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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Power to the people

By Lucy Chamberlin

Residents in one part of East Finchley are setting up an action group to tackle the issues that affect their daily lives, and to bring the community closer together.

The idea for the East Finchley Village Residents' Association came to Bob and Patti Owens after 150 residents formed a movement three years ago to resist the installation of a mobile phone mast in the neighbourhood. The Association will initially include homes within a short distance of Church Lane, though members are hoping it will catch on in the area and perhaps spread to the rest of East Finchley.

Fellow Association organiser Caroline Broome and husband David have lived in Church Lane for 40 years, and say there are a lot of families and young professionals moving in who are all keen to be involved: "We've got such a broad spectrum round here, so everybody's got a different take on things. All the neighbours in the area came together over the phone mast and we realised what a wonderful community feel there was here."

Key issues

Issues they would like to tackle include speeding traffic on Church Lane and better maintenance for local green areas. Some residents complain

that they have to put up with jostling and intimidating behaviour from schoolchildren on the 643 and 143 buses. Others in rented accommodation have had mattresses and fridges dumped outside their homes, which they have to pay the council to take away.

Everyone was eager for the association to have a social focus, however, and for neighbours of all ages to get to know each other, creating a network to run events and share know-how or personal support. Street parties and Christmas festivities as well as speakers on topics of local interest were also suggested.

September meeting

About 12 people attended a first informal residents' association meeting in June, and agreed that environmental and safety issues, as well as taking responsibility for the community should top the group's agenda. A second meeting is planned for September.

If you'd like to know more, contact David and Caroline Broome on 020 8444 2329, or Patti and Bob Owens on 020 8365 4621.



Nino Baglioni photo by E Ruiz

No train to take the strain

By Sheila Armstrong

Triathlon athlete and East Finchley resident Nino Baglioni sets off for Paris on 19 September, but he won't be taking the Eurostar. He plans to get there by running, swimming and cycling - in that order. Readers may have seen his car around East Finchley logoed with the words Arch to Arc Challenge: the Arch being Marble Arch and the Arc the Arc de Triomphe. The attempt is organised by Enduroman.

Originally from South Africa, Nino has been a keen athlete from an early age and has competed in triathlons for over 10 years. For this daunting challenge he has been training extensively both mentally and physically.

He is highly motivated to achieve, aiming to be the fifth person to complete this particular triathlon, to beat the record time of 81 hours and 5 minutes, and to get into the Guinness Book of Records.

He hopes to raise £50,000 for the Tusk Trust

(www.tusktrust.org) which works on conservation projects in Africa including responsible tourism. He

would welcome local support and readers can sponsor him by going to www.artemisarchtoarc.com.

Beer bonanza is back

Twenty guest German beers and ales will be on tap at the East Finchley Constitutional Club's second annual Oktoberfest.

There will be a sausage barbecue and live music too on both days of the festival: Friday 26 and Saturday 27 September. Barnet mayor John Marshall will open the festival officially at 6pm on the Friday.

Entrance to the event at the club in The Walks is £2.



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Your contributions

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Comments to THE ARCHER may
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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

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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 555 111
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 800 500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector 08705 555 999
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443



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Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

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❖ Credit Union, Green Man Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Attempted shop burglary

By Janet Maitland

Haringey Police are inves-
tigating an attempted bur-
glary, which took place at
WH Smiths in Muswell Hill
Broadway on 20 July.

At about 1.30pm a white
man aged about 30, wearing
jeans and a white baseball
cap, distracted staff by setting
off the fire alarm. Customers
then saw him trying to open till
drawers with a screwdriver. He
is thought to have made off with
a Parker pen, dropping a pair
of sunglasses as he fled. Police
have retained the sunglasses for
forensic analysis.

Anyone with any informa-
tion should contact DS Nadia
Cilenti of the Burglary Squad
on 020 8345 0887 or call
Crimestoppers anonymously
on 0800 555 111.

Institute Arts Centre wins award

By Vikki Chalmers

The Institute's Arts Centre
in Beaumont Close has won
a much-coveted commen-
dation in the 2008 Civic
Trust Awards.

The citation reads: "This
simple and well planned scheme
sits well within the landscape and
provides a new home for the Insti-
tute. Detailing, choice of mate-
rials and workmanship are of a
high standard, providing well-lit,
naturally ventilated art studios
and specialist workshops."

The Civic Trust noted that
the scheme is situated in a con-
servation area. The south-facing
outdoor area is surrounded by
trees and attractively shaded by
a steel and glass canopy.

The Arts Centre was
designed for the Institute by
Rivington Street Studio and
built by Laing O'Rourke.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

1 Brim Hill, N2

Single storey side and rear
extension.

45 Brim Hill, N2

Erection of single storey rear
extension. Conversion of garage
into habitable room.

24 Edmunds Walk, N2

Alteration to roof including addition
of two dormer windows on rear roof
slope to facilitate a loft conversion.
Single storey rear extension. New
window to gable end.

201 High Road, N2

Place signage above proposed
supermarket. Signage is Marina
Supermarket, made of neon
glass. Colour is orange, writing
in blue.

27 Huntingdon Road, N2

Removal of existing conservatory
and addition of a single storey
rear extension, enlargement
of the existing two storey rear
extension.

19 Ingram Road, N2

Conversion of residential dwelling
to revert flats 19A and 19B to a
single family dwelling house.

17c Market Place, N2

New access ramp.

Car park adjacent to Old Barn
Community Centre, 20 Fallows
Close, N2

Installation of single storey
demountable building within
existing car park to provide interim
accommodation during building
works at Newstead Children's
Centre.

Haringey Council

27 Annington Road, N2

Formation of gable end dormer
and rear dormer, and installation
of two Velux roof lights to facilitate
loft conversion.

81 Fordington Road, N6

Erection of single storey rear
extension.

77 Fortis Green, N2

Erection of two rear dormer win-
dows, three roof lights to front
and two Velux windows to rear
elevation.

One And A Half, Southern
Road, N2

Erection of single storey side
extension to install a lift suitable
for the disabled.

Plastic and cardboard collections at last

From this autumn, residents will be able to recycle plastic
bottles and cardboard without having to drive them to
the Summers Lane recycling centre.

Soon everyone should
receive information from
Barnet Council explaining
the new collection service,
along with a new recycling
container to add to their
black boxes or communal
flats recycling facilities.
Plastic bottles and cardboard

will be taken to a depot in Mill
Hill before being transported in
bulk for recycling in the UK.

It is hoped that the new
service will boost recycling
so that the council can hit its
target of 40 per cent of waste
being recycled by 2010 and 45
per cent by 2014.

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Archer Calendar 2009: send us your photos!

Time is running out to submit your photos for The Archer Calendar 2009, all in aid of East Finchley's 'good neighbour' charity Contact. There are no rules about what you can submit but we're looking for images of places or people: anything that shows something unusual, beautiful or funny about East Finchley.

We're accepting photos now and the final closing date for entries is Wednesday 17 September, after which our judges will choose the 12 images to be printed. The calendar will be on sale at local outlets and online, thanks to the support of Photobox.co.uk.

If you have an image you'd like to be considered, please email it to the-archer@lineone.net. Digital photographs only, please, as we cannot accept prints. Mark your message 'Archer Calendar' and tell us as much as you can about where and why you took the photo.

Surprise of medical centre plan

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council is considering a proposal for a polyclinic on the site of Finchley Manor Garden Centre on East End Road. The application has been made by Cloverdale Estates Ltd, a property development company, who are appealing against a council decision made last December.

Permission was refused then because the plan did not protect the status of the site, which is designated as Metropolitan Open Land. This is equivalent to Green Belt, with tight restrictions on how the land can be used. There was also no evidence that alternative sites had been explored.

