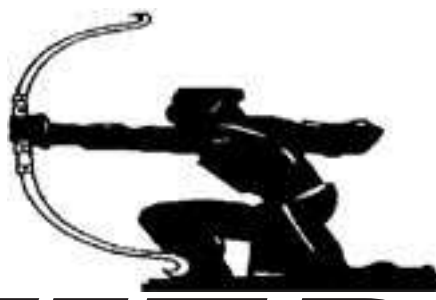


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# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Master plan for playing fields

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Improvements for Muswell Hill playing fields, alongside Coldfall Wood, were up for debate at a special Area Assembly as the first step towards a master plan for one of the area's largest open spaces.**

On Sunday 7 September, a large number of people from Barnet as well as Haringey met in a marquee on the fields to put their point of view. Some wanted the fields to be left alone; some hoped for increased facilities for children or sport players; some were asking for paths, litterbins and toilets. Many were concerned about noise, vandalism and maintenance problems both now and after any improvements.

### Halliwick Park

Several important points emerged from the assembly. One is that Haringey is committed to not building on open land, so it seems likely that the essentially open nature of the site will not be compromised. Housing in the Coppett's Road area, however, will increase in the next few years, affecting the existing and future infrastructure, including leisure facilities.

If the nearby but rundown Halliwick Park and playground, owned by Barnet, were improved, perhaps through a joint scheme with Haringey, local people in both boroughs would benefit. Haringey councillors say they will approach their opposite numbers in Barnet about this.

### Consultation

Some residents at the assembly were concerned about the planned process of consultation by postal survey. Because of the odd borough boundaries, a sizeable area of Barnet lies on the eastern side of Coppett's Road. Residents in those streets will not be consulted, despite living so near the fields, and will have no say apart from a possible on-line response.

One important concession was won, however. Originally the survey was to cover only those homes within a 400m radius of

the fields. Thanks to pressure at the assembly it will now reach homes in Ringwood Avenue, Beech Drive and Church Vale (but not Twyford Avenue).

Continued on page 2



## Calendar

**THE ARCHER Calendar 2009 is going on sale soon. At just £5, it's the perfect Christmas gift and every penny raised will go to support East Finchley's good neighbour charity Contact.**

Our full-colour wall calendar features 12 stunning photographs of people and places, all taken within the boundary of N2 by ARCHER readers. It comes in a stylish month-to-a-view format with plenty of room for you to scribble important dates and appointments.

Thanks to all our readers who contributed photographs. Enormous thanks also to Photobox.co.uk for printing the calendar for us.

You'll be able to buy it in local shops and outlets from the middle of October. Look out for it in Toni's Continental and Lazooli, and many

others.

You can also order copies now by post and they will be delivered to your door for FREE. Order as many calendars as you like, and don't forget copies for friends and family. Turn to page 11 for an order form.

THE ARCHER Calendar 2009 is supporting Contact, which seeks to improve the quality of life for elderly and disabled people, and those living alone in East Finchley.

Order your calendars now and you can make a difference to the work of this essential local charity.

## Floody hell

**Residents in Bedford Road were confronted with knee-deep water on 31 August when the latest in a series of tremendous summer downpours caused havoc with the overused drainage system.**

It was garden tools at the ready as these hardy residents resisted calls to the emergency services and cleared the drains within a few minutes. Photograph by Sam Clarke.

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Comments to THE ARCHER may  
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### Councils

#### Barnet Council:

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789  
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

### Transport

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

### Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000  
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792  
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
St Luke's 020 8219 1800  
Whittington 020 7272 3070

### Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141  
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555  
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211  
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777  
Drinkline 0800 917 8282  
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
Health Info Service 0800 665544  
MIND 020 8343 5700

### OAP's Advice

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

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212  
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 0845 303 0900  
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood  
Team 020 7161 9014

### Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111  
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935  
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265  
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
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❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Com-  
munity Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020  
8444 0244/ 8489 8774

## Masters of deception

By Janet Maitland

If a trader or workman calls at your door unannounced and uses phrases like "We're only in the area today", "We've noticed a problem with your roof/guttering/tree/wall/garden/chimney", "We're working for the council and have some tarmac left over" or "Your neighbour said we should call round", then beware.

Trading Standards officers from Barnet Council are warning residents about an increase of rogue traders operating in the borough. Everyone is a target, particularly those with homes which look in need of attention.

Rogue traders induce residents to have work done on their property for ridiculously large amounts of money. Sometimes very little work, or none, is carried out despite sizeable deposits.

### How to get a fair deal

Only use reputable traders who have a verifiable address and genuine landline telephone numbers or are recommended by someone you trust. Obtain written, properly itemised quotes (including materials) from at least three companies.

If in doubt, don't open the door at all to unexpected callers. If you feel you have to open it, put the chain on first. Don't engage in conversation, just say no. If a caller becomes aggressive or won't go away, call the police on 999.

Remember that in law a cold

caller must give you a notice advising you that you are legally entitled to a seven-day cancellation period. If a trader has started work without doing this, the contract may be unenforceable and you do not have to pay anything.

For further information and advice, call the Council's Trading Standards Dept on 020 8359 2115.

If you think you have been a victim of a rogue trader, call Consumer Direct on 0845 404 0506.

## Masterplan for playing fields

Cont. from page 1

The survey results will be made available in November at Muswell Hill Library, in the local press and on [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk). The next stage is a master plan to be put to Haringey Council's cabinet in late January 2009. In the meantime, for information about the possible improvements contact [parks@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:parks@haringey.gov.uk) or call 020 8489 5873.

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

McDonald's, 11-59 High Road, N2  
Installation of internally illuminated entrance sign, one university sign and one golden arch.

61 Lincoln Road, N2

Addition of second floor to property roof. Extension including front dormer window and alterations to roof pitch.

Cedar Drive, N2

New slate covered monopitch entrance canopies.

21 The Bishop's Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing house.

Overbrook, 24 The Bishop's Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing property and

erection of a two storey detached dwelling house with rooms in roof space and basement.

18A Lewis Gardens, N2  
Change of use from workshop (class B1) to residential (class C3)

35 Elmfield Road, N2  
Single storey rear extension.

### Haringey Council

13 Southern Road, N2

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension at basement level and ground floor level.

31 Aylmer Road N2

Erection of two storey side and single storey front and rear extension.

## Crime rates mapped

The crime rate in East Finchley is classified as 'average' on a new Metropolitan Police website. In July, there were 37 reported cases of burglary, robbery or vehicle crime. This compares with June, when there were 29.

In the year to the end of March 2008, there were 325 reported crimes in East Finchley, significantly down from 477 in 2006/7 and 490 in 2005/6.

The website at <http://maps.met.police.uk/> is designed to give ward-level information on crime for all

areas of London.

### In line with the rest of the capital

East Finchley's 'average' rating means the area is in line with the average for the whole of the capital. Barnet as a whole is also average, with Haringey being classified as 'above average'.

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# Parents urged to immunise against measles

Parents in Barnet are being urged to have their children immunised against the threat of a measles outbreak. Barnet Primary Care Trust is planning an MMR catch-up campaign and intends to make immunisations more easily available through GP surgeries.

In Barnet, there have been three outbreaks of measles in the last few months and many individual cases. The borough has had the third largest number of cases of measles in the capital with several people so ill that they have required hospitalisation.

The first priority is to ensure that anyone aged between three months and 18 years who has not received MMR vaccine has a first dose. Thereafter, the priority is to give a second dose of MMR vaccine to children aged three years and seven months to 11 years; then children aged 12-18 years; then school leavers aged 18 and over going to higher or to further education establishments.

Barnet PCT points out that the small research study that was published in 1998 that led to the reduced uptake of MMR vaccine has been totally discredited.

## Risk of epidemic

Dr Andrew Burnett, Director for Health Improvement/Medical Director at Barnet PCT says: "There is now a significant risk of a measles epidemic in Barnet. Last year, we saw a big increase in the number of children and adults getting measles when the schools went back after the summer holiday. I urge parents to protect their children against this very real danger by ensuring that they have at least one dose of MMR vaccine."



