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THE ARCHER



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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Hospice calls for help in financial crunch

By David Melsome

The North London Hospice has put out a plea for support after seeing signs of a reduction in voluntary donations as the recession continues to bite.

The supply of goods being donated to the charity's shops, like the one in the High Road, is dropping. Eleven shops in the area bring in 20% of the hospice's annual funds. Revenue from the outlets is similar to last year's levels, showing that people are still buying, but there are concerns that income will start to fall if the range of goods dries up.

At the same time, the sharp slide in bank interest rates means the hospice is suffering a fall in its regular investment income, a crucial means of funding its services.

Better facilities

The North London Hospice provides free end-of-life care for the people of Barnet, Harin-gey and Enfield. It relies almost

entirely on voluntary donations to cover its annual running costs of £5 million.

It is currently undertaking a much-needed £750,000 project to refurbish its main building in Woodside Avenue, N12, and in particular to upgrade the accom-mo-dation facilities for inpatients.



William F Hunt:
Hospice donations are falling.

A tough year

Finance director William F Hunt said: "The finances of the North London Hospice are not exempt from what is happening

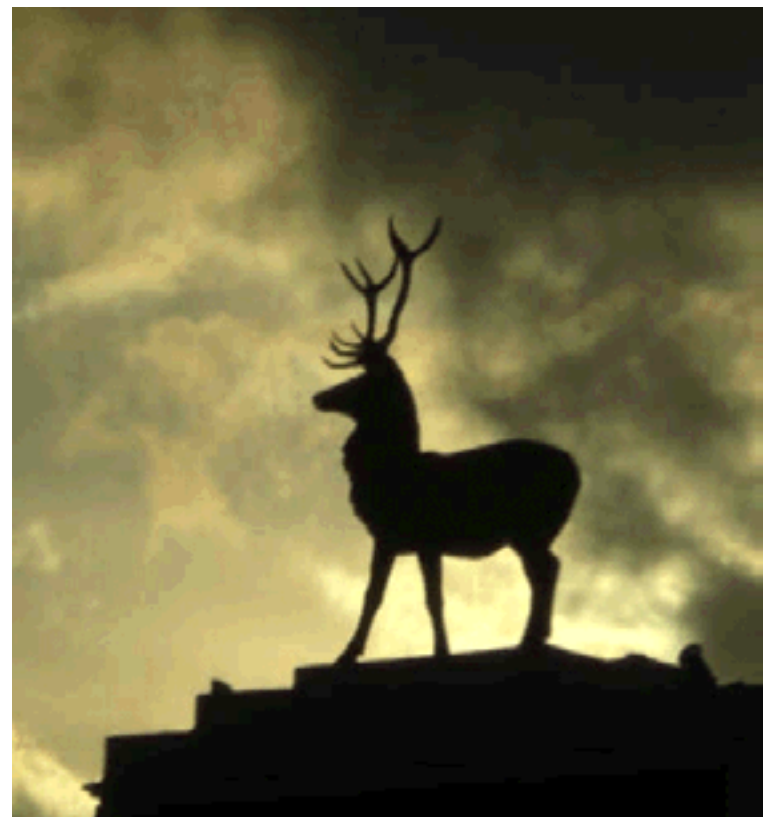
in the economy at large. 2009 is going to be a tough year for all of us. Please help the hospice sur-vive the recession in whatever way you can."

Donations are welcome at the hospice shop at 123 High Road, N2. Clothing, bric-a-brac, records, shoes, bags, crockery and books can all be sold but staff are unable to accept electrical goods or large items of furniture.

Fundraising with added fitness

Forthcoming hospice fund-raising events include the annual 20 and 40-mile sponsored bike ride through the Hertfordshire countryside on 7 June, and a Rock and Stroll six-mile women's sponsored walk and barbecue with live music on 4 July.

If you would like to take part or find out more about donating, contact the fundraising office on 020 8446 2288. More details can also be found online at www.northlondonhospice.org



Stag at bay

This brooding image of a stag under a stormy sky was not taken on a Scottish hillside but is in fact our own Bald Faced Stag captured by Harriet Connides as clouds gathered over the High Road.

If you have any photos of local events, people or landmarks, perhaps with a story behind them, you can email them to us at the-archer@lineone.net.

Stand by for parking zone results

In last month's issue, we reported that residents living within East Finchley's three Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) were still waiting to hear the results of a question-naire carried out last year by Barnet Council.

Residents were asked for their views last summer on whether the current CPZs are meeting the needs of local businesses and residents. Nine months on, no results have been made public.

Barnet Council have told us that analysis of the survey results has been completed and council officers have made recommendations.

A spokesman said: "Letters will be sent to all within the CPZ advising of the outcome, giving a summary of results and any intended actions. This should take place some time in May."

Residents concerned about the time restrictions of the CPZ, the rising cost of purchasing visitor vouchers and what they

see as increasingly draconian enforcement by traffic wardens will await the council's letter with close interest.

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*Comments to THE ARCHER may
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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

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East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

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

Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 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

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team 020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

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Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800 500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector 08705 555 999
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

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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

Quiz the police

By Janet Maitland

Would you like to quiz Barnet Police about issues of crime, anti-social behaviour and what you want from your local police? If so, come along to The Constitution Club, The Walks, N2 at 7.30 on 6 May.

The meeting is one of a series of events to bring the borough's most senior police officers closer to residents as part of the new Policing Pledge. The pledge promises to listen to local people to ensure that police are tackling the issues that worry residents the most. It also promises to provide residents with more information about the policing of their neighbourhood.

"These meetings are an

ideal way to find out what public opinion is on the ground," said Chief Superintendent Kavanagh. "They will give residents the opportunity to get involved in the direction of their local police service by talking to the most senior police officers and decision makers."

All residents are welcome to attend. Invitations have also been sent to Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

Practice makes perfect

By Sippy Azizollah.

The March issue of THE ARCHER carried an article informing users of Woodland Medical Practice in Leopold Road about the patient group that the GPs there have set up as a means of getting feedback on ways to improve the service for users of the practice. Thank you for your response, your feedback is really important.

If you are registered at the practice and have comments for the group to focus on at the meetings,

either use the suggestion box in the waiting room or email: woodlands.medical-practice@nhs.net.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

35 Abbots Gardens, N2

Side and rear ground floor extension, including lower ground extension with patio at rear and raised terrace.

1 Aylmer Road, N2

First floor rear extension. Roof extension including two front and three rear dormers.

30 Brim Hill, N2

Retention of climbing frame in rear garden.

32-49 Font Hills, N2

Replacement of existing windows with new white UPVC windows

29A Fortis Green, N2

Single storey rear extension.

2 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Replacement windows to dwelling. Alterations including new roof tiles and roof light to existing single storey side extension.

Thomas More Centre, 1 Thomas More Way, N2

Demolition of existing building, and

erection of a two storey building comprising of class B1 and class D1 use, with additional office accommodation in roof space. Associated basement parking and landscaping. Conversion of garages into habitable rooms.

Haringey Council

27 Aylmer Road, N2

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

85 Fortis Green, N2

Listed Building Consent for erection of plaque for Coventry Patmore (Poet).
30 Ringwood Avenue, N2
Erection of rear/side dormer window with internal works (Certificate of Lawfulness)

24 Southern Road, N2

Demolition of existing timber and glass conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

Not a waste

Figures released by the Government show that in Barnet more than 12% of household waste is sent for composting rather than landfill, putting the borough fourth in the London league table. This helps to make up the 30% figure of waste recycled in Barnet.

The figure reflects the amount of waste collected through the green garden and kitchen waste service in green wheeled bins. The actual figure is likely to be even higher, as it doesn't take into account the amount of waste composted by residents in home composters and wormeries.

A pilot project being carried out in 8,500 homes across the borough is trialling the use of kitchen caddies. The sealable plastic containers, provided free of charge, are placed in residents' kitchens and provide an easy and clean method of stor-

ing food waste before depositing it in the green wheeled bin. If the pilot project is deemed a success, the scheme will be rolled out across Barnet.

Stolen stick

THE ARCHER has heard that an 82 year-old local man had his walking stick stolen while visiting Argos at North Finchley. He told us: "I just put it aside for a minute, and it went. I'm lost without it."

He has reported the theft to the police. The stick, which is silver, can be easily identified.



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How could thugs attack a 99-year-old woman?

