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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER



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CARS & COURIERS

August 2009 No. 191
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Victor Martinez takes tea on the Trafalgar Square plinth. See the full story on page 5.

Long wait is over for Long Lane Pasture

By Diana Cormack

The official opening of Long Lane Pasture took place in such beautiful weather it seemed that nature itself approved of this long awaited day.

For the last 11 years volunteers have struggled to keep the place open for people to enjoy. Barnet Council purchased the Pasture in 1912 and the public used it until the 1980s, when proposed construction work on the North Circular Road jeopardised its future. A campaign to stop the council selling the land for housing led to the creation of the Long Lane Pasture Action Group in 1998. Since 2004, with help from the Big Lottery Fund and local donations, the group has worked hard to prepare the overgrown site for the community to visit.

Peppercorn Pasture

Now they have succeeded in obtaining a 25-year lease

from Barnet Council at a peppercorn rent. Ann Brown, chairwoman of the Trust, presented the Mayor of Barnet Brian Coleman with 25 symbolic peppercorns when he performed the opening ceremony on 19 June. In her speech she thanked the mayor for his long and valued support of the scheme, which he described as "a dream come true".

This remnant of historic Finchley Common is now a wildlife refuge. Its ponds attract native amphibians, birds and dragonflies whilst a variety of wild flowers, brambles and bushes sustain bees, butterflies and other insects. There

are bird feeding stations, an easy walking grassland trail plus a hard standing path and seating area.

Access to the area, which is bordered by the Northern line and the North Circular Road, is by a footpath on Long Lane opposite the fire station. The Pasture is open to the public between 10am and 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays (no dogs, please) and there is a regular programme of events. Groups, particularly schools and youth groups, are welcome by arrangement. Volunteer work is on Saturdays at 10am. If you wish to join in, make a donation or need more information call 020 8346 5011.

Photos wanted for THE ARCHER Calendar 2010

Do you have a photo that captures something special about East Finchley? People, places or plain oddities, *THE ARCHER* is looking for 12 brilliant new photos to be in our calendar for 2010.

This year's calendar was a sell-out success and raised more than £2,000 for local neighbourhood charity Contact. We hope to raise cash for another good cause in 2010.

If you have a photo you're proud of, we'd love to see it. We're particularly keen on photos of people in and around N2 but all photos are welcome, as long as they show some aspect of life in N2.

Our judging panel will pick the 12 best photos and the calendar will be on sale from October.

Please email your photos to the-archer@lineone.net clearly marking the email Archer Calendar and giving a few details about where or why they were taken. The September closing date is coming up fast so get your photos in now. Thanks.

Big event coming soon to Stanley Field

By Rob Robertson

The Finchley Community Development Trust is planning to put a big event on the Stanley Road Playing Field in the second half of September. We hope it will help us in our campaign to persuade Barnet Council that the Stanley Road site should be retained for sporting and recreational use.

Details are yet to be finalised but we hope local school children will be able to take a shot against a top player from one of London's Premier League clubs in a penalty shoot-out competition. We also hope a player from Middlesex County Cricket Club will join in the fun to emphasise that the site should be available for a range of sports.

A flyer for this event, giving the time and date, will be circulated in early August and there will be more details in the next issue of *THE ARCHER*. If you would like a copy of the flyer or would like more information about our proposals for the playing field, contact me at the Development Trust on 020 8883 4916. Your views on how to make best use of a great asset are always welcome

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PUBLISHED BY

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Newspapers*

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PRINTED BY

Sharman & Co Ltd

*Thank you to The Bald
Faced Stag for providing
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*THE ARCHER team wishes
to thank all the generous
people who give up their
spare time, in all weather,
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If you have a story for us, please
contact us at the above address.

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

Copy deadlines

*September issue: 14 August
October issue: 11 September
November issue: 16 October*

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Barnet Council:

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

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

Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 748 4950
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 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

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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
MIND 020 8343 5700
NHS Direct 0845 4647

OAP's Advice

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

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

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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
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Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

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

New history project

By Roger Chapman

The East Finchley History Project is a new local history group that launched itself at this year's Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. Its intention is to promote the history of East Finchley through simple projects.

There will be no formal organisation or meetings and the projects will be funded through donations, grants and the sale of products and material. There will be no physical collection, only digitised images or facsimiles held by a number of local groups and archives.

Our first projects have included production of a poster

called Date Plaques of East Finchley and building a collection of 100 historical views from which we then produced postcards.

If you have any old photos or publications about East Finchley that we could borrow to digitise, or ideas for further projects do contact me at roger.chapman99@btinternet.com or telephone 020 8444 4652.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

5 Beaumont Close, N2.

Erection of 2130mm high brick boundary wall onto Great North Road, returning onto The Bishops Avenue with dwarf wall and painted railings backed by privet hedging to remainder of The Bishops Avenue.

Bishop Douglass RC High School, Hamilton Road, N2

Erection of a free-standing canopy to playground.

44 Church Vale, N2

Single storey side and rear extensions

East Finchley Station, Great North Road, N2

Installation of 'tactile' paving slabs along all platform edges.

6-16, 18-28, 30-101, 103-113, 115-125, 127-137 Elmshurst Crescent, N2

Replacement of existing windows and doors with new white UPVC windows and doors.

312 Long Lane, N2

Conversion of ground floor offices into one self-contained flat with associated internal alterations and external alterations to front and rear elevations.

Newstead Children's Centre, 1 Fal-lows Close, N2

Installation of roof light and replacement of timber fencing.

1-12 and 17-20, Pulham Avenue, N2

Replacement of existing windows and doors with new UPVC windows and doors.

14A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Conversion of existing loft space into habitable room including formation of rear dormer window.

2 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Conversion of existing garage into habitable room, including external alterations.

Overbrook, 24 The Bishops Ave, N2

Partial demolition of house and

retention of facade and part of side elevation and construction of house with accommodation in basement and roof space.

1 Twyford Avenue, N2

Single storey side and rear extensions, following demolition of existing rear conservatory.

Haringey Council

27 Aylmer Road, N2

Partial demolition of existing property and erection of new two storey detached house with accommodation in roof space along with new separate vehicular crossover onto Aylmer Road.

24 Beech Drive, N2

Erection of single storey detached timber building in rear garden (retrospective application).

107 Fortis Green, N2

Display of one illuminated fascia sign, one internally illuminated projecting sign and one internally illuminated sign box. Removal of steel gate/boarded up window to front elevation and replacement with security shutters and new high level gable wall panelling.

9 Lynmouth Road, N2

Replacement of existing timber / single-glazed windows with double-glazed grade A virgin UPVC windows. Alterations to include closing external entrance.

13 Southern Road, N2

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of new rear extension at ground floor level

29 Southern Road, N2

Internal alterations to convert property into single dwelling house with other alterations to rear of property to improve appearance.

23 Western Road, N2

Erection of rear dormer window and insertion of three Velux windows to front roof slope.

Design a logo for Cherry Tree Wood

By David Attfield

Do you have an idea for a logo or emblem that will capture the essence of Cherry Tree Wood? If so, then get designing for a competition run by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, in conjunction with the London Borough of Barnet.

Winners will see their designs used on plaques to be placed at the entrances to the park to welcome visitors. The overall winning design will also be used by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood as the basis of a new logo for the group. The organisers hope to attract entrants spanning a wide age-range with separate categories for those 14 and over, 9 to 13 year olds and those 8 and under. The organisers want people to be as creative as possible so there are few set rules.

However, you need to remember that the design will be used as a logo so it needs to be something that can be reduced in size. For this reason, it is best not to use words although "Cherry Tree Wood" or "Welcome to Cherry Tree Wood" can be incorporated.

