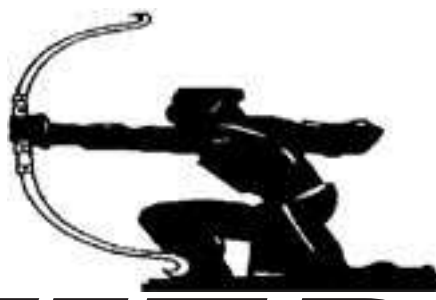


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Phoenix Cinema's £600,000 breakthrough

By John Lawrence

The team at the Phoenix Cinema are celebrating after their ambitious project to restore the glory of the 100-year-old building won more than £600,000 in lottery cash. Months of detailed preparation and painstaking paperwork by Chief Executive Paul Homer and his team went into the successful bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund award.

But this cash boost is only the start of the hard work. Now the Phoenix must raise the final £200,000 it needs to get the building work under way. The cinema is asking for donors to step forward and for film lovers to support a series of fundraising events planned for this year.

The Phoenix will shut its doors from April to June next year while the final stages of the restoration project take place. The Grade II-listed building's ageing auditorium will be completely renovated and the exterior façade upgraded. A new glass-fronted café and terrace bar will overlook the High Road.

The £607,000 grant represents the first time the Heritage Lottery Fund has supported a London cinema.

Paul Homer said: "It's fantastic that we've got the money, and now we're confident that with plenty of local support we can raise the remaining £200,000 we need for work to start.

"To get this far, we had to prove to the Fund that the cinema has heritage value and that the restoration is in keeping with that heritage. And it's not just about the building. We have plenty of community events and activities planned as part of the project."

Anyone who would like to donate money to the Phoenix can contact Paul on 020 8444 6789 or info@phoenixcinema.co.uk. Donations can also be made online at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/support/campaigns



Swine flu cases at Holy Trinity

Parents have been warned that swine flu has reached Holy Trinity School. A letter was sent home from the primary school in Eagans Close on 24 June.

The letter from Dr Andrew Burnett, medical director of NHS Barnet, said "a small number of people" at Holy Trinity had been affected. As *THE ARCHER* went to press, the school was remaining open but under continuous assessment.

He stated: "This infection has now affected people in a number of schools in London and it seems to be more common. Our current experience is that, in the vast majority of instances, this is a relatively mild, short-lived infection that is similar to seasonal flu."

HGS school closure

Two schools in Hampstead Garden Suburb closed for a week from 17-24 June after six cases of the AH1N1 swine flu virus were confirmed amongst the children.

Garden Suburb Infants and

Garden Suburb Junior Schools in Childs Way, NW11, reported 143 cases of a mild viral-type illness amongst pupils and staff. Most sufferers recovered quickly.

Anyone concerned about their health should contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647 for advice. Further information on dealing with swine flu can be found at www.barnet.gov.uk and www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

Archer in colour

Welcome to the first coloured edition of *THE ARCHER*. We hope you enjoy our new look.

Do you have a photo or story for us? Get in touch by email, post or telephone. You'll find our contact details on page 2.

Faces of the Festival

Master of Ceremonies Antigua Joe and young fan Fin from Martin Primary School enjoy the fun at the 2009 East Finchley Festival.

Photo by Sylvie Clarke.

See our picture special on pages 6-7.

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

Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

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

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

Health trust changes name

By Janet Maitland

A recent report by the Local Government Association revealed that 50% of people don't know what a Primary Care Trust (PCT) is or what it does.

Barnet PCT has therefore just changed its name to NHS Barnet, in line with national recommendations. NHS Barnet's role is to commission, or buy, the most appropriate health services for the approximately 367,000 people living in Barnet. To do this it has a budget of £414 million.

There is also a new name, Barnet Community Health Services, for the wide

range of healthcare services commissioned by NHS Barnet.

"We were assessed as one of the top performing PCTs in London recently," said Alison Blair, Acting Chief Executive of NHS Barnet. "But we know a lot more needs to be done to improve services and improve health locally and that is what NHS Barnet will concentrate on."

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

60 Abbots Gardens, N2

Single storey rear extension.

13 Bedford Road, N2

Single storey rear extension.

Eastwood, 41 The Bishops
Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing buildings.

Landscaped area at corner of The
Causeway and Deansway, N2

Installation of new green coloured
fibre cabinet adjacent to existing
cabinet (British Telecom fibre
network).

59 Church Lane, N2

Installation of external extractor fan
and flue to rear of restaurant.

42 Church Vale, N2

Part single, part two storey side
extension (facing No.44). Single
storey side extension (facing
No.40). New canopy porch and
single storey extension to front.
Alterations and extensions to roof
including three side dormer windows
to facilitate a loft conversion.

Oak Lodge School, Heath View, N2

Single storey rear infill extension to
courtyard providing one additional
classroom.

11 High Road, N2

Installation of external fascia sign.

The Coach House, King Street
Mews, King Street, N2

Conversion of part of existing office
building into live work unit contain-
ing two bedroom apartment, asso-
ciated office and separate pottery
studio. Insertion of glass screen to
rear first floor terrace.

Martin Primary School, Plane
Tree Walk, N2

Erection of single storey extension

to northeast elevation to provide
additional classroom. Internal
alterations.

The Manor House, The Sternberg
Centre, 80 East End Road, N3

Renovation of south-west (garden)
elevation of the Manor house,
works to include cleaning and
repair of brickwork and stonework,
repointing as required, renovation
of windows and shutters, rainwa-
ter goods, steps, railings and
balustrades and redecoration as
necessary.

Haringey Council

3 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Erection of single and part double
rear extension.

To side of 115 Fortis Green, N2

Installation of green telecommuni-
cations cabinet.

3 Greenfield Drive, N2

Erection of single storey garden
building to rear of property.

10 Midhurst Avenue, N10

Erection of single storey rear
extension.

42 Twyford Avenue, N2

Demolition of existing garage, erec-
tion of two storey side extension
with pitch roof, erection of single
storey rear extension and erection
of rear / side dormer window with
insertion of three rooflights to front
roofslope.

72 Twyford Avenue, N2

Erection of first floor rear exten-
sion.