The revised application now incorporates a "well being" garden for people visiting patients and states that no other suitable sites are available.

The proposed polyclinic will have facilities for consultation, diagnosis and treatment, including minor surgery and could therefore be expected to have an impact on local GPs, pharmacists, dentists and opticians.

However, because the planning authority is only required to consult with residents within a certain distance of the site, few healthcare providers or businesses, if any, have been informed. "This is the first we have heard of it," said Pina Thobhani of Corey Bros, the High Road pharmacists.

PCT not consulted

THE ARCHER asked the planning authority how they would therefore be able to assess whether or not the proposed polyclinic is in line with Barnet's policy to permit new healthcare facilities only if they do not have a harmful impact on the charac-

ter of the surrounding area or its amenities. In response, the planning authority suggested that we speak to Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT), which is responsible for all primary healthcare in the borough.

However, the PCT knew nothing about the proposal, not only because Cloverdale Estates Ltd had not consulted them, but also because the planning authority had not consulted them either. "There is no requirement to consult the PCT," said a spokesperson from Barnet.

By the following day the PCT had been informed of the proposal. A spokesperson said: "In future, we would expect to be informed of any private healthcare proposals by the planning department."

Have your say

Barnet PCT is already planning to build a new primary healthcare centre on Bow Lane playing fields, adjacent to the site of the Finchley Memorial Hospital. That is expected to open in 2012.

Cloverdale Estates Ltd have declined to comment. If you wish to give your view about the proposals, go to www.barnet.gov.uk/online-services/planning-applications and search on application number F/02672/08 or send an email, quoting the application number, to fabien.bernard@barnet.gov.uk.



Anela Das and Mabel Gunnings enjoying an afternoon of tea and conversation. Photo by Sian Jones

Good for the community, good for the soul

By Sian Jones and Sarah Clackson

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact is delighted to have been chosen as the charity for The Archer Calendar 2009. One fine example of the work Contact does is Anela, a befriender to Mabel, 83.

Both agree they benefit enormously from the service. Mabel says: "The hour a week that Anela is with me makes such a difference and I really miss her when she can't come. I need someone to talk to, who wants to listen to what I have to say, tell me about

their lives and have a cup of tea or a glass of sherry if it's a special occasion."

Anela says: "You build up a rapport with the person you are seeing and can talk to them about all sorts of things."

Most of the work carried out by Contact is done by volunteers. We are currently short of people willing to help isolated individuals on a one-to-one basis. For example, we have an ex footballer who is now confined to a wheel chair and has not been able to leave his flat for over a year. Could you

be the person to take him to a football match one Saturday, or view a match on the big screen down the pub?

Or there is the 95-year-old lady who needs the occasional lift to the chiropodist and someone to chat to once a week. Her nearest relatives live in Canada.

These and many other individuals need your help on a regular or short-term basis. If that someone is you, please ring 020 8444 1162. Contact will need to take references and run a CRB check on volunteers working with vulnerable adults.

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News from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Sergeant Lee Benham

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is all about local policing, with police, residents and partners working together to identify and tackle issues of concern in East Finchley. Our aim is to find out what affects your

daily life and feelings of security, such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti and vandalism, burglary and vehicle crime. Then we work in partnership with you and other agencies to help find solutions.



The team is made up of a Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and six Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). We are dedicated to the ward, and are additional to other policing teams and units in Barnet.

Here are some questions we are frequently asked:

Q: I've seen the PCSOs patrolling the street, but what exactly is their job?

A: PCSOs are a visible police presence, the "eyes and ears" of the Met. They enable regular Police Officers to make more effective use of their specialist skills. PCSOs offer reassurance through patrolling the streets and by providing information and advice about crime prevention. They visit schools, youth clubs and sheltered housing, and support victims of crime. PCSOs spend most of their time on the streets, gaining valuable insight into how local residents experience life in East Finchley.

Q: Are PCSOs the same as the Special Constables?

A: No, Special Constables are volunteers who work with and offer support to regular Police Officers. They have the same powers as regular Police Officers and wear the same uniform. The Specials are everyday people who are prepared to give up at least eight hours of their spare time each fortnight to do something positive for themselves and their community.

Q: How can I get in touch with the Safer Neighbourhood Team?

A: 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. You can talk to us on the street. Our team is Police Sergeant Lee Benham, Police Constables Chris Sullivan and Keith Grant, and PCSOs Anil Sharma, Mahmoud Kassir, Maggie Brodie, Janice Lovell, Joseph Mahoney and Sarah Undrell.

Think before you chuck out for charity

By Sheila Armstrong

Before you take your black bags to the local charity shop ask yourself just how much of it is fit for sale. Perhaps some of it should go straight in the bin, be recycled or get taken to the dump? Ask yourself, would you buy it?

Harry Landsman, a young volunteer in the High Road's North London Hospice shop, alerted *THE ARCHER* to the alarming amount shops have to pay to get rid of what can only be called rubbish.

Eugenia von Piccardio, the shop's manager, says that each week they take two van-loads of things they cannot sell to the recycling centre in Summers Lane. It costs them £85 a van-load. The charity is charged at commercial rates to dispose of the bags. They wouldn't need to pay out at all if people donated saleable things only.

No fly tipping, please

Eugenia says that leaving donations on the doorstep of a closed charity shop amounts to fly tipping. Anyone who works

in a charity shop will tell you that these bags are *always* opened by not so charitable passers-by who steal the best of the donations. The practice also prevents the charity shop workers from checking with you whether they can sell the items before they accept them. They can't, for example, sell electrical goods, or broken, incomplete or dirty things.

The message from all charity shops is to think before you off-load because you may be costing the charity money, not helping it.

Barnet Council confirms that the borough make a charge for disposal of rubbish from charity shops in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1999.

How will you get involved?

Children's Hospice Week runs from September 20-27. Now in its 12th year, the aim is to raise awareness of the unique services available to children with life-limiting conditions and their families throughout the UK.

It's also about raising vital funds for the 43 children's hospice services now operating across the country. Services are free but a children's hospice costs between £10-15 million to set up and around £2.5 million a year to run.

North London based Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is holding a sponsored skydive and would love members of the public to take part, either by doing the tandem jump, or by sponsoring one of the jumpers. Three members of the Noah's Ark team will be taking part in the dive on Saturday 20 September near Doddington, north of Cambridge.

A Swim for Kids event launches during Children's Hospice Week and runs throughout October 2008. Anyone participating in Barnet and Enfield will be able to swim for free at one of the designated leisure centres when they do their swimathon. For registration details and information about which centres are involved please visit the Noah's Ark website at www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk or telephone the Appeals Office on 020 8449 8877.

For more information about Children's Hospice Week in this area, visit www.childhospice.org.uk.

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, N2 Vacancy for Charity Co-ordinator

This is an exciting stand alone opportunity for an experienced Co-ordinator to work at the heart of a local neighbourhood charity. You will be responsible for the day to day coordination of services such as the weekly lunch clubs, shopping bus, gardening and befriending schemes. Confident liaising with clients and the general public, maintaining client records, managing petty cash and producing statistical information using Excel for the Management Committee who you will be reporting to.

You must be proficient in MS Office, have bags of common sense and a caring, trustworthy nature.

Volunteer sector background required, knowledge of locality an advantage.

EFN Contact was established in 1985 in response to the need for day-to-day help amongst the elderly and vulnerable within N2 / N3. Salary: £21k-24k pro rata (depending on exp.) 28 flexible hours per week.

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

Blooming boom

This year's Barnet in Bloom contest saw more entrants than ever before as more than 50 green-fingered gardeners submitted entries.

The most outstanding garden in the borough was judged to be that belonging to John Gaunt, of Queens Gardens, Hendon. The best educational garden was won by the London Academy, the 'Best Bloomin' Pub' was the Elephant Inn in North Finchley, while St Patrick's Church in West Hendon walked away with the best place of worship award.

