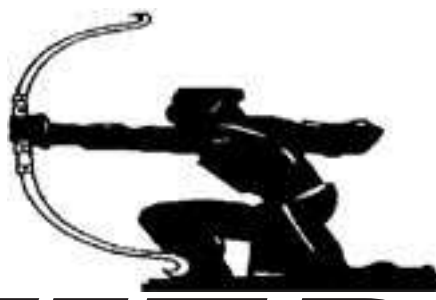


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Parking zone changes are put on hold

By John Lawrence

Barnet Council has put on hold its controversial proposals to extend the hours of parking restrictions in East Finchley after protests from residents and traders. Thousands signed a petition or wrote directly to complain at the impact they would have on local people and businesses, forcing the council to think again.

In August, the council indicated that it would introduce Monday to Saturday all-day parking restrictions to streets on either side of the High Road. Traders immediately protested that such a move would sound the death knell for many independent businesses and 2,000 people signed a petition calling for the council to think again.

Many spoke out vociferously at the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum meeting attended by more than 80 people on 26 October. In response, they were told that the strength of the protest meant the council would reconsider whether to press ahead with the plan.

Neil Richardson, acting highways manager, told the forum: "It is not my call as a council officer to say we are going to scrap the proposals but given the depth of feeling expressed here tonight and from letters sent to the council I see no reason to dig my heels in and go ahead at this stage."

Without the protests, the controlled parking zone plan would have moved on automatically to 'statutory consultation', ahead of implementation. That step has been frozen while Barnet councillors formally consider the objections. A decision should be known later in November.

Many who spoke at the forum said it was wrong to propose the extra restrictions when only 17% of residents and traders (689 in total) responded to the original 2008 council CPZ questionnaire, and when only a minority of those who did respond (44.8%) said they had parking problems.

Dino Loizou, of East Finchley Electrical Contractors, said: "We don't have any council car parks in the area. If you take away the free parking that's available, it's going to affect every business in the area."

Chris Hampson, a resident of Huntingdon Road, said: "There is a consensus in the county roads that the 2pm-3pm restriction is fine and doesn't need to be extended. We support the traders because local businesses are extremely important to our community."

Two residents living closer to Cherry Tree Wood called on the council to ease the all-day parking restriction in their roads. This was introduced four years ago to head off a potential parking problem from students attending The Institute. Some residents say this problem has never materialised and a 2pm-3pm restriction is sufficient to deter commuters. *More CPZ reports on page 4.*



Dean Parrett, centre, and Tony Parks, right, with the Martin Primary School team. Photo by Shane Vincent.

Football stars spur on campaign to save Stanley Road field

By Rob Robertson

Two stars from Tottenham Hotspur visited Stanley Road playing field on 30 September, in support of the campaign to prevent housing development on the site and save it for sporting and recreational use.

Spurs goalkeeping coach Tony Parks and Spurs Academy player Dean Parrett were present for a five-a-side football competition, organised by the Finchley Community Development Trust (FCDT), between Holy Trinity CE School and Martin Primary School.

Tony and Dean cheered on the young players and Tony refereed the final, which was narrowly won by Martin School. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman, was on hand to present the trophy to the winning team and all the children who took part in the tournament received a medal.

Roger Chapman, FCDT chairman, was pleased by the turnout of more than 150 people, and thanked all those who had helped to make the event a success. Noting that, in winning the bid for the 2012 Olympics, we were promised there would be a benefit for local communities, Mr Chapman said: "Rejuvenating this field could be East Finchley's Olympic legacy."

For more information on the Stanley Road Field campaign contact Rob Robertson at the FCDT on 020 8883 4916.

See the match report on page 6.



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❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

New ideas for young arts

Community Focus, the young people's arts charity based at artsdepot in North Finchley, is looking for new faces to be part of its team. The group has received funding to set up a borough-wide youth panel to be involved in creating a new and exciting programme for young people in Barnet.

Community Focus wants to recruit members for two groups, 10 to 15-year-olds and 16 to 21-year-olds, who will be able to have their say on projects such as music, dance, song writing, drama, performance, poetry, animation, painting and creative writing.

If you feel you can make a difference for other young people in Barnet and would like to be part of the new Youth

Focus team, contact Caitriona on 020 8369 5483 or caitriona.dunnett@communityfocus.co.uk. Please get in touch as soon as possible.

The teams will meet fortnightly on Wednesdays at the artsdepot. Young people aged 10 to 15 will meet at 5pm - 6.30pm and young people aged 16 to 21 will meet at 6.30pm - 8pm. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 11 November.

Be alert to 'police' scam

By Janet Maitland

Barnet police have issued a warning about a new scam being carried out by thieves trying to steal bank and PIN details.

Someone claiming to be a police officer rings and says they have been informed by the householder's bank that there has been fraudulent activity on their account. Then they say that a police officer will come to the address so the householder can hand over their bank card and PIN number. This

is all a hoax.

Four such crimes have been reported so far and are being investigated. The police advise anyone who receives such a call to ring off immediately and phone them on 0300 123 1212. They also remind everyone never to disclose their PIN number to anyone.

Armed police raid

By Janet Maitland

Armed police raided a flat above the William Hill betting shop on the High Road at about 7pm on Friday 18 September. Police closed off part of the High Road and adjacent county roads during the raid.

Police have confirmed that a 30-year-old man was arrested and charged with possessing an imitation firearm. He appeared at Hendon Magistrates Court on 28 September and was bailed to re-

appear at a date to be decided.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to call them on 0300 123 1212 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Free swimming for children

Children in Barnet can now swim for free at Finchley Lido, Barnet Copthall and Church Farm leisure centres. The council's leisure centres, operated by GLL, already offer free swimming for over-60s, but after Barnet's bid for extra funding was agreed in October the offer has been extended to all under-16s.

To benefit from this offer, under-16s need to apply online for a free swim card at

www.gll.org. The only cost is a £1 administration fee on the first visit.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

42 Chandos Road, N2

Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. First floor rear Juliet balcony.

4 Deansway, N2

Part single, part two-storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing garage. Extensions to roof to rear to facilitate a loft conversion. New patio to rear.

Land adjacent to 163 East End Road, N2

Replacement of existing 15m monopole with new 15m telecommunications pole. Installation of two equipment cabinets.

15 Elm Gardens, N2

Formation of new roof including front, rear and side dormer windows to facilitate rooms in roof space of existing bungalow.

7 Hampstead Heights, N2

Retention of front canopy extension

with associated railings and replacement first floor windows.

22 Heath View, N2

Single-storey side extension and storage shed.

Adamson Court, 7 Hertford Road, N2

Replacement of existing windows with new white UPVC windows.

70 Manor Park Road, N2

Loft conversion into habitable space. Installation of Velux windows.

Haringey Council

1 Blaenavon, Fortis Green, N2

Replacement of existing primary windows with UPVC windows.

2 Sussex Gate, Sussex Gdns, N6

Erection of rear ground floor extension with a roof extension.

79 Fortis Green, N2

Erection of single storey side extension.

37 Aylmer Parade, Aylmer Rd, N2

Conversion of ground floor from retail premises to two-bedroom flat.

