have proved some people are mug enough to go to anything. And we're not talking about Lloyd-Webber and singing cats either, we're talking rock musicals.

Once Ben Elton had completed the transformation from annoying left wing comic to just annoying and turned a hatful of Queen songs into a musical the bandwagon was unstoppable. We got Madness, the musical, and now, without a hint of irony, there's a Take That musical called *Never Forget*, something I'll try very hard not to remember.

But why stop there? There are loads of bands whose songs can be beaten, crushed and forced into something with songs and no plot. What about *Hotel Tropicana*, a heart warming story about the son of a kebab shop owner and his talentless friend struggling with their hair gel on a Friday night to the songs of George Michael? Or maybe it's time to go punk with *Westway*, the original Clash musical, or the Sex Pistols story 'retold' as the charming tale of how four loveable Londoners found fame and fortune in the musical *No Future for Mr Vacant*.

If you want to drag yourself further back into the deep and dangerous past then how about the Led Zeppelin musical *Stairway to Heaven* complete with a special guest appearance from Cliff Richard as God? The Stones would be perfect for the musical treatment. It just depends on which period: is it the 60s pop stars or the out-to-lunch 70s? Will they provide the necessary recreational narcotics to get you in the mood for *Jack Flash is Jumping* so you can have a full-on Mick'n'Keef experience?

And don't forget The Beatles. I'm sure that the only thing that stands between some complete dingbat's idea for a musical about four fun loving Scousers laughing and joking their way into the world's hearts is Paul McCartney's sense of good taste. But then again, he's just had to fork out £25 million to his ex-wife so maybe *Get Back Sgt Pepper, Lucy's in the Sky* is only a frog chorus away.

We want the 603

By Daphne Chamberlain

At the time of writing, East Finchley was giving an enthusiastic thumbs-up to a regular, frequent, all-day bus service connecting us with Muswell Hill, Highgate, Hampstead and Swiss Cottage, and calling at the Royal Free Hospital. As the 603 contract comes up for renewal, this is what the Bus Watch West Haringey group is asking for.

At present, the 603 operates only at school opening and closing times. Although it runs along Fortis Green and past East Finchley station on its Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage route, many people in this area have never even seen it.

East Finchley Bus Watch are helping their Haringey colleagues to collect signatures for a petition to Transport for London, and Secretary Hazel Burnett reports that we are queuing up to sign.

Bus Watch West Haringey Secretary Chris Barker points out that an all-day 603, slightly re-routed to call at

the Royal Free, would benefit the whole community, not simply school students. He mentions hospital patients, staff and visitors, cinema and theatre-goers, shoppers, and visitors to Hampstead Heath and Kenwood. The extended service would also be in line with TFL's current policy of strengthening orbital bus links.

The 603 contract is due for renewal next January. Chris Barker can be contacted on 020 8347 7684 or c.barker@lineone.net. Hazel Burnett's contact number is 020 8444 6824.

In search of an author

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local Normandy veteran and former bandleader Henry Van Emden is a great talker. He has a fund of stories about his colourful life, but is looking for a collaborator to put his experiences into print.

Henry has met politicians, generals and legendary musicians. He found his favourite clarinet in the mud of war-torn France. More recently, he has become a popular entertainer with his keyboard at many local events.

The period of his life he

wants to focus on, though, is his part in the Normandy landings. As he says: "There are not many of us left."

He would like to have a chat with anyone who might be able to help with his autobiography. If you are interested, Henry can be contacted on 020 8883 2715.

Ladies in red

By Betti Blatman

A group of ladies dressed colourfully in purple and red attracted a lot of interest and attention recently when they met for coffee at Kenwood House, Hampstead.

They were a group of London Redhatters who are affiliated to The Red Hat Society, the largest informal ladies' organisation in the world. It is a network of like-minded women who enjoy a sisterhood of friendship, dressing in purple and wearing red hats just for fun each time they meet for the theatre, meals, exhibitions, national and local events. For further information, contact Lorna at londonredhatters81@yahoo.com.



Above: Members of the Red Hat Society have coffee at Kenwood. L-r: Baroness Buyalot, Mistress Muck, then behind, Queen Lorna, Joy-Bells, Queen Mal Shopalotten of Phoenix Croix de Brent, and far right Contessa. Photograph by Polly Hancock

Looking to the future

By Diana Cormack

If you keep your eyes peeled you may notice a sign in the window of Panoptica Opticians at 56 High Road announcing that the plants on display there are growing in compost produced from waste recycled by the business.