Entries can be submitted on paper to 88 Summerlee Avenue,

N2 9QH, or electronically to
info@cherrytreewood.co.uk.
The closing date for entries is 1
September 2009 and the Friends
of Cherry Tree Wood hope to
announce the winners at their
AGM later that month.

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Support for plans to transform pavilion

By Stephen Barry

Plans to convert the derelict pavilion building in Cherry Tree Wood into a new community facility are gathering pace a year after they were launched. Members of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion staged a public consultation exercise about the proposed venture on Sunday 12 July outside the derelict building.

Planning permission is being sought to convert the pavilion into a new community facility incorporating a café and educational and holistic well-being centre, with the accent on healthy eating and living. The pavilion would be run on a not-for-profit basis by Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the park's popular Lazy Sally Café.

Pavilion makes Friends

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion, a group of local residents, has been formed to support the venture.

Committee member Rich Sparks, of Southern Road, said: "We support Sally in her plans to transform what is currently an eyesore into a community facility that East Finchley can be proud of."

"We are delighted that the vast majority of people who came along on Sunday positively supported the draft plans. There was a handful of objections from residents living close to the pavilion and we will take their concerns about possible noise and access problems into consideration before the planning application is made to Barnet Council."

An appeal for funding for the project is being made to Parks for People, under the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to enable building work to go ahead.

The Friends group has set up a website at www.foctwpavilion.org.uk to keep residents up-to-date with the progress of the proposed scheme.

Peter's ultimate saddle challenge

By John Lawrence

"I'm finding muscles in my legs that I didn't know were there," says casual cyclist turned bike obsessive Peter Noble. Not surprising, after three challenges that would test the mettle of even the most committed saddle fan.

Peter, of Brackenburg Road, has taken on three mammoth cycle rides in three months in aid of Action Medical Research, a charity that funds research into health conditions affecting babies and children.

He is raising money in memory of his daughter Michaela, who was born early at 31 weeks in 1999. She died from complications from a liver transplant 12 days after her second birthday.

Peter's wife Dorit and eight-year-old son Zac are backing him all the way.

Ride 24

He took part in the 100-mile Suffolk Sunrise ride in May, before joining a team of friends in the Ride 24 Challenge in June, a non-stop 24-hour relay event around the track at Donsfold Aerodrome in Surrey, home of BBC's *Top Gear* test track. There, Peter rode 196km in under eight hours.



Peter Noble is heading for Paris on two wheels. Photo by John Lawrence

"It was utterly exhausting but thrilling," he said. "None of us had ever done anything like it before. We had no race plan but once there we got caught up in the whole atmosphere."

London to Paris "a doddle"

The final challenge for Peter is the London to Paris cycle ride, which was taking place as *THE ARCHER* went to press on 22 July. He and two friends will be travelling up to 80 miles a day over four days between the two capitals.

"After Ride 24, London to Paris will be a doddle," joked Peter, 43. As a man whose longest ride was his seven-mile com-

mute into central London, he never thought he'd hear himself say that.

There is still plenty of time to support Peter and this extremely worthwhile cause. Sponsor him at www.action.org.uk/sponsor/peternoble

Hospital will be demolished

By Janet Maitland

Finchley Memorial Hospital building will be decommissioned and knocked down as soon as the new hospital on Bow Lane playing fields, North Finchley, is completed. Alison Blair, acting Chief Executive of NHS Barnet, gave the news in an exclusive interview with *THE ARCHER*.

"Although we appreciate the community attachment to it, Finchley Memorial Hospital building has no architectural value," she said. "We've asked the architects to incorporate the historic plaques and other artefacts into the new building. We also appreciate that the hospital is a war memorial, so one suggestion is for a memorial garden in the new green space that will be created."

Alison Blair also explained that the green space would include the part of the playing fields not taken up by the new building. "We're talking to local people about how best to use this chunk of unused space. Options include a cycle track

and extra playing space for a nearby primary school."

Effects on GPs and patients

Although GPs don't have to move to the new hospital, those in poor premises may otherwise find it difficult to meet the required quality, access, and infection control standards.

Alison Blair acknowledged concerns about increased travel times for patients. She said: "As GP practices move into the new hospital, some people will have to travel further to see a doctor, and others less. We're talking to Transport for London about possible demand for a small bus service."

The new Finchley Memorial Hospital will continue as a community hospital, but its services will be expanded to provide GP services, diagnostic services, pharmacy dispensing, urgent (unbooked) care, outpatient clinics, general health advice and specialist clinics. The new hospital is planned to open in 2012.

East End Road medical centre

THE ARCHER also raised the issue of the proposed polyclinic on the site of Finchley Manor Garden Centre on East End Road. Planning permission was given for this last year, following a consultation process that Barnet PCT did not respond to. A spokesperson from the PCT said at the time that they had "no objections to these proposals at this stage".

"We wouldn't close the door if it would improve local services," said Alison Blair. "But any new medical centre would only be given an NHS contract if it fitted into our overall strategy, was within our budget, and didn't have a negative impact on local GP practices. However, if the site was purchased by the private sector, we would have no involvement."



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Leonor Stjepic, second from the left, and colleagues receive the HealthInvestor award from Michael Portillo. Photo courtesy of HealthInvestor

Raft of survival

Recent news stories have stressed staying safe in the sun and the importance of applying sun protection properly. Many of the facts quoted are based on the work of the only medical research group in the world looking at how effectively sunscreens protect us against UVA damage.

This group is run by a UK charity called RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust), whose CEO for the last two years has been Leonor Stjepic, who lives in East End Road.

RAFT is an independent charity working to prevent and improve the treatment of major traumas such as burns, wounds and cancers of the skin. Its work was recognised by the annual national HealthInvestor Awards where RAFT was joint winner of the Third Sector Award.

Urgency

With cases of skin cancer quadrupling since the 1970s and almost five people a day dying from melanoma in the UK, RAFT's research into the prevention and cure of skin cancer is becoming increasingly urgent but is hampered by lack of funds.

"Like many other charities, we are affected by the current economic climate and have seen our income go down," says Leonor. "RAFT is fortunate

that, as a result of a legacy, it owns its own building within Mount Vernon Hospital so our overheads are low.

"However, we do not receive government funding for this work. Our skin cancer research is funded by donations from the public. Without the help of the public this work cannot go ahead."

For further information on skin cancer or on RAFT's work visit www.raft.ac.uk or write to Leonor at RAFT, Leopold Muller Building, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, HA6 2RN.

Credit card scam

An urgent warning has come from Barnet police about a new attempted fraud against the elderly. Suspects ring elderly victims to inform them that their credit card has been used in fraudulent circumstances and that they will send a plain clothes police officer to recover the card and PIN number for investigation.

After impersonating a police officer and collecting the card and PIN number they withdraw large sums of money from the victim's account. Please do not hand over your credit card or PIN to anyone.

Seen and heard

Litter-picker extraordinaire
Walking between Shakespeare Gardens and the High Road every day is an anonymous one-woman street-cleaning machine.

This smartly dressed lady picks up other people's litter from pavements and gutters, pops it into a carrier bag and

bins it. Baronsmere Road, in particular, dismays her but instead of just grumbling she tackles the problem.

Imagine our streets if 10, 50 or 100 of us took to regular litter-picking.

Mugging in Church Lane

By Janet Maitland

A woman was mugged on her way home in Church Lane at about 11.30pm on 30 June. She was pushed over and her bag was snatched. The suspect fled the scene on a scooter driven by another man. Both men were wearing crash helmets.

A 20-year-old man was arrested and bailed the following day. The suspects are believed to have been in the area for some time prior to the incident and police are still appeal-

ing for witnesses to the offence.