Flat 11 Whittington Court, Aylmer
Road, N2

Replacement of existing metal
windows with PVC double-glazed
windows.

Beware electricals and parcels scams

Police are advising the public not to reply to bogus adverts placed in local and national press by a company claiming to sell high value electrical goods at reduced prices.

Customers who have attempted to buy these goods have been asked to pay or transfer cash into a bank account. They are told that the items will be sent to them only to find that the purchases never arrive.

The adverts have been placed nationwide under a variety of names including Arash Ltd, Gadget Limited, Office Bits Warehouse, Office Supplies Cabin and Office Brands Megastore. The only contact details are telephone and fax numbers and occasionally an email address that is based on the URL @easymailorders.com.

Another aspect of the scam is that cards from a company calling themselves 'Parcel Express UK' are posted through random front doors telling the householder that they have missed delivery of a parcel. It asks the recipient to phone a number and pay for a customs charge of the product by credit or debit card. Once this is

done the parcel fails to arrive. The money is not debited from the victim's account but the details are later used fraudulently. Parcel Express UK is not a legitimate company.

Police advise that you should not provide your card or bank details to organisations or people not known to you, unless you are confident of the legitimacy of the company contacting you.

Police have also warned of a company calling themselves Network Link Courier posting fake delivery notes through letter boxes. The address provided in Rainbow Industrial Estate, Raynes Park, is false.

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The next station is ... 70 years old

By David Tupman

Seventy years old this July, who would have thought it of our local Grade 2 listed gem of a building? The station was conceived in the 1930s as part of a programme to extend public transport connecting East Finchley with the Northern line and to provide work to alleviate unemployment.

The overground railway had come to East Finchley in 1867 and was part of the route running from High Barnet to Kings Cross via Highgate and Crouch End. New work began in November 1936 with the construction of tunnels from Highgate to East Finchley and the rebuilding of the station.

Designed by Charles Holden and LH Bucknell in red-brown brick and concrete, the island platforms for four lines were spanned by staff offices with a flat cantilever roof. Access to the offices was by two sets of spiral concrete staircases enclosed by curved glass walls for the whole of their height. Such a feature is also found in the splendid De la Warr Pavilion at Bexhill-on-Sea

built in 1935.

The construction involved an enlarged railway bridge over the Great North Road as well as the diversion of Brompton Avenue and the demolition and rebuilding of The Old White Lion.

Above the station is a statue of an archer standing ten foot high pointing towards London and designed by Eric Aumonier, though our very own 'Archie' was not actually unveiled until 1940.

Lord Ashfield, then Chairman of London Transport, hosted an opening day party on 3 July 1939, arriving in a special train from Archway. After formalities, the guests had a slap up lunch at the newly reconstructed White Lion Hotel. So here's to the next 70 years!

Do any of THE ARCHER's readers remember this day? Please let us know. Our contact details are on page 2.



The Archer statue on top of East Finchley tube station.

Photo by Erini Rodis



Reuby and Rene Hyams. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

Fighting couple foil intruders

By Daphne Chamberlain

Rene and Reuby Hyams celebrated both their Diamond Wedding and Reuby's 91st birthday last month, but just before these happy events things could have gone terribly wrong. On Saturday 23 May, two men got into their flat in Elmshurst Crescent under false pretences.

Rene told THE ARCHER: "We were expecting a delivery from Iceland between 3 and 5pm, so when a young man called at the door just a minute or so before three, I opened the door right away. I would never have done that normally. Then he said he was working on water in the flat upstairs and some of it was coming through to us."

Work is being carried out on kitchens and bathrooms in their block, but when the man went into their kitchen, Reuby was instantly suspicious. "He looked on edge," he said, "and I indicated to Rene she should check the front door. As she passed our bedroom door, she saw another man sitting on the bed, going through a drawer. Then Boadicea took over."

Boadicea, aka Rene, explained: "I was just so angry. I screamed at him at the top of my voice to get out, and he did, without taking anything." The man in the kitchen also made off with some encouragement from Reuby.

Normandy veteran Reuby told his 88-year-old wife she deserved a medal. "We've been married for 60 years," he said, "but I never knew she could react like that. She was a rock."

The Hyams praised police and the medical support they received afterwards. The intruders are described as white men aged about 30. Anyone with information should call police on 0300 123 1212 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Police would also like to reinforce the message that water companies never need to enter your house. In the event of a leak, they would turn off the water in the street. Intruders often pose as officials. For this reason, organisations often give passwords for arranged visits. If the call is unexpected, always check before admitting the caller. It is useful to keep a note of telephone numbers of different organisations. To check on apparent police officers, call 020 8200 1212.



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Spotlight on street light overhaul

Many readers have complained to THE ARCHER about the street light replacement programme that took place throughout East Finchley and other areas of Barnet in May and June. People were annoyed that some lamps were repositioned in the branches of trees, closer to bedroom windows or next to driveways where they are causing obstructions. We took your questions and concerns to Barnet Council.

The Archer: People want to know why the present lights are being replaced after a fairly short time.

Barnet Council spokesperson: The street lights are being replaced for two reasons 1.) Many columns are/were life expired and in need of replacement as their structural integrity could not be guaranteed. The lighting units attached to these old columns are also life expired and in need of replacement as they are inefficient, environmentally unfriendly and provided poor lighting output. 2.) The remainder are being replaced in order to upgrade them to meet current standards.

How is this being funded?

The replacement programme and maintenance provisions are included in a Private Finance Initiative Contract (PFI). Under this type of contract, Central Government provides substantial grant funding to support the costs of the PFI. Since entering the PFI contract the council has

not needed to increase its budget provision for street lighting, but will benefit from around 70 per cent of the lighting stock being renewed and brought up to current standards.

The positioning of the new lights is causing problems. Some have been installed with the lanterns in tree branches or next to trees which will grow around them.

Clearly it is not desirable to install lighting columns close to trees, however in heavily tree lined roads it is not always possible to position columns in the preferred/ideal positions due to other constraints such as Utility equipment (chambers, ducts, boxes etc) and vehicle crossovers. Designers attempt to utilise existing positions where possible and to position columns at property boundaries. The responsibility of maintaining the lighting levels is the service provider's and the contract includes a requirement to prune trees as necessary in

order to maintain light output. It is therefore not in the service provider's interest to position new columns close to trees as this increases his maintenance liabilities and hence costs.