Bollards and barrier block off part of Brompton Grove. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Bollards to Barnet's land

By Diana Cormack

Earlier this year, a heavily-loaded skip was put in place across Brompton Grove, which runs alongside Cherry Tree Wood from the bottom of Summerlee Avenue to Park House, opposite East Finchley tube station. It effectively blocked off most of the made-up area from the unlevel part of the road, as did a barrier that had been lowered for the same purpose. In addition, the gates to the car park at the back of the building had been chained together.

A statement in the March edition of *THE ARCHER* said: "Barnet Council has blocked access to prevent unauthorised parking on a piece of land that the council owns. The public footpath remains passable."

Since then, a possible sale of Park House to a development company has fallen through and the council-owned property is now being offered to let as office space. The premises are guarded by Camelot, whose live-in employees provide

on-site protection. Recently another form of protection has been given to the made-up area behind the barrier: the skip has been removed and replaced by a row of concrete bollards.

Barnet Council told us: "These bollards were installed as a more permanent solution to the skip, to prevent motorists parking illegally on council owned land, and they will be staying there indefinitely. Park House is currently being marketed for short-term letting."



## Yes, we made it!

By Tracy Quirke

On a rare sunny day back in the summer, staff and students from Bishop Douglass School took part in the Race for Life 2008, a 5km event in Trent Park, Enfield, to raise money for Cancer Research.

Well done to Abigail Gaskin, Mandi Chivasa, Leyla

Hilmi, Aisha Sallahdeen, Rachel Mugungu, Tovonya Murray, Monique Hilbert, Jane O'Reilly, and Jamila Afzal. Also to Ms Quirke, Mrs Gumbs, Ms Delaney and Mrs Evans.

Special thanks to Liz Goddard, the team's personal trainer who prepared them for the event and an extra special congratulation to Jane who completed the race in 19mins. Well done, Jane!

## Cherry Tree Wood Café

This summer's inclement weather was not the only reason for some inconsistencies in the opening times at the Lazy Sally kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood.

Some of the closures were due to the fact that Sally-Anne Wigfield was in the middle of planning her wedding.

However, she has lined up two trustworthy friends to run the place while she is on her honeymoon this month.

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## Gardening online

Gardeners may be interested in a new website specifically for garden and allotment news in East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Highgate and Alexandra Palace.

The new site can be found at [www.muswellhillgardeners.co.uk](http://www.muswellhillgardeners.co.uk) and contains information on open gardens, community gardens, allotments, horticulture courses and important dates in the gardening calendar.

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Coat Meur: Jane and Bob's home in Brittany. Photo by Jane Revell

## From Finchley to Finistere

**THE ARCHER is still read by many people who've left East Finchley. We'd like to hear about where they are now and what they are doing. (Contact details are on page 2). Here's the story of former ARCHER writer and deliverer Jane Revell, now living in Brittany.**

In 2002 Jane Revell and Bob Janes sold their flat in Park Hall Road and bought a house in the north-western corner of Brittany. Finistère means Land's End, the Breton rather than the Cornish variety.

Jane had fallen in love with the area in 1964 when she went to Ploudalmézeau as a 14-year-old, on the first of several exchanges. She never completely lost touch with friends she made then. One family especially, Genevieve and her parents, have welcomed Bob and Jane, which has helped them become accepted into the local community.

After looking at many houses that were tiny or damp or didn't

have a garden or were too near a road, they found *Coat Meur*, Breton for 'great wood'. The house is tucked into a rocky slope, surrounded by woodland, and halfway between the town and the sea, which are about a mile in either direction along the footpath.

### Haven of peace

Brittany. The land of Astérix, pancakes and cider, bagpipes, oysters, stripey T-shirts and much more besides. Jane says the people are friendly and helpful, the pace of life is gentle and you can walk for miles without seeing anyone. There's no rush. At the supermarket checkout, people wait

patiently behind you if you're fumbling for your money. They don't puff and sigh as they might do in Budgens.

Priorities there are different too, says Jane, with eating and drinking high on the list. People take time talking about, choosing, preparing and enjoying their food. The market on Friday isn't a grab and go race. It's a leisurely, chatty, social event, with lots of kissing and hand shaking.

And then there's the sea. Jane describes glorious, almost empty, beaches and sand dunes; a stunning coastal footpath along a wild rocky coastline; sailing, surfing, windsurfing; delicious seafood, including scrumptious scampi. Pisces paradise!

Jane and Bob are offering B+B at Coat Meur and look forward to welcoming guests who want to get away from it all and give themselves some space. For further details visit [www.coatmeur.com](http://www.coatmeur.com) or email Jane at [jane@janerevell.com](mailto:jane@janerevell.com) or write to her at Coat Meur, 29830 Ploudalmézeau, France.

## Focus on the community

By Daphne Chamberlain

**It looks like being the start of another act for Community Focus drama. Director Alastair Reid said they had had to overcome some problems following their brilliant triumph in the end-of-year play in 2007.**

Speaking to the audience before their annual production this summer, he described their season as "interesting". They had faced transport difficulties, and had to replace three regulars at very short notice.

This year's play, *A Tale of Two Families*, was a contemporary version of the Romeo and Juliet story. At the end, there were gifts for Alastair, who was leaving after 15 years.

### Looking to the future

Community Focus drama is continuing, though. It provides a stage for performers with disabilities, and also for their helpers, when necessary. Classes are 2-4 pm on Thursdays at artsdepot in North Finchley, working towards the next production at Christmas.

Meanwhile, the Community Focus summer photography project for young people aged eight to 13 produced a display throughout September in the artsdepot gallery. Photos were based on the 263 bus route, and included Cherry Tree Wood.

To find out about CF's very varied programme of activities, contact [caitriona.dunnet@communityfocus.co.uk](mailto:caitriona.dunnet@communityfocus.co.uk) or call 020

8369 5483/5484. If you would like a tour of the artsdepot facilities contact the office on 020 8369 5483 or pop in between Monday and Friday to have a chat with the staff. Group tours and taster sessions can also be arranged.

## Canned fruit

**Residents who recycle their aluminium cans have helped to plant more than 150 fruit trees in Malawi.**

Barnet Council and Alupro run a scheme to plant trees according to the tonnage of aluminium cans recycled in the borough.

As residents recycled more than 150 tonnes between July 2007 and June 2008, Alupro, working with a British charity called Ripple Africa, planted the orange trees in specially created nurseries in the country's rural communities.

The nurseries are run by local garden clubs and schools, and are also used to grow guava, pawpaw and lemon rootstock.

## How to give cold callers the cold shoulder

**Why do they always call at the most inconvenient time? In fact, why do they call at all? Telephone sales people are only doing their job but sometimes we just want them to go away.**

Paul Hammond, of the police's Barnet Boroughwatch, has some tips for dealing with any unwanted marketers.

First, try saying 'Hold on, please', then putting the phone down and walking off. The more of their time you can consume, the less time they have to call others. After a while, they will end the call and you can replace the receiver.

Secondly, those annoying

calls with no one on the other end are generated by machines and record the time of day when a person answers. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' salesperson to call back and find someone at home. What can you do? If you realise there's no-one on the end of the line, immediately start hitting the # button on the phone six or seven times as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialled the call and it kicks your number out of their system and eliminates future calls from that source.

### Junk that junk

Finally, when you receive junk mail for everything from credit cards to second mortgages, don't throw away the return envelope. Why not dispose of other junk mail by putting it in these postage-prepaid return envelopes? If you received nothing else that day, just send back the blank application form. If you want to remain anonymous, make sure your name or a reference number isn't on anything you return. You can even send the envelope back empty if you just want to keep them guessing. It still costs them and, after all, it's their envelope that you're returning.

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# Campaign to save park patrols

By Janet Maitland

**A campaign is under way to prevent Haringey Council from axing the Parks Constabulary, which carries out safety patrols in Coldfall Wood.**

Haringey plans to replace the constabulary, a team of 12 officers and three police dogs providing 24 hour cover, with a new cross-borough Parks Response Unit, to be managed by the Metropolitan Police, based at Finsbury Park, and supporting two Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

They also plan to increase frontline parks staff by more than 17,000 additional hours a year and to establish new Community Warden volunteering opportunities. Haringey believes that this scheme will improve safety and security, particularly during the daytime when parks are used the most.