Anyone with information should call Barnet Police on 0300 123 1212 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



Security begins at home

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

For the lucky ones among us the sun drenched beaches we dreamed about through the winter months are now only a flight away. But do take a few minutes to check over your home security before digging out the suitcases.

Make sure your home looks occupied. Don't leave the curtains closed as this is a sure sign the house is empty. Use automatic timer switches to turn on some of your lights when it goes dark. Ask a friend or neighbour to collect mail, water plants and generally keep an eye out for you. Let them have your spare keys, but don't put your name or address on the keys.

Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence from home. Consider leaving important documents and valuable items with the bank or other family members.

Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants that burglars could hide behind. If you normally leave valuables like bicycles in your shed,

consider putting them in your house. Do the same with your tools and garden furniture to prevent them from being used to break into your home.

Don't leave valuables, like laptops, DVD players or mobile phones where they can be seen through windows. Consider fitting a letterbox cage, which prevents burglars from putting their hands through and trying the latches from the inside.

For more information about home security please contact us. The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol. Happy holidays.



Hoax callers on the line

By Janet Maitland

If you get a call from BT telling you that your bill needs paying and if you don't pay up your line will be cut off immediately, don't pay. It is definitely a hoax.

The fake BT official says that if you do not pay, not only will you be disconnected but reconnection will cost you £75, and you will be given a new number. If you say you don't owe anything because you pay by direct debit, the caller tells you it's failed.

If you say you don't believe them, the caller tells you that they will suspend the line and you should try to make a call after 15 seconds. When you do this, the line is dead. You hang up and they call you back a minute later. Convinced, you pay by card, thereby giving the hoaxer all your card details.

Some victims have even

been told that their card has been declined and have then provided all the details from another card. One victim provided details from seven cards.

Just keeps you hanging on...

The scam depends on you forgetting that they called you in the first place. This means that until they hang up, you cannot make calls. The caller just waits till you've tried to ring out, then hangs up and calls you back again.

BT are aware of this scam and have advised anyone who receives such a call to notify the police and to call the Nuisance Call Bureau on 0800 411 422.



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Visitors always welcome



My hour of fame on the fourth plinth

When Victor Martinez (pictured on page 1) applied to be one of the people to stand on the empty fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square as part of Anthony Gormley's public art project, he imagined his chances of winning a place were slim.

But soon after submitting his name he was told he had been picked from thousands of entries to take a prime 5-6pm slot on the very first day of the project.

Art director Victor, who lives off East End Road, had to think fast about what he was going to do with his hour of fame because the date was only days away.

Celebrating London

He opted to explore people's ideas of Britishness and to trace the history of London through lyrics and poetry by reading poems by William Blake and playing music by The Kinks, Lily Allen and UK hip hop acts on a wind-up gramophone.

Artist Gormley's project for the fourth plinth runs until October. A different member of the public will stand on the plinth

every hour 24 hours a day. The only rules are that they must be alone on the plinth and can only use what they can carry.

Victor, 38, said the reaction from the crowds around him was exciting. He also met Gormley on the first day and received a lot of attention from the media.

"It was sunny before I started and sunny afterwards but it rained while I was on there," he said. "When I was playing some of the music, I had to compete with a bagpiper who decided to play down in the square."

"People down below loved it. One lady passed by when I was reading William Blake and recognised the poem but couldn't tell where it was coming from, until she looked up and saw me."



Photo by Margaret Johnson.

Selling your car? Beware charges!

By Diana Cormack

Judging by a look round the area, not a lot of people know that in some parts of Barnet it is illegal to put a "for sale" sign in a vehicle.

Recently a young lady left her car in a Summerlee Avenue parking bay overnight with a notice in the window advertising its sale. The following morning she had been issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PNC) for "using a vehicle in a parking place in connection with the sale or offering or exposing for sale of goods when prohibited".

This ruling appears on the borough website and on the Conditions of Use for Visitor Vouchers, principally to prevent traders, resident or otherwise, from monopolising parking spaces. However, the borough became aware that residents genuinely selling their own cars were receiving PNCs. From August 2008 Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) were told to place a warning on such cars to give a 24 hour opportunity for the sign to be removed before a PNC is issued.

Refund

Being an honest citizen the young lady paid the penalty charge, but subsequent investi-

gation proved that the CEO had not placed the required warning notice. As the correct procedures were not followed, Barnet Council has refunded her £50. They stress that if any resident feels they have received a PNC unfairly, they should contact the borough parking team immediately so that their case can be reviewed and a decision taken prior to making payment.

THE ARCHER asked why there were no street signs about the ruling and if any other London boroughs or local authorities had this policy. Barnet Council replied: "The Orders that introduced this parking contravention in May 2007 were published in newspapers and on the Council's own website. We are unaware of any other local authorities which use their powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to combat nuisance for residents of traders using parking places to offer cars for sale."

Litter patrol

Staff and eco-councillor pupils from Martin Primary School got out their grippers and sacks to take part in the national Big Tidy Event by litter picking in Cherry Tree Wood earlier in the summer term.

One moment in time

By Betti Blatman

On 7 August, we will all experience a very special moment in time. This isn't something that most people will care about, or even know about, but it's still worth sharing.

At five minutes and six seconds after 4am on 7 August 2009, the time and date will be (drum roll, please): 04:05:06 07/08/09! OK, maybe it's no big deal, except this will never happen again in our lifetimes. It will be the year 3009 before this moment comes round again.

Bus fight goes on

By Daphne Chamberlain

Has East Finchley given up the fight for another bus service along the High Road? The answer is an emphatic no, judging by last month's Bus Watch meeting at the Constitutional Club. The meeting resulted in several new members, who contributed some thought-provoking ideas.

The group intends to gain support from the three hospitals along the 263 route, and from business concerns such as the Leisure Park.

The Greens' Noel Lynch confirmed that his party are continuing their campaign for another route along the High Road from North Finchley to serve the Royal Free. They will argue the case again at next month's London Assembly and there is still time to sign their petition.

Opinions over the 263 Hol-loway extension were divided. Some called it useless; others welcomed it, but only if that elusive extra bus service could be added at this end of the route.

The verdict on the 143 service was that, after a period of improvement, it had deteriorated again.

Next step

The group decided that to keep up pressure on TfL the next step was to enlist London Travelwatch on their side. Secretary Hazel Burnett is inviting representatives to the next Bus Watch meeting.

Meanwhile, Hazel welcomes any ideas, suggestions or complaints. Please call 020 8444 6824 or visit hazel.burnett@freeuk.com. To support the Royal Free bus campaign, call 020 8445 6312.

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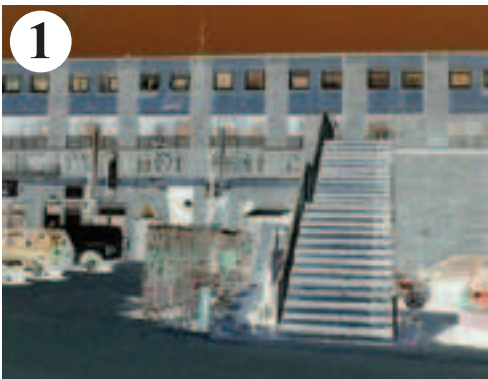
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Festival competition winners

There were two competitions on The Archer stall at the East Finchley Community Festival. The £5 prize for the children's Word Search naming places in East Finchley was won by Jake Taylor of Granville Road, N12.

Julie Murphy of Southern Road, N2 successfully identified the five local landmarks in disguise, for which she received £10. Julie told The Archer she was particularly delighted, as she had never won anything before.