THE ARCHER often carries warnings against doorstep con artists and robbers. Here, Lynda Turner, angered by an attack on an elderly friend in her own home, describes the effect of such crimes.

One recent afternoon at 4.30pm in broad daylight a gang of heartless thugs conned their way into the East Finchley home of a 99-year-old woman. They shouted through the front door that there had been an explosion at a nearby house and that the occupant had to leave her home.

Understandably, she opened her door. The gang of three men and a boy knocked her walking frame away from her and searched the house. There was nothing to steal, so they left empty handed.

The victim telephoned a neighbour who called the police; they arrived on the scene very quickly. An ambulance was also called but the victim, although shaken, thankfully did not need medical attention.

Repeat crime

The same victim was robbed almost exactly a year ago, possibly by the same gang. In

order to gain entry that time, they pretended that a lad had kicked his football into her garden and asked if they could retrieve it. The victim, being a kind and caring person, let them into the garden. A few moments later she realised this was a ruse, and the lad and his cohorts had inveigled their way into her home in order to rob her, which they did.

Heartlessness

Those who know this lady are saddened and angry that a gang of men should pick on a defenceless victim. The robbers must have, or have had mothers, grandmothers, sisters, wives or female friends. How can they find it in themselves to con their way into the home of somebody clearly unable to protect herself against four people?

The victim is tiny, how could they even consider knocking away her walking frame with the intention of robbing her?

One wonders what they can possibly say to each other after the attack: are they proud, do they laugh?

The police were appalled by this crime. As a result of it they now patrol her road and the surrounding streets many times throughout the day and night. The council's housing team was also horrified and has agreed to increase the street lighting. CCTV is also being considered as the police want to catch these nasty, heartless burglars. Neighbourhood Watch has been stepped up and the men and women of the community are now much more vigilant.

If you have any information about this crime please call the police on 020 8721 2506 or e-mail Fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk. A local person would like to offer a reward for information leading to the arrest of the gang. This will be arranged via Crimestoppers.



Lieutenant Colonel Andy Westcott inspecting the Army section of the Combined Cadet Force at Christ's College

Cadets, atten-shun!

Cadets at Christ's College Finchley paraded for their biennial review by the Ministry of Defence and put on a display of their skills for some military top brass.

The Combined Cadet Force at the school in East End Road was inspected by Lieutenant Colonel Andy Westcott of the Army Air Corp before putting on a field gun display, a musi-

cal display and drill and signals displays.

Christ's College Finchley's CCF is the oldest combined cadet corp in the country after the one at Eton school.

Stay secure in your own home

Doorstep crime can happen to anyone, not just the elderly. Police give the following crime prevention tips:

1. When you hear someone at the door shout through the door to find out who is there. If you do not recognise who it is apply the chain or door bar.
2. Check all your doors are locked, burglars often come in pairs, so one may come in the back while you are being distracted at the front door.
3. Always ask for identification, but remember that identity cards are easy to copy. If in doubt ask the caller to wait and call their company to verify and check. A genuine caller will not mind.
4. Use your phone book or utility bill to find the number of the company they claim to be from. Do not accept a mobile phone number offered by the caller.
5. Utility companies don't usually call without a prior appointment. If they say it is an emergency ask them to get a police officer to attend.
6. You do not have to let people in and if you are uncertain then don't, however persuasive or plausible the caller is. It is better

that a genuine caller is turned away than a burglar is let in.

Vouchers for schools

If you shop at Tesco and are offered Vouchers for Schools when you pay at the check-out, please accept them even if you have no connection with a school.

Holy Trinity has told *THE ARCHER* that they would be grateful for any addition to their collection, as would other local schools.



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Positive images of ageing

Age Concern Barnet has launched the Active Ageing photography competition and is calling on anyone over the age of 55 to get clicking. Prizes include a £100 gift card to spend on photographic equipment, and tickets to the Phoenix Cinema.

The competition aims to promote the value of older people by depicting them as fit, healthy and active members of society. Entrants may interpret this brief widely but all photographs must have been taken after 1 August 2008.

All entries must reach Age Concern Barnet by 31 July 2009. Winners' photos and runner up entries will feature in Age Concern Barnet's 2010 calendar, going on sale 1 November.

Age Concern Barnet works throughout the borough to

promote fitness, health and wellbeing for the whole of the over-55 age group. As well as two day centres providing respite for carers and a place for older people to socialise and access services, projects include fitness programmes, a befriending service and TransAge Action, which aims to bridge the generation gap by providing opportunities for older people to work with children in schools.

To enter the competition, contact Age Concern Barnet for an entry form and

a copy of competition rules, which are available on the Age Concern Barnet website - www.ageconcernbarnet.org/calendar/. They can also be requested by calling Age Concern Barnet on 020 8346 3511, by emailing lisa-finchley.acb@btconnect.com, or by post, at: Active Ageing photography competition, Age Concern Barnet, The Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, London, N2 8LT.

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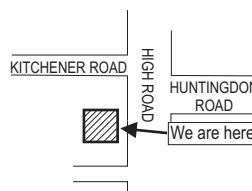
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Gold glory for Devini

By Helen Drake

Eleven-year-old Devini Bharat Patel is basking in the glory of having won the gold medal for the Kata competition (a sequence of attack and defence moves) at the Amateur Martial Arts (AMA) International Karate Tournament held in Sheffield.

Devini, who attends Martin Primary School, beat 23 other boys and girls from 22 different countries (including Russia, Denmark, Australia, Nepal, Ukraine, Sweden and Iran) in the ten to 15-year-old category, a huge achievement.

How did she feel before taking part in the contest? "I felt quite confident because of the amount of training I have done and because I always try very hard," said Devini.

Following in the footsteps of her older brother Navin, and sister Hunisha, Devini is an active member of the Ashin-Do-Kai karate club at the David Lloyd Club in Finchley, and has been having lessons since she was seven. She currently trains on Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings after school.



Devini with the winner's cup.
Photo taken by Jo Patel

Her mother, Jo, commented that the enjoyment Devini has gained from learning karate and self-defence has given her "great confidence". Devini herself, who will be transferring to The Compton School in September, is keen to learn new moves and techniques and is determined to do well in the future.

If you feel inspired to take up karate, go to www.ashin-dokai.com to find out more about Devini's club.

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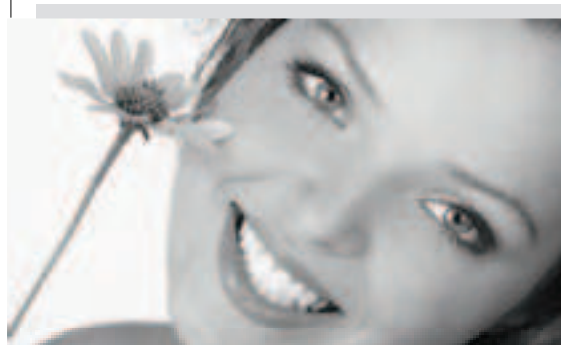
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Protect your identity

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

Two local residents have recently become victims of identity theft. One had nearly £5,000 taken from their bank account, even though the thief started with just a name, address and part of the account number. Criminals need only a few of your personal details in order to apply for accounts, credit cards or benefits in your name. Here are some tips to ensure your personal information stays personal.

Shred everything containing any personal details, including junk mail. The discarded documents, letters and receipts you've put in your rubbish are a rich source of information about you.

Be wary of anyone asking you for personal information either by email or phone. Delete any emails asking for information (banks never ask for personal details by email).

Never give out personal information over the phone unless you are absolutely sure the caller is legitimate. If you move, make sure you tell organisations such as your bank in advance and arrange for the Royal Mail to redirect your mail.

If your identity is stolen

If regular mail, such as bank statements, stops arriving, you may have become a victim of identity theft. Another sign is getting bills or letters about things you haven't bought or signed up for, or finding unusual payments or direct debits on your bank statements. Your rubbish bags may also look as though they've been tampered with. If you have any concerns, contact Barnet Police on 0300 123 1212.

You can also apply for a copy of your credit files, which list organisations that you've had financial dealings with. To do this, contact Callcredit at www.CallCreditCheck.com,



Equifax at www.equifax.co.uk and Experian at www.experian.co.uk and ask for a report from each. If you find anything you don't recognise, contact the organisation concerned immediately.