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Cherry Tree Wood pavilion: the debate

Plans to convert the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood into a café and well-being centre were first aired in 2008 and will be submitted in a formal planning application later this month. There are many people who support the plans and many others who have concerns.

Here, we give space to both sides of the debate. We hear from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion, the group

behind the redevelopment plans, and from those who are not happy about them and would like more consultation.



Plans take shape

After a year of sounding out park users and local residents, Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the park's popular kiosk café, has brought together a group of local residents to help her transform the pavilion building in Cherry Tree Wood.

"Following a lengthy public consultation exercise on 12 July, including a display of the plans in the wood, we have taken the concerns of those living close to the pavilion fully into account in our forthcoming planning application to Barnet Council," said Sally-Anne.

Community facility

Planning permission is being sought to change the derelict pavilion building into a café and educational and holistic well-being centre, which can be used by local community groups on a not-for-profit basis.

Objections to the plans have been acted upon. "As originally envisaged the pavilion will only be open during park opening hours and there will be no access to the building from outside the park," said Sally-Anne.

FCTWP back plans

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion, a group of local residents, has been set up to support the venture and has received strong support from many local people.

Committee member Ryan Glaser, of Cherry Tree Road, said: "We believe that the initial objections from those living close to the pavilion have been met in the planning application, and hope that Barnet Council will support Sally in her plans to transform what is currently an eyesore into a community facility that East Finchley can be proud of."

The planning application will be submitted before the end of November. The support group has set up a website www.foctwpavilion.org.uk to keep local residents up-to-date with the progress of the proposed scheme.

Consultation please

Significant plans are afoot for the redevelopment of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion (FOCTWP), responsible for the project, is a new small group entirely independent from the established Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

Many people view the FOCTWP plans positively. Others, however, have legitimate and considerable concerns (impact on nature, increased traffic, noise, evening activities and security) which they want taken on board before planning permission is sought, and there are plenty of others who will oppose the project outright during formal consultation.

Feedback frustrated

Though the FOCTWP have verbally nodded towards cooperation on elements of their plans, Barnet Council, residents are told, will not consider feedback until after planning has been sought officially. One of the community's elected councillors is a member of FOCTWP, which has caused more unrest.

The official Finchley and Golders Green Residents' Forum, to which people were directed to air their views, was cancelled at the last minute. And the reason? The Council "could not find a venue".

Green space option

At a recent meeting an overwhelming majority of residents voted in favour of demolishing the pavilion and returning the land to green space. What better way for Barnet Council to demonstrate its commitment to green spaces?

Numerous people wonder why we are even debating the unhealthy alternative of a commercial enterprise in our small oasis. Many say that the activities the FOCTWP propose are already on their doorsteps via The Institute, as well as an abundance of cafés, pubs and the appropriately-sized Kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood.

After all, a true project for the community can only be shaped by the community, right, Barnet?



On the ball: Arsene Wenger and Ed Balls celebrate the opening with one of the TreeHouse pupils.
Photo by Alex MacNaughton

Gunners support TreeHouse

Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger was guest of honour when Ed Balls, the Secretary Of State for the Department of Children, Schools and Families, officially opened the

new national centre for TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, in October.

The building in Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill, took 18 months and £11.5 million to complete. It was officially named The Pears National Centre for Autism Education, after receiving support from The Pears Foundation.

Arsenal FC raised £500,000 towards the building when TreeHouse was their Charity of the Season in 2007-08.

Dismay at delayed forum

Cancellation of the Golders Green and Finchley Area Forum due to be held at Pardes House School, Hendon Lane, N3, displeased many East Finchley residents. Two groups were hoping to air matters currently causing local concern, one being Barnet's proposed plans on controlled parking zones in N2, the other being the redevelopment of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.

A council spokesman told *THE ARCHER* that the meeting was cancelled because outstanding planning enforcement requirements relating to the Pardes House School site had still to be complied with. As the cancellation was announced eight days before the scheduled meeting on 14 October, many felt that the council could have found another venue.

The council spokesman said: "Unfortunately, there was not

enough time to make alternative arrangements for the meeting to go ahead at alternative premises on the same date."

The forum was rearranged and took place at Avenue House on Monday 26 October.

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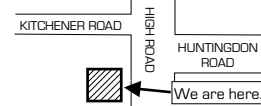


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CPZ: Letters special

Many people wrote directly to THE ARCHER or forwarded us the letters they had sent to Barnet Council giving their opinions on the CPZ proposal. Here we print extracts from what they had to say:

► Since shoppers are normally only parking for short periods throughout the day, their need to park does not disrupt the parking of local residents. In fact, it all dovetails quite nicely and there is rarely a problem for anyone who needs to find a place to park, and very little expense involved. This helps to make our High Rd an attractive place to shop.

Sue Sutherley,
Lincoln Road, N2.

► The present scheme, as it applies to Area B & C and roads close to the High Rd, is a restriction of an hour between 2pm and 3pm intended to prevent commuter parking of vehicles all day, which would block access to local amenities such as schools, shops, businesses and the parking of residents' own vehicles. Everybody accepts that parking has to be controlled, and the success of this scheme in its present format is very much to the credit of the Council. However, to extend the restriction to an all-day basis, including Saturdays, would seem to add nothing to the success of the present scheme, whilst instead severely limiting access to shops, and all local amenities, thus actually causing the very problem it sought to prevent.

Adrian Levine,
Prospect Ring, N2.

► As in many cases Barnet has used a cleverly worded questionnaire to re-enforce a badly thought out scheme. In fact the results of the questionnaire when read correctly go against your proposal. Only 30.5% were not happy with one hour's restrictions (not the majority) and only 27.3% were happy with all-day restrictions (again, far from the majority). How can you ignore these statistics in favour of a scheme that will serve to see further empty shop units?

James Elliott,
Baronsmere Road, N2.

► The fact the proposals are based on less than 20% response to 4,000 questionnaires (closer to 1 in 6, actually) means they are based on a minority sample, skewed towards those having a problem in either zone. It is a great shame that so many of our neighbours did not bother to fill out their questionnaires, and we are seeing the con-

sequences of that now. Barnet can justifiably point to having to work with what responses they were given. But it is not too late to redress the balance and get the bigger picture perspective back into focus. Hopefully.

Name and address supplied.

► When Barnet Council introduced the Residents Parking Scheme into this area, we were supportive due to the curtailment of commuter parking for residents living nearest to East Finchley Tube. When the HGS Institute moved from Henrietta Barnet School to Park House, Barnet imposed a new set of restrictions without our approval on the basis that it was a trial and that some of the residents would benefit from increased restrictions due to the assumed influx of HGS Institute students. The reality is that this influx never transpired and the HGS Institute vacated Park House two years ago.

The new trial CPZ scheme imposed draconian restrictions from 10am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. Many residents have suffered genuine hardship as a result of these restrictions and many have had to bear exorbitant costs and inconvenience in connection with visitor permits for receiving visitors and tradesmen.

Mike and Jackie Randall,
Summerlee Gardens, N2.

► My suggestion is to extend the dual use (pay and display/resident) parking all the way down the county roads. This should leave spaces free when people want to pop to the shops or nursery, and get rid of the people who bung up the spaces for the whole day.