The answers to the picture competition were: 1) Viceroy Close, behind Budgens; 2) Tony's Continental; 3) Islington and St Pancras Cemetery;

4) Lazy Sally Café, Cherry Tree Wood; 5) Phoenix Cinema.

Thank you to everyone who entered.



Two loos low trek

By Sippy Azizollah

As a regular at the Cherry Tree Wood café over the last 16 years, my constant complaint was that there was no accessible toilet for wheelchair users. The only way to get down to the loo was by taking my wheelchair down the little path leading to the gents, leaving my chair and doing the rest of my journey with my walking sticks.

Until now. Recently I met a friend at the Lazy Sally Café and, to our surprise, we found the graded steps that took one down to the loos had been replaced by a ramp. I'm delighted to say I'm able to take my chair all the way into the hand washing area.

It is good to see the council has done this work, and I know I speak for many other women who had problems with the steps.

However, there are a few things that need addressing: the lack of light and the lack of vandal proof loo paper holders. I think the only way to stop vandalism and theft in both the ladies and gents is to have floor to ceiling iron gates at the entrances to stop anyone getting in after, say, 6pm.

Wish you were here

Eighty per cent of Barnet residents are satisfied with the borough as a place to live, according to figures published by Barnet Council. Eighty-three per cent answered positively when asked if people from different backgrounds got on well together in Barnet. Fifty-seven per cent felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood.

Fifty-one per cent described themselves as satisfied with the council, although 81 per cent said it was "doing a good job".

Mike Freer, leader of Barnet Council, said the overall message from the survey was "We like it here".

Power to the people

By Caroline Broome

The East Finchley Village Residents' Association (EFVRA) has a raft of new members after running a stall at the Community Festival in June.

Our volunteers who manned the stall were greeted with much enthusiasm and encouragement. We increased our membership by 50% on the day, and now have almost 150 local residents signed up, spread across N2, from Fortis Green to East End Road.

Local issues

Many parents of young families, new to the area, were pleased there was an organisation that could offer supportive action regarding local issues, such as secondary school placement allocations and Safe Routes to Schools.

Another issue raised by many visitors to the stall was the recent decision by Barnet Council to change the street lighting. Many people were concerned about blocked pavements and sleep deprivation due to light pollution.

The issue that continues to be of greatest concern to people in the Church Lane area is the proposal to install a mobile phone base station and multiple masts in the church tower of Holy Trinity. Many N2 residents further afield from the Church Lane epicentre of EFVRA were very keen to add their support by signing our objection petition. As a result we now have 239 signatures, and the number is growing daily.

EFVRA meets next on Monday 14 September at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. For further information, contact EFVRA@btinternet.com.

Sunshine for children's hospice

A holiday company has brought some sunshine to the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice by sponsoring an extra nursery nurse for one year.

Olympic Holidays, based in North Finchley, has chosen the north London hospice to receive £34,000 through its Childcare Fund. The extra nurse will enable Noah's Ark to reach more families in the Barnet area.

Noah's Ark supports life-limited children and their families with hospice services and a community programme that helps children in their own homes.

Olympic's HR manager Tracey Collins said: "We are so pleased to be able to assist such a worthy local cause through our Childcare Fund. We thank our clients, too, who have contributed to our fund."

Meanwhile, the Noah's Ark Family Support Volunteers Scheme is also expanding the help that the charity can give to children and their carers. Already 28 volunteers have qualified, and 13 have been matched with families. These volunteers offer weekly support in the home and help families participate in Noah's Ark family events.

To know more about Noah's Ark or to get involved with its services, call 020 8449 8877 or visit the Noah's Ark website at www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk.

Everything in the garden is rosy

By Janet Maitland

Last year, my garden opened under the National Gardening Scheme for the first time. Back gardens are intimate places. The experience of letting strangers peer into every corner is about as relaxing as inviting them to read your old love letters. After all, 'show me your garden and I shall tell you what you are' (Alfred Austin 1907).

A few days before the opening, I still had so much still to do I was contemplating pretending to be out on the big day. Then *Amateur Gardening* got in touch to ask if they could feature my garden in their magazine.

Photoshoot

My ego got the better of my nerves. The photographer, Jacqui Hurst, arrived the following morning and spent the best part of two days taking pictures. I had imagined it would take an hour at most as my garden is so small, but every time I looked out of the window she was crouched behind another bush peering intently through the lens.

Hundreds of people came to the opening. Everyone was very complimentary. The afternoon flew by. My head swelled. Lots of money was raised for charity. Some plants got trampled in the crush. I didn't care.

This year, on 7 June, I opened the garden again. A few days before the opening, a copy of the magazine arrived by recorded delivery. The article was timed to coincide with the open day. As this had never occurred to me, I had long given up on them ever publishing it.

So, I floated up to the ceiling with pride as four pages of photographs and words about my garden danced in front of



A place to relax: Janet Maitland's cottage garden.

Photo by John Lawrence

my eyes. If you ever want to see your garden looking a whole lot

better than it really does, call in a professional photographer.



Attempted robbery at NatWest

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for witnesses and information following an attempted robbery at National Westminster Bank in the High Road on Thursday 25 June.

At approximately 3.40pm two male suspects were inside the bank while a Cash-in-Transit guard was dropping off money bags. As he placed a bag into the cash box drum the suspects ran at him, assaulted him, and attempted to grab the money bag. The guard was able to turn the drum so that the bag was safe. The men fled from the premises empty handed and ran left into Beresford Road.

Suspect one is described as a black man, aged between 20-30 years, wearing a white polo shirt, brown/khaki trousers and white trainers. He was also wearing a dark coloured hat with a flap that covered his neck.

Suspect two is described as a black man, aged between 20-30 years, wearing a grey polo shirt with a red and white

horizontal stripe across it, a dark coloured baseball hat and white sunglasses.

No words were spoken during the incident and no weapons were used. There have been no arrests.

"The High Street would have been very busy at the time," said DC Dawn Bolitho of Finchley Flying Squad. "I am keen to speak to anyone who may have seen the suspects in the area before or after the incident, particularly anyone who may have seen two men of this description in Beresford Road or the surrounding area afterwards."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Incident Room on 020 8358 1751 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Creative writing for wimps

By Angela Anderson

The Institute's open day on the last Saturday of June showcased the skills of all the students with stained glass, photography, embroidery, music, singing and dance all on display.

Pieces we had written in our creative writing class were read out by actors Tom Smith and Kay Stonham, who is also our class tutor.

Last September, the title of the class, Creative Writing for Wimps, had caught my imagination. I'd always been interested in creative writing but considered myself too much of a wimp to actually do it; other classes I'd taken seemed to be full of people who had no such difficulty.

Facing that blank page

Kay, who writes for TV, radio and film, started the first class by asking about our hopes and fears, what attracted us to writing and what we found tricky about the idea, setting up an atmosphere of trust and support which enabled us to explore ideas.

This innovative class includes fun, warm-up exercises and we spend time in each class writing short pieces. We give each other positive, constructive feedback and are given imaginative ways to approach exercises on character, location, dialogue and plot. The sight of

a blank page can feel portentous but because we started writing from the first day we found we'd written something before we realised it.

The Institute has a strong community aspect. In our class we have written pieces inspired by the Archer statue at the station and the Phoenix Cinema and intend to write more about local history and local landmarks.

Check The Institute's website at www.hgsi.ac.uk. As well as the creative courses there are many others, including modern languages, business and computer skills, ESOL, Skills for Life, health and fitness, cookery and teacher training.