Future of fields uncertain

By Ann Bronkhorst

On the north side of Coldfall Wood is a large open space: Muswell Hill playing fields. It's where many *ARCHER* readers walk their dogs, kick a ball about or just fill their lungs with fresh air.

On Sunday 7 September, from 2pm, local residents and people who use the fields will gather there for a Muswell Hill Area Assembly. It's the first time Haringey have held an Area Assembly in the open air and the organisers, sensibly, have arranged to have a marquee.

Many local people are anxious about the future of the fields. Rumours are rife that Haringey is planning to make radical changes to them, pos-

sibly including buildings and car-parking facilities, and that this used and valued open space will be eaten into.

There are hopes (and fears) that Haringey will announce their plans that Sunday afternoon, so people who value the fields, not all of them Haringey residents, will attend the Assembly to hear what's proposed and to have their say about one of our few remaining open spaces.



New light on High Road

Shoppers could see the High Road in a new light at Christmas under an ambitious plan being put forward by traders.

The idea is to install thousands of white fairy lights in the large trees on either side of the High Road to supplement the existing coloured lights mounted on lamp posts.

Traders group REEF says the lights would mark out East Finchley as a Christmas shopping destination and bring new shoppers to the area.

Funding, however, is the challenge. To light each tree properly would cost £1,200 per tree per year and the money will need to come from local businesses.

Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema general manager, is keen to test the water on behalf of REEF.

"More Christmas lights in East Finchley would make

people stop and shop, and spend more money in our local bars and restaurants," he said.

"If we want to do this we'll have a lot of money to raise. I'd like to see how local businesses react to the idea. Please get in touch with me at the Phoenix and maybe we can make it happen."

Barnet Council has told the traders that it will be able to obtain the lights from its regular supplier and install them but will not be able to contribute financially.

The existing coloured lights were funded by the former East Finchley Traders Association, led by Lawrie Chivers, amongst others. They cost £12,000 to buy, with a major contribution coming from McDonalds.

Supermarket plan back on the shelf

By Janet Maitland

Planning permission for a supermarket at Stag Court, High Road, opposite the library, has been refused. The owner of Stag Court first applied for planning permission earlier this year, but withdrew the application after 321 local people signed a petition opposing the plan. The application was resubmitted in June.

This time, 506 people protested that a supermarket would threaten existing shops, cause traffic and parking problems and spoil East Finchley's village atmosphere. Sixtytwo people were in favour of the proposal.

"This shows that the council really cares about the local community," said Harish Shah, of Galaxy Store in Church Lane, one of several shopkeepers who organised petitions against the plan.

Reasons for refusal

The planning committee's reasons for refusing permission for the supermarket were that its scale and location were thought to be "detrimental to the vitality and viability of the town centre". They couldn't find any evidence that a more central location had been sought or that the site had been actively marketed for its current use as offices.

The committee was also concerned about the impact of increased traffic and demand for parking on residential roads that are already under stress.

Appeal likely

The applicant, who asked not to be named, is planning to appeal. He said: "The protest was just propaganda by family businesses selling alcohol and tins; my supermarket would sell only fresh food.

"Parking is not a problem. There is plenty of space in Leopold Road and my supermarket would

A career of caring

By Diana Cormack

In July Margaret Singer retired from her role as a community nurse after caring for people in the area for over 20 years.

Originally from Australia,

Margaret met her husband when she was here on a world trip and nursed in hospitals before training as a district nurse. From 1991 she was based at Oak Lane Clinic and latterly at Finchley Memo-

rial Hospital. Margaret treated patients of East Finchley medical practices in their own homes as well as in local residential care.

ARCHER reader Ann Inglis summed up how people felt about her visits: "When she arrives in your house, it's like the sun coming out."

Margaret's tribute

THE ARCHER interviewed Margaret with the intention of writing a retirement tribute, but she already had one prepared. Typical of her generous nature, it is in praise of others. Here is what she wrote:

"East Finchley is a community in the real sense of the word, more of a village atmosphere with many neighbours supporting and looking out for each other. Most of all I will miss the great enjoyment, fulfilment, diversity and fun of meeting and being involved with so many in this area. I am so privileged to have been able to be a small part of so many people's lives whose stoical courage and perseverance to deal with severe health and physical problems makes it a very humbling and enlightening experience, memories of which I take with me.

"My ability to treat, support and help these people would have been greatly curtailed if it were not for the brilliant team of nurses I have had to assist me. I am so lucky to have had the opportunity of a career in district nursing, especially in this area."

Judging from the comments of her patients and colleagues, the area is lucky to have had such a wonderful nurse.



Margaret Singer. Photo by Diana Cormack

Fund raising for autism

Two sponsored events are taking place to raise money for autism research. On Sunday 7 September women can join a team of runners and walkers in Hyde Park for the Adidas Ladies 5km Challenge. Register at www.autismspeaks.org.uk/hydro_challenge_2008.html.

On Sunday 12 October families and friends can take a Walk for Autism Research in The Swinley Forest, Bracknell,

Berkshire. Walks can be one, four or five miles and each walker who raises money will receive a medal. Register at www.autismspeaks.org.uk/swinley_walk_2008.html. For more information email lynn.hart@autismspeaks.org.uk or telephone 01491 411569.

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Arts festival anniversaries

By Geoffrey Hanson, festival director

The 12th East Finchley Arts Festival promises to be an autumn treat with its mix of events and music - and it's a year for celebration. The Endellion String Quartet mark their 30th anniversary, the Youth Music Centre their 40th and the Finchley Children's Music Group their 50th.

Highlights include a rare performance of Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp by The London Mozart Players and a chance to hear the internationally famous Christophe Coin and his Lupo Consort in their first appearance in this country.

Young performers giving lunch hour recitals include prizewinning organist Tom Bell and flute and piano duo Sarah Desbruslais and Cristina Buga. Cello music lovers should not miss welcome returns by Gemma Rosefield and Michael Dussek.

Jazz comes from Viper's

Dream, there's an evening with East Finchley Writers and a choral and orchestral concert with Jennifer Bate playing the delightful Handel Organ Concerto.

Hatstand Opera present Golden Moments from Opera: hilarious scenes and heart-rending arias that have delighted audiences across the UK and beyond.

Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch and Judy show, and throughout the festival there will be an Art exhibition in aid of the North London Hospice.

East Finchley Arts Festival

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 3-19 October

Friday 3 October, 6.30pm-8.30pm, *Art Exhibition Private View*. The exhibition by London and international artists will be open on concert evenings and from 12 noon at weekends throughout the festival.

Saturday 4 October, 12.30pm, Lunch Hour Recital by *Duo Dorado*; Hazel Brooks, baroque violin, and David Pollock, harpsichord; tickets, £5, under 18s, £1.

7.30pm *Hatstand Opera* present Golden Moments from Opera; tickets band A (see below).

Sunday 5 October, 7.30pm, *Endellion String Quartet*, Haydn, Janacek, Beethoven; tickets band A.

Tuesday 7 October, 7.30pm, *East Finchley Writers*, admission free with bucket collection.

Wednesday 8 October, 7.30pm, *Jazz Evening with Viper's Dream*, tickets band C.

Thursday 9 October, 7.30pm, *Christophe Coin & The Lupo Consort*, music for viols and organ; tickets band A.

Friday 10 October, 7.30pm, *London Ripieno Orchestra & Singers, All Saints' Choir & Jennifer Bate*, organ, Fauré *Requiem*, Handel *Organ Concerto* and Vaughan Williams; tickets band B.

