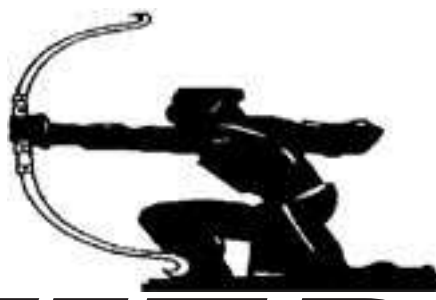


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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Archie at East Finchley Station. Photo by Stuart Webber

Vote for Archie

There are just days left to vote for our very own Archie to become an official landmark of the London Olympics 2012. The famous East Finchley station statue is one of four Barnet icons up for the honour. If chosen, Archie will be made into a pin badge for the Olympics. What could be better? So vote before 18 October by going to www.london2012.com/landmark.

Low carbon zone

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Muswell Hill Sustainability Group has helped Haringey win funding of up to £400,000 so that Muswell Hill may become a Low Carbon Zone (LCZ). Muswell Hill is one of only 10 neighbourhoods in London to be given this funding by Mayor Boris Johnson. The plan is to help people cut carbon and reduce emissions from some of London's older buildings, which have generally been more difficult to make energy efficient.

Wide-ranging plans include installing photovoltaic panels on large roof spaces such as schools and businesses, which can then be used to produce power for local buildings. The project will cover round 1,000

buildings, including private houses. Haringey Council will work with schools, community groups, faith centres and businesses.

Parking changes "will kill off the High Road"

By John Lawrence

Traders and residents are dismayed by the proposed changes to East Finchley's controlled parking zones put forward by Barnet Council. Many claim they will be the death knell for small businesses in the High Road that are already struggling to survive in the recession.

Traders are calling on people to sign their protest petition ahead of the closing date for objections on 14 October. They are urging the council to scrap the proposal to introduce all-day parking restrictions in streets around the High Road.

Impact of new restrictions

Dino Loizou, of East Finchley Electrical Contractors, is co-ordinating the traders' response. Many of his fellow shopkeepers are outraged at the proposed parking changes, he says, and the council and local residents need to recognise their potential impact.

"We understand that people want to be able to park outside their own homes, so there need to be some controls, but everyone must realise that these

all-day restrictions will kill the High Road," he said.

"Traders agreed to the CPZ in the first place because the 2pm-3pm restriction still gave people the chance to come and shop. Under the new plans, people will not be able to park in surrounding roads any time during the day. They'll be limited to paying for parking on the High Road itself, and there are not enough spaces. Shoppers will just go elsewhere."

Dino and the traders are warning that many small businesses are barely surviving the recession. They say an extra blow from tougher parking restrictions could finish many of them off.

Readers' views

Some readers have contacted *THE ARCHER* this month to say they are in favour of the proposed changes but the overwhelming majority of letters we've received say they will be bad for local residents and businesses. See Letters to the Editor on page 11.

The petition can be signed at shops along the High Road. Comments regarding the proposals can also be sent to Barnet Council by 14 October addressed to Daniel Adenle, Environment and Transport, Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP, or email daniel.adenle@barnet.gov.uk

Fireworks Friday

Martin Primary School will be hosting its annual fireworks spectacular on Friday 6 November. Gates open in Plane Tree Walk at 6pm for food and drinks with the fireworks display starting at 7pm. Tickets priced £4 for adults and £1.50 for children are available in advance from the school office, £5 and £2 on the door. All OAP tickets are £2.

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If you have a story for us, please
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*Comments to THE ARCHER may
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Copy deadlines

*November issue: 16 October
December issue: 13 November
January issue: 11 December*

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Hospitals

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

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
MIND 020 8343 5700
NHS Direct 0845 4647

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team 020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
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 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector 0300 1234 999
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

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General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am -
12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Community Services

❖ **Credit Union**, Green Man Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Together we can do it

Have you ever sent a donation to a charity and later found yourself bombarded with piles of fundraising requests? Have you felt helpless as the letters pile up and tried to tell yourself that they are not deserving cases?

Finchley Rotary Club says becoming a club member is a way of helping as many of these good causes as possible. Rotary members give their time and skills, or raise money to help charities function.

Members particularly value charities that are close to home but Rotary also takes advantage of our relatively strong currency to help those in other countries. Join up and you will have a say in what they do next.

Rotary has many international projects, raising money for students to visit other countries and working to eliminate polio from the world, for which Microsoft founder Bill Gates has promised a matching grant.