In fact, the compost used in the plant pots was provided by their branch at Muswell Hill, which "went green" under a major refit. Now 90% of their waste paper and cardboard is shredded and used in the composting process. The East Finchley branch has begun making its own and, when it is due for a refit, the shop will be tailored to the latest and most efficient "green" requirements.

Manager Rob Lamont told *THE ARCHER* that they are striving to show that even small businesses can make a difference. "If we all do our bit we can make an impact to help protect the planet", he said.

There have been some positive comments from local people and even the florist next door has said it is a great idea. Other businesses are welcome to contact Rob to discuss these green ideas. You can phone him on 020 8444 6693.

Power out

By Betti Blatman

Two thousand homes in East Finchley were affected by an electricity power cut on Wednesday 2 April at 1.30am. PowerGen sent staff to the substation in Hamilton Road and power was restored by 4.30am.

Asian art in the picture

By Diana Cormack

The Noble Sage Art Gallery at 2a Fortis Green was shown in "Desi DNA", a new BBC2 programme about Asian arts and entertainment. On its website the half hour programme is described as "focusing on the new generation of Asians breaking the mould and seeking out the hottest in Asian clubs, fashion, music and lifestyle in the UK and abroad".

Gallery director Jana Manuelpillai was chosen to take part in a feature broadcast at the end of March, exploring "the lucrative world of Asian art". His evident expertise was used to describe and value a painting which had been picked out by presenter Nikki Bedi. This was to be auctioned by Jana at the Noble Sage in February during its second "In the Fore" exhibition (see *THE ARCHER*, March 2008, page 4).

The picture was not sold but, all the time Jana is on screen talking about this, a lone figure can be seen in the background closely examining an exhibit as she sips her wine. If my eyes didn't deceive me it was *THE ARCHER*'s own Sheila Armstrong, there to report on "In the Fore".

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- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. 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** 12 & 26 May 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.

Barb Jungr at artsdepot

By John Dearing

Barb Jungr's 2008 tour features her singing the songs of Nina Simone, and on 28 February she played at artsdepot in the Pentland Theatre. She was accompanied by two accomplished musicians: pianist Jenny Carr, and Jessica Lauren on organ, harmonicas and autoharp (among other instruments).

Barb Jungr has a strong jazz singer's voice with a striking range and an expressive performance style. In between songs she told gentle, sometimes humorous anecdotes about the writers of the various songs, the circumstances and the backdrops to the songs.

Two men, a dog and friends

In her introduction she spoke of her last visit to artsdepot to "sing the songs of Elvis Presley" to "two men and a dog". Thankfully, there was a good turnout to see her this time.

She is good at interpreting the songs in her own way; much like Nina Simone herself, but not necessarily how the latter sang them. Highlights from her set included some Dylan songs: *Just Like a Woman*, *The Times They Are A Changin'* (unusually played in five time) and *The Ballad of Hollis Brown* (apparently about a poor man who, rather than watch his family starve to death, spent the last of his money on bullets).

Angel of the Morning (previously recorded by Billie Davis, PP Arnold as well as Nina



Barb Jungr photo by John Dearing

Simone) was presented as *Maggie May* from Maggie's viewpoint.

Other songs included *Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood* (The Animals), one of Nina Simone's anthems, *Ain't Got No - I Got Life* (from the musical *Hair*) and *Suzanne* (Leonard Cohen). The encore was the George Harrison song *Here Comes The Sun*.

More information about Barb Jungr's performances and recordings can be found on her web site at www.barbjungr.com.

Meet the Phoenix

Would you like to know how the Phoenix is run, why it plays the films it plays or sells what it sells at the kiosk? Perhaps you have some ideas about what you think it should be doing as an organisation.

At a free special event on Sunday 11 May from 2pm you'll have the chance to meet the people who run the Phoenix and ask questions about all aspects of the Phoenix Cinema Trust.

The Chief Executive, Film

Programmer, Trustees and other colleagues will be there and to round off the afternoon at 4pm the cinema is showing Neil Jordan's *The End Of The Affair*, a scene of which was filmed in the Phoenix auditorium.

Breaking the code

By Lucy Chamberlin

The life and relationships of the 'dauntingly eccentric' yet often tragic figure cut by Alan Turing was the subject of Incognito's April drama *Breaking the Code*.

Scientist and mathematician extraordinaire, his was one of the brains that cracked the German 'Enigma' code during World War II and was instrumental in the eventual downfall of the Third Reich. Churchill called them 'the geese who laid the golden eggs'.