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Dads get their own club

By John Lawrence

Calling all dads. If you find yourself at home looking after young children, perhaps while your partner is working, you may be craving some adult company during the day. Or perhaps your children are pre-schoolers and you'd like to give them a chance to mix with other kids. Either way, a new Dads' Club is getting off the ground.

It has been set up by Lydik Grynfeldt, of Leicester Road. An HR manager by profession, when he found himself out of work recently he took on the care of his two young daughters Elke and Blanche and quickly realised there weren't many social activities for men like him.

"Mums tend to meet up for chats and play sessions much more naturally than dads do," said Lydik. "My wife Harriet suggested I do something about it so I'd like to set something up with an open and friendly atmosphere for dads and kids



Join our club: Lydik Grynfeldt with Blanche (left) and Elke.

Photo by Lois Lawrence

to enjoy."

Lydik's idea is well timed in the current economic climate. In Leicester Road alone, he knows of three other dads who have lost their jobs and are now looking after their children full time.

The Dads' Club is spreading

its net wide to Muswell Hill and Highgate, and Lydik is hoping to set up a regular calendar of get-togethers, ranging from coffee and a chat, to proper outings. Find out more on his website at <http://thedadsclublondon.blogspot.com>

Community comes together for family fun day

By Girish Tailor

On Saturday 4 July, the Royal British Legion Club held a family fun day. The two organisers, Manisha Tailor and Harveen Sehra work in schools and know the benefits such an event can bring. Their aim was to strengthen community links for the benefit of locals and to promote membership of the club.

Situated in Brackenbury Road, the club has been in existence for over 50 years. It is part of The Royal British Legion, a UK charity that provides financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants.

The fun day included face-painting, games, raffle, bric-a-brac, chocolate fountain, a henna tattooist, snacks and more.

Janisha Tailor, 15, and Poonam Shah, 16, sold delicious hand-



Simaran Punni (aged 6) enjoying a samosa. Photo by Haweena Sehra.

made cakes, fruit juice, books and toys at their stall. The best friends worked from 11am to 6pm baking the 150 cakes.

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Star sails in for school barbecue

By Lisa Omar

Singer and songwriter James Walsh, from internationally famous rock group Starsailor, made a special guest appearance at the St Theresa's RC School barbecue.

James took time out from his busy touring schedule to sing some of his own songs along with a few cover songs which were all a great hit with the audience.

When Starsailor received their first review back in summer 2000, the group was hailed as "the new Coldplay" and went on to sell well over a million copies of their debut disc.

The annual event at the school in East End Road on Friday 10 July provided many attractions for parents, pupils, teachers and friends, including an auction with an impressive list of items to bid for. Children enjoyed a variety of activities such as a bouncy castle,



Starsailor's James Walsh

circus skills (including plate spinning), sumo wrestling, a caricaturist, a balloon modeller and a DJ for all their favourite songs.

Summer activities for primary school children

By Diana Cormack

A new concept in play schemes will take place this summer at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk. The Summer Chill Out Academy offers a range of weekly courses, including art and craft, cartoons, singing and dancing, drama, fashion, nature and science, sport and yoga to name but a few. They are designed for primary school children who will be aged 5 -10 (Year 1 and above) from September 2009.

The Academy is run by Mapalim, an Ofsted-registered company which has been in the business of running holiday play schemes for 10 years. Its staff are experienced, qualified and have CRB checks. They aim to cater for all needs and abilities and to give youngsters the chance to experiment, explore and learn but, above all, to have fun.

The weekly cost is £70 per child with a reduction to £65 per week for multiple book-

ings (where you book more than one week or you book more than one child). Bookings are for full weeks though there are £20 one-day tasters for which you just turn up on the day (subject to availability). Mapalim recommend advance booking with places allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more details contact martina.clarke@mapalim.com or phone 020 7284 3215 or visit www.summerchillout.co.uk

YOUNG ARCHER

Young girl to dance in West End final

By Caterina Incisa

Nine-year-old Jessica Baker of Holy Trinity School stepped out on to the West End stage when she took part in the All England Dance finals at the Peacock Theatre.

According to her mother Nancy, Jessica was always "showing off" singing and dancing, often on the living room table.

She recognised her daughter's talent and signed her up to the Morgan Aslanoff dance school at the age of four. Jessica quickly flourished, abandoning the living room table for a stage, and now competes at numerous festivals across the south east of England, rehearsing twice a week for four hours.

"I really enjoy it," said Jessica.

She was competing in seven different categories in the All England Dance competition as *THE ARCHER* went to press. These included two duets, one tap and one modern, and five troop pieces.

Like many girls in her dance school Jessica hopes to go on to theatre school and would love to become a professional dancer in either tap or ballet. She also admits loving *Britain's Got Talent* and would like to dance on the show.



Tudor style at Tudor School. Photo by Diana Cormack

Tudor style for Tudor School

By Diana Cormack

Staff at Tudor School dressed in clothes befitting their school's name at their annual summer fair on 3 July. Henry VIII, his family and servants posed for *THE ARCHER* with a hawk, courtesy of First Class Falconry who gave a display to the school that day.

There will be a new look to the uniform at Tudor School after the summer holidays, when it

changes colour from red and navy to green. It will not, however, have a 16th century look!

Busy month for Manorside

July was a month of outings and arts for Manorside School. Pupils enjoyed an exchange with children from Akiva School when storytelling and workshops made a big impact on children throughout the school.

Trips took place to the Phoenix Cinema, local places of worship and London Zoo. Year 6 enjoyed a Junior Citizens Afternoon in Avenue House Park. Children were treated to a school assembly with Spurs freestyler Billy Wingrove. The annual arts week was another great success. A performance of the opera *Tosca* at the school captivated an audience of more than 200 children from Manorside and some neighbouring schools.

Trips to the National Gallery for Years 2 -5 inspired young artists to produce amazing

works that were on display, and available to buy, in the Art Gallery for the International Food Festival.

Did you know...?

- Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.
- Bubble gum contains rubber.
- Celery has negative calories! It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
- The original colour of coca-cola was green.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.

Review: Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince (12A)

By Letizia Maiavacca

After watching *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* there is one thing of which we can be 100% certain. Harry Potter is no longer the young magician who captured his younger fans and their parents at the very beginning of the saga in 2001.

This sixth episode is a far more interesting film for an older audience, probably the same people who have grown up together with the actors, sharing the curse and the pleasure of being a teenager...

It presents a very dark atmosphere, a little bit of which we already had a taste of in the *Prisoner of Azkaban*. It shows us, too, that it doesn't matter if you are a magician and can tame anything. When it comes to love, we are all the same, especially grown up teenagers with a lot of hormones.

Harry is in love with Ginny, but she already has a sort of boyfriend. Hermione is in love with Ron but he is chased by a new entry, Lavender Brown, who will give him the very first passionate love kiss, and...but hey, we don't want to spoil the plot anymore.

We were anxiously waiting for the release of this film, and our expectations have been totally and beautifully achieved. It is an exciting film and the special effects, fortunately, don't overwhelm the story.

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Proms at St Jude's

By Ken Carter

The 17th season of Proms at St Jude's in Hampstead Garden Suburb featured 16 concerts in nine days, by professionals, semi-professionals and newcomers.

The Carducci Quartet was cool-headed and spirited. Their Haydn 'Joke' quartet was delicious and sprightly. David Matthews' 11th quartet (a Proms commission) was easy on the ear, emotionally urgent, then still.

At the evening's peak, Nicola Eimer joined the Carducci for Robert Schumann's Piano Quintet, whose rousing uplift and beauty were matchless.