Rotary members meet for breakfast at a hotel in North Finchley on Tuesdays at 7.15am. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, ring John Pine on 07905 437 854.

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

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Advice to women walking alone

By Janet Maitland

Police have issued advice to women walking alone at night after two serious but unconnected attacks. In one attack in Golders Green, a woman managed to fend off her attacker with an umbrella. In another in Muswell Hill, the victim struggled free and avoided being dragged into Queen's Wood.

Women are urged not to be afraid to go out but to take some precautions. If walking alone at night, avoid short cuts like alleyways and bushy areas. Don't wear headphones as you need to be aware of what's going on. If you use your mobile phone, stay alert to what's happening around you.

If you think someone is following you, cross the street to see if they follow you. If they do, get to the nearest place where there are people and dial 999. Walk facing traffic so a car can't pull up behind you unnoticed. If a car stops and you are threatened, scream and shout, and run away in the opposite direction to the way the car is facing, so that it is

more difficult to follow you.

Witnesses wanted

Police are appealing for witnesses to the two attacks. One was at 11.50pm in Wellgarth Road, Golders Green, on Wednesday 12 August. The attacker is described as about 26-years-old, wearing dark blue jeans and of Asian appearance.

The other attack happened in Muswell Hill Road at about 8.30pm on Sunday 30 August. Here, the attacker is described as in his 20s, black, slimly built and wearing a short leather jacket and black trousers. If you know anything that could assist police in either case, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

Longfield Court, 69 Brackenbury Road, N2

Replacement of existing windows with brown woodgrain UPVC windows.

9- 46 Chapel Court, N2

Replacement of existing windows and doors with white UPVC windows and doors.

Rew Lodge, 2 Church Lane, N2

Replacement of existing windows with white UPVC windows.

30-36 Hamilton Road, N2

Replacement of existing windows with brown woodgrain UPVC windows.

21-31, 56 -68 Market Place, N2

Replacement of existing windows and doors with new white UPVC windows and doors.

Oriel House, 43 The Bishops

Avenue, N2

Formation of basement.

Haringey Council

6 Fordington Road, N6

Erection of single storey rear/side extension. Alterations to front, side and rear elevations.

20 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for erection of side and rear dormer window and single storey rear extension.

14 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for conversion of roof from hip to gable, erection of rear dormer window with insertion of three roof lights to front roof slope

9 Southern Road, N2

Erection of new enclosed porch for front entrance door to street side of building.



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Budgens budge over noise nuisance

By Daphne Chamberlain

The refurbishment of Budgens started with a seriously noisy night for its neighbours, and raised questions about Barnet's noise nuisance policy.

Residents of Viceroy Close, the flats above the store, had their sleep shattered on the night of Thursday 20 August.

In the words of one resident: "At around midnight, with absolutely no warning, loud drilling and banging started below my flat. It was both heard and felt as vibration right up to the third floor. This appalling racket was still going on around 3am, when I found some earplugs."

When he and a number of neighbours investigated, a workman allegedly dismissed complaints that everyone in the flats was being kept awake by saying the firm had permission from the manager of Budgens. Calls to Barnet's Noise Nuisance Unit only got a recorded request to leave a message.

Legal hours for building work

An officer in Barnet's Noise Nuisance Unit did respond the following day. She contacted Budgens, pointing out that it is against the law for building work to take place outside the hours of 8am to 6pm weekdays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. If another complaint was received Barnet

would serve an order to stop the work. If that was ignored, the store would be prosecuted.

Since then, noisy work has been restricted to the permitted periods. Budgens manager Mr R. Janakan apologised for the disturbance, which he said was the fault of a sub-contractor.

Noise and Nuisance

Barnet told *THE ARCHER* that the weekday (Monday to Thursday) night Noise and Nuisance service was stopped in 2005, when there were staff reductions, but the council's policy is to investigate all messages left overnight during the week on the following day.

We asked how Barnet could justify cutting an immediate response during weeknights, when most people have to work the following day, but have received no reply to this.

If you experience noise or nuisance, call 020 8359 7997. The main Barnet Council switchboard (020 8359 2000) also gives option 2 for Noise and Nuisance. Text 07781 473279 or email scientificservices@barnet.gov.uk. Weekend hours are 8pm to 5am (Friday to Monday).



Helping children with cerebral palsy at the Bobath Centre. Photo by Joey Toller

THE ARCHER Calendar to support Bobath Centre

By David Melsome

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos for *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010. We were inundated with entries and, as we go to press, our judges are facing the difficult task of choosing the best 12.