## Night cover inadequate

Campaigners, however, are not convinced. They not only want to save the existing service but to appoint dedicated Park Wardens. Hundreds of people have signed a petition, submitted to Haringey at the end of September.

"Haringey's plan is mislead-

ing," said Liberal Democrat MP Lynne Featherstone, leader of the campaign. "Safer Neighbourhood Teams aren't tasked to respond to 999 calls and they don't have transport to carry arrested persons, witnesses who need assistance or dogs. It's also likely they will clock off at 5pm although much of the trouble that occurs in parks happens at night."

## Local Friends group

If you care about the future of Coldfall Wood you might be interested in joining a local group who act as its voluntary guardians. The Friends of Coldfall Wood organise clean-ups, walks and conservation activities.

The Friends meet on the first Tuesday in every month at 7.30 pm at the Vampires Football Club, off Coppett's Road. If you are interested in becoming a member, email [info@coldfallwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@coldfallwoods.co.uk) or visit their developing website at [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk).

# Get tested

**Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) is encouraging sexually active young people to get tested for Chlamydia, still the most common STI (sexually transmitted infection) treated at local clinics.**

The infection is most prevalent among 16 to 24 year olds who, in most cases, are unknowingly infected. Barnet PCT aims to screen every sexually active young person in this age group.

If caught early, the infection can easily be treated with antibiotics. If not treated, Chlamydia can cause serious health problems such as miscarriage, infertility and ectopic pregnancies.

Chlamydia testing can be carried out by the individuals themselves. Self-tester kits can be obtained from local pharmacies and GP practices offering sexual health services. The 'do-it-yourself' tests are free, painless, simple and discreet,

with results available from the NHS in around two weeks.

As part of this programme, 46 GP surgeries in the borough are offering Chlamydia screening to patients. Barnet PCT has also arranged weekly screenings and advice sessions at Barnet College, in addition to services currently offered at local young persons' clinics. Discussions are also under way to roll out the Chlamydia Screening Programme at Middlesex University and local youth clubs.

For more information about the Chlamydia Screening Programme and full details on where to get tests, contact Justine Maher on 020 8447 3590 or [Justine.maher@barnet-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:Justine.maher@barnet-pct.nhs.uk)

# Swim for kids

**Throughout October, Children's Hospices UK is running a national "Swim for Kids" sponsored swimathon.**

Thanks to a partnership between the north London based Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Barnet Leisure Centres, anyone participating in Barnet will be able to swim for free at one of the designated leisure centres when they do their swimathon. To find out about the leisure centres involved and for other information such as registration details and sponsorship forms, visit the Noah's Ark website at

[www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk](http://www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk) or telephone the Appeals Office on 020 8449 8877.



Arsenal goalkeeper Manuel Almunia visited the Phoenix cinema to watch 'The Boy In Striped Pyjamas'. Photo courtesy Stuart MacFarlane / Arsenal Football Club.

# Three famous faces at the Phoenix

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Look out for events at the Phoenix. Last month, a favourite book brought Arsenal goalkeeper Manuel Almunia to the cinema. The week before, famous local poet Fleur Adcock introduced her favourite film, while first in to bat in September had been "Blowers", alias cricket commentator and wit Henry Blofeld, "my dear old things".**

The Blowers event was a screening of one of his recorded talks, giving glimpses of his eccentric family, his roundabout way into commentating via the City, and his gift for mimicry. He signed copies of the video afterwards.



Henry Blofeld. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Fleur's happy few

"As you get older, your perfectly ordinary life turns into history," Fleur Adcock reflected after reading some of her poems, most with the emphasis on East

Finchley. The film she selected to be shown was Shakespeare at his most accessible, Laurence Olivier's excellent Henry V, chosen for nostalgic reasons. She had seen it three times as a child, in England, Ireland and New Zealand, and had delivered the St Crispin speech many times from the family's kitchen table.

## Almunia's choice

And finally, "fresh from keeping a clean sheet against Blackburn", and with his sweaty shirt to award to one lucky ticket-holder, came Manuel Almunia.

A question and answer session before the film of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas revealed a footballer with a passionate interest in history, par-

ticularly relating to World War Two. He had not seen the film before, but his wife had bought him the book two years ago, and he recommended it for children to learn about mistakes the human race has made, and to remember not to make the same mistakes again.

The young boy next to me had his hands over his face as the story neared its terrible climax. This extremely powerful and very sad film made a tremendous impact on the audience.

Almunia was at the Phoenix to support Arsenal's Premier League Reading Stars programme, an educational project in partnership with the Football Foundation, the National Literacy Trust, the Premier League and the Arts Council England, which aims to encourage families to read together.

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## SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

### News from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Sergeant Lee Benham

In our first column last month we answered some questions about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with us. In a nutshell, we identify and tackle issues that affect the daily life and feelings of security of East Finchley residents.

We do this by listening and responding to the problems you tell us about when you ring, email or write to us, or when you talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrols. Our office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767 or email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk

#### Autumn priorities

The team is also given direction by the Ward Panel, made up of local people representing the community. The priorities we've been given for the next few months are burglary, theft from vehicles and general anti-social behaviour.

#### Dangerous dogs

The team is being trained on how to recognise breeds of dogs, such as pit bull terriers, that are classified as dangerous. There is much controversy over the fate of these powerful animals that are bred as fighting dogs. In the light of this, we will always take action to prevent these dogs from becoming resident in the local area. We will also target people who mistreat these animals. We recently called the Specialist Dangerous Dog Unit to rescue two pit bull terriers that had been left alone in a flat for weeks at a time.

#### Mobile phone theft

If you're planning to ask Santa for a nice new all-singing-and-dancing mobile phone this year, take a look at [www.immobolise.com](http://www.immobolise.com). This website provides a free phone registration service, which means that if you lose your phone or have it stolen, it can be immobilised and the police, your insurer and second hand dealers made aware of its loss. You can also register other items such as jewellery, cameras and electrical equipment.

### There's a hole in our pavement

In the August edition of *THE ARCHER*, we reported on the frustration of residents in Aylmer Road who for months had lived with a hole in the ground outside Whittington Court while they waited for workmen to carry out work on the water and gas pipes.

Work was finally finished and the hole filled in but now, just weeks on, the pavement has collapsed dramatically and looks like it's in urgent need of repair.

Residents are resigned to seeing pedestrian barriers go up again while workmen return to repair the damage.



*Sinking feeling: the hole in the pavement outside Whittington Court has reappeared. Photo by Neville Robinson.*

### East Finchley Baptist Church

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please contact the Church Office  
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

**Visitors always welcome**



*Walkers enjoying the Capital Ring in north London. Photo courtesy of Walk London.*

### Discover the beauty of autumn on foot

Alexandra Rook lives in Park Road and is Project Director of Walk London. Here she reveals some stunning walks right on N2's doorstep.

**One of London's six long-distance walks that make up the Strategic Walk Network of 350 miles runs right past East Finchley tube station. You may have noticed signs for the Capital Ring and wondered what it was.**

The Capital Ring covers 75 miles in 15 easy sections, connecting many of London's glorious parks and open spaces, woodlands and waterways.

#### Station to station

Section 11 through East Finchley starts at Hendon Central and covers 5.6 miles through Hendon Park, along the River Brent, Mutton Wood, Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate and Queens Wood to end at Highgate Station.

Carry on down the Parkland Walk for the next section to end at trendy Stoke Newing-

ton, discovering Abney Park cemetery with its Egyptian gateway, Finsbury and Clissold Parks and the Newington reservoirs on the way. It's only 4.6 miles, less than two hours' brisk walk.

All the walks are designed to start and finish at stations so you can leave the car at home, get fit and discover the best kept secrets of your local neighbourhood right on your doorstep. For more information, pick up a leaflet from the tube station. There are free led walks on every section of the network on the last weekend in January and May next year.

#### Loop the LOOP

If you want a more rural experience go north to High Barnet and pick up section 16 of the 150-mile London LOOP (London Outer Orbital Path) to Trent Park and Cockfosters, the

'M25 for walkers' that inspired Iain Sinclair to write *London Orbital*.