Saturday 11 October, 11.30am, 2pm and 3.30pm, Geoff Felix presents his traditional *Punch and Judy Show* in the church garden. Free, with bucket collection. 12.30pm, *Young Artists' Recital*, Sarah Desbruslais, flute, and Cristina Buga, piano, Prokofiev, Schubert and Jolivet; tickets £5, under 18s, £1. 7.30pm Gemma Rosefield, cello, and Michael Dussek, piano, Beethoven, Bruch and Strauss; tickets band A.

Sunday 12 October, 7.30pm *Youth Music Centre*, tickets band C.

Saturday 18 October, 12.30pm, Lunch Hour recital by prize-winning young organist Tom Bell, Alain, Bach, Dupre, Maxwell Davies, Morton Gould, Mozart, Mulet and Thalben-Ball; tickets, £5, under 18s, £1. 7.30pm, *London Mozart Players*, Mozart's *Concerto for Flute and Harp*, new work by festival director Geoffrey Hanson, Haydn; tickets band A.

Sunday 19 October, 7.30pm, *Finchley Children's Music Group*, tickets band C.

Ticket prices: band A nave £15, conchs £12, side aisles £10, conchs £8; band B nave and side aisles £12, conchs £10; band C nave and side aisles £10, conchs £8. All concerts are £1 for under-18s. A season ticket priced £40 entitles holder to one ticket for each event.

Box offices are 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. There will be a 10% surcharge on each ticket booked online.

Refreshments will be available at Lunch Hour concerts and a wine bar at evening events. All events take place at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2, which has access and facilities for the disabled. For more information visit www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk.

Cyclists get in gear

By Nick Bloom

Sunday morning, 27 July, and the Big Chef café on the High Road was surrounded with colour. From 8am cyclists gathered for the annual Central London Audaxes, a 200-kilometre ride out to Brill near Oxford (which overlooks another Muswell Hill), and a 100 kilometre ride to Cottesled in Hertfordshire.

Twenty-five cyclists rode the long route, 75 the shorter, some in Lycra, others more honest in baggy shorts and jerseys. Male and female, the youngest was 11 years old, the oldest ... one wouldn't ask.

This year the furthest travelled were from France and Scotland, but the majority were local, including the entire staff of Bike and Run. For those who enjoy cycling as sport or leisure, to keep fit or to get some fresh air, a group ride is invigorating, finding new lanes while spurred on by the company.

If you would like to try a social ride, Central London CTC organise rides for all abilities every Sunday of the

year. Contact Nick Bloom (secretary@centrallondonctc.org.uk / 07768 354010) or see www.centrallondonctc.org.uk



Photo by Marcella Hampson

Sponsors urgently needed for Muswell Hill Festival

Although many local businesses have already signed up as sponsors for the Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby in Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley, on 14 September, organisers are still looking for more support.

Eight thousand visitors came to the event last year and profits from the day are given to the Hornsey Trust for children with cerebral palsy. Potential sponsors can contact Julia or Anna on 020 8444 7242 or at info@hornseytrust.org.uk Among the activities to be covered are hire of the PA system, a generator, a large covered stage, paying a crew for the day and barriers. Live music is very much a part of the festival and several local bands have already booked to give performances.

Dogs and donkeys

Donkey races, a feature of the festival for some years, can be sponsored for £120 for jockey and donkey. Sponsors can name their donkey and must supply an adult jockey. Then £600 will secure sponsorship of the dog agility competition and dog show, paying for barriers for the arena, prizes and certificates for the winners, plus a roving microphone. If any local residents are children's entertainers such as clowns, magicians, stilt walkers or Punch and Judy operators and would like to

participate in the festival or wander around performing for free, they should contact Julia or Anna at the Trust. Several local authors will be at the festival, including Alison Joseph, Robert Ryan and Dick Sharples. Dick has donated signed copies of two of his books to be auctioned on stage during the afternoon.

Food on offer will reflect the ethnic mix of our community and will include Caribbean delicacies, French crepes, Indian food provided by Majjo's, Thai food and an Italian coffee stall.

Showtime for writers

By Daphne Chamberlain

There will be a new act at next month's East Finchley Arts Festival. On Wednesday 8 October, the East Finchley Writers' Group will entertain us. Admission will be free, with a complimentary glass of wine and an opportunity to hear interesting people reading a selection of their own work in an anthology called *Showtime*.

East Finchley Writers' Group meets at 6.30pm every Wednesday at The Old White Lion pub. As one member told *THE ARCHER*, sharing your work might be petrifying at first, but you will be assured of a warm and constructive welcome. For more information, contact Carola on 020 8883 5808 or Lilian on 020 8444 1793.



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Youth make the most of Stanley Field

By Adam Castledine

Football fever came to Stanley Field once more when the East Finchley Monday Club held a mini sports day. For these young people, it is their only access to some form of permanent sporting facility.

Sandwiched between a railway track and a housing estate, Stanley Field has been long neglected but the Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT) is lobbying for the 2.4 acre site to be developed for community use.

Dereliction

The asphalt pitch still exists but the floodlights are rusted and the field is horribly overgrown. Were it not for the dedication of local volunteers the site would be worse still, strewn with glass and refuse.

Chair of the FCDT, Roger Chapman, said: "In the absence of any firm progress from the council there is a risk Stanley Road will remain derelict for years to come. We are challenging Council leader Mike Freer to support the reopening of the playing fields for community use and not to allow this valuable open space to join the long list of playing fields that have been sold off and lost forever."

Enthusiastic response

The sports day was the

second time this year that the community had shown their commitment to the land. A football tournament was held back in April, too.

Joe Strong, one of the leaders of the Monday Club, ran a series of 'King of the Penalty Spot' tournaments for various ages together with a 'King of the Hoops' basketball competition that was only possible after they provided their own basketball hoop. The sheer passion and enthusiasm from the child, teenage, and adult competitors ensured that a fantastic day was had by all.

On site medical assistance came from Kate, 'the first aider', who admittedly had only one small bout of sun burn to deal with, and medals were handed out to the enthusiastic contestants and the winners of the competitions.



Young footballers want Stanley Field to be a field for the whole community. Photographs by Adam Castledine

Four months of disruption

As The Archer went to press, a four-month project to replace 550 metres of gas mains in East Finchley was getting under way. The work is expected to bring major disruption to the junction of Fortis Green, East End Road and High Road.

Four-way temporary traffic lights will be in use at the junction until the end of September. These will become three-way lights in October when East End Road will be one-way west-bound from the junction of the High Road to the railway bridge. Buses using East End Road will

be diverted via Ossulton Way.

National Grid said the work is part of a £70 million investment in the London gas pipeline network and is essential to improve local gas supplies.

Alliance construction operations engineer Mick Morris said: "We are aware this is a busy commercial area and we are working hard to minimise inconvenience to shops and businesses, which will be open for business as usual.

"We apologise for any inconvenience the temporary diversions may cause, but the work has been planned with the local authority and is essential to provide East Finchley with continued safe and secure gas supplies. The new gas mains will have a lifespan of around

80 years if left undisturbed once they are in the ground."

Friends of CTW

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have a litter pick & AGM on Sunday 21 September.

The litter pick commences at 10 am. Equipment is provided and all are welcome, even if you can just spare a few minutes.

The AGM starts at 11 am at the Lazy Sally Café (the café kiosk in the park) and will provide an opportunity to get involved, discuss any concerns and ideas, and learn about plans for regenerating the woodland.

Council leader comments on Stanley Field

Following an article in the *Hendon and Finchley Times* about the fight for Stanley Fields Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of Barnet Council, wrote a letter to the newspaper, which was published on Thursday 7 August. In it he stated that Roger Chapman had challenged him "to retain the fields and support the Development Trust's efforts". He went on to say that he had given 100% backing to their endeavours and that Barnet Council would be delighted for the trust to "take a significant chunk of the site and re-provide sporting facilities".