One lunch-time, I heard newcomers in a mature, deeply moving Tchaikovsky Piano Trio in A minor. The Willow Trio played as one: Jacob Barnes, aged 19, piano, from Canterbury, Freya Creech, violin, and Ariana Kashefi, cello, both sixth-formers at the Purcell School and South Hampstead High School.

Nicholas Chalmers deftly led the semi-professional Proms Festival Orchestra and Chorus in vigorous, bracing voice. This was a live, lean young man's take in a clean, austere acoustic. Four excellent young soloists, added lustre. Jane Harrington's coloratura (soprano) was brilliant though strained; Paul Carey Jones (baritone) barked a 'Samson' aria with panache. Hannah Pedley's serene repose (mezzo) was outstanding.

Gloves off for boxing bout

A bunch of friends are dusting off their boxing gloves to raise money for a young boy suffering from cerebral palsy.

The ex-boxers and a couple of new recruits, all from Finchley and Barnet, have organised an evening of white collar bouts at the Emirates Stadium later this month, with a professional MC, referee and an auction of boxing memorabilia.

Money raised from the special evening on 28 August will support five-year-old David Loft-house and the Rainbow Centre in Hampshire, where he receives treatment. David is a nephew of one of the organisers.

Anyone fancying some ringside action will be treated to a three-course meal and wine, plus six bouts, for a ticket price of £75. There are also standing tickets available.

Builder Alan Beardon, 44, said: "We're all ripping ourselves to pieces getting back into training for this. We're at the physio every week, but it's a good cause and we hope people will come along to enjoy the action."

For more information and to buy tickets contact Alan on 07956434216 or Neil McCurie on 07966 750596.

Eastwards to St James's

Away from the Proms at St James's, Muswell Hill, rounder architecture and acoustics produced more mellow sounds. The North London Orchestra mixed old playing style and new, and the North London Chorus sang with human sound in rich exactness. Rarely has Handel sounded so whole-heartedly splendid and exuberant. Unfortunately, the youthful soloists from the Royal College of Music sounded distant. I heard Sarah-Jane Brandon occasionally, agreeably.

Whose round is it?

By Sippy Azizollah

Cheers! Piers Barnett, of the Royal Signals, based in Dorset, was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by Jason Kitteringham, general manager of the Five Bells pub in East End Road.

Piers won the cash for taking part in a brewery-run survey competition called Tell Us and Win. It is open to 41 test pubs across the country to give pub guests the chance to comment on the standard of food, drinks and service they receive on their visit.

Piers said: "I was really surprised that I'd won, as I just did it for fun." Manager Jason said: "I've been at the Five Bells for the last five months, and I'm chuffed that one of my regulars won the prize." There is still time for you to have your say, as the competition is running till September.

We know how to party

By Diana Cormack

When it comes to street parties, residents of Summerlee Gardens are streets ahead. They have been holding get-

togethers for many years and children have grown up with summer parties and Guy Fawkes parties as part of their lives. As well as giving people the chance to socialise, street parties are also a way of welcoming new neighbours or saying farewell to those who are moving on.

Long-term resident Joyce Arram probably wouldn't admit it, but she could be described as having been an original "power behind the throne" to all this.

Being Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, her newsletters keep residents well informed and include party details.

A group of neighbours ensures that relevant information is distributed, chairs and tables are in place and food and drink supplies are prepared. One thing they can't organise is the weather, but this year it was perfect for a Summerlee Gardens party.

Let *THE ARCHER* know about your street party. Our contact details are on page 2.

A bit of 'Me Time'

By Helen Drake

Beauty therapist Mandana likes to welcome each season with a new facial, and summer 2009 is no exception. At her open evening in Church Lane on 4 June, customers were invited to sample the products in her new Pomegranate and Passion Fruit facial.

Tempted, this writer put herself into Mandana's capable hands for a one-hour facial and a bit of 'Me Time'.

After a steam clean and an exfoliator, all the lumps and bumps in my skin had been removed. Next, a vitamin serum was gently massaged into my face before I was encased in a hydrating mask (a bit strange but you get used to it).

While the mask was working its magic I was given an expert head and arm massage, which was decadent beyond belief and worth the price of the facial alone. Once the mask was removed a delicious-smelling moisturiser was applied.

I left Mandana's treatment room feeling deeply relaxed and calm, ready to face the rest of the busy day ahead.

Currently, if you book in for a course of four facials you will receive a further facial for free. To contact Mandana, telephone 020 8365 2284.



Residents Marcella Strickland, Joyce Arram and Ginny Wilson enjoying the summer street party. Photo by Guy Redmond.

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

The day the music didn't die

They say that if you want rock'n'roll immortality you need to live fast, die young and leave a good-looking corpse. Dropping dead of a heart attack as your golf cart plunges into a water feature on the 16th fairway the week before your 75th birthday doesn't count.

This is a game for the weird and twisted and I'm just the man for it. Jimi Hendrix counts; so do Kurt Cobain, Buddy Holly, Ian Curtis, Janis Joplin and Otis Redding. All dead before 30, and dying with so much more to say.

And then there's Michael Jackson. They say you can't libel the dead, but I'm too twisted to take the easy way out. Yes, it's weird to call both your sons Prince Michael and your daughter after Paris Hilton. Yes, there is something seriously odd about having so much plastic surgery that anyone who last saw you when you were 18 wouldn't recognise you now. But that's not the point.

The point is that living fast and dying young only works if your best days are still in front of you. Michael's best days were 25 years ago. The Jackson Five were part of the Motown hit machine and were sensational. Michael matured into something special. *Off the Wall* and *Thriller* were slick and calculated and the *Thriller* video moved MTV on to a different level. And then it all went bad.

By the time Michael Jackson turned up at the Brits in 1996 to do his overblown messianic bit surrounded by children he was so far past his sell by date that he stank. Since then there's been scandal, dangling babies and major league prescription drug use. The 50 shows at the O2 sounded more like a freak show than rock'n'roll.

Live fast, die young and leave a good-looking corpse? Michael Jackson failed on all counts. As Nick Cohn said, it's better to maintain a sense of decorum by dying in a plane crash a couple of days before your 30th birthday. That way all they remember is the good, because after that it can get both bad and ugly.

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- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **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
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- ❖ **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.
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- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages. Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
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- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Monday each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

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- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
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- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Joanna 8883 0941 or joanna-brunt@cybergal.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **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.

Art open to everyone

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Open is becoming more open by the year. This year, our local artists and craftspeople were again showing their work in homes within and outside N2. In addition, some of them were exhibiting at the Koukan Gallery in the Alexandra Park area. The group show ran from 4 to 12 July, with extended opening hours.

One of the pleasures of the EFO Open House weekends is being able to chat with artists. Sometimes this delivers a few surprises. When I called in at the Koukan Gallery, exhibitor Philip Vallentin was doing the honours. Invited to lift a



Art by Philip Vallentin

beautiful black glass and gold leaf piece, I was stunned by its weight as well as interested in hearing how it was made.

A complicated friend

Philip was showing several of his glass pieces, all lively and unpredictable. Coming to glassblowing and design after his work in animation, he explained: "The stuff called glass keeps asking me about my ideas. So I feel compelled to be patient and understanding, as one is with a new, complicated friend."

The Koukan Gallery's Japanese owner Rie Nijo is a practising architect, working

in interior design. She wants to show things that people would like to have in their homes, while in this instance displaying the talents of local artists.

The gallery, a converted shop at 106A Alexandra Park Road, N10, is small enough to be cosy, but light, simple and uncluttered. Find out more about Koukan through www.craftcouncil.org.uk. For more information about Philip Vallentin, visit www.philipvallentin.com. Contact EFO at enquiries@eastfinchleyopen.org.uk or on 07796 117746.