Alan Paterson,
Lincoln Road, N2

► As your local Labour councillors we recently sent a letter to all those living in the East Finchley CPZ inviting comments on the Council's proposals. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the existing hours and reverting to a one-hour restriction in the Cherry Tree Wood area (the proposed M1 zone). A majority also mentioned the detrimental effect on traders.

Councillor Andrew McNeil.

CPZ: what happens next?

East Finchley waits to hear whether Barnet Council will press ahead with the CPZ proposals. Here's what could happen next.

1. Barnet Council could view the number of protests they have received against extending the CPZ hours as an indication that the majority of people in the community are opposed to the proposals. In this case, the council could decide to scrap them altogether.

2. Barnet Council could decide to press ahead with the extended CPZ hours regardless of the protests, or issue an

amended version of them. This would be the statutory consultation stage. In either case, the council would be obliged to contact every property affected by the plan once again. Each property would then have 21 days to write back to the council expressing its support or opposition. The council would be required to take all those views into consideration before making a final decision.



Photo by John Dearing.

Oktoberfest success

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman, opens the East Finchley Constitutional Club's third annual Oktoberfest by pulling the ceremonial first pint, watched by Bill Dempster (centre), Chairman of the Club, and Peter Borscheid (left), Third Secretary, Culture and Education, of the German Embassy.

CPZ: Barnet Council under fire

Many questions and concerns about the parking zone changes were raised at the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum. Here's how Neil Richardson, acting highways manager in the traffic and development team, responded:

Why were these proposals put forward when only a small minority said they had a problem with the current CPZ?

Neil Richardson: "There was some concern from residents living close to the station and nearer the High Road that they were having trouble parking. We proposed measures to protect the residents there."

Does the council have a hidden agenda?

"There is no hidden agenda. We have been carrying out reviews of CPZs across the borough for many years. In each area, we ask whether the CPZ is continuing to meet the needs of the community."

Are the longer parking restrictions a money-making scheme for the council?

"It would take something like 20 years before the council would see any money from a scheme like this so there is no immediate profit for them."

Why did some people receive a questionnaire while others didn't?

"We use hand delivery to get questionnaires to property rather than relying on Royal Mail. In this way, we have an audit trail of the deliveries that have been made. I can only apologise if some properties were missed and I'd be happy to look into why that was."

Has Barnet Council already made up its mind about longer parking restrictions?

"We have not proposed anything formally or legally yet. The letter sent out to residents in August was simply communicating the results of the questionnaire."

What will you do in the light of the objections from residents and businesses?

Concern over Fortis Green CPZ

By Martin Page

About 130 people attended a public meeting organised by Haringey Council to discuss the proposed controlled parking zone extension in Fortis Green. The meeting was a lively one with strong feelings expressed by many.

The audience faced Councillor Brian Haley, cabinet member for the environment and conservation, who did not take notes. He began by saying that in July last year 53 residents of Eastern Road, Lynmouth Road and Lauradale Road had signed a petition in favour of a CPZ extension.

The 29 signatories for Eastern Road constituted about 60% of the households in that road, 14 signatories in Lynmouth Road constituted 29% of all households and 10 signatories in Lauradale Road constituted 21% of households.

During the summer of this year, however, only 196 people out of 800 responses expressed support for the proposed extension.

Points made by members of the audience were that currently parking is not generally a problem in the area. Many residents who worked from home, and local businesses, would suffer under a CPZ.

Concern was expressed about the will of the majority being ignored by the council. Councillor Haley indicated that a decision on the matter should be known by November.

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Polyclinic back to drawing board

By Janet Maitland

The Mayor of London has decided that an application to double the size of the planned medical centre on East End Road does not comply with the London Plan for new developments.

Barnet Council gave permission for the polyclinic on the site of Finchley Manor Garden Centre last September. This followed an appeal by Cloverdale Estates Ltd, a property development company, against a council decision made in December 2007.

Permission was refused then because the plan did not protect the status of the site, which is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), equivalent to Green Belt. The appeal was successful because the new plan incorporated a 'wellbeing' garden and it was argued that no other suitable sites were available. Cloverdale has now revised its plans again and wants permission for

a bigger centre.

GPs and pharmacists not consulted

The clinic will have facilities for consultation, diagnosis and treatment and could have an impact on local GPs and pharmacists. However, it appears that none has been consulted about the new application, nor were they last year.

A Barnet spokesperson said that last year's application and the latest one are "both classed as major applications for which consultation requirements are the same".

Mayor of London's statement

Councillor Colin Rogers has registered with the Mayor

an objection that the council had approved only a clinic of less than 1,000 sq metres, not a "large medical centre that will not have a beneficial relationship with the open nature of the MOL site or its surroundings".

The Mayor has stated that the proposed use of MOL is inappropriate. However, he believes there are special circumstances, such as the preservation of the open frontage of the site, which override MOL requirements. His objections are in relation to sustainable development, access, transport and parking, not the size of the building. If Barnet decides to give permission, legislation requires that the Mayor must be consulted again.

Green flag fails to fly over East Finchley's park

By Diana Cormack

Despite weeks of refurbishment work carried out earlier this year, Barnet's attempt to win Green Flag status for Cherry Tree Wood (THE ARCHER, April 2009) has been unsuccessful.

A council spokesman told us that Cherry Tree Wood was one of eight Barnet parks considered for the prestige mark for open spaces. The other seven were successful once again.

"Despite extensive improvement works which we worked on with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood group, judges decided that the park was one point short of the total it required to be given a Green Flag," said the spokesman.

"Further improvements are planned for the wood, including new welcome signs for the fences that are being designed through a competition run by the Friends. The group is also gathering feedback from park users about other improvements they would like. The wood has also been chosen as one of the Playbuilder sites (see *YOUNG ARCHER* on page 8) meaning it will receive funding for natural play opportunities for older children before the end of this financial year."

Pavilion and path

So how did Cherry Tree Wood fall short of the required total? Apparently the scoring for Green Flags is achieved by a combined score from several different assessments, including visual judging and assessments of the long-term plans for the park. The final score is given in bands and Cherry Tree Wood's band was one below the requirement. The main criticisms were about

the condition of the pavilion and the footpath in the wood and the uncertainty around timescales for improving both. The council said it remains committed to working with the Friends group and other park users to bring further improvements to the park in the near future.

Let THE ARCHER know what you think about Cherry Tree Wood. Our contact details are on page 2.

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This car was spotted driving the wrong way over the Church Lane bridge. Photo courtesy of the EFVRA.

One-way wrong way

Members of East Finchley Village Residents Association have urged drivers to observe the one-way system in Church Lane.

An EFVRA member photographed a car coming over the railway-bridge the wrong way on a Saturday morning in August. Then one Friday in September, a group of EFVRA members were attending a street meeting with police constables from the Safer Neighbourhood Team when they watched in horror as a car calmly turned right out of Trinity Road.

The driver ignored the sign opposite showing that only a left turn was permissible, and drove up over the railway-bridge against the one-way system. The police constables were too far away to take any action, and the numberplate could not be seen in the fading light.

Regular risk-taking

EFVRA spokesperson Caroline Broome said: "While there will always be irresponsible drivers who occasionally take a risk and break the law,

the case in Church Lane is quite different. These are not isolated events, but a regular occurrence, which we fear will inevitably result in someone being killed or seriously injured."