But in breaking a taboo and committing the (then) crime of homosexuality, Turing fell foul of the 'coded' establishment and risked misunderstanding, suspicion and resentment. Hugh Whitemore's play, directed by Mike Mende, brings us face to face with questions of convention, free will and morality. Do computers have an intelligent soul, we are asked, and if right and wrong cannot be established in mathematics, then how can they be said to exist in real life?

Turing, complete with nervous stutter and fidgeting hands, was played with great tenacity

by Stephen Russell, and provided a stark if entertaining contrast to the broad vernacular and straight-laced pragmatism of Alistair Maydon's detective sergeant. Of particular note was Graham Boon's skilful portrayal of Dilwyn Knox, the wily old eccentric who employs Turing at Bletchley during wartime.

Boon was also involved in the building of the set, a bare but effective arrangement involving wooden tables and blackboards covered in mathematical equations. Joey Timmins supplied intelligent female decoration to a mostly male cast as Pat Green, Turing's confidante, while credit should also go to Vince Mahon for his interpretation of the surly love interest, Ron Miller.

Once again the Incognito team pulled off a hit, and we can look forward to their next production *Abigail's Party*, by Mike Leigh, from 19-24 May.

May at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

***Persepolis* opens at the Phoenix on 2 May and, for me, will be one of the films of the year. It tells the remarkable true story of Marjane's coming of age under the repression of the Iranian revolution. Directed by Marjane Satrapi, who also wrote the book of the same name, it is an intelligent portrait of a young woman trying to find herself in a system that frowns upon any deviation from the norm. Animated in the same style as her book, it is a fresh voice on a contemporary political theme.**

There's a political theme in our next film too, John Sayle's *Honeydripper*. Set in Alabama in the 1950s it is ostensibly a film about a failing blues bar, The Honeydripper Lounge; as always with John Sayles, however, it is so much more than that. It deftly examines the plight of an underclass with subtlety and restraint. It also features some great blues music and the Phoenix is delighted to welcome Hillbilly and the Bonfire, a London-based Blues duo who will be performing for free before the 8.45pm show on Tuesday 13 May.

On Sunday 11 May, the Phoenix is throwing open its doors to the local community. 'Meet the Phoenix' is an opportunity for you to meet the Trustees, the programmer, other colleagues and me. You'll be able to ask us about how we run the cinema and why we run it the way we do. We're very keen on being YOUR cinema, so any suggestions or comments you may have will be welcome. The afternoon culminates in a screening of Neil Jordan's *The End of the Affair*, scenes from which were shot in the Phoenix. The whole afternoon will be free.

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

What's On...

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

Saturday 10 May

- **Book-signing at Children's Bookshop**, 29 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill: Oliver Jeffers, author/illustrator of *Lost and Found* and *How to Catch a Star*, 12 noon - 1pm.
- East Finchley Methodist Church 12-2pm: **Christian Aid Week event**. Plant & cake stall, Open Church, teas/coffees.

Sunday 11 May

- Tottenham Civic Society **guided tour of the recently restored 1907 Windsor Parade**, Tottenham High Road, 11am. Details from Joyce Rosser on 020 8347 7684 or jrosser@lineone.net
- **East Finchley Methodist Church concert**, 8pm; Jane Rosenberg (soprano), John Dawswell (bass), Jean Middlemiss (piano). Free admission with collection in aid of Barnet Borough Arts Council's funding for festivals. Venue fully accessible for people with disabilities.

Until Saturday 17 May

- Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate: **Far From the Madding Crowd**, adapted from Thomas Hardy's novel by John Cooper and directed by Harry Meacher; Tuesday - Saturday, 8pm, Sunday, 4pm. Tickets £8 - £15, with concessions available. Box office: 020 8340 3488.

Sunday 18 May

- **Buffet Supper Concert** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 7.30pm; The Thamyse String Quartet play quartets by Beethoven (Op 18 No. 3 in D major) and Elgar (Op 83 in E minor). Tickets: supper and concert pre-booked only £15 (020 8444 9214); concert only, £10 at door.

Thursday 22 May - Sunday 1 June

- **Spring Bank Holiday Funfair** at Alexandra Palace, 12 noon - 7.00 pm. Details: 020 8365 2121 or www.alexandrapalace.com

Saturday 24 May

- **Henrietta's Suburb**, a guided walk led by Ruth Smith, local City of London guide: an offbeat tour of the charitable side of Hampstead Garden Suburb with some hidden gems along the way; 10am from the Suburb Gallery, Fellowship House, £5 per place, including coffee and biscuits. Call Ruth on 020 8458 8191 to book your ticket.

Thursday 29 May

- **Finchley Society talk** by Eileen Kenning on the history of the Stephens Ink Company and the Stephens family, including a showing of the film *Blue Black*; Avenue House, East End Road, 8pm. Non members welcome with £2 entry fee.