Section 18 of the LOOP from Enfield Lock starts on the River Lea, another of the Strategic Walks, and is a revelation. It takes you up to the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge in Epping Forest with amazing views down onto the Lea Valley reservoirs en route. It's a three hour walk with a pub at the end of it.

Leaflets for every region and every section can also be obtained free from Walk London by telephoning 0870 240 6094, emailing [info@walklondon.org.uk](mailto:info@walklondon.org.uk) or looking up [www.walklondon.org.uk](http://www.walklondon.org.uk). They are also available on audio to download to your MP3 or mobile telephone. Even without a leaflet, you can just follow the signs and waymarks.

### Dedicated follower of Doctor Who

By Diana Cormack

**Some of the 10 million viewers who watched the closing episodes of the recent *Doctor Who* series were perplexed if not completely baffled by parts of the programme. If you are still searching for a solution, don't despair. Help is at hand. Just pop along to Budgens in the High Road and ask for Ian Collett.**

Ian has watched the programme since the first episode on 23 November 1963 (the day after President Kennedy's assassination) and his knowledge about it is impressive.

#### Special collection

Sci-fi fan Ian has no doubt that *Doctor Who* is the best of the genre. He has built up a huge collection of memorabilia ranging from books, comics and magazines to games, models and DVDs. Since its relaunch in 2005 *Doctor Who* merchandise has flooded the market, so Ian's collection even contains Easter eggs.

He has met members of the

cast, such as Billie Piper, John Barrowman and Noel Clarke, and some of the writers. Ardent followers will know that writer Russell T Davies has just left the programme and Ian is looking forward to Steven Moffat being in the driving seat as, judging by his former efforts, things will get even better. Though he prefers this modern series to those of the past, Ian does not have a favourite doctor. "They all bring their own particular thing to the role," he told *THE ARCHER*.

#### Off to Earl's Court

Regular viewers will know that references to previous plots, characters and com-

ments are made not only in the dialogue but also in graffiti, print and picture form. Ian is adept at spotting these but reckons that you have to watch the programme more than once to catch them all.

Ian's hobby helps him to relax away from work. No doubt he'll add to his collection when he visits the *Doctor Who* exhibition at Earl's Court (ends 9 November), though he could probably tell the exhibitors a thing or two.

Do you have a hobby you would like to tell *THE ARCHER* about? If so, our contact details are on page 2.





## Is clothes collection in the pink?

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Slim plastic bags bearing pink lettering and that familiar pink breast cancer ribbon are the latest version of 'charity' flyers coming through doors in East Finchley. Are they just as misleading?**

It's perfectly legal, of course, to collect and sell people's unwanted clothing. In this case, the collector, Intersecond Ltd, claims to be donating money to a 'project' (not a charity) in Lithuania called Do Not Delay. The project is said to provide 'information and screenings for women in Lithuania to help prevent breast cancer.' All this sounds fine, but questions remain.

### Making contact

Several organisations are involved: Azzara, registered in Lithuania as a company, and Intersecond Ltd, described as Azzara's 'appointed agent in the UK and Ireland'. Raimondas Biguzas, Intersecond's director pointed me in the direction of the website, [www.nedelsk.lt](http://www.nedelsk.lt), where I found quite persuasive information about the 'project' available in English.

Putting Intersecond into a search engine brings up a great deal of material. Comments, mostly negative, come from a huge number of regional newspapers and media in England, Ireland and Scotland. Individuals on various blogs and forums voice their suspicions that Intersecond is "simply a clothing scam".

This allegation has been vigorously denied by Intersecond and by Mr Biguzas. All clothes

they collect, he said, are sold to possible markets worldwide, mainly Poland, Ukraine, Georgia and Lithuania. He claimed bogus collectors, using the Intersecond name, had often stolen the donated clothes and at one stage "almost bankrupted us".

Clothes Aid, a British co-ordinating and advisory body for charities that handle clothes, told me that last year, in the Havering area, 8-10 Intersecond employees were found with a large quantity of clothing tonnage that was not legal. None spoke English. Police arrested them but could not secure a translator so released them.

### Trading standards concerns

A senior trading standards officer in Scotland said: "Trading standards colleagues throughout the country have received enquiries with regard to Intersecond. The emotive wording (on the bags) reflects that of a charity but there is no registered charity number or any reference to charity work."

Here is the problem: if Intersecond does provide funding for a good cause in Lithuania, where is the independent proof? In the absence of hard facts, it may be wiser to donate our old clothes to a local charity shop.

## Walk-on part for Dilly

By Sheila Armstrong

**Tricia Gilmore's infectious laugh won her a part in local film maker Karen Fraser's latest film *Bel Air*, filmed this summer in Aldeburgh, Suffolk.**

Talking recently to *THE ARCHER* Karen said that she wrote the part especially for her neighbour Tricia. There was also a part for Dilly, Tricia's lively 15 year old Papillon dog, who made her acting



Photo Sheila Armstrong

debut. Filming was timed to coincide with the Aldeburgh one-day summer festival and also featured the locals who dress up and parade in the town on that day.

The film concerns a girl swimming out to sea to overcome a deep fear. At another level it explores the way that the elements, the air and the sea, support us and all life, hence the title *Bel Air*. Filming took place in the town, on the beach and five miles out to sea.

Karen hopes that there will be a premiere locally as well as in Aldeburgh later in the year,

so watch this space. She can be contacted at [zenfraser@google.com](mailto:zenfraser@google.com).

And although Dilly is new to filming her owner is not. Long time East Finchley resident Tricia has been a film extra and model for some years. She can be contacted on [gilmore867@btinternet.com](mailto:gilmore867@btinternet.com).

## Song and dance

By Jane Fletcher

**Finchley Children's Music Group is to accompany the world-class Rambert Dance Company for the London premiere of *Eternal Light* at Sadler's Wells from 11 November. The piece features a specially commissioned choral score by popular composer Howard Goodall.**

Rambert will be accompanied by different choirs at each venue on its regional tour. The talented FCMG Senior Choir will perform alongside Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford, for the London dates.

This year marks FCMG's 50th anniversary, and their collaboration with Rambert is just one event in a year-long programme of celebrations. Over the past 50 years FCMG has given young people the opportunity to develop their musical skills and perform in some of London's major concert venues and abroad. The Group's most notable achievements include regular appearances at the BBC Proms and the City of London Festival. In July 2007 a choir of 40 youngsters was selected to back Madonna at the Live Earth concert.



The FCMG choir in action. Photo courtesy Simon Weir/FCMG

### Young voices join the dance

*Eternal Light* is Artistic Director Mark Baldwin's second major work for Rambert. Live music has always been an integral part of the Rambert experience and the introduction of live choral music is an exciting new venture for the company. Rambert's creative team said they were attracted to FCMG's professionalism and vocal

quality.

One singer, Charlotte Senior, 12, said: "It's original music. I've never done anything like this before, so I'm very excited. Thinking about it gives me butterflies. I cannot wait to see the dancing."

*Eternal Light* is at Sadler's Wells from 11-15 November. For more information and to book tickets visit Rambert's website at [www.rambert.org.uk](http://www.rambert.org.uk).

## Freecycle grows and grows

**The Barnet version of the trading and swapping website Freecycle has celebrated its first birthday with 4,000 Barnet members - and rising.**

Users post up their unwanted goods and items on the message board, in the hope that a fellow member will make a treasure from their trash. The aim of the site is to reduce the amount of rubbish society creates by giving unwanted items free to a new home. Some of the weird and wonderful postings on the Barnet site have included a 'wanted' post for a five-bedroom house in Hendon, which had to be rejected, and an offer of a single squash ball.

John Heyworth, the Freecycle Barnet founder, said: "It's quite amazing how successful the site has become. It started off with just a few friends, but the site is growing rapidly, with just over 175 new users a week. I'm really pleased with what we've managed to achieve so far, and I can't wait to see how next year's birthday will find us."

The non-profit organisation was initially founded in 2001 by Deron Beal in Tuscan, Arizona.

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The Bishop of London at the Holy Trinity balloon release in 2004.