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 EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Pedestrian hit by car

By Janet Maitland

Police were called to a collision between a blue VW Polo car and a 70-year-old female pedestrian on the High Road just before 11.15am on Saturday 4 April.

The pedestrian suffered head injuries, which are not thought to be either life threatening or life changing, and was taken to the Whittington Hospital by ambulance. Local people rallied round and helped to divert the traffic until the police arrived. The road diversions stayed in place until 1pm.

How to give cold callers the cold shoulder

Why do they always call at the most inconvenient time? In fact, why do they call at all? Telephone sales people are only doing their job but sometimes we just want them to go away.

Paul Hammond, of the police's Barnet Boroughwatch, has some tips for dealing with unwanted marketers.

First, try saying 'Hold on, please', then putting the phone down and walking off. The more of their time you can consume, the less time they have to call others. After a while, they will end the call and you can replace the receiver.

Secondly, those annoying calls with no one on the other end are generated by machines and record the time of day when a person answers. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' salesperson to call back and find someone at home. What can you do? If you realise there's no-one on the end of the line, immediately start hitting the # button on the phone six or seven times as quickly

as possible. This confuses the machine that dialled the call and it kicks your number out of their system and eliminates future calls from that source.

Junk that junk

Finally, when you receive junk mail for everything from credit cards to second mortgages, don't throw away the return envelope. Why not dispose of other junk mail by putting it in these postage-prepaid return envelopes? If you received nothing else that day, just send back the blank application form. If you want to remain anonymous, make sure your name or a reference number isn't on anything you return. You can even send the envelope back empty if you just want to keep them guessing. It still costs them and, after all, it's their envelope that you're returning.



Stokes Court residents at their Easter Bonnet Parade. (Left) Bill Bojkovic improvises with a copy of THE ARCHER. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it

By Daphne Chamberlain

Residents of Stokes Court stayed at home on Good Friday afternoon, but they put on their Easter bonnets and had a bit of a song and dance. Entertainer Mike Marineli led the singing, but the beautiful hats were all their own work. It was

one of those days when I wished *THE ARCHER* could print in colour.

It was also a special day for their Chairwoman, Lilian Chavert, who was enjoying her birthday, while only a couple of weeks before Bill and Mary Bojkovic celebrated their

diamond wedding anniversary. The fun continued for Mary at the Easter Parade, when Mike Marineli decked her out as Carmen Miranda.

There is a lively Residents' Association at Stokes Court, where they told me: "There is always something going on."

Women in business

The Women In Business Network recently launched a new group in their successful business network organisation in Finchley. It is aimed at both women business owners, as well as women in employed positions looking to grow their client base through business networking. This group meets monthly from 12 pm at Finchley Golf Club, with the next meeting dates on Thursday 21 May and Thursday 25 June.

Launched four years ago, the Women In Business Network (WIBN) brings like-minded women together in a structured but informal environment to help each other generate business. Those who join are ambitious people with entrepreneurial spirits from a cross section of organisations, large or small, and include working mothers with successful businesses.

Being effective

They encourage each other in a shared aim of wanting to expand their businesses. Therefore the meetings have to be effective. Word of mouth is one of the most powerful and effective ways to gain more business and much of this can be achieved through business networking.

Each lunch group allows one person per profession, to minimise competitive conflict between members.

Meetings are structured with an agenda, giving each member an opportunity to present their business, but it is not a referral network.

The meeting fee for visitors is £22, which includes

refreshments and lunch. There is a membership fee to join. Call Clare Copping on 0845 867 6030 to book on the next Finchley meeting or for more details. Also visit www.wbn.co.uk.



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Silence is golden

Friday 20 March was a quiet day for Pooja Bhagat, extremely quiet, because she had decided to undertake a sponsored silence raising £100 for Comic Relief.

For a chatty, lively girl like Pooja, who does Bollywood dancing in her spare time, not speaking for an entire day was a tall order. Her mother, Anita, said: "Pooja is normally very talkative so it was a hard thing for her to do. But when she watched Comic Relief on television that night she felt very proud that she had raised the

money to buy mosquito nets."

Pooja was supported in her efforts by teachers and family who sponsored her, but it seems that not all her friends were as helpful. She said: "My friends were tempting me to speak, which was annoying but I managed to resist. I'm very proud of myself for doing it."

Top up your parking permit from home or work

Residents who live and park their vehicles within Controlled Parking Zones are now able to renew, amend and print parking permits themselves via a secure online facility.

The new system means that residents renewing permits will be required to submit evidence of residency and vehicle ownership to the council only once every five years.

Those without access to the internet will be able to purchase their permits using Barnet Council's new automated permits telephone line on 0845 301 0206. Residents are being warned that the new system means the two-week grace period following the expiry of a permit is to be withdrawn and vehicles without a valid parking permit will receive a penalty charge notice. The new online facility is

at the following address:
www.barnet.gov.uk/index/transport-streets/parking.htm

French market returns

French traders lined the western side of the High Road over a largely sunny weekend when the French market returned in March.

This is becoming a popular and increasingly frequent event although it is not always publicised in advance. Expect the market to return later in the year and we'll give you dates as soon as we can.

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J Maitland's garden on display as part of National Gardens Scheme.

Peek behind the garden gate

By Susan Bennett

Gardens are great teachers. Whatever our talents, they bring out our creativity and inspire us to overcome difficulties and disappointments.

After a bleak winter, it was a treat to visit the family of East Finchley gardens that will be opening for the National Gardens Scheme this year.

The garden route

Janet Maitland's sophisticated landscaping and refreshing planting in her cottage garden in Trinity Road is paired with her neighbour Jane Meir's, who is the winner of an RHS Silver Gilt Medal. The third in this cottage group is John Maitland's quirky creation in Long Lane.

In Abbots Gardens, Stephen Kersley's acumen for design and eye for planting are obvious. Ruth Kersley, a distinguished glass artist, has created a mosaic for their water feature and jewel-like glass elements that sit well among the flowers.

In Stanley Road, a garden designed to be 100% wheelchair friendly includes a camomile lawn, fishpond and masses of climbers, as well as delicious teas from Tudor and Hilary.

Patsy and Paul's bungalow garden in Elm Gardens had a disastrous winter that destroyed many of their hitherto 'hardy' tender species but the terrapins in their pond survived and they are already on the lookout for unusual plants to restore their

award-winning garden to its former glory.

Finally, David Dorton in New Oak Road is opening his garden for the first time this summer. He uses mirror images in his planting and layout to maximise interest in a small space, and the effect is immaculate.

For less than the price of a pint, you can enjoy these gardens. Money raised goes towards charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care and hospices.

Garden opening dates:

- Susan Bennett's own garden, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10: Sunday 3 May (2-7pm), Sunday 10 May (2-6pm), Sunday 28 June (2-7pm), Sunday 26 July (2-7pm).
- 66 Abbots Gardens, N2: Sunday 17 May (2-5.30pm).
- 7A New Oak Road, N2: Sunday 17 May (2-5.30pm), Sunday 23 August (2-5.30pm).
- 20 Trinity Road, 22 Trinity Road, 399 Long Lane, N2: Sunday 7 June, (2-5pm).
- 2 Stanley Road, N2: Sunday 7 June (2-6pm).
- The Bungalow, 15 Elm Gardens, N2: Sunday 5 July (2-6pm).

New disability sports initiative

A coaching initiative aimed at providing people with learning disabilities with the opportunity to take part in a range of sporting activities has been launched.

The Wingate and Finchley disability initiative, a joint programme between Wingate and Finchley Football Club and Barnet Mencap, provides multi-sport coaching for those aged 16 and over with moderate to severe learning disabilities.

More than 20 participants attended the first session held at the Football Club, off Summers Lane, on Saturday 7 March, when professional coaches from the football club passed on a range of skills and tips.

The initiative provides a

safe, fun and structured programme allowing those with varying degrees of disabilities to enrich their health, social and life skills.

Ricky Deller, Assistant Club Secretary of Wingate and Finchley Football Club, said: "The club is committed to the development not only of the game but of each individual who takes part. We are very proud of the partnership we have formed with Barnet Mencap and look forward to a long and prosperous friendship."

Not in my back garden

By Janet Maitland

Most people underestimate the value of their garden plants and the items they keep in their sheds. Thieves, however, are fully aware of their worth. Here are some tips to increase your security, provided by Neighbourhood Watch.