Councillor Freer, who was recently appointed to the London Development Agency, which is charged with maintaining the capital's economic growth, described the proposals for pitches, stands, cafés and floodlighting as "terrific". However,

he drew attention to the cost of the scheme and raised the question of funding, confirmation of which he said would be more effective than letters of support. He concluded that, with confirmation of funding, a deal could be done "and we can't say fairer than that".

Contractor injured trying to stop traffic

By Janet Maitland

A man was taken to hospital after a traffic collision involving a car and a pedestrian on Kitchener Road on 30 July. The accident happened at about 12.30pm when a contractor working for National Grid Skanska tried to prevent a motorist from entering Kitchener Road from the High Road.

"A crane was blocking the street, so you couldn't go down it anyway," said a bystander "and there was a warning notice on the pavement."

"The driver kept edging forward towards the workman," said a spokesperson from the Safer Neighbourhood Unit, who attended the scene of the accident. "When the car hit him and hurt his leg, the workman put his fist down on the bonnet of the car and dented it."

The ambulance service has confirmed that they took a 40-year-old man to Barnet Hospital with a leg injury. The injuries were not serious.

"The matter is under investigation," said a spokesperson from Skanska. "We are unable to comment further at this time."

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Children walk for Jack

By Lisa Omar

Pupils at St Theresa's School took part in a sponsored walk at Avenue House in the summer term. Children from Reception to Y6 and their parents were determined to complete the eight laps of the park. By doing so they raised an outstanding



Jack D'Lima. Photo by Beverly D'Lima

£1,800 for Jack's Goal and pupils who completed the walk will receive a certificate in assembly.

Jack's Goal is a charity set up to help children with brain tumours. It works alongside Ali's Dream, a charity that raises funds for research into discovering the causes, advancing treatments and finding a cure for childhood brain tumours.

Jack's Goal is special to St Theresa's because Jack was a pupil there. Sadly, he had been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour in 1996 when he was just 15 months old. Jack underwent surgery and chemotherapy, but this bright, articulate child was a fighter and defied the odds on numerous occasions.

Jack lost his nine-year battle shortly after his 10th birthday in 2005. A memorial garden set up for him and funded by parents and teachers has become a special place in St Theresa's School where the children can sit quietly, reflect and think about Jack.

The charity bearing his name was instigated by Jack's family and his mother Beverly D'Lima arranges a variety of funding events. To know more about both charities, visit Jack's Goal at www.jacksgoal.co.uk or Ali's Dream at www.alisdream.co.uk.

All mixed up

By Sippy Azizollah

Ten places, pubs or shops connected to East Finchley and ten anagrams. Can you unscramble them? Answers below.

- 1) Finger store
- 2) Roasted Dean
- 3) Destroy Alan
- 4) Tighten Dancers
- 5) Red Corn Salsa
- 6) Joins Sheep
- 7) Peak Hours
- 8) Dads Men
- 9) Batch Get Fed Salad
- 10) Oh Unuse a Vee

- 1) Fortis Green
- 2) East End Road
- 3) Stanley Road
- 4) Teaching Trends
- 5) Alan's Records
- 6) Josephine's
- 7) Park House
- 8) Maddens
- 9) The Bald Faced Stag
- 10) Avenue House

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YOUNG ARCHER



Christ's College Finchley students with, from left to right: Chantelle Naidoo, Diplomat at the Education Department for the High Commission of South Africa, Peter Bromfield, Sales Director for Michael Gerson Ltd, Councillor John Marshall, Mayor of Barnet, Ben Taubman, Head of the Sixth Form, Emma Ocloo, Sixth Form Administrator, Gary Tucker, Head Teacher. Photo courtesy of Christ's College Finchley.

Gift of books bridges 10,000 miles

By Daniel Hampson, Year 7, Christ's College Finchley

Just before the end of the summer term, a container carrying 11,500 books set off on a 10,000-mile journey from Christ's College Finchley in East End Road, N2 to Inkwenkwezi School in Du Noon, Cape Town, South Africa.

The dispatch of these books marked the success of a charitable focus by the boys and teachers at Christ's College

Finchley, the aim of which was to collect 10,000 books - one book for every mile between the two schools - for their partner school in South Africa.

The school managed to raise more books than hoped for through the hard work of the boys and teachers, especially Mr Ben Taubman, the Head of the Sixth Form, whose brainchild the idea was, and through the support and generosity of sponsors such as Michael Gerson Ltd in Whetstone, who kindly donated the boxes for shipping the books.

Ben Taubman said: "Inkwenkwezi School moved into a new school building in 2007. They had a newly built library but unfortunately very few books. One of the biggest issues the teachers at

Inkwenkwezi School have to deal with is the low level of student literacy. The teachers were desperate for books to fill their library and asked for our help. We are delighted that we have managed to collect so many books and thank everyone who helped to do this for their kindness and support."

The sending of the books was attended by some very important people: Ms Chantelle Naidoo, Diplomat at the Education Department for the High Commission of South Africa, Councillor John Marshall, Mayor of Barnet, and Mr Peter Broomfield, Sales Director for Michael Gerson Ltd, as well as Mr Ben Taubman, Head of the Sixth Form, Ms Emma Ocloo, Sixth Form Administrator and Mr Gary Tucker, Head Teacher.

Coldfall Wood

In the account of a children's walk through Coldfall Wood (*THE ARCHER*, August 2008), £85,000 was mentioned as the figure needed to pay for unblocking water pipes. In fact, this is the sum granted by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the regeneration programme in the wood, which does not include the blocked drainage.

Mincemeat ice cream

This mixed-up summer deserves a mixed-up ice cream. If you've got a jar of mincemeat in the cupboard that you didn't manage to use at Christmas, this grown-up ice cream is tasty at any time of year. You can adjust the ingredients according to taste and the number and size of portions required.

Ingredients:

- 1 pint/ 850 ml of best vanilla ice cream
- 1 lb/ 500 g of mincemeat
- 2 tablespoons of rum

Method:

Mix together the mincemeat and rum.
Thaw the ice cream.
Beat the mincemeat mixture into the thawed ice cream.
Re-freeze until needed.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

St Theresa's Primary School

A wonderful day was had by all at the summer fayre. The sun was certainly shining down. The children and adults enjoyed themselves participating in the activities, winning prizes in the raffles, and Mr Ruddy was a great sport while the children threw wet sponges at him. There was a lovely surprise when two little ponies arrived to give everyone pony rides. A brilliant amount of more than £5,000 was raised.

A very special Mass was said by Father John to remember with such love Finn and Christopher Sharpless, who tragically lost their mother Deborah Sharpless. Their loss has been felt by everyone at the school. So many parents and friends came together on this special day to remember Deborah and her two boys. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sharpless family.

Reception, Y1 and Y2 children went on a school trip to Whipsnade Zoo. Unfortunately the weather was not on their side and many of the children and teachers got very wet but still enjoyed seeing the animals.

Year 5 had a brilliant day learning all about Tudor times. The children and their teacher, Mr Silverstone, spent a day dressed up as servants, Ladies and Lords. They learned how to make soap balls, mix up herbs and spices to make medicine, dip candles, make leather bookmarks and even how to sew.

The Friends of St Theresa held a cake sale with loads of lovely home-made cakes. Half the money raised will go towards the Friends' Fund and also to Year 1's charity, TreeHouse School, which is the National Autism Charity and is based in Muswell Hill.

**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Dumbing up, dumbing down

Welcome to September, welcome to surreality, welcome to the end of the silly season as abnormal service is resumed. Politicians are back from the Costa del Living and Brown Gordon is desperately hoping that something will turn up before everything turns down. But at times like these we have to get our priorities right and as the weird turn pro I'm pro enough to wallow in the strange world of the Morning Mule.