The group's members are also dismayed that Barnet Council has rejected out of hand the request for Church Lane to be made a 20mph zone. At the EFVRA meeting on 14 September, Councillor Colin Rogers agreed to raise the matter with the Environment Committee.

Barnet Council has told EFVRA that its decisions are based upon speed surveys carried out in Church Lane.

You can contact EFVRA at east.finchley.village.residents.association@virginmedia.com. The next EFVRA meeting will be held at The East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, on 9 November at 8pm.

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Use Stanley Field, or lose it

By Alexander Harris, Year 6, Martin School
Martin School and Holy Trinity School competed in a football tournament to raise awareness about Stanley Road playing field. Final ranking was: 1st Martin Team 1, 2nd Holy Trinity Team 1, 3rd Martin Team 2, 4th Holy Trinity Team 2.



Photo by Shane Vincent

The council wants to sell this lovely playing field and turn it into housing. The field shouldn't be used in such a fashion. It should be free for the local community to roam and play in. It would be ideal if it had a bit of a trim, so that Holy Trinity could use it as a football pitch. It should not be kept private.

The future of Stanley Road playing field is unclear. The Mayor is on our side but is everyone else? Campaign for Stanley Road by using it as much as you can. They will only sell it if you don't use it.

So if you have a spare half-hour, go and have a runabout or kick a ball down on Stanley Road field. The future of the playing field is in your hands.



Robert Moore preparing the pitch.
Photo by John Dearing

Has the High Road become a crime hot spot?

By Janet Maitland

"Everyone is saying that crime is getting worse; you should look into it," said a local resident who called *THE ARCHER* in September. So we did. The caller was worried about a seeming 'spate' of incidents on the High Road. We checked these out with Barnet police.

Back in January there was an attempted burglary at Budgens. In April, a theft and assault took place at KF Computing and Imaging. In June, there was an attempted robbery at the NatWest. In August, there was a botched burglary at KFC. In early September there was an assault and robbery at Abbey. Later in September, a man was arrested during a raid on a flat above the William Hill betting shop and charged with possession of a fake firearm.

"There have been a few isolated incidents and police operations in the area recently," said Ben Bennett, Superintendent of Operations. "We do occasionally see groupings of incidents with no clear links between them. This is certainly not an indication that violent crime is rising. It is actually falling."

What the figures show

The crime statistics for East

Finchley do indeed show that violent crime and robbery are down on last year. The figures for September 2008 to August 2009 show that robbery has dropped from 2.8 per thousand people in the previous year to 2.1. Violence against the person has dropped from 11.4 to 10.3. Every major crime statistic is also below the Metropolitan averages. Rates for both robbery and violence, for example, are less than half those of the averages for the whole of London.

Sergeant Andy Matthews from the Safer Neighbourhood Team said that he understood that the incidents on the High Road may be unsettling for local residents. "We cannot always prevent crime, but these incidents show that we act swiftly and thoroughly when it happens. My team and I will continue to work for the local community and drive the crime figures down still further."

Funds available to fight neglect

By Daphne Chamberlain

If you know of a neglected area in Muswell Hill or Fortis Green which could benefit from Haringey's "Making the Difference" funds, please contact John Hajdu on 020 8883 8114 or hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

John is the Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, which will be bidding shortly for a share of the funds for 2009 / 10.

Gooner heaven at the Phoenix

By Neil McNaughton

It certainly wasn't the usual crowd that congregated at the Phoenix on a recent Tuesday evening. Regular patrons found themselves confronted by an excited, noisy crowd of Arsenal fans in the foyer.

They had come to watch the charity premiere of a new DVD made by Arsenal fans for Arsenal fans. *The Gooner Review* is a look at Arsenal's less-than-successful 2008-9 season, when the team finished a disappointing fourth in the Premier League and lost in two cup semi-finals.

Hosted by comedian Paul Kaye, the evening became somewhat surreal when the sedate old Phoenix was rocked before the kick-off by rousing songs and chants, mostly pouring scorn on Tottenham Hotspurs.

A succession of ordinary fans and celebrities, including actors Tom Watt, Linda Robson and David Soul, queued up in front of the camera either to criticise or defend the team and its management.

All the profits made from sales of the film will go to the Willow Foundation, which boasts former Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson as its founder and patron. The Willow Foundation (www.willowfoundation.org.uk) provides memorable days out for seriously ill young men and women.

Any East Finchley Gooners can find out more at www.thegoonerreview.com.



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When one marathon isn't enough

By John Lawrence

For most runners, one marathon at a time is perfectly sufficient. Teacher Anna Finn, however, has set herself a much tougher challenge. Not only is she planning to run ten marathons in ten days, she's also bidding to become the youngest woman to have completed 100 marathons.

Anna, 32, gets up at 5am and runs up to 15 miles every morning before going off for a day's work as an A-level maths teacher at Woodhouse College in North Finchley. Then, most weekends, she is either training hard or running a competitive marathon course.

All this pounding of the streets is not for nothing. Anna is raising money for Brathay, a national charity that aims to steer young people away

from crime and gang culture by helping them make the right choices in their lives.

10 in 10 challenge

Anna, who lives in Manor Park Road, has been running for nine years. She describes the 10 in 10, to be run round Lake Windermere in Cumbria on ten successive days, as the biggest challenge she's ever faced.

"The most I have done until now is two days running in a row," she said. "For 10 days, I'm going to need good recovery powers and I'll have to listen



Anna Finn aims to run 10 marathons in 10 days.

to my body. The organisers are going to look after our nutrition, and we will get a massage every day.

"I've built up my training so I'm fairly confident I can do what's required. My biggest worry is if I pick up an injury and have to run with that, or not be able to run at all."

If you would like to support Anna in her athletic quest, and support Brathay's charitable work, you can make a donation online at www.justgiving.com/annafinn10in10

Art and craft fair returns

By Dina Katz

Sunday 22 November is a special date for your diary. Once again the East Finchley Open Art and Craft Fair will be held at Martin School. Visitors will be able to meet the artists, browse their work and possibly buy items that take their fancy.

Entry is free but a voluntary donation of £1 to local charities enters you for this year's prize draw, where the prizes are three art works donated by artists from the EFO. Refreshments will be on offer too.

The EFO is an active group of local artists that has had a busy and successful year. It held two well-attended Open House weekends in July, along with a concurrent group exhibition.

The EFO has been showcasing its work in the Phoenix Cinema and the High Road window of Kokos to honour and celebrate the cinema's 100th birthday.

Do come along to support your local artists and possibly

find unique and exciting gifts. *THE ARCHER* Calendar will also be on sale. The fair takes place at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, 11am to 5pm on Sunday 22 November. Find out more at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

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Staff and children at Holy Trinity Primary School celebrate their Ofsted success. Photo by Lisa Davies.

Thumbs up for Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity CE School is officially a good school with outstanding features, according to Ofsted inspectors who visited the East Finchley primary school last month.

The highly successful inspection is the third celebration at the school in recent months. Last summer saw year 6 pupils achieve the highest-ever SATs results in Holy Trinity's history.

And only last May Schools Minister Jim Knight wrote to congratulate Holy Trinity on being among the top-performing schools in the country for sustained year-on-year improvement at year 6.