To protect your garden, install strong lockable gates at the entrance to side passages. Consider putting gravel down on paths as the noise it makes when walked on will deter intruders. Fix trellis to the top of fences. It will break when someone tries to climb over it, but the noise will alert you or a neighbour.

Plant prickly plants such as Berberis, Mahonia, Pyracantha, and Ilex around boundaries. Criminals don't like climbing through these as they know ripped clothing or blood can help police identify them. If you're using containers for plants, make them as heavy as possible, especially if they are in the front garden.

Shed security

Sheds are attractive targets for thieves. The most effective way to secure them is to fit a strong hasp and staple, using

coach bolts, locking the hasp over the staple with a closed shackled padlock. You can also attach shed shackles, for safely anchoring bicycles. Products of this kind can be found at www.soldsecure.com or www.securedbydesign.com.

Always lock away your tools when they're not in use, not only to stop anyone from stealing them, but also to prevent them being used by an intruder to break into your house. If you don't intend to open the shed windows, screw them shut or fit window locks. Hanging an old curtain up against a window will prevent anyone from seeing what is stored in your shed.

Finally, don't leave spare keys in your garden, garage or shed. If hidden keys are found by an intruder and used to get into your house, you may find your insurance is invalid.

Faith, hope and charity

Local people saw a busy week of community activities, from school projects to jazz, surveys and fun days as part of East Finchley Baptist Church's Hope Week.

Church Minister Simon Dyke said: "It was a very busy but rewarding time. We have enjoyed contributing to the activities of local schools, and it has been great to meet and talk with residents of N2 on the streets and in the estates. We'd like to say thank you to everyone who took part in Hope Week."

The church was involved with two local primary schools, Holy Trinity and Martin, taking assemblies, RE lessons and lunch clubs during the week, and participated in events with the Christian Union and the debating society at Fortismere School.

Commuters and shoppers were asked to take part in a Community Survey by answering questions on priorities, values, and attitudes to the spiritual side of life, and the Bible. Responses given will help to inform the church's work in the local community.

The community week culminated in a jazz concert from The Still Time Band, and a family fun afternoon. The church saw grandparents, parents and children alike enjoying games, face-painting, a treasure hunt and bouncy castle. Refreshments raised £20 for the North London Hospice through donations.

Hair-ing to the finish line

By Diana Cormack

Two local hairdressers are taking part in a charity event organised by Cancer Research UK. Kelly Leach and Shareefa Jennings will be running in the 5K Race for Life at Trent Park on Sunday 21 June. They are trying to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. If you would like to sponsor them or give a donation, please call in to the salon at 202, High Road.

At the same time you might hear some good news about Shareefa and her colleague Stacey Omakalwala. Both have been entered for Wella's Trend Vision Award 09, one of the most prestigious international hairdressing competitions. It aims to promote new talent and discover the next big thing in hairdressing. Shareefa reached the finals in 2006, following the same successful path as Kelly in 2005. This year's two young stylists are hoping to come out ahead.

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Garden museum is glorious

By Vikki Chalmers

The Museum of Garden History remained a mystery even to the keenest of gardeners. However, there is a new kid on the block, the Garden Museum: the same museum refurbished and with a new name.

The first gallery in Britain dedicated to gardens and gardening, the Garden Museum offers a range of activities for keen gardeners of all ages. Light and airy, this ultra-modern museum cradled in a beautiful old church next to Lambeth Palace on the south side of the Thames provides ample opportunity to appreciate the original and beautiful stained glass windows. Room has been created for specific exhibitions; the first is a retrospective dedicated to acclaimed plantswoman Beth Chatto. There is a café serving excellent food and a small but well-stocked museum shop.

Outside, the knot garden and the wild garden manage to make one forget for a merciful moment the swirls of heavy traffic thundering past in every direction.

The museum and its gardens are worth a visit, especially for groups taking advantage of the special rates. It is also possible to arrange for a talk tailored to the requirements of your own particular group or club.

If you are arranging a family outing, plan to eat there: the food really is that good. Don't bother with a car. The museum is a pleasant 12 - 15 minute stroll beside the Thames from Waterloo.

The Garden Museum is open daily from 10.30am to 5pm and closed on the first Monday of each month. For more information, telephone 020 7401 8865 or visit www.gardenmuseum.org.uk.

Soul Therapy correction

The contact email address for the Soul Therapy Centre workshops given in our April issue should have been cibachmann@gmail.com. The April issue omitted the letter "i". We apologise for this mistake.

For further information about forthcoming workshops, which include working with crystals, auras and pendulums, Feng Shui, GPs and Healing, Herbs and Healing, and Communicating with Animals, please contact Christine Bachmann at the above email address. For general information about the Soul Therapy Centre, visit www.soul-therapy.co.uk.



The chapel porch in 2003. Photo by Ann Bronkhorst

Chapel demolished

By Ann Bronkhorst

A small, derelict chapel in Islington Cemetery has been demolished and with it a little bit of local history has gone too.

The huge cemetery on the High Road, originally called St Pancras Cemetery, was opened in 1854. It greatly influenced the development of East Finchley, not least through the thriving businesses of stonemasons, funeral directors and flower sellers in the 19th century.

In 1896 a Roman Catholic section was opened, with a small chapel on Roman Road (previously Collins Road) for Roman Catholic funerals.

In recent years the building became a target for pigeons, vandals and arsonists. It was boarded up, so mourners took to leaving flowers, icons and religious pictures in the porch; finally that, too, became unsafe. Last month the disused chapel was demolished.

Not special enough

Just before demolition began, a workman stated that English Heritage was involved; this was incorrect. According to a cemetery employee, English Heritage did not consider the chapel's bricks and stonework or the stained glass window in its east wall to be worth saving. The window was offered to several other organisations, apparently, but was not special enough to interest them.

On 1 April I went to photograph the window, so there would be a record of it. It had been intact the day before but now nothing remained except shards of glass and twisted lead.

Dangerous buildings must be made safe or demolished, of course, and cemeteries need more burial space. To remove, intact, a large stained glass window would have been slow and costly. But it is sad that soon there will be no trace left of that little chapel and its window, where the bereaved sought comfort for over a century.

Local hero returns with hit film

By James Luxford

One of the most acclaimed British films of 2009 had an early showing at the Phoenix Cinema. Tom Hooper brought his new movie *The Damned United*, to the Phoenix, taking part in an exclusive Q&A after the screening.

Hooper was brought up in Finchley, and directed many of the UK's most memorable TV series, including *Cold Feet*, *Prime Suspect* and episodes of *EastEnders*, before going to Hollywood and winning award after award for his work on the Tom Hanks-produced US mini-series *John Adams*. He has also worked with Helen Mirren on *Elizabeth I*, and the Golden Globe-winning *Longford*.

Sheen plays Clough

He came back to his native turf with his new piece, the film version of the controversial book *The Damned United*, a fictional account of Brian Clough's doomed 44-day reign as manager of Leeds United.

Starring Michael Sheen (from *Frost/Nixon*) as 'old big 'ead' himself as well as *Longford* star Jim Broadbent, it's the first British film ever to be directly financed by Hollywood studio Sony Pictures International, and has already won rave reviews both for Sheen's performance and for

Hooper's skilful direction.

All profits from the event went to the Phoenix's centenary restoration project, designed to expand the potential of the cinema and take advantage of its enormous popularity with Londoners.

The plans to create a new

café and education space, whilst still maintaining the classic look of the cinema, have attracted donations from all over the industry as well as the venue's adoring public. This latest in a long line of special events looks likely to bring that dream even closer to reality.



Director Tom Hooper. Photo by Kristin Myers

Become an expert patient

By Janet Maitland

Have you got a long-term health problem such as back pain, heart disease, diabetes or asthma? If so, you might be interested in the Expert Patient Programme, run by Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT). The aim of the course is to give people living with such conditions the chance to get greater control of their health.

The course is free, and led by people with experience of long-term health conditions. "I was so impressed by the course that it boosted my confidence," said Beverley Bond, a former participant. "I made many friends and subsequently trained to be an accredited volunteer tutor."

The course runs for two and a half hours a week for six weeks. Participants learn to manage their symptoms and to take decisions about treatment. The PCT reports that participants frequently say their symptoms are less severe by the end of the

course and that they feel more in control. This in turn gives them greater self-confidence.