August at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer

The Centenary Restoration Project is progressing well. We had lots of great publicity on the restoration in July and we now have £140,000 still to raise. Without that money the project can't happen so we're at a fragile stage in the process. We were delighted to break the news on the funding with THE ARCHER first and we'll continue to give its readers the inside story on the project.

Film-wise, August sees the debut of Cary Joji Fukunaga at the Phoenix with *Sin Nombre*, a Mexican film noir which confirms that country as one of the most cinematically exciting at the moment.

At the end of the month comes a film that everyone will want to see, so get booking. Pedro Almodovar's *Broken Embraces* with Penelope Cruz opens on 28 August. It's a Hitchcockian thriller, full of the style and colour we have come to expect from this master of Spanish film. As much a homage to the films and filmmakers that shaped him,

it will delight and, perhaps, shock you. We also have an Almodovar double bill on Sunday 30 August with *Talk to Her* and *All About My Mother*.

Another double bill in August is a Michael Caine special of *Is Anybody There?* and *Hannah and Her Sisters*.

September is a big month for the Phoenix. We will decide on the precise timings of the restoration work, hopefully to start in January. To do that we need to raise that remaining money which we can only do with your help! Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Londoners love artsdepot

By Sheila Armstrong

Barnet's own artsdepot has been voted London's best neighbourhood theatre in the Smooth Radio Love London Awards.

At an award ceremony at the Café de Paris in April it was announced that the North Finchley venue had beaten off stiff competition from the South Bank and Greenwich Theatre to win the coveted prize.

The aim of the awards, sponsored by *The Independent* and ITV's *London Tonight*, was to celebrate London's hidden gems. Judges commended artsdepot for its high quality theatre, music, comedy, dance,

art and some of the best coffee in London.

Director Tracey Coopers said: "We may be on the outskirts but we're in the heart of the community. Winning a Love London award is the icing on the cake for artsdepot."

Opened in 2004 at Tally Ho Corner, the venue has two theatres and an art gallery as well as a café, bars and education studios. It celebrates its fifth birthday in October.

Review: Call Me Madam

By Sheila Armstrong

The Theatre Upstairs at the Gatehouse pub in Highgate is playing Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam* until mid-August. Full of great tunes and old remembered songs like *It's a Lovely Day Today* and *Hostess with the Mostest*, the production swings along.

Last seen in the West End in 1982 starring Noele Gordon of *Crossroads* fame, and as a very successful film starring Ethel Merman, it is the story of an unlikely and undiplomatic female ambassador sent to a small European country who creates havoc with her well meaning but outspoken ways. In the way of musicals, all ends happily and two unlikely romances eventually blossom.

Beverley Klein, with a host of West End roles behind her, is

the living embodiment of Ethel Merman and has a tremendous voice. Gido Schimanski, who has worked extensively in Europe, takes the lead male role and Chris Love and Kate Nelson play the younger couple with great feeling. The principals are ably supported by an all-singing, all-dancing young cast with impeccable West End credentials. This classic Irving Berlin musical is directed by the acclaimed 'best reviver of musicals around' Thom Southerland.

Grass roots prize-winner

By Sheila Armstrong

The prize-winning film *Helen* was brought to the Phoenix Cinema recently by its Irish directors Joe Lawlor and Christine Molloy. Made as a community film with no professional actors, *Helen* went to the Edinburgh Festival and was then taken up for distribution by New Wave films.

It is the story of Helen, a young girl in care, who is asked to help in the reconstruction of the disappearance of a classmate, Joy. In the course of the film Helen starts to reconstruct her own life by examining documents from her early life, and through her contact with Joy's family. The contrast between the families enables Helen to discover what she really wants in life, giving her some sort of hope for

the future. The lead role of Helen was played by Annie Townsend, who brought quiet understanding to the role: an impressive performance in a beautifully shot film.

The directors were at the Phoenix showing for a Q & A at the end of the film, which brought forward some probing questions from the audience and provided intriguing insights into its making.

What's On...

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

Friday 7 - Saturday 8 August
• Belgian Beer Festival at East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. Belgian karaoke disco, barbecue and live music. Entrance £1, free for club members, CAMRA members and anyone carrying a copy of *THE ARCHER*. More information from belgium@eastfinchley.co.uk

Saturday 15 August
• Blackberry pick and wildlife day at Long Lane Pasture, N3, (entrance opposite the fire station), 10am to 5pm. For details, phone 8346 5011

Sunday 16 August
• Guided walk exploring the Battle of Barnet. Explore the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road at 2pm. For details, contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Sunday 23 August
• Guided walk of historical High Barnet. Meet at Barnet College, Wood Street, High Barnet at 2pm.

For details, contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Sunday 30 August
• Guided walk of historical Monken Hadley. Meet at The Spires, Barnet High Street at 2pm. For details, contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Throughout August
• Mapalim Summer Holiday Play-schemes for all primary school children, hosted at Martin Primary School. Film making, arts and crafts, performance, sports, science and much more. Full-week bookings at £70 per child or one-day tasters. Find information and book at www.summerchillout.co.uk. For telephone bookings or queries contact Mapalim on 020 7284 3215 or martina.clarke@mapalim.com
• Children's Summer Funfair at Ally Pally, noon - 7pm Ends 13 September.

Saturday 12 September
• Table Top Sale at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 10am to 1pm.

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Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

Archer in the pink

Dear Editor,

The splendid July *ARCHER* was a bit like watching the famous 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* where Dorothy, played by Judy Garland, leaves the black and white world of Kansas in mid-America and goes through the farmhouse door into the Technicolor world of Oz.

While there may be no yellow brick road in N2 with jaywalking Munchkins, nor the infamous 263 bus travelling as far as the Emerald City, *THE ARCHER* is clearly playing a big part in a more colourful East Finchley.

Yours faithfully,

TN Man,

Leicester Road, N2.

Simply the best

Dear Sir,

Through the medium of *THE ARCHER* I would like to congratulate the organisers, volunteers, stall holders, entertainers and members of the public services in attendance for making this year's East Finchley Festival one of the best I remember.

The weather was kind, the atmosphere benign and the visitors were all bent on having a happy day out. I was particularly pleased to see so many stalls promoting local organisations and local businesses. All concerned deserve a big thank you for their efforts.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Atkinson,

Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Metal benches leave me cold

Dear Editor,

I was glad to read that Barnet Council was persuaded to put the Millennium Bench back in Cherry Tree Wood. Fenella Reed mentions that it is "very comfortable" (Letters, *THE ARCHER*, June 2009). All the old wooden benches were more comfortable than the new metal benches, which are too cold to linger on most days of the year. They're unwelcoming to people who visit the park. Many parents and elderly people rely on having somewhere comfortable to rest their legs.

The new metal benches were put in without taking notice of the opinion of The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, who deserve to be listened to a bit more, after the committee's years of hard work rejuvenating the woodland and winning a grant to renew the playground.

If wooden benches are too easily vandalised, the Council should use benches with thick plastic slats, found elsewhere in London. The plastic is recycled, and maintenance-free, unlike metal. All the other recent changes to Cherry Tree Wood are very welcome, but could Barnet take the rest of the metal benches back? Who wants park benches that aren't comfortable?

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Brown

Member of Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

Letters to the editor

Well done, Phoenix

Dear Editor,

It made my day to read about the success of Paul Homer and his team in their bid for Heritage Lottery funding for the Phoenix. I'd like to thank them for all the commitment, time and energy that undoubtedly went into the bid, and for all the wonderful films and imaginative events they have put on in recent years. Like many in East Finchley, I will do what I can to help raise the remaining money so that the Phoenix can remain a much-loved local asset for many more decades to come.