Headteacher Tim Bowden said: "We truly believe we are a fantastic school and to get official recognition of this is really rewarding. Our motto is High Standards Together and it is towards this aim we are constantly working with our staff, pupils and the whole school community."

Ofsted inspectors came knocking only three weeks into the new autumn term, grading Holy Trinity

as a good school overall, although five areas of the school's work were judged to be outstanding, the highest grade possible.

One area they particularly focused on was the school's nursery and reception classes, of which the report said: "Teaching and learning in the Nursery and Reception class are good. There is a good range of activities led by adults and chosen by children for themselves. Activities are interesting and exciting and the children enjoy all they do."

Mr Bowden, who is just

beginning his fifth year at the one-form entry school, said: "I have a highly committed staff team, a great bunch of hard-working and well-behaved pupils and a fantastically supportive group of parents, carers and governors. As a headteacher I couldn't ask for more."

Prospective parents wishing to tour the school should contact Mr Bowden or School Secretary Ms Karen Peters on 020 8883 1824. The next tours are on Thursday 19th November and Thursday 3rd December, both at 10am.

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YOUNG ARCHER

New play equipment promised

By Diana Cormack

Cherry Tree Wood is one of 11 parks nominated to receive a new range of play equipment. Barnet Council gave the go ahead for the installation of equipment in selected parks across the borough by 2010.

Barnet Council says that each play area will be developed in consultation with local children, young people and families, ensuring they have a say in the design of the new equipment.

Funding comes from Play England, which is supporting local authority play builders and play pathfinders to deliver the government's £235 million investment in play and to transform local areas into innovative and adventurous play spaces. Barnet will use phase one of its £1.1 million allocation to

focus on equipment that promotes active, imaginative and adventurous play for eight to 13-year-olds.

Consultation

It seems a pity that activities for older teenagers have not been included. Whatever your age, please let *YOUNG ARCHER* know what you would like to see provided in the park for the children of East Finchley. Our contact details are on page 2.

Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "The Playbuilder funding is aimed

at providing play facilities for eight to 13-year-olds. There will still be some play equipment, although this will be built into the landscape, and will be designed to offer challenges and different experiences for young and older children.

"The Friends of the Wood were not aware of the funding as it was only confirmed at the end of September. The group as well as local residents and other park users will be involved in a detailed consultation on the type of equipment and improvements to be made to the park's play facilities in the near future."



Clare in an improvisation activity with some of the students at Friern Barnet's Saturday morning drama academy

Saturday morning performance

By Helen Drake

If you like acting, dancing or just rocking out, you'll be pleased to know that Friern Barnet School has relaunched its Saturday morning Dance and Drama Academies, along with its Rock School, and is inviting children and teenagers between Years 4 and 13 to give it a try.

Two children from East Finchley who did just that are Alice and Isobel Cronshaw. Alice, who has just started in Year 7 at Friern Barnet School, said: "We are working on an end-of-term show. I do dance too and we are studying different styles of dance such as fast and slow jazz and musical theatre. It's good exercise and is a fun start to the weekend."

Isobel who goes along with her sister and is in Year 5 at Martin Primary School said: "I like making new friends and it gets me active on a Saturday morning. I love improvisation as it is so funny."

Confidence-boosting

"Their increased confidence is so evident in youngsters coming to the sessions," said Clare Viccars, Assistant Headteacher and Arts College Director at Friern Barnet School. "They're mixing with new groups of friends and learning skills at a high level by contributing to script writing, performing and working together. It's really great fun."

All classes take place on

Saturday mornings at Friern Barnet School, Hemington Avenue, N11. Sessions run from 9.30am to 11am and 11.15am to 12.30pm. For more information call 020 8368 2777 and ask for the arts office or e-mail e.dingwall@friern.barnet.sch.uk

Half-price travel for jobseekers

Barnet jobseekers are now entitled to half-price bus travel across the capital.

Under a scheme announced by the Mayor of London's office, residents claiming jobseeker's allowance or the new employment and support allowance can now get the same half-price travel concession that those on Income Support receive.

Residents on the lowest incomes will have to pay only 50p for a single bus journey, half the £1 adult Oyster fare and a quarter of the £2 cash fare.

To find out more about the concessionary travel scheme, visit www.tfl.gov.uk/tickets

Win a family ticket to see

Santa on stage

Ever wondered how Santa gets down the chimney, why reindeer pull his sleigh and how he got the name Santa Claus? You can find out the answers to these questions and more as artsdepot and Big Wooden Horse bring *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* to the stage this Christmas.

From L. Frank Baum, the writer of *The Wizard of Oz*, the show is being brought to the UK for the first time and features audience participation as well as music and original songs. It's ideal for children aged four and upwards.

It follows the story of an orphan boy called Claus who grows up in a magical world of woodland folk. When he sees the suffering of ordinary people, he becomes determined to help and prepares to deliver toys to every boy and girl.

Enter our competition and you could win a family ticket for four people to see the show. Email your contact details and your answer to the following question to info@artsdepot.co.uk by Friday 20 November. Mark your email Archer Competition. The winner will be chosen at random by artsdepot and a date to see the show will be arranged according to availability.

Question: What was the name of Santa's red-nosed reindeer?

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus runs at artsdepot from Saturday 5 December to Sunday 3 January. Tickets are priced £10 (£8 concessions). A family ticket is priced £32 and admits four. To book, contact the box office on 020 8369 5454 or book online at www.artsdepot.co.uk

Curtain up on drama club

The curtain has gone up on a new season of drama club for secondary school students on Monday evenings in Tetherdown Hall, Muswell Hill. The weekly sessions are run by Dominic Conway, a professional actor who was born and raised in East Finchley.

The drama club was set up by local actress Carolyn Pickles, who asked Dominic to take over while she is on tour with a stage production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Having done a few trial sessions, Dominic said: "Carolyn has created a supportive and creative environment. I look forward to seeing how things will develop. There is room for more in both groups, so we'd be very pleased to have some new people coming along. The

classes are especially useful for anyone interested in doing well in their drama GCSEs, A-levels, or people who'd like to take steps towards becoming professional actors."

Classes take place in Tetherdown Hall on Mondays during term time. Years 7, 8 and 9 meet at 6.30pm. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 meet at 8.15pm. Cost is £10 per session. For more information, contact Dominic at d.conway.drama@live.com or 07727 243273.

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

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



From the East End to East Finchley

If Dame Henrietta Barnett was looking down from on high on the East End on Sunday 18 October, she would certainly have smiled. The turn-of-the-century philanthropist devoted her life to improving the lot of working people in Whitechapel and beyond. She was also the driving force behind the construction of Hampstead Garden Suburb and the founder of The Institute, which is celebrating its centenary this year.

On this Sunday morning, a crowd of over 70 staff, friends and supporters of The Institute set out from Commercial Street, E1,



Antonio Burgos is the first to arrive from the East End. Photo courtesy HGSI

to walk 'in the footsteps of Dame Henrietta' across London via The Institute's original site in NW11 to its new premises next to East Finchley tube station.

The first walker to complete the 10-mile route was Institute Spanish teacher Juan Antonio Burgos. The aim of the walk was to raise money to establish a bursary fund for students in financial need and many of the walkers were sponsored to complete the course. Anyone who wants to make a donation to the fund can contact Richard Bradbury at The Institute on 020 8829 4211.