Five stars

"Every time I tutor a group I'm delighted to watch the participants take control of their lives and begin to smile again. In my opinion the course is a five star experience," added Ms Bond.

Places are available on the following courses:

- Mill Hill: 7 May to 11 June, 10.30am - 1pm every Thursday
- East Barnet: 1 June to 6 July, 10.30am - 1pm every Monday
- High Barnet: 23 September to 28 October, 10.30am - 1pm every Wednesday

To find out more or to register on a course, call 020 8937 7641 or email expert.patients@barnet-pct.nhs.uk.

Former

Mayor dies

Former Mayor of Barnet John Tiplady OBE, who served in the role from 1983-1984, has died.

Mr Tiplady was first elected in a by-election in 1970 and served continuously as a Conservative councillor for the former Friern Barnet Ward until he retired in 2002. He represented Barnet on the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority from 1986 to 1994 and also served as chairman of governors at Christ's College, Finchley and Oakleigh School, Whetstone.

Mr Tiplady was awarded an OBE in 1984 for his political and public service. He is survived by his daughter Marion and grandchildren.

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YOUNG ARCHER

Robin Hood, watch out

Archery is not as easy as it looks but it can be great fun. Matthew Holden, Daniel Weir and Sam Mugridge from Year 6 in Holy Trinity Primary School recently took up the sport. Matthew explains how they got to grips with their bows and arrows.

Yes, we had always fancied ourselves as modern day Robin Hoods and so when we got the chance we joined a local archery club. We only started at the end of January and are getting used to the equipment.

We were excited when we first got our hands on the bows. Initially, they don't seem to feel heavy but after a while you can feel a bit of strain in the forearm and shoulder, especially as it's important to hold the bow steady. That is why it is important to warm up.

If it's a good shot, you can see the arrow slice through the air and hear a faint thud at the far end when it hits the target. The feeling is awesome. Visions

of Robin Hood shooting at his enemies came to mind.

Our instructor suggested that we should attend a competition to get some experience and see how good some of the other kids in Barnet are. We went to a competition at QE Girls' School in Barnet and represented Holy Trinity.

We practised shooting at the target and attempting to pop red balloons. The targets were at three different distances (10, 15 and 20 yards).

I won a bronze medal in the Boys' 15-yard short course, using a recurved bow. Next time we do it we all want to improve on our scores and, who knows, watch out London 2012.



Rugby boys: from left to right Mo Galvin, Emmett Galvin, Stephen McCarthy.. Photo by Lisa Omar

More silverware for St Theresa boys

By Lisa Omar

Following their success last October at the Grasshoppers Festival, Mo Galvin (under 8s), Stephen McCarthy and Emmett Galvin (under 9s), all from St Theresa's Primary School, represented Finchley Rugby Club at the Annual Middlesex County Tournament. This is by far the biggest tournament of the season with 24 different clubs being represented.

The Under 8s were runners up to Rosslyn Park in the Shield County Final. The Under 9s were runners up to Teddington in the Bowl County Final. These were fantastic achievements and show that mini rugby in Finchley is thriving.

Interrogation packs a Paxman punch

By Helen Birtwistle

Students from Woodhouse College in Finchley argued their way through to the final debate of Institute of Ideas and Pfizer Debating Matters Competition, held at the National Theatre on 16 March.

Facing five other talented teams from schools across the region, and a number of high profile judges who challenged and interrogated them, Woodhouse were the runners up of the day, winning £500 worth of resources from Hodder Education for their school library.

The Woodhouse team debated subjects as diverse as air travel and the expansion of the third runway, the arts and copyright, presumed consent in organ donation and NICE and access to drugs. Students are pitted against not only one another, but also some of the best minds in the country. Ben Dixon from Woodhouse described the Debating Matters experience as "like being questioned by Jeremy Paxman".

Impressive

But Woodhouse ably rose to the challenge. The team of Brook Hewett, Will Brennan, Elliot Burke-Perrin, Ben Dixon and Alice Esuola not only won the runners up prize, but also picked up honours in the individual competition. Joe Edwards was given an honourable mention, as was his teammate Alice Esuola, who was told by judges that she was "incredibly cogent" and "did a brilliant job of attacking the other team".

Brook Hewett so impressed the judges that he was awarded the prize for the Best Individual of the Day. Judges said that Brook had tonnes of research and statistics at his disposal and seemed to know his arguments inside out.

Going, going, gone

A week of table-top auctions culminating in a grand auction night raised thousands of pounds for Holy Trinity Primary School.

Dozens of local businesses generously donated prizes to be auctioned off to the highest bidder and parents entered into the spirit of the week with some enthusiastic attempts to out-bid each other.

Different lots were offered each morning and afternoon at drop off and collection time and then there was an auction night with plenty of money-can't-buy opportunities on offer.

More than £4,000 was raised from the event, which will be used to subsidise Holy Trinity's school trips in the summer term, and to buy new playground equipment.

Database unlocks ancestral past

Barnet residents keen to unlock their family history can now delve into their past at Golders Green library. Following a refurbishment as part of Barnet Council's £1 million Investment in Libraries programme, the council has subscribed to Ancestrylibrary.proquest.com, an online database designed to help people investigate their forebears from centuries past.

Available to Barnet library cardholders in all of the borough's libraries, the site contains millions of records including the 1841 to 1901 British census, telephone directories from the 1880s and the national index of Births,

Marriages and Deaths, enabling residents to become family tree detectives free of charge.

Residents with their own laptops can log on to the internet from anywhere within the library building.

Review: The House of Bernada Alba

By Lucy Chamberlin

One of Incognito's darker productions to date, Federico Garcia Lorca's play captures the heat and claustrophobia of a Spanish household in the 1930s, in which despite appearances, all is far from well. Its occupants are at odds with each other; each seems bent on the destruction of a sister, mother or daughter, pushing at the rigid boundaries until the household implodes.

Because of its usual association with warmth and relaxation, the Mediterranean setting somehow adds to the sinister ambience. Here, the heat is stifling, and the girls sit around endlessly waiting, withering away as they dream of Pepe 'el Romano', the village man, and of escape.

As the watching and gossiping continues, the truth gradually comes out. A war of teeth and nails, bitter words and spite ensues, but even when the inevitably violent death comes, Bernada's only concern is that people should know her daughter 'died a virgin'.

Strong performances

Desiree Silverstone was outstanding as the proud, cruel-faced Bernada, tackling the part with the same chilling ardour with which she spied

on and punished her daughters. Her convincing portrayal made a hollow mockery of the word 'mother', negating all it stands for. Willy La Poncia (the housekeeper) was brilliantly played by Georgie Russell, whose authoritative yet obedient tones offset those of her mistress and created the only medium between her and her daughters. Adriana Maestranzi and Julianne Mullen gave spirited performances as sisters Adela and Martirio, fighting

over their elder sister's fiancée with venomous ferocity.

Brian Davies' direction brought out this dark play's ominous tone. Shortly after writing it in 1936 the playwright, Lorca, was executed without trial by Franco's nationalists, and although its message is not really political, it certainly has the power to polarise opinion.

Incognito, based in Friern Barnet, will present *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo from 10 - 16 May.

Games for future champions

Schoolchildren in Years 12 and below are being invited to represent Barnet, competing against London's 32 other boroughs, at this year's prestigious London Youth Games. Children can take part in 28 different sports from archery to volleyball, angling to weightlifting. Trials for most of the categories began at the end of March

Those young athletes selected will compete against more than 20,000 other children in the London Youth Games throughout June, with the finals being held on 4-5 July at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Last year Barnet won four first places in the games, all in disability athletics.

Mini Games

Children in Year 6 and below are also being invited to take part in the Mini-Youth Games

running alongside the London Youth Games, in nine different sports: basketball, football, hockey, tag rugby, bocchia, netball, athletics, swimming and gymnastics. The finals will take place at Crystal Palace on 2 July.

To find out more about the trials visit www.barnet.gov.uk and for more information on all sports included in the London Youth Games, visit www.londonyouthgames.org.



Sippy Azizollah collecting for Noah's Ark at Budgens.
Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Small change adds up for children's hospice

By Daphne Chamberlain

Hot cross buns and chocolate eggs mean Easter: they're part of the Easter tradition. Here in East Finchley we are creating another tradition. On holiday and festival weekends, Budgens sets out a table laden with goodies, where Sippy Azizollah collects for charity.