## Balloon's incredible four-year journey

By Julia Cooper

**A balloon released by children at Holy Trinity School has arrived home after a four-year odyssey and a round trip spanning more than 1,000 miles.**

The balloon was one of hundreds released by children in 2004 when the Bishop of London visited the school to mark the opening of the new library and office extension.

Each balloon had an identifying tag attached, and it was this tag that caught the eye of German primary school teacher Margarethe Scheider-Göte while on holiday on the island of Norderney in northern Germany in August.

She kindly posted the tag back to the school, writing (in perfect English): "When

I walked along the beach I noticed the label and a small piece of the balloon in the sand. Your balloon probably fell into the sea and was dropped on the beach by the waves."

Holy Trinity headteacher Tim Bowden said: "It arrived in its envelope full of sand: it is the genuine article."

Mr Bowden said the school intends to develop its international links and hopes this act of friendship from across the waves will lead to exciting new contacts with the Ms Scheider-Göte's school.

## Fruity poems wanted

**Local primary schools are being given the chance to take part in the Pound a Poem scheme to raise money for the Rays of Sunshine children's charity.**

Children aged five to 11 can write poems on the theme of fruit and vegetables and pay £1 to enter the competition. The best poems are published in the Pound a Poem book, and there is a prize of a family holiday for the national winner, as well as prizes for the winners' schools. To find out more, visit [www.poundapoem.co.uk](http://www.poundapoem.co.uk).

## New life for unwanted items

**Recycling isn't just about newspapers and tin cans. Clothes, mobile phones and batteries are all welcome in your black box. Here's what happens to them when they leave your home.**

### Textiles and shoes

Shoes (tied together in pairs), unwanted clothes, blankets and materials can all be recycled.

1. Shoes, clothes and blankets are sent to D. Robinson & Son, in Northampton, for sorting.

2. After being separated into piles, many hundreds of items are sent to the developing world, depending on their condition.

**Did you know?** At least 50 per cent of the textiles we throw away are recyclable yet the proportion of textile wastes reused or recycled annually in the UK is only around 25 per cent.

### Yellow Pages

1. Raven Recycling in Croydon receive regular deliveries of Yellow Pages collected in Barnet and manage the process of turning them into something useful.

2. They send the Yellow Pages

to a recycling plant where they are 'mashed' into pulp in a machine.

3. At the pulp stage the Yellow Pages are no longer yellow but are sold on as greyboard, used as a key component of that durable household wallpaper, woodchip.

**Did you know?** Millions of copies of the Yellow Pages get turned into animal bedding, cardboard, Jiffy bags, egg boxes and loft insulation. Some paper mills can now recycle them into newsprint.

### Mobile phones

Before putting your mobile phone out for recycling, remember to remove the sim card and pop the phone in a plastic bag.

Mobiles are bagged up and sent to a recycling agency, Carphone Logistics in Wednesbury, where the component parts are broken down and environmentally disposed of. The phones contain a range of metals, plastics and several valuable components such as silver that can be extracted and re-used.

**Did you know?** Every time you put out a mobile phone to be

## YOUNG ARCHER

### What a belter

By Julia Cooper

**Haris Bandey is a force to be reckoned with. The Holy Trinity School pupil has gained his black belt in karate at the age of just nine. Year 5 pupil Haris, who lives in the High Road, has become the youngest member of Friern Barnet's Makenki karate club to earn the prestigious belt.**

Haris started practising karate when he was six and has risen through the ranks, gaining 11 belts before being presented with his black one back in July. He trains three times a week and won a bronze medal at the National Youth Championships last year. He said: "I love karate, I've made a lot of friends and am very proud to get my black belt."



Super karate kid Haris Bandey.

## Citizens of the future

By Helen Drake

**The history of School Councils stretches back approximately 40 years, but with citizenship now being taught as part of the curriculum, more emphasis is being placed on the role of School Councils in relation to "active citizenship".**

School Council UK says: "Our vision is of young people as decision-makers, stakeholders and partners in their schools and communities". School Councils empower children to take responsibility and give them a voice in the running of their schools.

### Discussing and deciding

School Councils are usually made up of representatives from each year group, elected by their classmates. Some have budgets, some don't. Members can raise topics for discussion themselves or on behalf of their classmates, or be asked for their opinions on matters raised by staff and governors.

In recent times at Martin Primary, council members have debated school dinners, toilets, travelling to school, rules for the school field and a new behaviour policy. At Holy Trinity School, council members have decided whether to spend school funds on days out or playground equipment, and have even helped to interview new teaching staff.

### Innovative ideas

So what is it like to be a member of School Council? Shannon Walsh from Martin Primary explains: "I am one of the School's reps for Year 6. School Council does more than just make improvements. It is a chance to share ideas to make them better and to discuss things with our teachers. School Council have asked for new clubs like dancing, singing and drama. It has organised and helped the teachers try loads of new things. Huff and Puff, a time when children can get out playing equipment, was School Council's idea. We have even got an allotment on the field."

Maggie Driscoll, former Headteacher at Martin Primary, says: "I have always firmly believed in listening to the children's voice and have endeavoured to involve children in our decision-making processes at the school. The children come up with brilliant ideas, often better and more innovative than adults would have done."

For more information on School Councils go to [www.schoolcouncils.org](http://www.schoolcouncils.org) and for more information on the citizenship agenda go to [www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)

water pollution. Just one litre of oil can contaminate one million litres of drinking water.

### Batteries

To recycle household batteries, put them in a plastic bag inside your black box. Complete, undamaged car batteries should be left next to your box.

1. G and P Batteries, the UK's largest collector of waste batteries, takes your household and car batteries from ECT's recycling depot in Barnet to their factory in Willenhall in the West Midlands for re-processing.

2. Batteries are separated into those containing lead acid and those which don't. They are either recycled in a furnace or treated chemically. Each battery's chemistry requires a different recycling process to achieve the most effective recovery of material.

3. Recycling batteries allows the component parts to be removed and made into new batteries, or reused as raw material, such as scrap metal and plastic.

**Did you know?** It takes 50 times more energy to make a battery than it gives during its life.

recycled, you raise money for the Tree House Trust, based in North London, an educational charity for children with severe autism. Each phone can be worth up to £9.

### Engine oil

If draining your engine, put the oil in a sealed upright container and leave it next to your black box.

1. M2 Environmental Solutions transport engine oil from ECT Recycling's depot in Mill Hill to their depot in Cottenham, Cambridgeshire.

2. There, the oil is transferred into huge holding tanks. Samples go to a laboratory to establish what sort of oil it is and the best way to clean it.

3. The oil is cleaned, separated, shaken and 'cracked'. The 'cracking' is simply a result of the oil and any water residues separating. Finally, after these processes have been completed, only the 'good oil' is left. Mixed with kerosene, it becomes RFO: 'reclaimed fuel oil'. This can be sold to factories for their industrial heating systems.

**Did you know?** Oils and fuels are the most common cause of



**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

**Something for the man with everything**

Once upon a time when flat caps were flat and a pie 'n' a pint had nothing to do with Jamie Oliver, football was the people's game. You stood on terraces in the cold and rain watching local lads play in the local mud for the honour of the local side, and never complained. Players were enslaved by the clubs, paid £20 per week and hoped to run a tobacconists or run-down pub when they retired.

Then everything changed and now it is universally acknowledged that a man in possession of an exceedingly large fortune must be in want of a football club. It doesn't really matter what football club, as long as it's available. Roman Abramovich did a bit of a Caesar when he bought Chelsea; he came, he saw, he wrote the cheque. The Glazers bought the only club they'd heard of and the Abu Dhabi moneymen may have thought they were buying Manchester United. And that's before we go anywhere near Wigan.

If you've done three ludicrous things before breakfast then buying a football club over the pre-luncheon drinks probably comes as naturally as breathing. Of course, once you've bought the club the problems begin. Naturally you need to spray your third Ferrari in the club colours, although if they play in pink and lime green you might have problems, and not just of taste.

Next step is the promises, which should be insane enough to win over the fans. You must promise success, more success and demonstrate a slavish devotion to the manager right up to the moment you sack him. It's fantasy football with real people for your unreal fantasies. Once you stood on the terraces and told your mates you could do better. Now you own the club you can stand on the terraces and prove that you can't.