Artsdepot in May 2008

- **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**: Wednesday 7 May, 7.30pm. **Barnet Open Exhibition**: Thurs 8 May - Sun 15 June, 12-4pm. **Rhapsody Opera**: Friday 15 & Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm. **Folk in The Foyer**: Friday 23 May, 8.30pm. **Big Family**: Saturday 24 May, 7.30pm. **Lucy Porter's Love-In**: Friday 30 May, 8pm. **Cirque Bijou**: Friday 30 May - Sunday 1 June, 7.30pm. **Barnet Schools Music Festival**: Thursday 5 - Friday 6 & Monday 9 - Friday 13 June, 7.30pm.



The Stones shine a light on The Phoenix

By James Luxford
The Phoenix Cinema was one of 100 cinemas chosen to take part in the biggest premiere in recent UK history with a simultaneous screening of the new Rolling Stones movie *Shine A Light*.

The film is directed by Martin Scorsese, his first film since winning a Best Direction Oscar for *The Departed*. It follows the legendary rockers as they prepare and perform a concert in New York last year.

Jack White and pop star Christina Aguilera join the band for duets and there are also archive interviews charting the band's rise to fame and status as music icons.

Shine a Light has received rave reviews, and has been met with great anticipation from lovers of both music and movies. Over 250 fans of the band packed out The Phoenix, watching live footage of the West End premiere, which was attended by a plethora of stars including the band themselves.

The audience was then shown an advanced screening of the film (over a week before its general release) at the same time as the celebrities in the West End. A real red-carpet atmosphere was brought to the independent cinema, as guests were given souvenir 'tour t-shirts' to commemorate the event.

The screening was greatly appreciated by the crowd, a mix of old and young music fans, testifying to the band's enduring popularity.

It was yet another starry night for the venue, which has seen some of the film industry's leading names join audiences, either in person or by satellite link. It also has its roots in the community, with a recent "best of 2007" double-bill being voted for by the public.

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.



Don't it always seem to go?

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

Regarding the coverage and letters about the future of Stanley Road Field within the last three years, I last played on the field in 1998, by which time it was already in a very poor state.

The gates were then padlocked for a long time. Since they took the locks off the gates, I often see people walking their dogs on the field but, until the football tournament last month, I have never seen anyone playing sport there.

Frankly, I don't blame them. I wouldn't want to play on a field so full of burnt out car and motorbike parts that it looks like the aftermath of a chase from the *Mad Max* movies, and so strewn with potholes and prickly shrubs that it is closer to resembling the open range in a cowboy thriller.

Even more ironic, however, is the site of the Wilmot Centre. For 40 years, children played inside at the various clubs and summer schemes provided. Now the temporary fencing around the site, which itself has been there so long that it has creepers growing on it, has signs stating children must not play there.

There was talk of building a new sports centre in part of the field to make up for the loss of the Wilmot Centre, in connection with the rest of the field being restored, with an access road through where the old building was.

The developers who demolished the Wilmot also spoke of an access road, but this was clearly so they could pave a potential paradise and put up a parking lot to serve a housing scheme built over the field. Some justification, they said, was that Ken Livingstone had set a housing target for each borough. Ken Livingstone also won London the 2012 Olympic bid, and there must be young hopefuls in this area who dream of being athletes. Where could they train if Stanley Field was built over?

The lost chord

By Daphne Chamberlain

If you like eating, drinking or singing, then Stokes Court is the place for you. That's according to one of the residents of this large block of sheltered accommodation beside the station carpark. Apparently one important ingredient is missing though, and that is a five-octave keyboard.

The residents arrange a varied programme of social events. Stokes Court has one with four octaves, but really needs one with five.

So, if anyone has a five-

octave keyboard they could either donate or sell at a reasonable price, the revellers of Stokes Court would appreciate hearing from you. Their contact number is 020 8444 1793.

Letters

Unhomely homes

Dear Editor,

A number of new flats has appeared in Church Lane and in Elmfield Road over the last year or so. Nothing wrong with that, except that these particular flats resemble office blocks.

They have gun-metal grey paintwork, steel window frames and forbidding glass entrances. Set amongst the brick terraces and cottages of this, one of the oldest parts of East Finchley, they look totally out of place.

Did the planners bother to visit the area before giving permission for these flats to be built? I was under the impression that new buildings should at least try to fit into their surroundings. These do not.

Yours faithfully,
Julia Cooper,
Richmond Road, N2.