This Easter, the charity was Noah's Ark, the children's hospice, for which Sippy was swelling funds by selling cards she had designed and made herself.

Sippy has raised impressive amounts of money for Lupus UK, but she told *THE ARCHER*: "I thought it was time to branch out a bit. I love children, and want to help give them quality time. This collection is going very well. I like

being in Budgens. Everyone is so generous, and the people round here are so willing to give."

Tannaz, who arranges the Budgens side of the operation, also appreciates local people's reaction. She told *THE ARCHER*: "It's good to be involved in the community."

The collection, taken over a few hours in the middle of Good Friday, raised £140.

Sing and slim for thinner choir

By Marian Bunzl

Members of the North London Chorus have found an innovative method of simultaneously losing weight, raising money and relieving the burden on the NHS. One of our tenors, a diabetic specialist by day and all too aware that an expanding waistline creates an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, came up with the idea for a choral sponsored group slim.

The combined weight of the participants was recorded, an estimate of potential loss was calculated, and sponsorship was sought from fellow singers, family, friends and colleagues. At the end of 10 weeks, the sum per kilos lost collectively was collected.

Dietary advice was on offer if required, but most importantly, so that no one should feel pressured or embarrassed, a strict rule of no names no pack drill was observed throughout. The names of participants were not listed, the weekly weigh-in took place behind a discreet curtain during the general melee of the rehearsal tea break, and individuals' results were recorded anonymously.

This gentler, non-confrontational approach encouraged slimmers and sponsors alike,

and in the end, a goodly sum was raised, half for the choir funds, and half for Diabetes UK. Several participants have visibly dropped a dress/shirt size, and the choir has lost the equivalent of a medium sized bass.

The new, slimline North London Chorus can be heard at its Haydn/Handel concert on 28 June at St James Church, Muswell Hill.

Toys: try before you buy

By Sheila Armstrong

Toy libraries give their members the opportunity to try out toys at home with their children before buying. So many things look good in the shop but how many fail to live up to the promise on the packet? This is a chance to take them home and try them with your children before what can be an expensive purchase.

Our nearest toy library is on the first floor of Muswell Hill Library in Queens Avenue. Liz Luxmore, who runs it, told *THE ARCHER* they have toys for

children from birth, including rattles, cassettes, CDs, sleep music and bath toys. There is also a wide variety of toys for older children up to seven, 830

toys in all available for members to borrow.

Although the toy library is in the Muswell Hill Library it is independent of it and was set up as a charity more than 20 years ago by Ms Luxmore. It costs £12 a year to be a member, or £6 for six months.

Toys were us

By Diana Cormack

Do you remember when East Finchley had its own toy library?

Run by local mothers, it was set up by Claire Fitzpatrick, who lived in Durham Road, about 25 years ago. Not long after that I joined their regular committee meetings where decisions were made about buying new toys, rejecting old ones, investigating fundraising methods and scrutinising our finances. A burning issue at the time was why the toy library's account was with Barclays Bank, which was not acceptable politically to some. The reason was because it was the only bank on the High Road with access for a double pushchair.

We spent time making drawing bags to keep smaller toys in, plus marking playthings with identifying numbers to keep track of them on our carded lending system. These cards listed contact details and family names, along with the date of birth of each child. The subscription was £2 a year.

Child's play at the Wilmot

Weekly afternoon meetings took place in the large hall of the now-demolished Herbert Wilmot Centre, where youngsters could happily play with the toys that took their fancy. Refreshments were served from the small kitchen in the cafeteria area. There was a rota of volunteers for such tasks and for the actual running of the library.

Sometimes borrowed toys were not returned. If they did not appear after phone calls or reminder notes, a couple of committee members would go round and ask for them back.

We were part of the East Finchley Community Festival and had a wonderful home sewn banner, which seems to have disappeared. Sadly, so has the toy library. Does anyone know when that happened or where the banner is?

Please share your memories of the toy library with *THE ARCHER*. Our contact details are on page 2.

Get fitter

The Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane runs a number of friendly classes each week for people with limited movement who would like to get a bit more fit.

On Mondays, there is seated exercise to music from 1.45pm - 2.45pm. On Tuesdays, there is movement to music from 11am - 12pm. On Wednesdays, there is Tai Chi for people recovering from falls (referrals only) and low impact exercise for the more active from 2pm - 3pm. Finally, on Thursdays, there is exercise to music from 1.30pm - 2.30pm.

Classes at the Ann Owens Centre are open to all unless stated otherwise and there is a charge of £2 for non-members. For details, phone the centre on 020 8346 3511.

Girls on film

By Sheila Armstrong

The Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green held another successful film evening on 12 March. Included was a prizewinning short animation by two Royal College of Art students, Meghana Bishineer and Jane Cheadle.

The main film was an early Merchant Ivory production *The Autobiography of a Princess* starring Madhur Jaffrey and James Mason. Contact Jana@thenoblesage.com to get on their mailing list for film evenings.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

A nice tune

They say that in times of stress and trouble there are few things as soothing as a good tune, preferably accompanied by a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake. Well, maybe not. I reckon you can't beat a lurch into the weird world of recreational drugs, serious drinking and neighbourhood disturbing rock'n'roll to obliterate the unpleasant bits of modern living. But for the rest of the world there is always the good tune. And that means Classic FM.

Every year Classic FM celebrates Easter by running through their favourite 300 tunes 'as voted for by you'. Not as voted for by me. So that means the bleeding chunks of the easy listening bits of symphonies, operas and concertos with added Pavarotti and Katherine Jenkins.

You know that somewhere in there will be the music from the Hovis advert, something they used to sell cat food to and the theme from Star Wars. It's the same every year, which makes it as soothing as Horlicks before bedtime. And about as inspiring as a dead camel.

In the cosy world of Classic FM you just know that if you emerge from a life and death struggle with the bank manager, you can switch on in time to hear their top ten favourites and it will be the same as last year.

Cosy isn't the problem. People who like Classic FM like cosy, just as they like nice tunes, nice wine, nice food and their 'nice well behaved' children. They don't buy a copy of Elgar's Cello Concerto for the music but because they've heard the soloist on the radio and think the picture on the cover is nice. They love the M&S eat in for a tenner special offer and buy CDs with titles like *Music for Dining*, *Music for Children* and *Music for Surviving Traffic Jams on the M25*. In other words they are nice people and would cheerfully disembowel me for daring to suggest that they might listen to classical music but don't understand it.

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- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **WoodWalk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

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- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and Improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-18 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 11 & 25 May** at 8.15pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **Salsa lessons** Mondays, EF Methodist Church. Call Ronnie Raul 07958 605 773 [e:ronnieraul@rocketmail.com](mailto:ronnieraul@rocketmail.com)
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact Carole 8810 7454 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Monday each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Joanna 8883 0941 or joanna-brunt@cybergal.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 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.



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A man discovers a space. Not just an ordinary space, for in every corner music unexpectedly pops up. There are trumpeting bicycles and musical sandpits and many other surprises.

This is the weird and wonderful world of Muziektheater Transparant, a Belgian theatre company coming to artsdepot in North Finchley this half term that promises to give children and their families a chance to let their imaginations run wild.

The Feedback show invites its audience to take part and explore with the performers. Sometimes music comes from the stage, sometimes from elec-

tronic installations controlled by the audience. One discovery comes after another and soon the air is filled with an interactive, visual concert.

Feedback is suitable for all ages over six. You can catch it at artsdepot on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May at 12pm and 3pm. Tickets are £12 with £10 concessions, or £40 for a family of four. To book, contact the box office on 020 8369 5454 or www.artsdepot.co.uk

Review: Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra

By Ken Carter

On a cold Saturday in March, a concert at St Michael's Church in Highgate brought warmth to all those privileged to attend. The Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra (CGCO) comprises trained musicians, full of life, yet not full-time professionals. They put on three concerts a year, with rewarding enthusiasm.

Beethoven's 8th Symphony catches him in unbuttoned mood but tearing with energy, nevertheless. There are four fast, active movements and each one is riotous. The CGCO, duly vigorous, didn't quite catch on until the last movement, where they hit the right tempo for Beethoven's exuberant joke-making.