Mule World is a tabloid theme park for the demented. In Mule World success equals failure, life equals death and the world beyond the privet hedge is mad, bad and very dangerous. And this August was a classic, one that should go down in the history of cheap journalism.

It was A level results time, over 93% of candidates passed and more got A grades than ever before. Put out more flags? Celebrate success? Be proud at how today's teens achieve so much? Not in Mule World. In Mule World it's time to complain. Time for a headline saying 'Exams too easy as more people get A grades'. Come GCSE time and it's more of the same. Why? Maybe in Mule World the idea that some kid might work their butt off is too much to take.

Mule World is where the suggestion that Brown Gordon sticks a 50% tax rate on anyone who earns over £100,000 has the same effect as dropping a bomb on the croquet lawn. The screams can be heard across the suburbs as The Mule proclaims the destruction of middle England. In the real world hardly anyone earns that kind of money, but then Mule World isn't real.

Mule World is secondrate celebrity central where Peaches Geldof is a talented artist rather than a freeloading ingredient in a fruit salad and Paris Hilton is an actress. No wonder half the world wants to be in Big Brother and the other half wants to napalm the house.

In Mule World it is forever the boring, pre-rock'n'roll bit of the 1950s, where net curtains twitch and middle class angst is just a headline away. To survive the madness of Mule World you need lots of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. And the only surprising thing about Morning Mule's claim that '25% of teenagers take drugs' is that it's only 25%.

Write a local limerick for Lupus

By Diana Cormack

A competition has been launched to write a limerick about East Finchley. The objective is to raise money for the charity Lupus UK so there's an entry fee of £1.

Lupus is a chronic disease where the body's immune system, which is designed to protect against infection, mistakenly attacks the body's own tissues and organs. Organised by Sippy Azizollah, the competition challenges you to find a local theme. It could be about something you've seen, something you'd like to do or just about East Finchley itself. The choice is yours.

Limericks are part of the National Curriculum, so local schools will be invited to participate. You could even compose a joint family entry. Putting modesty aside, here is one for starters:

*THE ARCHER's the paper for you,
Devoted to news in N2.
We tell you what's on,
What's come and what's gone:
A sort of community glue.*

Please seal your limerick, along with your name and phone number/address plus the entry fee, in an envelope and pop it into the limerick letter-box at 2 Destino, the flower and gift shop at 128 High Road. The closing date is Monday 6 October. The prizes for the best three will be £20, £10 and £5 and the winners will be published in our November edition.

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Rudi Vis, Sir Steve Redgrave and a fellow altformat campaigner. Photograph by Daphne Chamberlain

Problems with print

Finchley & Golders Green MP Rudi Vis met Sir Steve Redgrave before the Olympic Games to discuss the sportsman's campaign to make life easier at school for children with print disabilities, including children with dyslexia and low vision.

The five-time Olympic gold medallist, who is dyslexic, pointed out that 70% of all information given out at school comes as printed text and that visual and print-impaired students need access to the curriculum in alternative formats, known as altformat. These include MP3 audio, large print, Braille or the DAISY electronic format. Of the 70% materials in printed text, only 4% is cur-

rently available in alternative formats.

Sir Steve said: "I feel very strongly about the importance of altformat. I've seen research from America, which shows that if students with literacy problems are exposed to learning materials as combined audio and text, their test scores can increase by almost 40%. This is staggering and it's time everyone knew about it."

Rudi said: "I recognise that our local schools have competing priorities for their resources, so I would be happy to discuss the issue with any headteacher or special educational needs co-ordinator who wants to get in touch."

The campaign, which is supported by the main dyslexic and blindness organisations around the world, can be visited at www.altformat.org.

Budgens backs the festival

Supermarket Budgens helped to raise more than £800 at the East Finchley Community Festival in June and has just announced that it will support the event again in 2009. Budgens contributed all the food for the Festival Food tent, with all money going to the Finchley Community Development Trust.

Budgens of East Finchley is now independently owned and looks to support important local events such as the festival.

Owner Shalil Bhattessa said: "We recognise the Finchley

Community Development Trust and its activities as a major contribution to the community here in East Finchley. We were delighted to support them with this major local event as a way of thanking our many

customers for their support over the years."

Grateful Trust chairman Roger Chapman said it was crucial for the festival and the trust to receive sponsorship and help from local businesses.

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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** 15 & 29 September 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
- ❖ **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.



Emily Wolf and her backing trio. Photo by Diana Cormack

Emily wows them

By Diana Cormack

On 29 July every table at The Bald Faced Stag was booked for their Jazz and Dinner night. The entertainment that evening was provided by singer Emily Wolf, backed by a trio consisting of Richard Rozzie on guitar, Fulvio Bucafusco on double bass and Brian Abrahams on drums.

With a wide musical background that included choral and orchestral performances, Emily studied music at Durham University. Here she became more serious about performing in public so she took singing lessons and tried out her talent in a variety of clubs and gigs.

Emily, 24, has performed in London and Europe but for the next two years she will be based in the USA. She has won a much sought-after place at the New England Conservatory in Boston to study for a Masters in jazz voice performance.

There was a great ambience at the Stag, where Emily gave her own special touch to many old favourites, which included *September Song* and *Secret Love*. It would be interesting to have a repeat performance when she returns from her studies in the States. In the meantime Live Jazz and Dinner continues at the Stag on the last Tuesday of every

month. To book a table, call in at 69 High Road or contact them on 020 8442 1201 or thebaldfacedstag@realpubs.co.uk

Review: Saturday, Sunday, Monday.

By Lucy Chamberlin

Possibly one of its best productions to date, Incognito's charming and heartfelt rendition of Eduardo Filippo's Saturday, Sunday, Monday saw some stellar performances from an unusually large cast.

A comedy of errors without the identity crisis, the play is set in Naples where Filippo was born, and has some strikingly Shakespearean overtones. A warring family and classically structured plot are laced with the pure, blinding emotions of jealousy and passion, and in the language we glimpse reminders of plays such as *The Winter's Tale*.

At first in the kitchen, and

Up close and personal

By Ann Bronkhorst

For a while last month the windows of the Black Gull bookshop in the High Road attracted attention by not displaying books. What was being scrutinised so closely?

Black Gull was hosting an exhibition of art by Elle Shepherd, a young artist and musician with bases in Brighton, London and the Lake District. A sense of place, however, seemed to be less significant in her work than memory or myth. The intriguing title of the exhibition, *Alchemy of Madness*, hinted at the transformations art can achieve but hadn't prepared me for the often exquisite detail in these unusual pieces.

Elle said: "I'm masking people to play. I want them to crouch down and look closely." One work, *Million Dollar Hotel*, was an example of how rewarding it was to look closely: 15 windows, each containing a mysterious scene, and each frame decorated with minute objects. There were fragments of text, buttons and badges, miniature dolls and creatures; to a fascinated child she explained that the tiny dragons were "on guard".

Other pieces were bleaker.

Sky View was a three-dimensional block of flats, open on one side, disturbingly empty apart from a few tiny, forlorn residents. The use of toys and round objects, within small frames and boxes, created a deceptively childlike charm but the content of Elle's work was thought-provoking.

At the preview on Sunday 22 July, readings chosen by Elle underlined themes in her art. They included Margaret Atwood's *Five Poems for Dolls* ('souls or cast skins... of lost children') and Dorothy Parker's self-deprecating poem *Symptom*. Guests appreciated the expressive readings (by Elle, Jean Hart and Simon Coady) and the opportunity to browse through the bookshelves.