Park House could be police station

Dear Editor,

At the time of writing this letter, there is no news about the exact future of Park House (opposite East Finchley tube station). With concerns about the eventual closure of the police station serving Finchley and Golders Green, isn't the Park House site ideal for its relocation?

The building should be able to accommodate all the technology that, we are told, cannot be provided in the current 92-year-old police station. In addition, the site has speedy access to several of the main roads through the borough, and to the Northern Line.

I wonder what residents of East Finchley, and police now working out of the station in Finchley Road, would feel about this proposal?

Yours faithfully,
Sarah Dudley,
Durham Road, N2

Fooled again

Dear Editor,

You've done it again, you cads at *THE ARCHER* with your April Fool article (New life for Cherry Tree Wood, April 2008). My husband and I were fuming at the thought of it all, and were ready to write some very strongly worded letters of disapproval to Barnet Council. But we had a good laugh when we got to the end of the paper.

Yours faithfully,
June Randall
Edmunds Walk, N2.

What a let down

Dear Editor,

Until two months ago, there were mysterious blue hoardings surrounding a shop front next to Kokos on the High Road, plastered with question marks inviting passers-by to guess who might be moving in.

As the workforce redecorated the premises, there were no clues as to which exciting new business we might be getting in this prime location. Might it be another restaurant, an interesting new shop of some kind, or something totally new?

When the hoardings finally came down, what a disappointment: simply one of our many estate agents moving premises from a little way up the High Road. Let's hope the premises they vacated make a home for a genuinely new shop or business.

Yours faithfully,
Bernard Ashworth,
Fortis Green, 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.

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Gail Steiner's winning montage "East Finchley – the Place to Live"

Captured on camera

By Adam Justice-Mills

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and these winning pictures from the East Finchley Open "Imagine - East Finchley" photo competition are testament to that.

Last year, the East Finchley Open artists group ran a photo competition for the first time. We asked local people to send in postcard-sized photos of whatever most reminds them of East Finchley. We received a great selection of pictures, some taken on a camera, some on a camera phone, and we're finally able to announce the winners.

Under 18 category

The winner of the Under 18 category is Stuart Webber (then aged 12) with his picture titled *Suburban Bustle*. Stuart won a digital camera. Runners-up in this category were sisters Ruby and Esther Aronsohn, who both won photo-printing vouchers.

18 plus category

The winner of this category is Gail Steiner, with her montage picture titled *East Finchley - the Place to Live*, and we won't argue with that. Gail won a camera phone. The 18 plus category's runners-up are Rose Wallace and Mike Coles, who both won phone top-up vouchers. Finally, Kate Brown won Highly Commended and won a pair of designer sunglasses.

We'd like to say well done to all taking part in the competition. We hope to display all the entries in the Phoenix Cinema foyer soon. Right now, all the winning entries are on the EFO web site www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Our particular thanks go to the judges and to the sponsors who donated the prizes: Gemini Photographic and Phone City Direct, in East Finchley, and Andrews Opticians.

Even if you didn't take part this time, we hope you're encouraged to take many more pictures of this lovely area, ready for the next EFO photo competition.



Is this allowed? Ruby and Esther Aronsohn's worthy runner-up "THE ARCHER".



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Ladies v Lionesses

By Natalie Huntley

Cup final fever came to the Wingate & Finchley FC in Summers Lane when Arsenal Ladies took on Millwall Lionesses in the London Women's County Cup Final.

With a lively and vibrant crowd in excess of 350, the foundations were set for an entertaining match. This final was a repeat of last season's match when Arsenal won 2-0, so Millwall were out to turn the tables this season.

Arsenal started the stronger team and kept possession well, putting the Lionesses under pressure, but Millwall keeper Claire Lacey made some fine saves. Arsenal eventually got the breakthrough from a Lianne Sanderson corner, where Yvonne Tracey glanced it home. Millwall were working hard to break the Arsenal players down but just before the break Sanderson made it 2-0 with a driven shot into the corner of the net.

After the break, Millwall came out looking stronger and more confident, and this paid

off as they won a free kick just outside the box early on. A fantastically well-taken free kick by Millwall defender Amy Mason brought the Lionesses back into the game, and the tempo rose again.

Arsenal continued to apply pressure in front of the Millwall goal, and had quite a few chances to put the game beyond Millwall, who continued to hold on, but just before the final whistle Jane Ludlow struck from outside the box to make the final score 3-1.

This game was a great exhibition of women's football between two well-established London teams. To get involved in girls' or women's football or for more information please contact Natalie.huntley@londonfa.com or emma.barnes@londonfa.com (Women's & Girls FDO at London FA).

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