Then, together with Nicola Eimer, a local musician deservedly gaining high repute, we switched to the hectic atmosphere and high jinks of Shostakovich's 2nd Piano Concerto, a party piece

for pianist and friends, very urban, sophisticated and a bit mad. Its fiendish writing requires and received razor-sharp precision to make its point. The slow movement's fleeting sadness recalled Ravel, exquisitely.

In Ibert's Divertissement, crowds throng the theatre for a farce, and burst out onto the streets and squares in delightful music that is very public and outrageously difficult. All credit to Robert Max, a regular conductor for the CGCO, in arousing such splendid, hair-raising exhilaration.

May at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer

It's another packed month at the Phoenix with special events, great Sunday shows and the best in contemporary world cinema on your doorstep.

The month opens with *Cheri*, the new film from Stephen Frears. Re-uniting Christopher Hampton and Michelle Pfeiffer for the first time since *Dangerous Liaisons*, the film is a semi-sequel.

We have the final Met Opera on Saturday 9 May. Our first full season of live opera by satellite from New York has proved fantastically popular and we're sure that *La Cenerentola* will delight audiences as well. We also hope to announce details of the 2009/10 season on the night.

However, the Phoenix is not all about glitz and glamour. On Sunday 10 May we're delighted to have a double bill of films which celebrate the Fair Trade movement and examine the impact of globalisation on third world countries. *Bamako* takes the position of putting the World Bank and IMF on trial in Mali, an issue that is very topical. *Life and Debt* examines Jamai-

ca's economy since it opened itself to free trade. It will be a fascinating afternoon.

On Sunday 17 May we are playing one of the best films of 2008, *Hunger*. Making it more than just a screening, a guest at the event is Brendan 'Bik' McFarlane, a Sinn Féin worker who was imprisoned in H-Block of Long Kesh prison during the hunger strikes. You'll be able to hear a first hand account of his experience during this time.

We also have our regular Silent Film event on 31 May with Fritz Lang's classic *Metropolis*. With live piano by Stephen Horne, this is a wonderful afternoon of cinema.

There's so much going on I don't have space to tell you about *Synecdoche New York*, *In Search of Beethoven* or *Sleep Furiously*, but I assure you they are all great films worth catching. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

What's On...

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

Sunday 3 May
• **Guided walk from High Barnet to Cockfosters**. This one will keep you fit. Meet at High Barnet tube at 2pm. For details, phone Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Sunday 10 May
• **Free live music concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, N2, at 7.30pm. Jill Anderson (clarinet) and Anna Lightbown (piano) play Aaron Copland, Weber and Victor Babin. Free admission with collection in aid of North London Hospice. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Monday 18 May
• **Can we talk about Israel?** Join the Jewish Community Centre and eminent people to explore what attitude diaspora Jews should take toward Israel. Can we speak about it freely? 8pm, Hampstead Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill. Price £10 in advance, £12 on the door. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866.

Thursday 21 May
• **Awakening Through Oneness Blessing**, an opportunity to deepen awareness of the higher mind; 7-9pm at the Soul Therapy Centre, 28 Fortismere Avenue, N10. For further information, contact Christine at cibachmann@gmail.com.

Tuesday 26 May
• A unique opportunity to hear **Rutu Modan**, winner of the Eisner award for Best Graphic novel for *Exit Wounds*, in conversation with Ariel Kahn. Upstairs at The Magdala, 2a South Hill Park, London NW3 2SB, 8pm. Price £6. Tickets and

information: 020 7431 9866.

Thursday 28 May
• The Finchley Society hosts **Not Just a Pretty Place**, a talk by Mike Watts on the National Trust and how it works; 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 (020 8346 7812). Non-members very welcome, with admission charge of £2.
Saturday 30 May
• **Barnet Ghosts**: a ghoulish guided walk through High Barnet and Monken Hadley. Meet at High Barnet tube 7.30pm. For more details, phone Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.
• **Coldfall Wood**: help the Friends clean it up. Litter picking tools provided but gloves and wellies advised. Meet 11.0 am where wood adjoins field.

What's on at artsdepot:
Kolsimcha, Thursday 7 May, 8pm.
Craft Council: Collecting a Kaleidoscope, Friday 8 May to Sunday 21 June.
The Mozart Question, Saturday 9 May, 3pm and 7.30pm.
Kidz Take Control, Saturday 9 May, 7.45pm.
Sculpture by Painters, Wednesday 13 May, 7pm.
Jan Ravens, Thursday 14 May, 8pm.
The Songs and Life of Nick Drake, Thursday 14 May, 8pm.
City of London Sinfonia, Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm.
I Was Spiderman's Editor, Saturday 23 May, 8pm.
Sunday Buzz, Zig Duo, Sunday 24 May, 1pm.
Flok in the Foyer, Friday 29 May, 8.30pm.
Half Term Show, Feedback, Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May, 12pm and 3pm.
Sunday Buzz, My Dad is DJ, Sunday 31 May, 1pm.
The Crafts Council Collection Uncorked, Thursday 4 June, 7pm.

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The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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



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.

Pigeons: where's the evidence?

Dear Editor,

Could Mr Malcolm Griffiths (Letters, THE ARCHER, April 2009) cite any definite cases of deaths or illness caused by pigeons in East Finchley?

The cooing sounds of the wood pigeons who are nesting in a laurel tree behind the house where I live are the only peaceful sounds in our environment which is daily becoming aurally and visually more unpleasant, due to the increased use of motorbikes, as well as increasing numbers of noisy lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and chain saws, added to the sound of workers drilling roads, and builders adding extensions.

Are there any recorded deaths or injuries that can be verified as being caused by pigeons in N2? Mr Griffiths, please remember that the bio-diversity of life is essential for the survival of all life, and it is their planet too.

Yours faithfully,
Meg Mattinson,
Fortis Green, N2.

Pigeon pie

Dear Editor,

Another letter of support for Chris Paul and his opposition to the pavement pigeon feeders. I am originally from a farming background and I know that for every fluffy, cooing pigeon you see pecking away at the plentiful food supplies so generously dumped all over our pavements there will be at least one rat lurking nearby to gobble up the residue.

Pigeon droppings, rat droppings, pavements, children, food retailers are a most unsavoury combination, perpetrated by one or two misguided individuals.

Chris also poses the wider question of what to do with those same wide, under-used spaces in the centre of East Finchley, so here's my suggestion. Although I enjoy seeing and using the French Market that occasionally visits us on the High Road, I was disappointed that the more practical Farmers' Market never took off.

The reason, I think, was that it was not well publicised and just too far away up at the Martin School playground. If such a Farmers' Market were to be held on a regular basis right in the centre, on the very pavements currently under scrutiny, it would be much more attractive, accessible and popular.

At the same time it would make good use of these under utilised spaces and help displace the avian menace. If we can do it for the French Market then why not for a Farmers' Market? Then we might be able to say: goodbye pigeons, hello pigeon pie. I know which I would prefer.

Yours faithfully,
David Holt
Leslie Road, N2.

Letters to the editor

Stop this idiotic behaviour

Dear Editor,

Following my initial complaint a few months ago (Soapbox, THE ARCHER, February 2009), I am heartened to see many like-minded people prepared to write in and voice their concerns, too. I am also somewhat bemused at those who maintain that feeding pigeons is quite acceptable and that they pose no risk to our health. Let's be clear about this: pigeon mess is harmful. It contains germs that can lead to serious illnesses. In fact, there are over 40 diseases that can be passed from the feral pigeon to humans. Feral pigeons don't need to be fed; they are perfectly capable of finding food in the wild. If people feel so strongly that they want to feed birds, they should do so within the confines of their own property. The dumping of food in any public space is an offence. It's also worth noting that since my initial article, a man was apprehended and warned by Barnet's street enforcement officer for depositing large amounts of bread for the pigeons and told he will be fined if he re-offends. Sadly, there are still other offenders, but with continued vigilance and the support of the council and community police, we can put a stop to this idiotic behaviour.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Paul,
Address supplied

We're no fools

Dear Editor,

Knowing The Archer's penchant for classy April Fool spoofs, I was on the watch for one when reading the April issue. I thought I had found it when I saw the headline "New Mayor supports better bus service".

Yours faithfully,
Noel Lynch
Green Party,
Elmhurst Crescent, N2.

Ghostly tunnel

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your recent correspondence about 'ghost trains' (THE ARCHER, January 2009). Until recently, I lived within the Parkland Walk at the Highgate end and can certainly certify that, in the wee small hours of the morning, trains can be heard running along it.