Our calendar will go on sale at the start of November. This year *THE ARCHER* team has decided to give all the proceeds to the Bobath Centre in East End Road, which provides therapy and support for children with cerebral palsy.

Cerebral palsy is a dis-

ability caused by damage to the brain that can take place before, during or in the early days after birth. The centre's director Kevin Gillespie said he was delighted that calendar funds will be helping to support their vital work. Look out for next month's issue when we'll take a closer look at the families who benefit from the Bobath Centre, and the staff who work there.

Also next month, we'll tell you how you can buy *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010 at local outlets or order by post and have it delivered to your door in plenty of time for Christmas.

The calendar makes a great gift or the perfect addition to your own wall at home, and every penny raised from sales goes to support this excellent local charity.

100 not out

By Daphne Chamberlain

Best wishes to Thomas Lobo, often called "TJ" or Tom, who reached his century last month. TJ settled in Leicester Road in 1975, but has lived his long life in three continents. Born in Goa, he moved to Kenya in 1930, where he spent the next 43 years. This was in the days of the British Empire, when many young Goans were recruited to help build up the Kenyan administration.

During his time there, TJ worked for the District Commissioner's Office in Nairobi and other areas of Kenya, lived through the Mau Mau uprisings, and saw the independence of Kenya and the installation as President of Jomo Kenyatta.

He also made a name for himself as an all-round sportsman and renowned cricketer, umpire and sporting organiser. Nowadays, he wonders whether he owes his longevity and remarkable fitness to his involvement in sport. As he says with a twinkle in his eye, he used to smoke and drink, and apparently still sometimes visits the pub.

This is between managing his house and attending Mass at St Mary's Catholic Church. He and his late wife, Leonie, have been part of church life since they moved to East Finchley. Their son, Neil, who was only six when the family left Kenya, grew up here.

As you would expect, TJ has many international links. In



TJ Lobo in his garden. Photo by Neil Lobo

his own family, while his oldest daughter, Mavis, lives with him, her two sisters, Maureen and Betty, are based in Kenya and Canada.

Neil Lobo is compiling a biography in words and pictures of his father, and would welcome contributions. Anyone with birthday greetings or memories of this charming and lively man can contact Neil at 5 Cowper Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NF or at neil-lobo@o2.co.uk.



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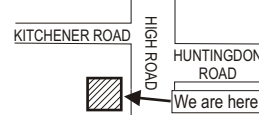
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Bright ideas for darker days

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

Now that October is here, it's a good idea to make sure your children's coats and bags are as bright as possible so they can be seen by motorists in the shorter, darker days.

You can buy reflective items in many shops. Your Safer Neighbourhood Team can also help. We have a supply of stickers, tags and some backpacks to give away to local school children. These have been produced by the THINK! Road Safety campaign team as part of road awareness for children.

Bike prize

Tales of the Road is a fun website which uses animated characters to tell a series of cautionary tales, each focusing on different aspects of road safety, along with interactive games to play. There's Make me Cross, about safe places to cross the road, Fix and Ride, about cycle safety, and Lighten Up about being bright to be seen safely. There's even a competition for



the best road safety poem. The best one every two months will win a new bike. The website address is www.talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk

During the week beginning 19 October, the team will be outside Holy Trinity and Martin Primary Schools handing out free fun reflectors and bags displaying characters from Tales of the Road. We'll also have booklets full of road safety information and games for six to 11-year-olds. For days and times, look out for Tales of the Road posters displayed outside the schools and in our team base on the High Road.

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

Man charged with domestic violence

By Janet Maitland

A 41-year-old man from East Finchley has been charged with rape, attempted rape and grievous bodily harm. All these crimes were committed against the same woman, his 50-year-old partner.

"This case is an example of extreme violence and abuse against a partner," said DI Neil Rawlinson from Barnet CID. "No one should live in fear of a violent partner. We would encourage anyone who is the victim of domestic abuse to come forward."

The number of cases of domestic violence reported to Barnet Police has risen this year from 584 offences to 612. So far this year, 74% of the suspects have been arrested.

Finding help

If you are afraid to go to the

police, you can report the crime to Victim Support Barnet, The Flat, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE (020 8343 4435). They can also give you help and advice.

You can also ring the National Domestic Violence Helpline (0808 2000 247) which provides 24 hour confidential support to women and children experiencing domestic violence, including emergency access to a place of safety in a refuge. Calls are free and interpreters are available for non-English speaking callers.