For some people it doesn't stop there. Manchester City's new owners promised to buy the best players, to win the Premiership, the Champions League and the World Series, and half of Manchester believes them. But, back in the 1970s, the old Soviet Union decided to do something similar. They transferred the whole of the national team to Dynamo Kiev. This would mean success in the European Cup for the club and the World Cup for the country. It was almost a stroke of genius, but the next season Dynamo came second in the Russian league.

**Absolute beginner**

Victoria Davenport, of Durham Road, took up running for all the wrong reasons but now she has run the London Marathon twice. Here, she reveals how she came to terms with getting fit.

As a child and teenager, fat, flabby, without a muscle to my name, I wasn't athletic in the slightest and couldn't have cared less about sports. Annually, I failed to make the grade as a Physically Fit American. In gym class I couldn't pull myself three inches off the ground, or swing from rings or jump a rope. I started smoking at 16, starved myself, and lived on chocolate bars and cookies. I decided to try running for all the wrong reasons: to lose weight and counteract the effects of smoking, allowing me to continue to smoke and to eat junk food.

I was 16 the first time I tried running. It was winter 1967. I drove to the beach, hoping to avoid public humiliation, put out my fag and ran a few steps, looking around to make sure no one could see me. I lasted about three minutes. Gasping for breath, I got back in the car, lit up and tore off home.

I didn't fall in love with running there and then. I never did. It remains an ambivalent relationship, at best. Being young, however, my narcissism had no bounds, and I took up running, mainly to show the world my saintly nature. I was out in all weather, snow storms, rain storms, boiling heat: nothing would dent my self-image as a lithe, fit runner. I continued to smoke two packs a day but since then I've given up. Fitness and fags just don't go together.

When I first tried running I had no idea what to do, what to wear, anything. Today, there

are so many how-tos, where-tos, when-tos, if you are just starting out, or even if you have been exercising for years, that you can feel paralysed. What shoes should I wear? Heart monitor? Watch? To drink or not to drink?

Face it, you're bound to make an idiot of yourself one way or another. Too many layers, too few, too much water, too little: it's impossible not to get it wrong. Which is how you will eventually start to get it right, not through reading books and magazines, but simply through experience. You will learn to listen and learn, and in the process gain the confidence to know what is right for you, not the guy alongside you. But it does mean initially being willing to feel like an idiot. Not that anyone is watching you, as they're probably far more interested in their speed, iPods or looking like a muscle-bound gazelle.

Victoria has succumbed to marathon madness and will be running the New York City marathon in November for Medecins sans Frontiers. Donations are welcomed either through <http://www.justgiving.com/victoriadavenport3>, or cheques payable to MSF or V. Davenport, 21 Durham Road.



Illustration by Victoria Davenport

**Challenges ahead for new principal at The Institute**

By Vikki Chalmers

Joy Solomon, the new Principal at The Institute in East Finchley, describes adult education as her first love. "It is absolutely my head and my heart," she says. She attributes this feeling to the example set by her father, who had to leave school at 14 when his own father died. Despite this he became a well-educated, erudite man.

"He spent every spare moment studying," she says, "attending numerous part-time adult education courses in colleges and university." Encouraged by her father, Joy developed an avid taste for books, reading six library books a week from a very young age.

Before joining The Institute, Joy worked for a further education college looking after adult education, rising to become Director of Adult Education, then Assistant Principal.

**Funding changes**

"It is a real privilege to be appointed to The Institute," she says. "There is no doubt that the present situation is a challenge, one for which I feel my experience and perspective is

directly relevant. With emphasis in government funding so altered, the education world is divided into under 19s and over 19s. As a result, The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education has been reporting a general downturn in adult education, with only Skills for Life now eligible for funding.

"In my view, the future for quality Institutes is to work with employers. Another major area for us will be helping adults to seek new directions under the "Train to Gain" scheme.

"As new Principal of the Institute, it is my job to meet the challenges and to turn The Institute's finances round. My arrival, coinciding with our forthcoming centenary, is an

ideal opportunity to celebrate The Institute's past and to get new momentum going for the future."

**Vote of confidence**

Joy succeeds Fay Naylor, who was Principal for more than 17 years. Fay has retired after guiding The Institute through a major period of growth and development, including the move from Hampstead Garden Suburb to East Finchley. Her faith in The Institute's future was, and is, undiminished. "With a new business plan in place," she says, "I believe the outlook for the future is good." Fay will now have time to pursue other interests, including travel, writing and enjoying long stays in Italy.

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## Regular Events

### SPORT & FITNESS

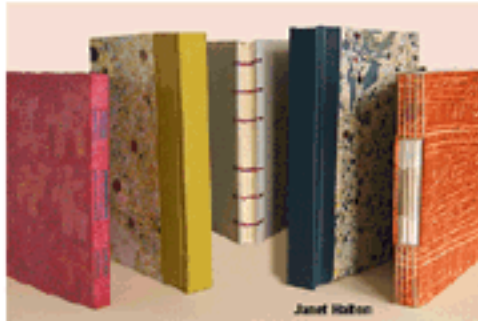
- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & 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](http://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.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes**-beginnersandimprovers.Wed&Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 0208 444 7217
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-14 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops.** Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: All Stars Special** 13 & 27 October 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** - friendlysinging 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.
- ❖ **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](http://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](mailto:admin@hlsi.net).
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tuesdays 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita Shaw 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



Some of the arts and crafts on sale at the Art Fair.

## Invitation to the Fair

By Marlene Cohen

**Sunday 16 November is the date, 10.30am to 4pm the time and Martin School the venue for the fifth East Finchley Open Art Fair, so put it in your diary now. It's an event not to be missed.**

The EFO Art Fair offers the community an opportunity to meet local artists and craftspeople, browse their work and buy direct from the makers. Entry is free but there is a suggested voluntary donation of £1 per adult visitor. This will go to the local charity Contact, which works to improve the quality of life of elderly, disabled and isolated people living in N2.

The East Finchley Open (EFO) group is growing both in strength and quality and its members produce art and craft

to a very high standard. The Fair organisers offer a wide range of quality work that includes ceramics, fine art, jewellery, photography and textiles.

There will also be artists' cards available, handmade soap, exquisite plain paper books, wearables and mirrors. In fact, there is likely to be something to interest everyone and it's a chance to purchase some special and unique Christmas gifts.

For further information please check the website [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk)

## Things that go bump in High Barnet

**Have you got the nerve to take a ghostly and ghoulish walk through High Barnet? Local guide Paul Baker conducts a tour that is ideal for adults and children who love to have the life scared out of them.**

The walk also goes ghost hunting in Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Frequently, those who have attended the tour say that they will never look at Barnet or Monken Hadley in the same way again.

Scarcely surprising, after tales of witchcraft, murder, executions, ghostly ladies in grey, medieval knights, the ghostly dead of the Battle of Barnet, topped off with a tour

of a churchyard by torchlight.

For Hallowe'en everyone, adults and children alike, is invited to dress up in costume with a prize for the spookiest one. Take a torch if you have one.

The walk takes place on 31 October, 1 and 2 November. Meet at High Barnet tube at the top of Meadway at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6, under 12s £3. Phone Paul on 020 8440 6805 for further details.

## Conservation choices

**We talk a lot about conservation but how do we decide which objects should be conserved? Jon Finney will explain what is conserved, why, and how, in a talk to the Finchley Society.**

Jon is the principal architect and planner for the Borough of Barnet and is chairman of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee.

He will draw on his wide experience to talk about conservation and relate it to local buildings and area, as well as the choice of ancient objects.

His talk takes place at Avenue House, East End Road, N3, at 8pm on Thursday 30 October. Admission for non-members is £2.

## Curtain up on theatre school

**Create Theatre School has started its autumn term and is welcoming new members.**

Drama, dancing and singing classes will be held at Tudor Primary School, Queen's Road, N3, on Saturdays. The class for six to 14-year-olds is 9.30am-12.30pm and for three to five-year-olds from 1-2.30pm. Call 020 8882 9009 for more details.