In reality, it's probably the tube lines starting up but it sounds for all the world like a train running along the old tracks.

Local anecdote has it that on the inaugural run of the line a man was killed in one of the tunnels at Highgate. I walked through one tunnel once - once only! I wouldn't do it again. There was an extremely eerie atmosphere and a distinct feeling of being watched.

It was so strange, so weird, that rather than go back through I climbed over the fence at Highgate underground station to get out.

Yours faithfully,
J Burnett,
23 Keynes Close, N2.

Eyes to the skies

Dear Editor,

East Finchley is under a main flight path from Heathrow and experiences heavy air traffic. I was especially worried, therefore, to hear of a proposal that would have re-routed many flight paths over the borough of Barnet (THE ARCHER, April 2009).

Also considered was 'runway sharing', planes landing and taking off from the same runways, that many consider unsafe. Combine this with the increased noise and air pollution, and storm clouds of suburban mismanagement would have been left in the wake of this flying bombshell.

Boris Johnson has proposed a new airport in the Thames estuary, a fragile environmental area, difficult to build transport links to and from London, and with a high risk of 'birdstrike' as there are many wild birds there.

But what can we do about it? Perhaps a local 'Skywatch' group could be started to monitor and limit air traffic, like the Buswatch campaign for better bus services. Many people depend on travelling abroad, in and out of London, but I believe better high-speed rail is a more plausible option, as it can easily be carbon neutral.

Most other European countries, which the British government wants to keep up with, already do this, so it seems more logical than airport expansion.

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

Plaque removal

Dear Editor,

Following Diana Cormack's article 'Raising the flag for Cherry Tree Wood' in the April issue, I must congratulate the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood and Barnet Council on the improvements to the Wood, apparent even on the dull damp days we have had over the Easter Bank holiday.

A major improvement has been the installation of metal seats replacing the wooden ones which have been susceptible to the vagaries of the elements and a temptation to vandals. However, I am disappointed to see that many of the replacement seats fail to carry the dedications which were on the old wooden ones, many of which were paid for in memory of local residents who, because they enjoyed the Wood while they were alive, wanted to leave a lasting memory and contribution to the Wood's facilities for future generations.

One such was a Miss Ferguson or Fergie to all who knew her, who lived in Summerlee Avenue; there are still residents who will remember her. Fergie's seat was near the Summerlee Avenue entrance to the Wood but the replacement seat there bears a dedication to someone else.

What has happened to the plaques on the old seats? Cannot they be salvaged or rescued, and installed on the new seats so that their contribution to the Wood can continue?

Yours faithfully,
Joyce Arram,
Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Scoop your poop

By Mary Williams

I am very fortunate living only a stone's throw from Coldfall Wood, a pocket of ancient woodland in the middle of suburbia. It is a lovely place to walk and a haven for birdlife.

Recently there have been considerable improvements to the wood, including work at the pond, cleaning the stream, construction of bridges, and coppicing, which lets in more light. Much of this work has been done by volunteers, who have given hours of time.

But - and it's a big but - the wood is really spoilt by the amount of dog faeces all over it, despite the red bins at the entrances to the wood. I have even seen several piles of dog excrement just inside the gate to the wood, a few yards from the bins.

There have been many articles in the press about the serious health hazard presented by the toxocara worms commonly found in dog faeces. These can damage the human nervous system or vision. Dog faeces can also carry other parasites and bacteria such as Campylobacter and E.coli, which can cause serious illnesses to both humans and other dogs.

Dog owners who don't clear their dog's excrement in public places are breaking the law. There must be many dog walkers using the wood, however, who think it is fine to leave their dog's mess on the ground. Surely they must know that the wood is a public place; and surely they must realise no-one relishes the stench of dog excrement on their footwear or carpets?

So I am puzzled. Why is anyone leaving their dog's excrement to cause problems for others? I have asked Haringey Council to put up notices in the wood reminding dog owners to poop scoop and to provide additional poop bins. I have also asked for regular visits by uniformed parks officers and environmental health officers to check for dog owners who are not picking up and disposing of dog faeces.

Dog owners, remember please: it's not OK just to walk away.



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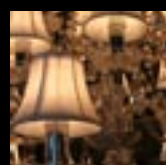
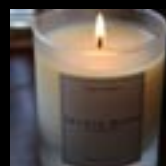
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A short history of East End Road

By Betti Blatman

At their coffee morning on Sunday 29 March, a group of residents and friends at Fairacres in East End Road were enlightened and entertained by a talk about local history. Speakers were David Smith, Chairman of the Finchley Society, born and bred here, who spoke of his childhood and the changes he has seen in the vicinity over the last 60 years. Then Tony Roberts took the audience much further back in time to the Ice Age, when the land we now live upon was formed, skillfully guiding them from the rural community it eventually became through to the present day suburban setting.

Finchley remained a rural community with no more than 250 households until the 19th century. Then, in 1811-16, came the enclosure of the common, in 1867 the arrival of the railway and, in 1875-79, the decision of the Ecclesiastical authorities to release land in East Finchley on 99-year leases when demand for homes rose.

A consequence of enclosure was the hiving off of verges along East End Road into private ownership and the construction of a new road, Prospect Place, in 1825, from East End Road to Market Place.

Looking east

The Five Bells pub became known for bare-knuckle boxing in the 1840s and heavyweight champion Gem Mace trained there. The present building dates from 1868 following a major fire.

The house that stood next to Fairacres (formerly The Old House) originated from the late 1500s and was called The Elms, then Elmhurst. It was occupied from 1833 to 1857 by Anthony Salvin, architect of Tudor and Gothic style country houses and restorer of castles.

He was instrumental in getting the funds for a parish church, Holy Trinity, which he designed and built on Bull Lane in 1846; until then, going to church (Anglican) meant walking to Church End. Bull Lane became Church Lane soon after. Elmhurst was demolished in 1939 and Elmhurst Crescent and Pulham Avenue were built in the grounds after the war. A green space was left for the public, opposite the triangle of green created around 1960 by the demolition of Causeway Cottages for a projected road-widening scheme.

Looking west

On the other side of Fairacres stood Knightons, first mentioned in 1598 and sold for development in 1921, now the site of Nazareth House. Further west was Park Farm. A colourful occupant was 'Lord' George Sanger, circus owner, who wintered his animals at the farm. In 1911

he was murdered in a brawl at the farm initiated by a disgruntled employee. The funeral route from Finchley to Holborn Viaduct was lined with people sheltering under black umbrellas from torrential rain.

Opposite the farm was Sedgemere House, which had dog kennels and a cattery. Sold to developers in 1901, it was pulled down to make way for Sedgemere Avenue, a development of maisonettes for rent to gentlefolk.

Beyond Park Farm was the cricket ground and Newmarket Farm, of which 47 acres were sold to St Marylebone Burial Board. The cemetery, designed by Barnett and Birch, opened in 1855. The Crematorium was not built until 1937.

Opposite the cemetery from 1864 was the Convent of the Good Shepherd. In 1873 it became either a reformatory for former female prisoners or a Magdalene asylum for fallen women. Following a fire in the 1970s most of the buildings were demolished and replaced by Bishop Douglass School and the Thomas More estate.

In the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere of David and Tony's talk, people were not shy about asking questions. Many shared their own personal observations and experiences about the area.

Tony provided a transcript of his talk and you can read fuller details of it by visiting the history section of www.east-finchley.com



Home made goodies: Helen Hodge, left, and Lucinda Cooper behind the counter at their new tea shop..
Photo by Shane Vincent.

Magical emporium

Two friends have decided to put their talents to good use by setting up business together. Lucinda Cooper and Helen Hodge have opened the new teasop Emporium in Fortis Green, midway between East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

Their skill in the kitchen shows itself in the home-made cakes and scones they bake on the premises, along with their own jams and chutneys.

They also sell local crafts, offer beauty treatments and open the shop up as a venue for talks and events.

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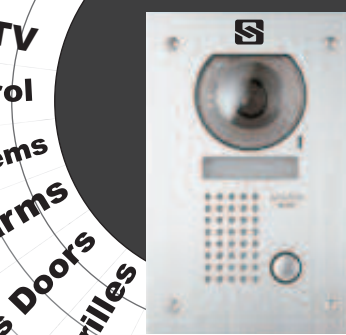
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