The glare from the new lights is disturbing people in their bedrooms.

The service provider is required to respond to all concerns expressed by residents in this respect and there are actions that can be taken to mitigate light intrusion. This includes altering lantern optic settings, fitting front and/or back shields to lanterns and in extreme cases relocating columns

What do you think of the new street lights? Contact us by phone, email or post. Details are on page 2.



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Project to safeguard vulnerable people

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

The role of the Safer Neighbourhood Team is to respond to the policing needs of all East Finchley's diverse residents and businesses. As many of our residents are of retirement age, the team works in partnership with Barnet Council, Age Concern, all the sheltered housing communities, and Contact, a local charity which provides assistance and crime prevention advice to our elderly and disabled residents.

There has been a recent rise in distraction burglaries, rogue traders and bogus callers in the borough. These criminals target the elderly and disabled, particularly if they live alone. If someone becomes a victim of crime it can have a huge impact on their confidence, fear of crime and quality of life.

In an effort to identify and prevent such victimisation, the team has set up the Vulnerable Persons Project. Team members can be invited to visit a vulnerable person's home and give them advice on preventing these types of offences. We also offer contact to other agencies that can provide help and support for other issues that affect vulnerable people.

If you feel you are at risk of such crimes or you have an

elderly or disabled neighbour or relative living in East Finchley who may be at risk, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details given below.

Drop in surgery

Anyone is welcome to meet the team and get crime prevention advice at the Drop-in Surgery upstairs at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2, on 24 July between 3pm and 5pm.

How to contact us

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at EasFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Happy birthday, parking questionnaire

Well, it's a whole year since residents living in Controlled Parking Zones completed a Barnet Council questionnaire asking for their comments on the parking restrictions. As yet, no results have been made public.

Those who live close to the tube station and the Institute, where demand for parking spaces is high, are particularly concerned as to the outcome, not to mention many others who feel that the results are now well overdue.

THE ARCHER has been asking Barnet Council every month for many months when residents can expect to see the outcome of the consultation exercise.

The latest reply we received stated that the council is in the final phase of the process and a letter

regarding the outcome of the review is to be delivered to residents and traders in early July.

A Barnet Council spokesman said: "The Council received a good response from the consultation. However the feedback results were varied and several raised issues were further investigated for clarification; hence, it has taken longer than originally anticipated to thoroughly complete the review to ensure our conclusions fully reflected the views of those who responded."

Residents fight for 20mph zone

By Caroline Broome

East Finchley Village Residents' Association (EFVRA) held its fifth meeting on 1 June at the Five Bells Pub, East End Road. Amongst a very packed agenda, the two main items of concern to local residents were traffic control and street lighting.



Sign of the times

By Diana Cormack

Just before the park was inspected for Green Flag status, large new name signs were put up at each entrance to Cherry Tree Wood. Unfortunately someone got it wrong but, as the pictures show, Barnet Council put it right in the end.



Now you see it... now you don't.

Photos by Diana Cormack

Barnet Council has refused EFVRA's initial request for a 20mph speed limit in Church Lane, instead agreeing plans for only relatively minor alterations, mainly at the junction with East End Road.

The meeting was against those plans, as the problem also affects the other end of Church Lane towards the High Road. The current plans do not address the Safe Route to Schools, and members were unanimous in continuing to demand the introduction of a 20mph speed limit. Ongoing dialogue continues between local residents, speaking through EFVRA, and Barnet Council Traffic Control.

EFVRA Chairman Bob Owens' response letter to Barnet Council stressed that current plans do not address the concerns and fears of local people, and that EFVRA will continue to request a more effective survey of traffic activity. Details of survey schedules should be made public so EFVRA residents can attend, and the whole

matter should be discussed before any further plans are implemented.

Street lighting

A new item on the agenda was the current installation of new street lighting in N2, specifically in Church Lane and the county roads. Major concerns were expressed regarding its close proximity to private houses, resulting in sleep deprivation and obstruction to people's entrances from the pavement. As the implementation of this replacement scheme spreads throughout N2, EFVRA will continue to monitor local opinion and act accordingly.

As EFVRA reaches its first year anniversary, it is asking its 100 or so members for their thoughts on how it should develop. To take part in this informal survey, or for further information, please contact EFVRA@btinternet.com

Future EFVRA meetings will be held at 8pm on 20 July and 12 September at The East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.

Your chance to contribute to Buswatch

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Buswatch is holding its next meeting on Tuesday 14 July from 7-8pm at the Constitutional Club. The venue, on The Walks between Kitchener Road and Park Road, is central and accessible enough to encourage a good turn out, and Buswatch is keen to hear the public response to the latest developments and non-developments on the local bus front.

Up for discussion will be the extension of the 263 route from Archway to Holloway. Does the undoubted convenience of a bus route going further than Archway compensate for the frequent bunching noticed by some members?

Members have also noticed increased overcrowding on the 263, and want to discuss TfL's repeated assertion that this does not exist, and that no other bus service is necessary for this route.

Bound up with this are persistent public demands for a direct bus route to the Royal Free Hospital. Several people have pointed out the inconvenience and possible danger of crossing the multiple road junctions at Archway to reach the Whittington Hospital.

East Finchley Buswatch has raised the profile of the 263 route, but doesn't want to overlook the 143. Any information or opinions on this route would be welcome.

If you would like to discuss any of these issues, but cannot attend the meeting, please

contact Hazel Burnett on 020 8444 6824 or hazel.burnett@freeuk.com.

Under new management

A new shop has opened where the Post Office used to be at 121 East End Road.

On Friday 12 June, Crystal Food opened its doors to sell fresh and frozen Asian and Halal food. In addition, it sells a wide range of greeting cards, stationery, newspapers and magazines, along with bus passes, Oyster cards and telephone cards. Photocopying will also be available.



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Sheltered housing wardens to be axed

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council has confirmed its controversial decision to replace residential wardens in sheltered accommodation with a 24 hour alarm system and a floating support service, which will be available to other elderly people in the community. In April, residents of East Finchley's Paul Byrne House told *THE ARCHER* about their fears for the future if the scheme went ahead.