Yours faithfully,

Kathryn Scorza,

Address supplied.

Daphne Chamberlain adds: I absolutely agree with Kathryn, but what did other people think of the BBC London News feature on the Phoenix last month? While it was good to have the successful bid celebrated, I was disappointed by the report. To me, it gave the impression that our cinema was crumbling to bits around the ears of a few faithful souls.

The camera lingered on a handful of people in the auditorium, while the presenter talked of "restoring past glories". If there was any mention of our cinema's exciting current programme of films and events, it passed me by. Not fair to the Phoenix!

Statues for the birds

Dear Editor,

Several readers have complained about the pigeon problem outside Budgens, and about people deliberately leaving food for them. One possible solution is (believe it or not) even more birds!

Robert, who works at the Lazy Sally Café in Cherry Tree Wood, has suggested placing realistic sculptures of birds of prey in the big tree by the traffic lights to scare off the pigeons. Many places, especially gardens, parks and country settlements, use these to deter unwanted birds from invading or nesting on their premises.

The main question is, what kind of birds prey on pigeons? I would be very interested to hear from anyone who knows, so this experiment could possibly go ahead. The sculptures might even be seen as a local installation in their own right.

Yours faithfully,

Jake Eiseman-Renyard,

Fortis Green, N2.

Shine a light

Dear Editor,

In response to your request for comments on the new street lighting, the new lighting in Church Vale is much better than the older sodium lighting. There is a street lamp adjacent to my garden and I was worried that the brighter light would cause a light overspill issue. I spoke to Haringey Council about my concerns and they fitted a cowl to the lamp. This cowl shields almost all of the light from my garden and I find it much less intrusive than the older sodium lighting.

I assume that the lights Haringey put up are the same as those that Barnet have used. If so, I would recommend your readers to request a cowl if light overspill is an issue for them.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Gallichan

Church Vale, N2.

Parking pandemonium

Dear Editor,

I wanted to make you aware of the consequences of Barnet Council's inability to distribute valid parking permits to residents in the Controlled Parking Zone. I paid for my annual permit in April. I have repeatedly attempted to contact the council to get my permit posted to me. I still don't have one, four months later. However, I have now started to receive parking tickets, two in the last four days. The council have still not responded to any of my recent emails. It's appalling.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Jones

Name and address supplied

Childhood favourites on show

An exhibition featuring children's stories with a local connection is on display at the Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon. The Eye of Childhood exhibition, which runs until September 27, features famous children's authors and artists, past and present, who have lived or worked in the borough.

Authors such as Hendon-born Oliver Postgate, creator of *Bagpuss*, *Noggin the Nog* and *The Clangers*, Mill Hill-raised Anthony Buckeridge, writer of the *Jennings* stories and former Golders Green residents Sydney and Betty Hulme-Beaman, creators of the hit TV and radio *Toy-town* series are featured.

Other authors and artists include Spike Milligan who wrote and illustrated *Silly Verse for Kids* along with many other children's books, and Glen Petrie, author of *Lucy and the Pirates*.

Katharine Holabird and Helen

Coffee morning takes the biscuit

By Sheila Armstrong

As locations for a coffee morning go, the building compound next to Holy Trinity School might take the biscuit. But the Apollo Group were perfect hosts for the event on their site next to the school in Eagans Close.

The coffee morning on 3 July raised funds for the North London Hospice and members of the hospice team were there, fresh from their training on the TV programme *Mary, Queen of Charity Shops*.

Apollo, which works with Barnet Homes, has improved its site and the whole of the area next to the school, putting bollards on

the roundabout to keep heavy vehicles off and screening the site with green fencing displaying colourful recycling posters designed by Holy Trinity children.

Headteacher Tim Bowden told *The Archer* that the school's relationship with Apollo was a positive one, very much a partnership. Holy Trinity were appreciative of the traffic calming measures Apollo had put in and for other support it gave the school.

Peter Blackburn, Apollo site manager, said he was keen to establish community links and told *The Archer* that Apollo had recently done well in the Considerate Constructors' Scheme.

On the day, the local Safer Neighbourhood Police were on hand with one of their vans entertaining children from Holy Trinity school, the main attraction being the siren and public address system.



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Monday Club footballers and their supporters. Photo by Diana Cormack

Come on the reds! Come on the blues!

By Diana Cormack

There was a real buzz among footballers at the Monday Club on 22 June when they were able to play wearing their new shirts. In a scheme initiated by Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant Alex Kay, two sets in red and blue were acquired through funding from the Metropolitan Police. The club plays on Martin Primary School's field and coach Joe Swift believes that team shirts will make the weekly event more than just a kick around.

Councillor Alison Moore, a strong supporter of the Monday Club, told *THE ARCHER* that not enough provision is made for young people in the area. Such clubs give youngsters something constructive to do as well as

helping them to learn new skills, develop self-esteem and gain confidence.

Her views were echoed by local Police Community Support Officers Mahmoud Kassir and Sam Hedger, who com-

mented on how good it was to see the players getting on well together which, they hoped, would help to build bridges between different parts of the East Finchley community.

Name your sporting hero

Do you know a coach, player or team who has made a significant contribution to the sporting scene in Barnet? Nominations for the 2009 Celebrating Sports Awards are now under way.

Anyone who lives or plays sport in Barnet can put forward the person or team they think is most deserving of a Celebrating Sports Award. There are 15 categories and nominations must be received by Friday 11 September 2009. Prizewinners will receive

trophies, vouchers and tickets to major sporting events. To make a nomination, contact Layla Hall on 020 8359 7818 or email layla.hall@barnet.gov.uk. Nomination forms are also available online at <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/celebration-sport-2009>

Beers all round

East Finchley Constitutional Club was awarded third prize in the CAMRA North London Club Of The Year 2009. It was the first year of entry for the club in The Walks and it narrowly lost out to the Ponders End Working Men's Club, which has set a high benchmark.

China in your hand

THE ARCHER's fame spread to children in China when Helen Morrison, headteacher at Martin Primary School, showed off her copy to Martin's partnership school in the Shunde district.

Mrs Morrison travelled there at the end of May as part of a delegation of headteachers organised by the British Council. She said the trip would lead to a 'greater understanding' between the two school communities.

Mrs Helen Morrison proudly shows her copy of *THE ARCHER* to Martin's partnership school in the Shunde district of China.

Right time for poet

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local poet Dennis Evans, a long-time resident of Helen Close, has called his latest collection *The Right Time*. In one of the poems he describes his study, which "is a place of outlines and honing, of drafting and dreaming, an oasis, a temple of ideas. Parallel universes: each sustaining the other."

The collection takes us through some of the parallel universes of his life. There is a lot about his childhood and family, which will strike chords

of recognition for many of his readers, but also vivid descriptions of people, places and institutions he has encountered on his extensive travels, and some incisive political comments.

Dennis, whose work has been translated into Brazilian Portuguese, French, Urdu and Russian, has worked as a hospital porter, farm labourer, millwright, design engineer and journalist, and now teaches English and poetry throughout the UK. He set up the East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops in 1990.

There is fun in *The Right Time*, too, though some of the poems are very poignant, and some have a message beyond the immediate subject. 'Climbing with Jacko' describes a moment of fear when Dennis the mountain climber can't see a handhold. Told by his instructor to count to ten in cases of panic, he counts, "One, two, three... Sweat mixed with fear enfolds me. ...Eight, nine, ten... I look up, see a handhold as big as a glove. I climb through the mist to meet him."

The Right Time (ISBN 978-0-9531298-2-9) is published by Celebration Press, and costs £10.

East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops meet monthly on Saturdays. For further information, please contact Dennis Evans on 020 8346 9528.

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