Emilie's photo of the Ladies Pond on Hampstead Heath, entitled Secluded Idyll

The countryside in town

Emilie Selbourne's second solo show of 20 colour photographic prints was on show at Chorak Café Gallery in the High Road in October. Her exhibition presented painterly landscape views of Hampstead Heath and Long Lane Pastures showing familiar and secret places with decorative details of flora and fauna.

Influenced by an art history background and a recent MA in Photojournalism, the East Finchley artist works across conventional boundaries of genre and approach. Her initial daily observations and social documentation of Heath life developed into a preoccupation with the mysteries of nature and treasured pockets of urban countryside.

Emilie is an active member of the Highgate Society, and supports the protection of rural Eng-

land and its heritage. Her work is soon to be published in various book forms in aid of these causes. For further information, visit www.emilieselbourne.com

Choir becomes baying mob

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus is celebrating Felix Mendelssohn's 200th anniversary with a performance of his oratorio *Elijah*, one of his best-loved works.

We in the Chorus are The People, and are totally involved in the action. We are the mob baying for Elijah's blood, and quailing before the anger of the heavens.

Come and hear this amazing work on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm at St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Ticketline is 020 8351 8774 with prices £18, £13, £8 (concessions £2 reduction). Tickets are also available from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10, and at the door.

Bishop Douglass Christmas party

Just before Christmas last year, more than 100 elderly residents of East Finchley enjoyed a lively evening with the students and teachers at Bishop Douglass School.

This year's party is on Thursday 10 December from 5pm. If you are over the age of 60, live in East Finchley and want to come, you should book your place now.

The event will consist of a three-course Christmas dinner, entertainment from the students,

carol singing, games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus.

Transport can be provided if you are unable to make your own way to the school in Hamilton Road.

Contact Pam Kenton 020 8444 6690 before the end of November to reserve your place.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Fifty days to save the world

In the dark and dangerous backstreets of the metropolis, amongst the derelict factories and the looming Olympic Stadium, something is stirring in the night. It is but a glimmer in a vandalised phone box, a dim flash of light in the murk, but it is there just the same. It is Brown Gordon, Flash Gordon's dumber brother, back to save the world and with only 50 days to do it.

Faster than a speeding, ecologically sound milk float, kinder to the planet than a solar panel, the polar bears' friend is back to cut carbon. Brown Gordon has his deadline: he must be in Copenhagen in time for the pan-galactic climate camp on 7 December and he must be there with answers. He has already woven what passes for his magic in Bonn and will soon be winging his way above the clouds to Barcelona as he searches for the solution.

But can he do it? Can the man who can leap tall buildings in a single helicopter prevent the North Pole from melting? Can a man in brownest brown triumph again? It has been a tough year for this modern superhero for a modern world. Mortally wounded by Diddy David Cameron and almost blinded by the glare from Blond Boris, Gordon Brown had even found the Prince of Darkness turning against him.

But just when all had seemed lost he dragged himself into a conveniently placed toilet and transformed into the superhero he knew he was. Copenhagen will be the big one. All he has to do is cool the planet to save the world. And, as he soars above the echoing canyons of the City and swoops across the sky, he can smell the snow in the air and knows in his heart of hearts that he can do it. Besides, he knows that everyone wants a white Christmas, even if it takes a man in brown to give it to them.

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One Inch Punch, one of the acts appearing at Tumbleweed Comedy.

Comedy tonight

A comedy night is starting up in East Finchley and there are hopes that it will become a regular monthly event. Tumbleweed Comedy wants to showcase the best comedians on the London circuit and provide a platform for local comedians.

Compere Alex Perkins, who lives in Blackdown Close, off Oak Lane, has put the event together with friends Mat Ruttle, Carl Sedgwick and Rachel Espoti, who perform sketches together under the name Claque.

Also on the bill at the Old White Lion pub, next to the tube station, are stand-ups, character comics, a comedy magician and singer-songwriters.

Alex said they hoped it would be an antidote to the wintry weather and something to cheer up locals if they are

feeling down about our parking zone changes.

"We want to create a warm atmosphere, nothing aggressive, where people don't have to feel nervous about sitting in the front and being picked on," he said.

Tumbleweed Comedy was due to stage its first evening at the Old White Lion on 4 November, as we went to press. It will return on 2 December. A special area of the Old White Lion is sectioned off on club nights with tickets priced £5 on the door. The rest of the pub is open as normal.

London Jazz Festival

Artsdepot is joining forces with the London Jazz Festival for a third year running, to bring the best of jazz to north London.

One of the star attractions will be award-winning singer and BBC Radio 2 personality Clare Teal. She will treat the audience to Latin grooves, uplifting swing, close harmony vocals and killer ballads, all delivered with her distinctive style and flair, on Friday 13 November at 8pm.

Internationally acclaimed singer, composer and novelist Amit Chaudhuri performs songs from his latest album encompassing blues, jazz and rock on Saturday 14 November at 8pm.

Sunday Buzz on 15 November from 1pm is Brass Jaw, a stellar line-up of Scottish jazz musicians delivering an original set of well-loved jazz standards. On Sunday 21 November, you can catch a

double bill of Simon Harris and the Bright Size Gypsies for a jazz journey around the world.



Clare Teal. Photo courtesy artsdepot.

Ticket prices vary for the London Jazz Festival. For details and to book tickets, contact artsdepot on 020 8369 5454 or visit www.artsdepot.co.uk.

Review: Festival music

By Ken Carter

At lunchtime on Saturday 3 October, we listened to a [bass] viol da gamba duo. These instruments have seven gut strings each, an unfamiliar tuning, no sound post and an awkward-looking but historically-correct bowing-style. Claire Bracher and Liam Byrne played on them sweetly, softly and with gentle vibrance.

That evening, with stunning vitality and precision, keenly alert to differences in era, the London Mozart Players played Britten, Bach and Haydn, conductor-less. Susanna Candlin led, and her authority as soloist in Bach's *First Violin Concerto* was vigorous and stylish.

Geoffrey Hanson conducted the first performance of his *Five Nocturnes for Tenor and Chamber Orchestra*, written in

memory of Angela Beveridge, an East Finchley parishioner of character. Smoothly, hauntingly and ably, Ian Priestley sang of the Evening Primrose, night in wartime, wintry lost childhood, cats on the tiles and the 'great gift of sleep'. I was impressed. Hanson's music has appeal and integrity. He writes simply and sparsely, with an acute ear for the precise sound he requires.

What's On...

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

Wednesday 4 November to Saturday 7 November:

- Rhapsody Opera perform *La Traviata* in the artsdepot studio theatre, N12, at 7.30pm. Tickets from £10 -£15.

Wednesday 4 November to Saturday 28 November:

- **The Barnet Collection 22nd Annual Exhibition and Sale of Ceramics and Art** in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice at The Millie Apthorp Gallery, The Radlett Centre, 1 Aldenham Avenue Radlett, Herts. Open Monday to Thursday 10.30am - 4pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm; closed Friday and Sunday. Information: 020 8449 8877.