## October at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

**As the nights begin to draw in, I look back over the summer and breathe a sigh of relief. Traditionally summer is a tough time for independent cinema. The combination of school holidays, sunshine and Hollywood blockbusters means we have fewer people coming through our doors.**

This summer, however, was a steadily busy time at The Phoenix, helped partly by the lousy weather that dampened my week's camping in Cornwall as well as many barbecues and bike rides, but also helped by some strong films: *The Edge of Love*, *Summer Hour*, *Man on Wire* and *Somers Town* among them.

So The Phoenix is heading into the autumn, traditionally a strong time for us, with a solid summer to build on. Thank you for your support over this period. We've got some more great films coming up to keep you engaged.

The new Coen Brothers film *Burn After Reading* opens on 17 October. A critical success at the Venice Film Festival, the film is more comic than the recent *No Country for Old Men* although it also focuses on people acting

stupidly when large sums of money are available to them. With George Clooney, Brad Pitt and a favourite actress of mine, Tilda Swinton, all playing great parts, the film is one of the must-sees of the autumn.

On 31 October we're playing Terence Davies's first film since *The House of Mirth* in 2000. *Time and the City* is a homage to his home town Liverpool, a lyrical documentary with archive footage, music and voiceover which adds up to a beautiful testament to a city now changed out of recognition.

We're also delighted to welcome the BFI London Film Festival to The Phoenix again. On the evening of Monday 27 October we're playing *Waltz with Bashir* and *Broken Lines*. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk).

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Friday 3 October - Sunday 19 October

**East Finchley Arts Festival**, All Saints' Church, Durham Road. Saturday 4 October, 12.30pm, **Lunch Hour Recital by Duo Dorado**; 7.30pm, **Hatstand Opera present Golden Moments from Opera**. Sunday 5 October, 7.30pm, **Endellion String Quartet**. Tuesday 7 October, 7.30pm, **East Finchley Writers**. Wednesday 8 October, 7.30pm, **Jazz Evening with Viper's Dream**. Thursday 9 October, 7.30pm, **Christophe Coin and The Lupo Consort**. Friday 10 October, 7.30pm, **London Ripieno Orchestra & Singers, All Saints' Choir & Jennifer Bate**, organ. Saturday 11 October, 11.30am, 2pm and 3.30pm, **Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch and Judy Show** in the church garden, free; 12.30pm, **Young Artists' Recital**; 7.30pm **Gemma Rosefield**, cello, and **Michael Dussek**, piano. Sunday 12 October, 7.30pm **Youth Music Centre**. Saturday 18 October, 12.30pm, Lunch Hour recital by prizewinning young organist **Tom Bell**; 7.30pm, **London Mozart Players**. Sunday 19 October, 7.30pm, **Finchley Children's Music Group**. Tickets from Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 (020 8883 5631), Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 (020 8889 5631), online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyartsfestival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyartsfestival).

### Saturday 11 October

**Guided walk exploring Highgate's artistic and literary heritage**; 11.30am, meet outside Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill (nearest tube Archway or bus 210). £7, group discounts for 10 or more. Also Saturday 1 November. Advance booking essential, by phone on 020 8340 7178, by email at [pavementpounders@gmail.com](mailto:pavementpounders@gmail.com) or visit [www.literarywalks.co.uk](http://www.literarywalks.co.uk).

### Sunday 12 October

**Obama or McCain: who's good for the Jews?** Two weeks before America goes to the polls, Melanie Phillips, James Rubin and Jonathan Freedland discuss with chair Jon Soper which candidate will be best for Israel and for world Jewry; 7.30pm, Hampstead Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3. Price £10. Telephone number for tickets and information: 020 7431 9866. Jewish Community Centre for London.

### Sunday 12 October

Live music at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road: **Red Baroque presents Autumn Serenade**, a programme of exquisite compositions by Fauré, Debussy and Ravel featuring Stephanie Beck, outstanding young harpist from Liechtenstein, and a sextet of talented musicians; new starting time of 7.30pm. Free admission, collection in aid of North London Hospice. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

### Monday 20 October

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's autumn talk 'Wild Plants through the Lens'** by Dr Peter Brandham, of the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew Gardens; 7.30pm at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. All welcome. Entry £2 for non-members.

### Sunday 26 October

**The Big Sing Off** in association with Sing the Nation. Sign up to one of three singing workshops, and take part in the Big Sing Off or just come along to watch. Tim Samuels comperes and singing sensations The Zimmers perform; 3.30pm, Hampstead Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3. £6 workshops, £4 concert. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866.

### Friday 31 October

Halloween ghost walk. Meet at High Barnet tube, top of Meadway, 7.30pm. Prize for spookiest costume. Also Saturday 1 November and Sunday 2 November. Details of this and other Barnet walks: 020 8440 6805.

### Until Sunday 2 November

London premiere of *A Tale of Two Cities*, a new musical based on the novel by Charles Dickens; Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6; Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm, Sundays at 4pm; tickets £12-£15 (concessions £10-£12). Box office: 020 8340 3488.

### What's on at artsdepot, North Finchley

**The World in The Gallery**: Sunday 5 to Sunday 19 October, 12-4pm. **Call Me Dave - A Serious Comedy**: Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 October, 8pm. **Srishti - Play Ball**: Wednesday 15 October, 8pm. **My Brilliant Divorce**: Thursday 16 October, 8pm. **Musicals of The Night**: Saturday 18 October, 7pm. **Jake and Dinos Chapman**: Saturday 25 October to Sunday 23 November, 12-4pm. **Stephen K Amos**: Saturday 25 October, 8pm. **Chapmans Uncorked**: Thursday 30 October, 6.30pm. **Folk in The Foyer**: Friday 31 October, 8.30pm. **Subitango**: Saturday 1 November, 8pm. **K-Groove**: Thursday 6 November, 8pm.





## Letters to the Editor

### Scrap this pricing racquet

Dear Editor,

The plans for the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion (*THE ARCHER*, August 2008) rightfully place high emphasis on education and health. I'm sure I was healthier during the recent years when I played tennis for free in the same park before my daily knock-up with friends was stopped by the re-introduction of court fees that I cannot afford.

The opening of the Lazy Sally kiosk meant that Barnet Council once again had someone to collect the money and my racquet is back in the cupboard.

Come on, Barnet Council - Sport For All, obese kids, doing our bit for 2012, quality community amenity - all high-cost objectives? This one is staring you in the face for the sake of a few quid.

Yours faithfully,  
Ken Behan,  
Ingram Road, N2

### Field of dreams

Dear Editor,

I was delighted with the Area Assembly in Muswell Hill playing fields (or is that Coldfall Woods playing fields?). The atmosphere, with music and food, was wonderful. Are all assemblies like this? Can't wait for the next one.

Getting the involvement of the children in how the fields should be enhanced was a great idea. Let's hope they stay involved and so committed to preserving both the proposed new facilities and of course the beautiful old woods themselves.

I'll be looking out for the proposals questionnaire in October. Good news that most of the Ringwood

estate will be included in that, and even better news that there is half a million quid in ring-fenced money to pay for the new facilities.

Maybe us local artists can get involved with the designs? Later on, what about launching an annual summer festival on the fields for when it's all in place? I'd be happy to meet with anyone who'd like to get involved. Email me on efo@e-fish.demon.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,  
Adam Justice-Mills  
Beech Drive, N2.

### Be positive about supermarket

Dear Editor

I am dismayed at the negativity that the proposed use of the long empty unit on the ground floor of Stag Court in the High Road arouses (*Letters*, *THE ARCHER*, August and September 2008). Surely it is better to have a retail use than a dull office, which has never been attracted to the site since it was built, and the planning department at Barnet should have had more nous to know that when it gave permission; certainly better to have a retail use than no use.

The usual false alarms that are raised about adverse impact on the High Road shops are daft. There are several corner-type shops that sell a variety of foodstuffs, and Spar and Budgens, all of which happily co-exist, or compete. A critical mass of similar stores actually helps (look at Tottenham Court Road electrical stores, for instance).

Okay, so that is 'comparison goods' in the jargon, where people do shop around, rather than 'convenience goods' or everyday food shopping and other immediate needs, but would there have been such an outcry if the proposed use

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had been another restaurant (or betting shop)?