Nightclub shooting in Muswell Hill

By Janet Maitland

Four people were shot when a man opened fire on the crowd enjoying a night out at The Hill club in Muswell Hill.

Police were called at 2am on Saturday 29 August to reports of a shooting. A man had fired a weapon several times into the crowd before escaping. A woman was shot in the hand, a man was shot in the neck and another in the chest, and another received a minor wound to his leg.

Immediately after the shots were fired, everyone rushed to get out. Several people were injured in the crush, of whom some needed hospital treatment.

"I urge anyone who was in the club who hasn't spoken to the police to contact us and help catch this man," said Detective Sergeant Lucy Kilgour. "We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who may have taken photos in the club or its vicinity around the time of the shooting."

The gunman is described as black, and in his late teens or early 20s. Anyone with information should ring 0208 733 4774, or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



And stretch: Yoga classes give you a chance to support a local autism charity. Photo from Yoga4mums.

Yoga mums flex for autism charity

Yoga4mums will be supporting and raising money for TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, through special "donation classes" in north London in October.

Yoga4mums specialises in yoga classes, workshops and retreats to improve the health and wellbeing of mothers and their families. TreeHouse runs a school in Muswell Hill for children with profound autism as well as carrying out national policy and campaign work.

The donation classes will be taking place at St John's Parish

Centre in Friern Barnet on 21 October, and at St Michael's Parish Centre in Gordon Hill on 22 October. For more details on the classes, visit www.yoga4mums.com.

Cathy Underwood, founder and creative director of Yoga4mums, said: "Just by taking part in a Yoga4mums class you'll be making a positive change to the lives of others. The friendships that begin in our yoga classes ripple back into the community and a

new network of families begins to communicate. It's all about community spirit, so everyone is welcome."

Claire Palmer, senior community fundraiser at TreeHouse, said they were thrilled with the support from the classes. She added: "At TreeHouse we understand that autism can have an impact on the whole family as well as the wider community; so it's vital that the right education and support is available to all those who need it."

Funds available to fight neglect

By Daphne Chamberlain
Do you know of a neglected area in Muswell Hill or Fortis Green which could benefit from Haringey's "Making the Difference" funds?

If so, 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 shortly be bidding for a share of the funds for 2009 / 10.

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Karen Mattison, left, and Emma Stewart at Buckingham Palace, where they received an award from The Queen.

Women like them

Karen Mattison, a mother of three children from East Finchley, and Emma Stewart, from south London, went to Buckingham Palace to receive The Queen's Award for Enterprise. The award recognised their innovation in setting up the Women Like Us organisation that connects mums who need flexible working arrangements to fit around family life with local employers who need talented part-time staff.

Women Like Us has partnerships with 170 London schools and goes to the school gates to talk to women about making the return journey into the world of work. Nearly 11,000 women are registered.

Blissful time in N2

By Brian Timms

A leading Australian cancer surgeon's fond memories of the "small town" of East Finchley are outlined in his autobiography.

Professor Chris O'Brien, a revered head and neck cancer specialist who died of a brain tumour in Sydney in June, aged 57, lived in East Finchley in the mid-1980s.

He describes living with his wife, Gail, and their two young children in a one-bedroom flat behind Bernard Johnson House in "busy but picturesque" Fortis Green near "a village called Muswell Hill".

"It was a blissful time," he writes, referring warmly to the nearby "verdant" park called Cherry Tree Wood, with its tennis courts and well-equipped playground, plus the "excellent" bike shop in Muswell Hill.

But a scary plunge down the playground slide stayed in his memory. After watching his three-year-old son Adam repeatedly climb up the steep steps and slide down, Chris decided it was safer to put Adam on his lap and slide down with him. However, "Adam's little foot slipped between my legs, catching his sneaker on the slide and causing his leg to slip under mine," he writes. Adam had a spiral fracture of his tibia, which was put in plaster for four weeks.

Cancer surgery achievements

While living in East Finchley, Chris O'Brien worked in the

head and neck unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea. His excellent book *Never Say Die* (HarperCollins) details his life's work in cancer surgery and emphasises a positive outlook.

Professor O'Brien was Director of the Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute, which he founded. He was given a state funeral and made an officer in the Order of Australia.

The famous surgeon's links with East Finchley were spotted by ex-Finchley resident Shirley Crane, now in West Australia. Maybe other *ARCHER* readers remember Chris O'Brien from his days in and around the "spacious and leafy" environment of Cherry Tree Wood.