Black Gull's windows are back to books once more, but I keep expecting to see a tiny dancer or a child's toy peeping out at the passers by.

then in the dining room, familial bickering and Italian tempers mingled with the aroma of onions and herbs being cooked on stage. Director Sonja Taylor brought out the centrality of food with check tablecloths, a kitchen range and a window frame of painted verdure completing the delightful set, for which credit goes to Andrew Messenger.

A feast of acting

The actors themselves presented a diverting, moveable feast, with Jill Sly as 'mama' Rosa stealing the show with her matriarchal admonishments and melodramatic Italianate accent. Alistair Maydon played her wonderfully brooding, jealous husband Peppino, and Mike Mende was the larger-than-

life grandfather Antonio, combining a childish temper and zest for life with a penchant for hats. Ruth Nixon impressed as Aunt Meme, whilst Jos Slovic as her mollicodded son Atilio brought touches of hilarity. Special mentions also to the wrongly accused neighbour Luigi (Huw Morgan), and David Parsons as model son Rocco, along with the ingenious and incredibly versatile Graham Boon, whose portrayal of camp thespian uncle Raffaele brought tears of laughter and enjoyment to our eyes.

Incognito has proved its worth once again, with a production of an Italian masterpiece that sent us home reinvigorated, feeling that we had banqueted on rich yet homely, familiar fare.

What's On...

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

Friday 5 September
Free talk and walk by Ed Santry from the **Bat Conservation Trust** on the ecology of the only flying mammal in the world, 7-9pm. Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and suitable footwear. Bring a torch if possible. Meet at the Education Hut, Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve, Green Lanes (opposite Haringay Green Lanes train station).

Saturday 6 September
Free storytelling for toddlers by local artists Angie Baker and Kirsten McIver; four to six-year-olds from 11am to 12pm, seven to 12-year-olds from 2pm to 3.30pm. Meet at the Education Hut, Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve, Green Lanes (opposite Haringay Green Lanes train station). More information from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers on 020 8348 6005.

Thursday 25 September
Talk on the history of Christ's College Finchley by geography teacher and college archivist Steve Goldsmith, The Finchley Society, Avenue House, East End Road, 8pm. Entry for non-members is £2.

Friday 26 & Saturday 27 September
Beer, sausages and live music at the East Finchley Constitutional Club's annual **Oktoberfest**, The Walks, East Finchley. Twenty guest German ales and beers will be on offer. Official

opening at 6pm on Friday 26 September. Admission £2.

Saturday 27 September
The Artful Dodgers Art Show and Sale from 12noon to 3pm at Homefield Gardens Community Hall (just off Stanley Road). Raffle and refreshments. Free entry.

Sunday 28 September
'Things That Go Bump in High Barnet!': guided ghost walk around Barnet and Monken Hadley. Meet at High Barnet tube, 7.30pm. Tickets £6, under 12s £3. For more details, telephone Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Friday 3 October to Sunday 19 October

East Finchley Arts Festival, All Saints' Church, Durham Road; varied programme of music, storytelling, arts and performance. Box offices are 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.

Saturday 4 October
The Confections present an evening of music, nostalgia and laughter from the days of the music hall to the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and onwards; St Mary's Church Hall, High Road, 7.45pm. Tickets are £8 (concessions £7).



Letters to the Editor

Fight the pavement tax
Dear Editor,

Regarding the pavement tax in your front page article in July's edition, I am just writing to say that of course the shops and cafes should be allowed to put goods and tables and chairs outside their premises.

As you say in your article, the pavements are perfectly wide enough to cater for these items and still leave plenty of room for pedestrians, people with prams, wheelchairs, etc.

They add to the feel of East Finchley. The village atmosphere would be harmed tremendously if as a result of a tax imposed purely to raise more revenue - which I am sure we would not see spent on improvements to the area - shops were not able to continue as they are at present.

Please try and get everyone to put up a good fight against this!

Yours faithfully,
Kate Barnett,
Baronsmere Road, N2.

Tasty temptation
Dear Editor,

Regarding "We don't need another supermarket" (Letters, *THE ARCHER*, July 2008), I agree with Pauline Dorrington except for her apparently dismissing a fruit and veg shop that sells groceries too.

We are thrilled to have available Tony's Continental, which supplies real fruit and vegetables. For example, have you tried their celery, dirty, unwashed but crunchy and smelling as it should? And if you can pick up a loaf of their great breads which you find nowhere else, surely that is a benefit. Just try it.

Yours faithfully,
Lorna Roberts
Address supplied.

Questions over pavilion plans
Dear Editor,

As local residents living very close to the proposed new pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood (*THE ARCHER*, August 2008) we welcome the new plans. However we have a few concerns.

The bottom end of Park Hall Road is prone to flooding after heavy rain. What would be the impact of the new pavilion on a drainage system that is currently unable to cope during bad weather?

Your article refers to "major trees retained...". Of the trees that are going to be lost, do any have tree preservation orders?

There is a terrible litter problem in Cherry Tree Wood resulting in a large number of vermin. How would the rubbish and waste from the new building be managed?

What would happen if, in the future, further development was sought that may, for example, require more direct access from Brompton Grove, or an extended kitchen facility? Are there any safeguards that can be put in place now to limit any such developments?

The proposal is that the building be demolished and rebuilt but how can this be achieved with current access from Summerlee Avenue? Access from Brompton Grove would, as far as we can see, demand strengthening of the unmade orphaned road that is Brompton Grove where it joins Park Hall Road and would cause much noise pollution and disruption.

Yours faithfully,
Jeannie Cummings and Carl McChesney
Park Hall Road, N2.

In a word...

Dear Editor,

Regarding the pavilion plan for Cherry Tree Wood, hurrah! Let's hope it happens. Let's make it happen. It will be a great asset to the community.

Yours faithfully,
Ros Goldfarb,
Southern Road, N2.

Who will pay?

Dear Editor,

As the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood may contain asbestos, what provision will be made for its safe demolition, as it is so close to the children's playground, and to houses?

And who will bear the cost of the demolition?

Yours faithfully,
Judith Filkin,
Park Hall Road, N2.

Junk mail not welcome
Dear Editor,

Next to the letterbox on my front door I have attached a notice, which quite clearly states "No junk mail". Large amounts of junk mail are regularly shoved through the letterbox in spite of the notice.

Yesterday's delivery of this rubbish came just as I was about to leave the house. I picked it up from inside the hall, went outside, remonstrated angrily with the man who had delivered it and handed the rubbish back to him. I pointed to the notice on the door.

The man who had delivered it smiled sheepishly and explained in perfectly good English that he could not read English and had therefore not understood my notice. I suggested that he should learn to read English as soon as possible.

He worked for a company by the name of Regal who describe themselves as "The company that delivers - the premier door-to-door distribution service". Their address is Regal Distribution, Unit 2, Towers 13.P. Carey Way, Wembley, HA9 0LQ.

Henceforth I propose to return all their junk mail to Regal. I shall not be paying postage costs for this. There is quite considerable annoyance in my area at the amount of junk mail that is received. I suggest that if other inhabitants of north London share my anger they should also return REGAL's rubbish to them.

Yours faithfully,
Name supplied,
Park Hall Road, N2.

The signs are not good
Dear Editor,

I'd like to comment on a cycling incident that happened on Monday 11 August along the Causeway near the station. I witnessed this as a cyclist hurtled down the busy footpath, causing an accident. I too am a cyclist who rides to the station but I "walk cycle" down the Causeway extremely slowly behind pedestrians, never overtaking.

As a consequence of the accident community police were at the station fining people on the spot for being on a bicycle. I was informed by the police officer that it was an offence and there was an incident. I totally understood and accepted the fine.

My issue regards the signage and general cycling education, which may be a matter for the local council and the Mayor of London to consider. The signage of a bicycle shape

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",
The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 8JA or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.

bordered by a red circle is very misleading. True, in the Highway Code this means "no cycling" but I would reckon that 8 out of 10 people could have misinterpreted the sign on The Causeway.