Would it attract more parking problems and traffic congestion? I doubt it. It's designed to be used by local people and the odd passing trade will pop in and be gone within 20 minutes. I suspect those that shout most about parking problems are the very ones that create them. Don't use your car for local shopping, then.

Spoil East Finchley's 'village' atmosphere? Why would it? That atmosphere is as much generated by people as it is by shops. And anyway it's not a village anymore but a more urban High Street, so let's forget the nostalgia and get real.

East Finchley is getting a lot better. We have a cafe culture of sorts but still lack many essentials such as a butcher that make up a truly vibrant and diverse High Street. Down the Creighton Avenue/library end, there is very little. I for one, would welcome another small and independent supermarket, which I understand was the applicant in this case (I would wholeheartedly oppose a chain such as Tesco Metro).

So hooray to the 62 people who actually bothered to write in support of the shop plan. Let's support something positively for once, especially local business and enterprise, and stop the whingeing.

Yours faithfully,  
Alexandra Rook  
Park Road, N2.

## Telecare scheme is a life-saver

By Janet Maitland

**Vulnerable residents are being urged by Barnet Council to consider the Telecare scheme, after it saved the life of an elderly dementia sufferer from Edgware.**

The Telecare scheme helps vulnerable people maintain their independence and stay in their own homes by providing equipment such as fall detectors, bed and door exit monitors, and smoke, heat and flood detectors. Any alert is sent to a call centre, which instantly sends a message to the relevant emergency services and relatives.

"The system recently saved the life of Eileen Moore, aged 94, when a fire started in her home," said a spokesperson from Barnet. "Within minutes the Fire Brigade were at her

house and her daughter was on her way to the property."

Anyone who wants to find out more about Telecare should call the council on 020 8359 4693 / 4307.

### Pina Thobhani

In last month's article "Surprise of medical centre plan", we attributed a comment to Pina Thobhani of Corey Bros, the High Road pharmacists. We should have said Cootes Pharmacists, not Corey Bros, and would like to apologise for any confusion caused.

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## Sixty years of helping ministers

By Daphné Chamberlain

**Sixty years ago, the National Health Service was born, the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society was started, and the Reverend Ronald Frost began his ministry. What is the link?**

Ronald Frost has been "retired" for 13 years but is a volunteer preacher on the Barnet, New River and Islington Methodist circuits (including East Finchley and Ballards Lane), a Boys' Brigade Captain, and a private tutor in GCSE maths, English and religious knowledge.

Four years ago, he received an OBE for youth work, but told *THE ARCHER*: "I don't want this article to be all about me." He wants us to know more about the MMHS, a provident society and registered charity, started by a group of individuals to assist retired ministers and deacons, and their widows and widowers.

### A home at last

On official retirement, a minister has to leave his house, and many are unable to afford new accommodation. Before the MMHS, they often had to move in with family or take on another tied job. The Society, which owns and maintains almost 1,000 UK properties, gives them the option of a home of their own, from where they can continue contributing to the

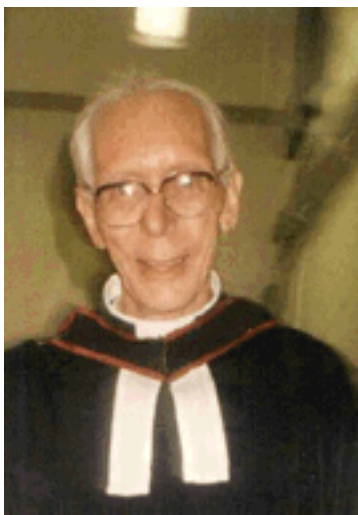
community.

The Reverend Frost told us that an added bonus is that ministers now have a say about where they settle. Having lived in Twyford Avenue while he was Superintendent Minister at Archway Central Hall, he wanted to stay in London, where he has many friends. So the offer of "an absolutely wonderful" house in East Finchley delighted him. "It's easy to run," he says. "There is a beautiful new kitchen, and with my little microwave I manage very well."

### Bevan's helping hand

What is the link with the NHS? Nye Bevan, Health Minister in Clement Attlee's Labour government, also had responsibility for Housing. When a Mrs Hoult gave a group of Methodists a house and land at Barrow-on-Trent, Bevan, son of Baptist and Methodist parents, secured planning permission for a further 20 flats to be built in the grounds. From that grew the MMHS.

The Society has added to its property through Benevolent Funds, organisations and



Rev Ronald Frost

individuals, but demand still outstrips supply. For further information, contact the Society on 020 7467 5272 or at admin@mmhs.org.uk.

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## Celebrity artworks auction

An auction of artwork in aid of the Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf and Hearing Children is to be held in Alexandra Palace this month. Going under the hammer is a selection of specially drawn angels. The A5 pictures have been created by celebrities who, at the time of writing, include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jo Brand, Colin Jackson, Joanna Lumley, Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Evelyn Glennie, "Supernanny" Jo Frost, Jeremy Hardy, Geri Halliwell, Emma Thompson, Bernard Cribbins, Mike Leigh, Roger McGough and Sandi Toksvig.

Special guest auctioneer is Rowland Rivron, with live music provided by popular north London singers The Angels of Kaos.

The event will take place in The Palace

Suite, Alexandra Palace, from 7.30pm to midnight on Saturday 18 October. Tickets are available at £15 (including ambrosial buffet). For tickets, commissioning bids or telephone bids contact

Suzy

Davies on 07950 359199 or suzy@thekaos.org, or Ali Wood on 07950 359209 or ali@thekaos.org. For more details and artwork previews, contact Marcella Hampson, 07989 410314 or marcella@hampsonprojects.co.uk

Artworks up for grabs include offerings from Joanna Lumley (above left) and Sir Ian McKellen (above right)



## Swimming with ducks

Linda Dolata has been a regular swimmer at the ladies' pond on Hampstead Heath since 1968. Here she explains what keeps her going back.

**The awful weather this summer has not deterred the stalwarts from visiting the ponds. Indeed many of them, including some notable nonagenarians, swim throughout the winter, breaking the ice if necessary. I usually wimp out by mid-October.**

During early September, the ladies' pond was a very acceptable 61F (16C), and thanks to all the rain, beautifully clean and fresh. Having said that, the ponds are checked constantly to ensure good water quality. They are part of a moving water system so are not stagnant at any time.

Many of the ladies who swim in the pond are serious swimmers, dedicated to outdoor swimming, but I suspect that many others go for the real sense of peace. Stress melts away within minutes of arriving at this beautiful place.

Radios and phones are banned on the meadow where one can sit, read, sleep, sunbathe or just think. It is a lovely place to have a snack, as long as you don't mind sharing it with the permanent residents who turn up hopefully. Among them are cheeky magpies, which bounce up as close as they dare, comical but shy ducks, and (more unusually) gentle moorhens.

I have my own special reason for going for a swim most days. I swim to the far end of the pond, choosing times when there is hardly anyone else in the water, and use a sort of elderly breaststroke that hardly disturbs the surface.

At the distant part of the

pond I hang onto one of the buoys and just look to see what is around. On a red-letter day I see a kingfisher. On one occasion this summer, I saw three, presumably this year's brood on an early outing. Equally exotic are the family groups of ring-necked parakeets calling from the trees (I know many people dislike these immigrants, but I like their cheerfulness).

Above the water, house martins circle. This year has seen

a family of kestrels practising their flying. There is often a heron spiralling down to hide at the far margin, looking like a prehistoric pterodactyl with its clumsy flight. For many years there was a beautiful Persian cat that lived wild and deigned to join the sunbathers in the summer.

To me there is no place quite like the pond. Do come and experience it for yourself, but do so quietly.

## Silver cyber surfers

**People aged over 55 who cannot afford a computer have a chance to receive one free in a scheme using reconditioned models formerly used by council staff.**

The computers will be provided with the Windows XP operating system pre-loaded. Anyone over 55 will be able to apply by filling in an application form explaining why they need one and what they would use it for. The council is expecting to

be able to allocate around 10 a month to residents. A panel of council officers and a representative from the Barnet Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) will administer the scheme. For more information, contact the council's Grants Unit on 020 8359 2020.



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