Saturday 7 November

- **Pavement Pounders at The Institute**, 11 High Road. 11.00: illustrated talk on the great contribution refugee artists made to 20th century British art and culture. After lunch, meet at Hampstead Underground Station at 2pm for guided walk. Details from Maryanne or David on 020 8340 7178. To book contact The Institute on 020 8829 4141.

Saturday 7 November - Sunday 22 November

- **Finchley Art Society 60th anniversary autumn exhibition**, Trinity Church concourse, Nether Street, N12, 9am to 6pm. Free entry.

Sunday 8 November

- **Live music** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite the library, 7.30pm; **Musical Treasures** by well-loved composers such as Schubert, Schumann, Beethoven, Gershwin and Gilbert and Sullivan. Free admission; collection in aid of Barnet Carers. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Thursday 12 November

- **An evening with Shrabani Basu**, author of *The Spy Princess*, the story of a Muslim Indian princess who became a World War Two spy and died in a Nazi concentration camp; the Henrietta Barnett School Literary Society; advance tickets £5 each. Contact 020 8209 9730.

- Children's Bookshop, 29 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill: book signing, 4 - 5pm, by **Oliver Jeffers**, author of *How to Catch a Star*.

Saturday 14 November

- **Muswell Hill Craft Fair**, 10am-4pm, Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10, in support of North London Hospice. Wide range of handmade items on sale, including bags, jewellery, pottery, ceramics and knitted scarves; also greetings cards and decorations. Refreshments available. Admission £1 for adults.

- **Art and Craft Fair** in aid of the Family Holiday Association, Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square, NW11, 10.30am - 4.30pm. Over 20 stalls selling jewellery, pottery, glass, scarves, cards and beauty products. Café, tombola and an opportunity for a relaxing massage. Entry £2.

Until 15 November

- **Further Towards Nature**, new abstract canvasses by T. Athiveerapandian, Noble Sage Art Gallery, Fortis Green, Mondays and Tuesdays by appointment only, Wednesday to Friday, 11am to 7.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am - 5pm. Free entry.

Thursday 19 November

- Jewish Community Centre for London, *The Safe Space - Racism and Football - Are we really kicking it out?* A conversation with Paul Elliot MBE, former Chelsea and Aston Villa player; Brendon Baston MBE, the first black player at Arsenal; and Rimla Akhtar, chair of Muslim's Women Sports Foundation; 8pm, The Media Entrance, Emirates Stadium, London

N7. Price £10 in advance, £12 on the door. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866.

Saturday 21 November

- Children's Bookshop, 29 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill: book signings, 11am - 12 noon, by **Michael Morpurgo**, author of *Running Wild*, and **Emma Chichester Clark**, author of *Happy Birthday, Blue Kangaroo!*

- **Pavement Pounders at The Institute**. Meet 11am at The Institute for a talk, then meet at Warren Street Underground Station for guided walk to explore British Bohemia and its characters. Details from Maryanne or David on 020 8340 7178. To book, contact The Institute on 020 8829 4141.

- **Finchley Choral Society** perform **Beethoven's Mass in C** and **Mendelssohn's Psalm 115 and other Sacred Settings**; St. Pancras Parish Church, Euston Road, London NW1 2BA, 7.45pm. Tickets £16 and £10. Children free. Available on the door or from Les Aldrich Music, 98 Fortis Green Rd. London N10 3HN. Visit www.finchleychoral.org.uk

Sunday 22 November

- **East Finchley Open Art and Craft Fair**, Martin School, High Road, 11am - 5pm. Entry free. Voluntary donation of £1 to local charities entitles entry to prize draw. For full information, visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Saturday 28 November:

- **Tree planting at Long Lane Pasture** opposite fire station, Long Lane, N3, as part of National Tree Week, 10am - 12 noon.

- **North London Chorus** celebrates Felix Mendelssohn's 200th anniversary with a performance of his oratorio *Elijah*, 7.30pm, St James' Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Ticketline: 020 8351 8774. Prices £18, £13, £8 (Concessions £2 reduction). Tickets also available from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10, and at door. Retiring collection in aid of St. James's Church Organ Appeal.

Sunday 29 November

- **Light up a Life** multi-faith lighting ceremony to remember loved ones at the North London Hospice, 47 Woodside Avenue, N12. To sponsor a light in the chestnut tree and for ceremony details, call funding department on 020 8446 2288. Lights visible every evening from 4 - 9pm until early January.

What's on at artsdepot

- Thursday 12 November, 8pm, **The Yiddish Song Project**; Friday 13 November, 8pm, **London Jazz Festival, Clare Teal**; Saturday 14 November, 8pm, **London Jazz Festival, Amit Chaudhuri**; Sunday 15 November, 1pm, **Sunday Buzz, Brass Jaw**; Wednesday 18 November, 8pm, **Drawing Through History**; Thursday 19 November, 8pm, **Stewart Francis - Tour De Francis**; Thursday 19 November, 8pm, **An Audience with Angela Rippon**; Saturday 21 November, **London Jazz Festival - Giulia y Los Tellerini / Simon Harris and The Bright Size Gypsies**; Sunday 22 November, 1pm, **Sunday Buzz - Napoleon Maddox**; Tuesday 24 November to Friday 27 November, **Romeo & Juliet**; Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm, **A Taste of Honey**; Thursday 26 November, 7pm, **Pacheco Uncorked**; Friday 27 November, 8.30pm, **Folk in the Foyer**; Saturday 28 November, 8pm, **A Journey through Jazz**.

Thursday 3 December to Sunday 6 December

- **The Garden Suburb Theatre** presents a modern-dress production of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6. Performances at 8pm, and Sunday at 4pm. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions). Box office: 020 8340 3488.

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

Danger roads surround hospital

Dear Editor,

Re the redevelopment of Finchley Memorial Hospital (*THE ARCHER*, July 2009), I'm especially puzzled about the reference to a possible bus service to and from the new hospital, given the appalling chaos that presently exists in Bow Lane and Granville Road, which the NHS and the council have felt fit to ignore, to the shocking detriment of the residents.

Both roads will continue to be points of access to the new hospital and I wonder how on earth a bus will be able to manoeuvre through totally unsuitable roads in their present state.

I am the nearest resident to the existing hospital and every day is fraught with the horror of excessive moving traffic, parking on both sides of the roads, inevitable noise, congestion and danger.

Unless and until the NHS and council face up to the fact that drastic measures need to be taken about the state of both roads, I really cannot see how the redevelopment can be remotely successful. It is shameful that neither organisation will listen to the people who have everyday experience of the dangers present on both roads, or are they waiting for a fatality to happen?

Yours faithfully,
Sally Underwood,
Granville Road, N12.

Support for pavilion plans

Dear Editor,

I would like to inject some optimism into the discussions around the plans for the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion, particularly in response to letters by Summerlee Avenue residents in the October 2009 edition of *THE ARCHER*.

Sally-Ann Wigfield's vision for the space couldn't be further removed from McDonald's. On the contrary, her plan is to introduce an innovative cafe that promotes healthy eating, combined with a well-being space and a venue for nutrition education.

Families and school groups will be able to eat healthy food, learn about nutrition, grow some veggies, practise yoga and relax in the peaceful surroundings of the park.

