



A whole lotta soul

By Lucy Chamberlin

She's performed on *Britain's Got Talent*, topped the Pops as a backing singer, set up her own record label, run workshops for children and adults and tackled the thorny issue of knife crime, all because of her remarkable voice and steely determination. Meet East Finchley resident Angela Anuforo.

Angie A, as she prefers to be known, started out as a receptionist with Island Records after studying to be a radio journalist. Having built up an enviable contacts list and started jamming with various bands, she set up a record label and started to release her own songs. Completing a course in music workshop skills reignited her passion to do something for herself, and to give back to the community.

Angie's powerful vocals and versatile sound secured her a place on *Britain's Got Talent* and with Amy Winehouse's *Love is a Losing Game* she reached the second round. Despite advice from Simon Cowell, however, she got no further, but says the experience was valuable.

Connecting with kids

When a prolonged spate of knife crimes led to a public outcry last year, Angie resolved to do what she could to help. She said: "It's mostly down to poverty and lack of opportunity. These kids have nothing to do. They live in a culture of fear, but underneath they're just normal kids."

Angie holds children's workshops to motivate them, gets them singing and writing their own songs, and uses rap to get the boys involved too. Her song *Free* (on her Myspace page) is about returning to a childhood place in later years, and she obviously has a strong connection with the children she



Angie A wants to make a difference using the power of singing.

coaches. "They're impressed I got onto Britain's Got Talent," she laughs.

Singing away stress

She has regular gigs in North and West London and also works with adults, providing one-to-one coaching, teambuilding and community choirs. Her long-term aim is to get London singing, as she believes it can have a profoundly de-stressing, congenial effect on any community.

Meanwhile, her next move is to organise a group adults singing workshop (anyone is welcome, however inexperienced: email infoanj@yahoo.co.uk). Angie's next gigs are in Jackson's Lane, Highgate and Finsbury Park. For more information visit www.myspace.com/1angiea.

Cruel computer theft

By Janet Maitland

The speech and language computer of a six-year-old cerebral palsy sufferer was stolen from the car park of the London School for Children with Cerebral Palsy in Muswell Hill, N10 on Tuesday 29 September at around 3.45pm.

The equipment allows the boy to speak and is believed to be useless to anyone without a similar disability. The computer is called myTobii and was in a large black case, padded on the inside, with a

small keyboard and mouse.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Haringey police on 0300 123 1212 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Re-opened library is unmissable

By Daphne Chamberlain

The future of local libraries has been of particular interest to East Finchley in recent years. South Friern, our neighbours between Muswell Hill and the North Circular, have been without their popular library for a while, but it has now re-opened in its new form, sporting wireless internet and self-issue terminals. It also contains a memorial to someone well known in East Finchley.

Striped jewel

The new library is certainly easy to spot. It's the green-striped building on the corner of Sutton Road. "Green-striped in a Victorian suburb?" queried Barnet's Mayor Brian Coleman at the official opening. He went on to describe it as vibrant and lively, "a jewel in Barnet's crown, albeit a garish one."

Opinions among library users were divided, and not only about the exterior, which some love.

Though the inside is very attractive, well-planned and accessible, the stock is certainly smaller. "About 2,000 to 3,000 items fewer, but we're going for quality rather than quantity," Keith Baxter, Divisional Manager for Adult Services, told me. He also stressed that users had access to stock in all Barnet Libraries although, unlike some other London boroughs, they are charged for reservations.

Commemorating

Ian Harvey

The return of lapsed members and the enrolment of over 1,000 new users show that the area needs its library. One of the most tireless campaigners for South Friern not to be forgotten was the late Ian Harvey, from Friends of Barnet Libraries. The small meeting-room at South Friern Library is dedicated to him.

The Friends have provided chairs for the Children's section and a coffee machine. Friends' Chair Molly Harris told *THE ARCHER* that Ian "worked very, very hard."

"Ian did a lot of canvassing for the new library, reminding the Council how much we needed one," she said. "He started the series of monthly



A jewel in Barnet's crown. Photo courtesy Friern Barnet & District Local History Society. www.friern-barnet.com

talks for the public, transferring them to East Finchley while South Friern was being constructed." These talks on any and every subject, with

refreshments including Ian's hand-baked biscuits, which always carried a symbol to do with the talk, were very popular at East Finchley.

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