The council has acknowledged that 88% of sheltered housing residents and their relatives opposed the original plan to cut the sheltered housing budget by £950,000. That move was rejected, but Barnet are going ahead with a revised scheme. They say that most sheltered housing tenants and their relatives support the idea of extending support to other elderly people, but no details of exactly how it will affect their own circumstances or how it will be operated have been decided.

THE ARCHER put some questions to a council spokesperson. We asked how many people would need to be employed in the floating support team, taking into account the fact that they are extending their services to the whole community, and what exactly these support workers would be doing.

Barnet replied that they would be consulting sheltered

housing tenants and a panel of older people living in their own homes, some of whom are, or have been, registered with Social Services. They say that "the skill set required will determine salary levels, which will of course determine staff numbers." The Council expects to set up an organisation for the new support service in 2009, with an annual budget of around £600,000.

They say that it is "likely" that support workers will carry out "aspects" of the services provided by residential wardens at present, but that this will need to be discussed.

The floating support teams will probably be based in a small number of locations across the borough, and will be expected to visit older people in their homes by appointment. The 24 hour alarm system will be that operated by Lifeline. The changes to the service will take place in 2010 and 2011.



Kristian thrills his audience. Photo by Diana Cormack

Kristian inspires young gymnasts

Athletes are visiting 2,012 schools nationwide in the Team Super Schools project, encouraging children to take part in a variety of sponsored fitness activities. Pupils and staff at Tudor School, N3, were thrilled at a display put on by 20-year-old Kristian Thomas, Commonwealth Games bronze medalist and potential 2012 Olympics gymnast.

Each child had a souvenir photograph taken with Kristian and they took part enthusiastically in a sponsored activity circuit. Some wrote reports on the event.

What the kids say

Eva and Melissa in Year 2 wrote: "Tuesday was a very exciting afternoon because Kristian Thomas visited Tudor School. He is the Olympic star. He started off with forward and backward flips. He also did a forward roll over seven people, which was amazing. All the children kept saying, 'That was so cool' and 'That was excellent.'"

Yusuf in Year 2 wrote: "He back flipped over seven children and one teacher! After all that we changed into our PE kit and did lots of sports, press ups and all sorts of things like that and it was so fun!!"

Ayushi in Year 5 wrote:

"Kristian Thomas started training at the age of five and is still training. All the children in Tudor School took part in some activities like sit ups, star jumps, leg drives and press ups. The children had their photo taken with him. All of this was organised by Team Super Schools. They set lots of schools a big challenge. The challenge was to raise money and if you raise a certain amount you get a prize supplied by Reebok."

Anuj from Year 5 wrote: "The children were happy to see Kristian and they hope to see him in the Olympics. Maybe a child from Tudor can follow in his footsteps."

Send your photos in now 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 of someone or somewhere in N2, we'd love to see it. Picturesque, striking or maybe just bizarre, 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.

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Thousands party in the park

What a day! The people of East Finchley came out in their thousands to enjoy the party of the year in Cherry Tree Wood. Congratulations to all the volunteers and organisers who made the East Finchley Festival on 21 June such a success.

Live entertainment, a grand parade, fabulous food, fun activities for children and all our local community groups out in force made it a festival to remember.

First held in 1974, this is the longest-standing free festival in the borough and it was exciting to see so many people picnicking and partying in soaring temperatures this year.

Thank you to everyone who came to the *ARCHER* stall to pass on stories or to volunteer as a deliverer. Our competitions were a big success too: we'll name the winners and have the answers in next month's issue.

ARCHER photographers were out and about to capture the atmosphere of the day. Enjoy their photographs on these pages, and here's to the next party in 2010!

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Below: Amelie Clarke enjoys the day.
Photo by Shane Vincent



Above: Antigua Joe woos the crowds.
Photo by Matt Shamash

Above: Sun worshippers by Matt Shamash



Above: Puppeteering skills came in handy at the Family Holiday Association stall. Photo by John Lawrence



London Assembly member Nicky Gavron with Cllr Alison Moore. Photo by Arjun Mittra

Below: In The Baa by Sylvie Clarke





The parade progresses down the High Road. Photo by Matt Shamash



Performers on two stages kept the crowds entertained and there were plenty of goodies to buy. Photos: Shane Vincent & Sylvie Clarke.



Drummers in the festival parade. Photo by Matt Shamash



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Above: Taking time out with Falun Gong
Below: Children at play. Photos by Sylvie Clarke





YOUNG ARCHER



Joseph and Amaan proudly display their masterpieces. Photo taken by David Aronsohn

Look what we painted

By Helen Drake

Children across all year groups at Martin Primary School got an opportunity to unleash their creative juices during Art Week from 8 – 12 June. Six artists from the East Finchley Open group worked on projects with the children which culminated in a colourful and imaginative art exhibition.

Joseph Johnson from Year 4 said: "The artist who worked with us was Christine Watson. Christine taught us some simple nature landscapes using crayons. My drawing was a lavender field with a farm and a blue clear cloudless sky. I used light blue tissue paper, paint, cork and fabric."

Amaan Nath, also from Year 4, said: "My picture was of cypress trees and purple flowers shaped like a kite. I used green coloured paper and

fabric the most, but I also used paints, ice lolly sticks and tissue paper."

Katy Wards, art co-ordinator at Martin Primary, said: "Art Week really gave the children a chance to get their imaginations going. I want to thank all the artists for sharing their time and skills with us."

Artists taking part were Ann Froomberg, Adam Justice-Mills, Christine Watson, David Aronsohn, Philip Valentin and Sheila Seepersaud Jones.

Playgroup opens its doors

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley Methodist Church on the High Road has become host to a new playgroup that started in mid June after another playgroup had to close. EFM Toddlers is open from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursdays (term time only).

Up to 30 children can be accommodated in the large hall, where a wide range of play equipment is available. Various painting and handwork facilities are set out in the annex. To

allow for change, all activities take place on a rotational basis. Story time and music sessions feature regularly.