I would encourage the council to add "No Cycling", so that it is crystal clear. I would also ask the local council and the Mayor of London to consider introducing an educational measure or a refresher of the cycling proficiency test.

Until councils invest in educating cyclists and in clearer signage, especially with more and more people taking up cycling due to environmental and health benefits, there will be accidents. I would also urge community police to show more tolerance with cycling offences and to hand out leaflets that help educate people like me. The counter argument is that I should be more of a responsible cyclist but I would imagine many people just jump on a bike and assume it's similar to walking rather than driving.

Yours faithfully,
Kish Parmar,
Hamilton Road, N2.

A little sharpener required

Dear Editor,

Do any of your readers know where I can get my two pairs of dull gardening shears professionally sharpened at a reasonable price? Those who used to sharpen them have all gone out of business so I do need some help.

Yours faithfully,
Barbara Huggan,
Market Place, N2.
Please get in touch if you can help Barbara. See our contact details above.

Free smoke alarms

By Janet Maitland
The London Fire Brigade is carrying out free fire safety visits in Barnet. As part of the check, they will fit a free smoke alarm.

Their campaign targets vulnerable people in boroughs throughout London where fires and fire deaths are high.

"Getting a smoke alarm and regularly testing and maintaining it, as well as planning your escape route in the event of fire, can dramatically decrease the risk of death or serious injury," said a brigade spokesperson.

If you would like a visit, call the freephone number 08000 28 44 28, or email smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk

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OBITUARY

Kathy Dew

By Daphne Chamberlain

We were sad to learn of the death of Kathy Dew, youngest daughter of Alfred Abrey, who ran the laundry in The Walks. The Abreys were featured in our East Finchley Families series in 2000, for which Kathy gave us a lot of information.

She was born on 20 April 1919 at Veranda House, on the corner of the Stanley Road footpath. From here, her father ran Ye Olde Palace Hand Laundry. Kathy remembered bathing in one of the wooden tubs in which the washing was done with scrubbing brushes, before being dried in the one-acre garden.

Both her parents came from Melbourn, Cambridgeshire. Her mother died when she was two, and Kathy herself was brought up in Stansted by her aunt, returning to The Walks when she was 17. The family story is that she became a Tiller girl, before marrying Cyril Dew.

Their daughter Patricia (Pat Ruskin) was the administrative assistant at local charity Contact for six years, and Kathy worked for over 20 years at Sims, in Oak Lane, finishing up as personal assistant to the management. She was a member of the Friendship Club at Oak Lane Health Centre, and worshipped regularly at Holy



Kathy Dew. Photo courtesy of Anthony Abrey

Trinity Church.

Kathy lived in New Oak Road until moving to Stroud, Gloucestershire, a few years ago, to be with her daughter. It was there she died on 22 June this year, at the age of 89. Her nephew, Anthony Abrey, told us: "She had been ill for some time, but, typical of her, she did her best not to let it get her down. She was a wonderful person and aunt, always ready to help others, and will be missed greatly. She died peacefully with all her immediate family around her."

Hot, hot, hot

By Betti Blatman

On a Friday evening in August, I spent an enjoyable evening with friends at Fahrenheit, a Caribbean restaurant and lounge bar at 230 Archway Road, Highgate, listening to live jazz featuring Wendy Long, an exceptionally gifted pianist and composer, accompanied by Dimitris Moudopoulos on trumpet, whilst enjoying an excellent range of delicious Caribbean food.

Although the owner, Angela, opened three years ago, during the past year she has re-invented Fahrenheit and refurbished it with obvious attention to detail in the new décor. She will be organ-

ising regular Friday live music evenings. Fahrenheit is open Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm to midnight. Telephone 020 8347 0333 or visit www.fahrenheit-restaurant.co.uk.

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Butterfly bonanza

By Linda Dolata

Long Lane Pastures, a relic of ancient meadow opposite the Fire Station on Long Lane, is an amazing piece of surviving biodiversity. It provides a perfect home for butterflies because it has lots of flowering plants to supply nectar for the newly emerged adults, as well as a huge range of indigenous plants on which to lay their eggs to ensure the next generation.

More than 50 local residents turned up for the Butterfly Bonanza day earlier in the summer, some of whom remembered the pasture when it was a cut through, when horses grazed on it or when there were allotments on part of it during the war.

A new pond draws in dragonflies and damselflies to add to the increasing list of butterflies and moths. Spotted during the day were Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Ringlets and Skippers, Large Whites, small numbers of Speckled Wood, Peacocks and a solitary Comma.

Then there were the wide range of smallish moths which turned up in the overnight moth trap; a six-spot Burnet Moth, which is a day-flying species, suggested that there will soon be others. There is ragwort so Cinnebars will surely turn up.

Insect identifiers needed

The thistles and bramble flowers attract lots of bumblebees, honeybees, mining bees, hoverflies, long-horn beetles and pollen beetles, none of which has been properly identified. If anybody would enjoy doing that, please come along: we have all the literature that you might need to help you.

In the pond there are lots of newts, and a whole ecosystem evidenced by the easily seen predacious water boatmen and pond skaters.

The real attraction of the Pastures, however, is just to wander around it and relax. Long Lane Pastures is awaiting a lease before it can be opened on a more regular basis. Meanwhile, come along any Saturday from 10am until 12 noon. You can join the volunteers in caring for the Pasture, or just enjoy the site as it is.

Can you help us with distribution?

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for The Grange. Each round takes approx 30-45 mins to deliver each month. For details please call 020 8883 0433 or email the-archer@lineone.net

When is a Ka not a car?

By Sheila Armstrong

It was good to talk to young Chelsea Art School graduate Janak Odedra at the latest exhibition at the Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green. Having a dialogue with an artist provides a clearer idea of the art object and its purpose: witness the East Finchley Open event back in July.

Janak was very happy to discuss his deconstructed Ka car at the private view and was surrounded by interested viewers. In his time at Chelsea he took apart fridges and washing machines, and he spoke very positively about his tutors there.

Dad's Ka

This particular machine for journeying in was his, now deceased, father's car. And touchingly there is, for those who cared to look on the edge of the sculpture, the word 'Dad' spelled out in nuts and bolts. The sculpture occupies the same footprint as a Ford Ka. The large parts, like the seats, form the base and the smaller ones, like the headlights and ashtrays, are used to build up the sculpture. All the nuts and bolts are placed on the floor defining the edge of the work.

So when is a car not a car? Janak assured me that



was when it could no longer take you on a journey: when it is just a set of car parts. And it was quite fascinating to see the various parts on display. Initial assembly was seven hours, only taking two or three hours to reassemble in the gallery.

In a similar tradition, some may remember Cesar Baldaccini, a prominent French artist whose speciality was not deconstructed but crushed cars, achieving some success in Paris in the 1960s and 1970s. He found even greater fame in 1976 when he designed the French equivalent of the Oscar - the Cesar.



Are you entitled to a free passport?

Every Briton born on or before 2 September 1929 is eligible for free travel documentation.

This scheme was launched in 2004 to coincide with D-Day commemorations and to honour the contribution made to the war effort by people over the age of 75. Since then, more than 500,000 people have made use of it.

As there had to be a cut off point, it was decided that only those who were aged 16 or over at the end of World War II would be eligible, as they would have given two years of work or more during the conflict. Home Office Minister Lord West said that about 2.5 million eligible people have not yet taken advantage of the scheme, which exempts them from application or renewal fees for passports, currently costing £72.

Double take

As well as having the cover on top, this bus stop on Fortis Green also had a notice on the side which read: "This bus stop is not in use. Please use the temporary stop nearby." How near can you get?



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