As a local resident and environmental educator, I am very excited by Sally's plans, and I recently met with her to discuss ideas for a holistic education programme around healthy eating, healthy living and a healthy planet.

Yes, the character of the building will change somewhat, but at present it is an eyesore and a hazard, whereas these proposals offer a fantastic opportunity to bring it back to useful life. Charismatic features of the building, such as the front arches and the roof turret, will be retained, while new elements such as a sustainable green roof and well-being space will add value. How this will lead to an increase in "petty crime" is beyond me.

Surely the best way forward is not to look for problems, but to work together to find the best outcome for the community. I, for one, support Sally all the way.

Yours faithfully,
Shayna Barby
High Road, N2

Letters to the editor

Wonderful workmen

Dear Editor,

I live on a local housing association estate which is currently being modernised and the thought of having all my windows and patio doors replaced within one day sounded quite a "challenging" experience. All my concerns vanished when Nation-care demonstrated their workmen's schedule was "faster than a speeding bullet".

Their team of workmen greatly impressed me as they were highly efficient, helpful and professional from the moment they arrived in my home until they left. Nothing was too much trouble for them to ensure that everything went smoothly and I was minimally inconvenienced. It was great to see a team of efficient workmen for a change. I think it's important to give credit where it's due.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

Bird-brained legislators

Dear Editor,

Your correspondent Jake Eisen-Renyard (*The Archer*, August 2009) is mistaken in his assumption that replica birds of prey would cause the small flock of pigeons

outside Budgens to up sticks and move home.

Former London Mayor Ken Livingstone made the same error a few years back when he decided to pay 'hawkmen' £60,000 per annum to attack and chase away Trafalgar Square's historic flock using real birds of prey.

At the time, Livingstone described pigeons as "rats with wings, but stupid". Tourists were horrified to see pigeons ripped asunder by falcons, but the flock stayed put. Why? The answer is simple: they are homing birds. Clearly, Ken's bird-brained advisers forgot to tell him.

Those who obsess over the supposed health hazard posed by 30 or so birds may have noticed the large volume of motor traffic passing by. Recent statistics show London has higher levels of deadly nitrogen dioxide emissions than any other European capital. This is estimated to cause 3,000 deaths each year.

Am I alone in wondering whether pigeons are being scapegoated for problems our legislators will not solve, when they can fly away?

Yours faithfully,
Steve Norman,
Elmhurst Crescent, N2.



New-look Budgens

By Diana Cormack

On 17 October the Mayor of Barnet officially opened the refurbished Budgens store on Viceroy Parade. Councillor Brian Coleman was accompanied by his mother the Mayoress, a resident of East Finchley who lives "just up the road".

He congratulated owners Shalil Bhattessa and Yougesh Jegeswaran on their new look store which he hoped would encourage people to shop locally and bring more trade to the High Road.

The new layout has created more space for a greater range of stock, including improved bakery

and off licence areas. Over the years Budgens has become a contributor to the community, with the staff supporting a number of different charities and contributions being made to a variety of local causes. They'll be selling *THE ARCHER* 2010 Calendar in aid of the Bobath Centre from mid-November.

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Bobath Centre: "The best place in the world."

By Kevin Gillespie, Bobath Centre fundraising manager

On a recent visit with her son Laurence, Ann Williams described the Bobath Centre as "The best place in the world."

Laurence was five months old when he began twitching uncontrollably. Epilepsy was diagnosed and a MRI scan confirmed that brain damage had occurred during pregnancy. There was no obvious cause; he was just one of the unlucky children born with cerebral palsy.

Happily, Laurence has benefited over the years from visits to the internationally-acclaimed treatment clinic in East Finchley and, as a consequence, has been able to go to his local school.

What is cerebral palsy?

It is an umbrella term describing a group of disorders caused by damage to the immature brain. It takes many forms, but usually a child will find it hard to control their muscles, maintain postures and co-ordinate movement. This makes it difficult for them to do simple tasks like getting dressed and eating, and to cope with the demands of mainstream education.

"Our aim," says the centre's director Jayne Pearce, "is to improve a child's quality of life so that they are healthy, active and able to be as independent as possible. The centre works almost exclusively with children who have cerebral palsy.

This has given us a wealth of knowledge and experience that's hard to find anywhere else."

Meeting a range of needs

Ann agrees: "They don't accept the notion that nothing can be done for a child. They keep searching for solutions." Laurence has limited use of his right side, and problems chewing, using his tongue and closing his lips. His condition requires not only the skills of a physiotherapist to make his right side stronger, but also a speech and language therapist to improve his eating and speaking, and an occupational therapist to work with him on activities that will give him the independence he needs as he gets older.

This is where the centre comes into its own. "If a child has a variety of different problems our specialists work collectively to devise a single treatment plan incorporating all the child's therapy needs," says Jayne. "This bespoke service can make a difference even for children with highly complex conditions."

Names of the mother and child in this article have been changed. You can contact the Bobath Centre on 020 8444 3355.

THE ARCHER Calendar 2010 on sale

THE ARCHER Calendar 2010 is on sale now. It is the perfect accompaniment to any wall and, at just £5, makes a very affordable Christmas or New Year gift for family and friends.

Our special thanks go to Photobox.co.uk, who are printing the calendars free of charge, meaning every time you buy one the whole £5 goes straight to our chosen charity.

This year, we are sup-

porting the vital work of the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy in East End Road, which provides therapy, treatment and emotional support for families affected by this debilitating condition.

Thank you to everyone who sent in photographs of life in East Finchley for us to choose from. Our judges had a tough job whittling them down to the final 12 but the end result is a truly special calendar celebrating people and places in N2.

Buy your calendar now

Thanks to the support of local traders and businesses, you can buy your calendar over the counter at shops and venues in the High Road and East End Road. Look out for *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010 posters in shop windows across East Finchley.

Or turn to page 11 and use our form to order by post. Send us your name and address, along with payment, and the calendar will be delivered straight to your door. Delivery is free.



The Archer Calendar 2010 in aid of the Bobath Centre

Review: Whistle and Wink

By Betti Blatman

Waiting for The Whistle and Wink Comedy Show to begin, the audience at the Finchley Youth Theatre were warmed up by the show's hostess, Shelley, before Cecilia Holmes's arrival on stage.

Cecilia gave an over-the-top hilarious improvisation of 'Ivana' emphasising extensive plastic surgery and Botox procedures carried out by 'Dr Freedman' (Howard Mattingley) in exchange for personal favours.

Later, a mysterious psychic medium appeared through a cloud of smoke before revealing herself to be Cecilia under a huge wig, and once again we listened to her fabulous vocals and keyboard whilst accompanied by drummer Jason Everitt. Cecilia's finale was as herself in formal dress, accompanied by Julian on guitar, singing *Angel Child*, which she wrote and dedicated to her 11-year-old daughter.

Although Cecilia performs regular spots on the comedy circuit, this performance on 26 September was her first full-length gig in association with Gareth Nash, her co-writer of songs, lyrics and acts.

Next up will be a Valentine's comedy event, "The Whistle and Wink Comedy Show Under Cupid's Bow", on Sunday 14 February 2010 at 8pm. Tickets are priced £12.50 and include a glass of wine and canapes. Contact Cecilia on 020 8444 8702 or 07533 750400.

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