It is run by volunteers who are mostly from the church and

World cuisine at school food festival

In a change to the more usual summer fair, this year Manorside Primary School on Squires Lane will be holding an International Food Festival. Taking place on Saturday 11 July, between 12pm and 3pm, visitors can sample cuisine from places as diverse as New Zealand and Norway, Poland and Portugal.

Entrance is free, and there will be activities for children with stalls and bouncy castles, as well as dance displays and singing. For those who prefer a cup of tea and a cake, there will be a great range of home-baked cakes and pastries available to eat in or take away.

For art lovers, there will be a chance to see, and buy, the work of some young up-and-coming artists at the Manorside Art Exhibition. Inspired by great paintings, and a visit to the National Gallery, the whole school will have been hard at work during Art Week creating their own masterpieces.

Homeless in London through Raphael's eyes

When Raphael Abedi came across homeless people on the streets of the capital, he was moved to put his thoughts into poetry. His poem has just won him an award for children's poetry in the national Muslim Writers Awards 2009, and earned clear praise from the judges.

Raphael, who lives in East Finchley and goes to school at Merchant Taylors in Northwood, won the 11-13 age category in the competition.

The judges commented that Raphael's poem was: "Painfully real, thought evoking and gripping. Raphael is a very talented young writer with the ability to show the world painful truths without hesitation."

Raphael said he wrote the poem for his English homework and tried to imagine himself in the shoes of a homeless person. Here's Raphael's winning poem:



Photo courtesy of Muslim Writers

Homeless London

Cold, wet, this is London.
Heartless, forgetting, these are its citizens.
Dark, freezing, these are my surroundings.
Tired, starving, this is me.

I stare around at soulless bodies,
Hoping to get enough for dinner.
Rain and sleet, it never stops.
Tired, begging, this is me.

Across the street is a warming glow,
Beckoning to me to come in.
But I mustn't, no!
Tired, wanting, this is me.

It's ten o'clock, no more tourists now.
I roll out my tearing sleeping bag.
But not to sleep, dangers are here.
Tired, scared, this is me.

Next morning there's snow,
Joy for some, death for others.
Businessmen going to and fro.
Awake, hungry, this is me.

Later on in the day,
Someone enters my space.
I am shivering with fear and cold.
Hungry, scared, this is me.

He draws something from a pocket.
Is it a knife?
I shut my eyes.
Cold, wet, London is me.

Bringing new blood to the art world

Jake Eiseman-Renyard, one of THE ARCHER's volunteer writers, has loved to draw for as long as he can remember. For the past three years, he has attended the University of East London, studying a combined BA of Graphic Arts and Illustration.

His work was selected in June for 'Newblood', an art exhibition at Olympia, during a private inspection of a degree show put on by the students in their final year. On the day the exhibition opened, he was amazed to hear his work had also been selected for the Dean's Award for Digital Arts and Visual Communication.

Jake has had to work hard to get everything ready for the exhibition and has said he was anxious just to get a passing grade. Works of his on display included five A1-size panoramic pictures of his 'Utopia', a land created with influence from Finchley and parts of London, places visited on holiday, seen in films or TV, and dreams all mixed together. Two of these drawings have already been bought.

Other, smaller pictures and narrative strips were on display here, along with a video monitor showing computer-animation of two short films.

Jake's artwork (which a classmate has described as "Where's Wally On Acid") is usually very colourful and has a strong sense of visual detail. Jake is considering putting his work to use in children's books, murals, advertising, birthday cards, and live action storyboards.

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No thought control

Hypnotherapy can be the solution to many people's habits, phobias and stresses. However, some still think it's about swinging pocket watches and swirling eyes. Hypnotherapist Samantha Lawton wants to set the record straight. Here, she talks to Sam Bevitt.

The Archer: Why do you think people still have reservations about hypnotherapy?

Samantha: Purely because of everything they have seen on the television. People come to me thinking I am going to control their mind and make them do something they don't want to do. These live shows where people are doing Elvis impersonations and walking like chickens do hypnotherapists a disservice.

The Archer: Are there any reasons to be worried? Does the process have side effects?

Samantha: There are absolutely no side effects. It's like the feeling you get just before you fall asleep. You cannot make anyone do anything that they do not want to do. We do not control minds.

The Archer: What sort of conditions, phobias or habits can it help confront?

Samantha: There is a massive spectrum for any phobia you can think of. There are a lot of straightforward phobias such as fear of flying and fears of spiders or public speaking. Other people are scared of buttons or a particular colour. It also strengthens willpower for weight loss and stopping smoking.

The Archer: How did you become a hypnotherapist?

Samantha: I moved to East Finchley 10 years ago and London was very new to me. I was trying to find my feet and I wasn't happy. I put on three and a half stone! I went to a hypnotherapist who helped me lose all the weight. I wanted to do for other people what she did for me so I trained and got the qualifications and I can help others now.

The Archer: What is the process of hypnotherapy? What can one expect from a session?

Samantha: First of all, I do not do anything to you. All I want is for you to relax. You listen to the instructions I give you and that puts you in a hypnotic state. From there, we can access your subconscious, which contains every memory, conversation and experience you have ever had in your life. Once we have access to the subconscious, we have access to the patterns you've adapted that create the issue that you want to confront. Once we are there, we can adjust. When you come around, you will feel extremely relaxed, extremely positive and focused. The whole process usually lasts an hour.



Samantha Lawton

To learn more about hypnotherapy and how it could help you, go to www.vanillaskieshypnotherapy.com.

Car firm rewards hard work

By Zoe Powers

Greater London Hire held its annual staff awards amid the lush surroundings of Highgate Golf Club for the twenty-sixth year running. The awards were presented by company director John Scott, who thanked all the staff of the East Finchley firm for their loyalty and hard work.

In return, staff and directors paid tribute to Mr Scott's long years leading the company. Non-executive director Ross Gibbons said: "It's not easy to run a business for more than 40 years and during this time John has had to make some hard decisions to ensure the company developed, expanded and prospered. But, with drive, foresight and hard work, he has managed to achieve this and I'm sure he will continue to do so for many years to come."

