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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

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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