GLH award winners this year were: Senior Manager of the Year, Dominic Anthony; Department Shield, Facilities and Communications; Passenger Division, Tafoun Mehmet; Despatch Division, Stuart Selley; Auxiliary, Tomasz Szeja; Best Newcomer, Anita Cahill; Staff Award, Louise Murray; Night Passenger Driver, Andy Mesfin; Day Passenger Driver, David Trafford; Van Driver, Malcolm Jones; Van Runner-up, Ian Tuite; Bike Rider, Andrew Lenaghan; Bike Runner up, Rikki Annunato.



The GLH award winners. Photo by Craig Con

Animal magic

By Diana Cormack

A welcome new arrival on the High Street is Fetch 22, which sells a range of accessories and food for cats, dogs and other small animals, as well as offering a grooming service.

Peter Marton and his partner Adrienne Balaze, who live in Muswell Hill, researched the area thoroughly before launching their venture. Ms Balaze comes from a retail trade background and Mr Marton has years of experience as a pet groomer. They will run the shop with Ms Balaze's sister, Boglarka.

The couple told *THE ARCHER* how much they appreciate the warm welcome they have had from local people, with many customers from Mr Marton's previous workplace greeting him in the street. The shop is running a loyalty card system, with a 10% reduction to local traders. For more information, call 020 8444 6422.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Feeding frenzy

We are living in interesting times, when the weird starts to seem normal and the normal weird. Times when dog doesn't just eat dog but claims it back on expenses. Welcome to the world of greed and hypocrisy, welcome to a new brown world of new puritans.

Back when puritans were real puritans, changing the political system had nothing to do with spin doctors. Instead they opted for revolution and civil war, deciding that the best thing to do with an unpopular monarch was to execute him. All right, so they invited his son back to take over his dad's job a few years later, but the point had been made.

Parliament might have reformed the monarchy, but it took a lot longer to get round to reforming itself, about 200 years in fact. Finally, in 1832 they decided that it wasn't fair that Manchester had lots of people but no MPs, whereas rotten boroughs such as Old Sarum had zero population and two MPs.

Once they could vote, the workers wanted their own MPs so the unions formed the Labour Party. As MPs didn't get paid, the unions paid their MPs until the reactionaries in the House of Lords told them not to. So, in 1911, Asquith's Liberal government decided to pay MPs, mostly because it annoyed the Tories.

It didn't mean anything changed. Rich Tories such as Winston Churchill became MPs, occasionally noticed their constituents and sometimes went to say hello. Politics was far too important to bother asking ordinary people about, so MPs either made money in the city or as a lawyer or stayed poor and cared about the people. Three guesses which party cared and which got rich.

Then the Liberals ruined it for everybody. Back in the 1970s they came up with the weird idea that MPs should represent the people, live in their constituencies and actually care about their voters. Finally, the Tories under Thatcher and Co decided that being an MP should be a proper job with proper wages and proper expenses, just like an estate agency. And what does anyone do when they get an expense account? They fiddle it.

So, why the shock, the horror the surprise that your local MP put his duck pond on his expenses? I'm only surprised they didn't try to charge us for the ducks as well.

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- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 6 & 20 July** at 8.15pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
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- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **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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- ❖ **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
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- ❖ **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.

Review: Baroque and Beyond

By Ken Carter

In the latest free music concert at East Finchley Methodist Church on 14 June, Janet Marsh's flute presided in most of the works played. She certainly put her instrument through its paces, requiring it to be cool and fluent, simple and spectacular, pealing and resonant, soft and gentle as we moved from one varied piece to another.

Credit also goes to Janet for scouring dusty documents to find such wide-ranging works within the baroque style. We heard florid Handel, tripping favourites from Haydn and Boccherini, as well as newcomers from English composers John Stanley and William Corbett.

Elizabeth Dockrell-Taylor's violin could be simple and soaring and yet articulated and impassioned. Her piano sonata from Clementi had flair. Christopher Rowland contributed ably from the harpsichord and delighted us with an aria from Handel's *Acis and Galeata*. The guest artist Jacek Wasowicz charmed us softly with his guitar.



Some of the screamers. Photo by John Lawrence

We had a scream

By Marian Bunzl

A thousand choral singers from all over London were invited to come to Tate Modern and scream for as long and as loud as possible, and were offered a £20 per head donation. This 'work of art', created by performance and installation artist, Paola Pivi, was the grand finale of The Long Weekend, held at Tate Modern to celebrate the rehanging of their works.

For three days, Tate's galleries were filled with installations, interactive artistic activities, events, encampments, even a Maypole. North London Chorus found the combination of a therapeutic scream and some cash for the choir irresistible, so off we went.

As singers gathered on the back lawn to register, there was a

convivial buzz. People swapped choral jokes, discussed repertoires, met old friends and nibbled free biscuits. We were issued with instructions on how and when to scream, and given red elastic bands (left behind by London postmen) for identification, and industrial strength earplugs.

Then we were led into the Wind Turbine Hall, surrounded

by TV monitors, and allowed to let rip. Although the audience was impressed, for us it was a bit of an anticlimax, as the earplugs muffled the sound. Altogether it was a somewhat bizarre experience, and we are not exactly sure what it had to do with art. But it was a sunny afternoon, we had fun, and the choir is a little bit richer.

July at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer

Well, we did it: our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful (see the story on page 1). They have granted us £607,000 to help restore the cinema. This is additional to the £260,000 we've already raised, so we now need only a further £200,000. Come on, dig deep now!

The work should start in January and last six months. I'll give a monthly update in these pages and more information will appear on our website.

For more information about the Centenary Restoration Project, or any aspect of the work we do at The Phoenix, you can ask us in person on Sunday 12 July at a free event.

We have an open day from 2pm at which Trustees, our programmer, our education manager and me, along with other staff, will be present. You can find out how and why we play certain films and not others, how we respond to our audience and you can discover the wide range of education work we deliver to our community, often behind the scenes. The afternoon will finish with a screening of Neil Jordon's

Interview with the Vampire with Brad Pitt, a scene from which was shot at the Phoenix.

We are also showing films in July. On 10 July we open *35 Shots of Rum* from Claire Denis. The film examines the relationship between a single father and his lone daughter, and deals with an issue many parents fear, when their children leave home and go out independently into the world. The soundtrack is by Stuart Staples of The Tindersticks, another reason to see this wonderful film.

The month closes with the latest in our 'Into Great Silents' series. *Piccadilly* from 1929 is a tale of ambition, jealousy and lust in London's Chinatown. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

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What's On...

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

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July

• First of two **East Finchley Open** weekends in July, 11am to 5pm. Artists and crafts people open their homes and studios at various locations in East Finchley. Browse or buy painting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, glass, photography and more. For full details of locations visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Saturday 4 July

• **Finchley Choral Society** perform Handel and Vivaldi, St John-at-Hampstead, Church Row, NW3, 7.45pm. Tickets £15, £12, and £1 for children, from 020 8883 5631, or Les Aldrich Music, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10. www.finchleychoral.org.uk

Sunday 5 July

• **Battle of Barnet**: a guided tour round the famous Wars of the Roses 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.

Tuesday 7 July

• **Jewish Community Centre** for **London Beach Party**. For one evening only, Lock 17 in Camden will be converted into a Tel Aviv beach complete with sand, beach tennis, falafel bars, juice stands, DJs, live music and the odd bit of yoga. Don't miss this great night out. 6pm, Market Bar & Terrace, Lock 17, Camden, London, NW1. Price: £10 in advance, £12 on the door. Telephone number for tickets and information: 020 7431 9866. www.jcclondon.org.uk

Saturday 11 July

• **International Food Festival** at Manorside Primary School, Squires Lane, N3, from 12-3pm. Everyone welcome.

• **Barnet Ghosts**: a ghoulish, ghostly guided walk round haunted High

Barnet and Monken Hadley. Meet at High Barnet tube station at 7.30pm. Please bring a torch if possible. For details, contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July

• Second **East Finchley Open** weekend, 11am to 5pm. See details left.

Sunday 12 July

• **Workshop on plants, medicines and keeping healthy**, with Andrew Chevallier, FNIMH; a look at what herbal medicine does best, and how it can be used at home. Includes herbal first aid and pain relief. Simple treatments from kitchen, garden and health shop. Soul Therapy Centre, 28 Fortismere Avenue, N10 3BL, 10.30am, with an afternoon **guided walk on Hampstead Heath and Kenwood Herb Garden**, and tea at the Brew House, Kenwood. Price £65. Booking recommended. Please make cheques payable to Ingrid Collins, and send to Soul Therapy Centre. For further information, contact cibachmann@gmail.com.

Sunday 2 August

• **Festival of British Archaeology**, hosted by Hendon and District Archaeological Society, Avenue House, East End Road, N3, 2-5pm. Admission free. Includes Roman cookery demonstration and display of Roman pottery. For more details, visit www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk

What's on at artsdepot, North Finchley

Impressionism and Beyond, Tuesday 7 July, 7pm; **Patrick Monahan & Support**, Thursday 16 July, 8pm; **Ignition**, Saturday 18 July, 1pm; **Clive**, Thursday 23 July, 7pm; **artsdepot open**, Thursday 23 July to Sunday 23 August; **Genticorum**, Saturday 1 August, 8pm.



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

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

Free up our tennis courts

Dear Editor,

Did anyone see the news that almost a third of our kids will be obese by the end of primary school and Barnet Council is worried about this? Really? Then make Cherry Tree Wood tennis courts free for all (as they were for years) and do it now. Parents are supposed to take this issue seriously while our council seems incapable of doing the easy stuff.

Yours faithfully,
Ken Behan,
Ingram Road, N2.

Good to see bench is back

Dear Editor,

Although I moved away from East Finchley four years ago, I still keep a close eye on what's happening there, thanks to *THE ARCHER*, which my very dear friend Mary Atkinson sends to me every month.

I was very relieved to see in the June edition that the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood bench has been safely returned to the Wood again. The Friends worked so hard to raise the money for that bench and its installation, using donations, second hand book sales and various raffles at the East Finchley Festival for two or three years. It took a lot of effort and determination but we got there in the end.

Letters

Cherry Tree Wood really is a very valuable, historical local amenity and I am happy to see that the work of the Friends continues to do everything possible to protect and preserve it.

Yours nostalgically,
Anne Lalaguna,
East Preston, West Sussex.

Pumping iron

Dear Editor,

With the 2012 Olympics coming soon, I have noticed that many parks in London now have outdoor gym equipment, looking almost like playgrounds. Following suggestions for improvements to Barnet parks, especially those in East Finchley, I think this is certainly one of the more feasible ideas at this time.

If Stanley Field is restored, this would be an ideal place to try out the outdoor equipment, maybe next to a new indoor gym that was proposed to compensate for the old Wilmot Centre. Highgate Wood, just over the border in Haringey, has had a set of gym bars by the open field for years, and apparently parks in Scandinavia have had outdoor gym equipment for at least a decade already.

As for Cherry Tree Wood, I hope the assault course plan can eventually go ahead. Improvements here within the last few months have included a new municipal recycling bin by Lazy Sally's Cafe, new welcome signs with some historic trivia about the park, and the ongoing re-surfacing of paths.

Volunteer Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have also had their exercise weeding out invasive plants. Although we are some distance from the site of the Olympic Village, I think that, like every London borough, Barnet should have enough equipment to give its people a sporting chance.

Yours faithfully,
Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Fortis Green, N2

Ann Vautier

Ann Vautier died in hospital on May 27 with her husband Antonio and daughter Caterina by her side. It is a painful loss for so many family and friends across the UK, Italy, Canada, where she grew up, and around the world.



charity Contact, where she went out of her way to help local people.

As well as being a befriender and an escort, Ann acted as secretary to the group for over two years. Her indomitable fund raising skills were an added bonus, along with her calm, positive manner which greatly influenced others.

Her funeral was held on 4 June and was attended by many family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ann Vautier Fund (Leukaemia & Lymphoma Unit), University College London Hospital. Contact Sara Goldman on 020 7380 9526 or sara.goldman@uclh.nhs.uk

Ann cared about the community and she will be sorely missed. She was a long time contributor to, and distributor of, *THE ARCHER*. She was also an inspired and motivational volunteer for the East Finchley



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Rock on, Cam'ron

Nine-year-old Cam'ron Rock has only been doing Taekwondo for two years but he's already one of the best young martial artists in the country.

The Tudor Primary School pupil was awarded a bronze medal in the British Junior Taekwondo Championships held in Margate, despite being one of the most junior belts in the competition.

It was his first medal and now he's hungry for more. His coach Kevin Guy at Master Wolf's Taekwondo School believes he's good enough to win a medal at the World Championships in Croatia later in the year.

Cam'ron's mum Natalie Allen said: "I am very proud of him. Obviously I'm biased but it's a huge achievement for him. Taekwondo is something he's taken to and wanted to learn. He likes it because it's a way to channel all his energy, and he has endless amounts of that."



Volunteering is good for you

By Natalie Broadbent

Volunteering comes in many different forms, from coaching or helping at sports clubs, to administration, befriending, advice giving or writing for a community newspaper such as *THE ARCHER*. As a result of today's economic climate, Volunteer Centre Barnet has seen the number of people registering to become volunteers double in the last year.

Aruna Bhatt was made redundant 18 months ago. She said: "Losing my job was a big shock to my system. I felt my life had come to an end. I became very ill which led to depression."

Aruna got in touch with Volunteer Centre Barnet and started volunteering over six months ago with East Finchley Advice Service.

Now Aruna says: "I have gained lots of new skills and am still learning as each day is different. I enjoy what I do as I feel very motivated, respected and know I belong somewhere. Losing confidence and feeling no one wants you is the worst feeling in the world. The best way to keep going is to become a volunteer and help the community. I wish I had done this 18 months ago but I am glad I am doing it now."

Backbone

Volunteers are the backbone of many organisations. They bring great enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and many have vital skills. Without them many organisations would not exist, so Volunteer Centre Barnet is urging more organisations to offer volunteering opportunities.

Volunteer Centre Barnet holds a bi-annual Community Volunteer Awards to recognise the hard work of Barnet's volunteers. The next ceremony takes place on 16 July. Those who have given 100 hours or more of their time over the past year will receive a certificate to be presented by Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Brian Coleman.

To find out more about the awards or about volunteering or if your organisation would like to use volunteers please contact Volunteer Centre Barnet on 020 8364 8400.



In memory of Albert

THE ARCHER was contacted by the family of the late Albert Daggers as they marked the second anniversary of his death.

Albert owned the Sound Services television and radio shop in the High Road for more than 30 years up to his retirement in 1990 and was great friends with many of his customers. Many of them continued to call him after his shop had closed down and he always helped them out, however small the job was.

His wife Della said he had the untidiest shop but he could always find everything, including the smallest resistor. His daughter Angela hoped that many people in East Finchley would still remember her father two years on.

She said: "I'm sure that he is still remembered by many people in the area. He was still fixing their electrical equipment right to the end, and never turned anything away, from kettles to dental suction machines."

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Glory of summer gardens

Hundreds of visitors got a peek behind the fence when three gardens threw open their gates as part of the National Garden Scheme.



Jane in her garden. Photo by John Lawrence

Meanwhile visitors to the Long Lane garden of John Maitland, brother to Janet, enjoyed shady nooks, pathways and a pond, and could spend time spotting the dozens of animal statues hidden in the vegetation.

Forthcoming open garden dates: Sunday 5 July (2-6pm): The Bungalow, 15 Elm Gardens, N2; Sunday 26 July (2-7pm): 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10; Sunday 23 August (2-5.30pm): 7A New Oak Road, N2.

The neighbouring cottage gardens of Jane Meir and Janet Maitland in Trinity Road make clever use of small plots, with scores of shrubs and plants beautifully positioned and nurtured.

Visitors to Jane's garden were charmed by the way three tinpails full of blooms disguised a small unsightly window, while in Janet's birdbath next door a fearless robin washed his wings in front of everyone.

Like my new gardening shoes?

By Richard King



Tippy K gets back to nature. Photo by Rebecca Miller.

Three, two, one... jump!

By Roger Bailey

Six men and a young woman took to the skies to raise funds for Barnet-based charity Cherry Lodge Cancer Care. The seven took part in a tandem skydive at RAF Weston on Sunday 31 May, jumping from two-and-a-half miles up, freefalling at 120mph until that heartstopping moment when the parachute opened and slowly coming back down to earth.

One of the skydivers, Craig Lesser, met with his family after his jump and said: "That was great. I wish I could do it again." Friends, family and work colleagues sponsored the skydivers around £10,000.

They were lucky to have fantastic weather and blue skies. The original date for this event was two weeks earlier but, due to gusting winds and rain, it had to be postponed.

Cherry Lodge Cancer Care is a centre in Union Street, Barnet, providing care, support and information to people diagnosed with cancer.

Cherry Lodge makes no charge for its services, which are available to anyone who needs them. There is no catchment area and the only requirement is that the patient is able to access the centre using their own resources.

For more information on the services provided, visit www.cherrylodgencancercare.org.uk or telephone 020 8441 7000.

Last autumn, I received an email from a fashion designer asking whether she could use our East Finchley allotments for a fashion photo shoot.

Tamara Kosta was putting together her Tippy K summer footwear brochure and, after using abstract, 'arty' backgrounds for the previous edition, she wanted to give a more naturalistic flavour to the new one. She and her team duly turned up to look around and were mightily impressed by the possibilities for shots.

On the morning of the shoot itself, I left her little group to set up their first shot and was delighted on my return to find an elegant young lady reclining amongst Mick Curran's red cabbages with her feet in the air.

It took some while to get the shot right. The model didn't seem to mind spending half an hour on her stomach with only a sleeping bag between herself and the worms.

Then on to Dawn's trellis, Paul's flower pot, an anonymous pumpkin and several other close-up locations. The shoot took all day but the results were pretty good. The photos ended up in a 'lookbook' sent to potential suppliers and customers. You can see the whole thing by clicking on lookbook at www.tippyk.co.uk

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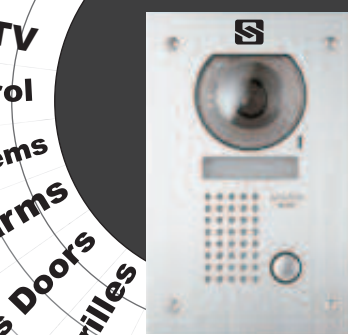
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