Good weed

By Linda Dolata

Long Lane Pastures continues to be increasingly popular, with a steady stream of visitors throughout the weekend (opening hours 10am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday). It is a fairly quiet time of the year, with the blackberries almost over, and all the young frogs, toads, newts, voles, birds and foxes fully grown and starting to disperse.

There are still plenty of flowers, and consequently lots of butterflies, bees, hoverflies and other insects. The grass is populated by spiders and stridulating grasshoppers, and the pond always has a few dragonflies and damselflies on patrol.

This year the pond has done extremely well, but we have a surfeit of elodea (Canadian pond weed) so it is being removed in vast quantities and (having allowed time for the pond creatures to crawl back into the water) composted. This is not in itself a bad thing, as it attracts insects, which in turn feed birds such as the wagtails.

However, this elodea is the oxygenating weed sold (for a couple of pounds for a tiny bunch) to improve garden ponds or aquaria, so if any readers would like to bring a polythene bag or jar, they are welcome to take as much pond weed as they need. It is beautifully healthy, and makes a good excuse to come and see the pastures. The entrance is from the track on Long Lane opposite the Fire Station.

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Wendy Hallett celebrates her award. Photo courtesy of everywoman

Wendy leads the way

Businesswoman Wendy Hallett was named Innovator of the Year in the Specsavers everywoman in Retail Awards 2009 in September for her dynamic approach to her retail clothing business.

Wendy, who runs Hallett Retail in East Finchley, began her career with the Arcadia group. She became a working mother in her 30s and had ideas to help smaller brands set up boutique outlets. With just £1,000 to buy a PC, Wendy set up Hallett Retail from home and within 12 months had her concept trialled in Debenhams. It was an instant success and was quickly rolled out into more stores. She continued to develop her idea, adapting it beyond department stores, and in 2007 launched in 150 New Look outlets. Today she employs 400 individuals in over 200 sites.

Family first

Talking about her success, Wendy comments: "Passion for and a thorough knowledge of the retail sector definitely helped me launch my business,

but my outstanding team must take much of the credit. One of my philosophies in life is that 'no meeting is more important than your family' and it is a principle I extend to my staff, many of whom work part-time to balance child-care commitments."

The everywoman organisation is a resource for women in business and its awards seek to identify and celebrate the contribution made by women excelling in the retail sector.

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Traders back the Phoenix

Traders in East Finchley have put their hands in their pockets to support the Phoenix Cinema Restoration Project. Hundreds of pounds have been raised from businesses in the High Road and Fortis Green.

David Barron, who runs his own photography business in Muswell Hill, organised the donations. He said East Finchley traders recognise how important the Phoenix is in bringing visitors to the area and keeping it vibrant for people who live and work here.

He's a big Phoenix film fan himself ("Anything with Penelope Cruz in it," he says) and thanked all the businesses who had made a donation.

Here is the list of donors: Dan & Decarlo, Italian coffee & food; Fetch 22, pet grooming and pet accessories; Phone City Direct, mobile phones; Josephine's, florist; Amici, Italian delicatessen; The Manor, health and leisure centre; Emporium, tea room and gifts; Amazing Grates, fireplaces; Gus, gents hair stylist; Poseidon, fish restaurant; Culture Vultures, fancy dress hire; Smiles, dentist; East Finchley Electrical Contractors, electrical shop; J G Bryson, printers; Lazooli, vintage-retro-new fashion clothing; Amy's, hardware store; Never-Never Land, toys and dolls houses; N10 Hair, hair salon; Indian Rasoi, Indian dining; Hair Arena, hair salon; Lazy Sally Café, Cherry Tree Wood; TD Hair Designers, hair salon; The Noble Sage, art gallery; Bike & Run, cycling-running-triathlon; The Bald Faced Stag, public house; New Local Café, dining; Chorak, bakery-coffee-food.

Goodbye, Dr Dougall

By Sippy Azizollah

Woodlands Medical Practice in Leopold Road has said goodbye to Dr Ben Dougall, who arrived from Barnet General Hospital last August. Woodlands is recognised as a training practice where postgraduate doctors who have been qualified for at least three years and have decided to specialise in General Practice work for one year alongside a trainer.

During his year, Dr Dougall has successfully passed all his postgraduate exams and assessments and is now a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

He said: "Working here at Woodlands Medical Practice for the last year has given me an excellent basis on which to continue my career as a GP."

All the staff and patients including myself wish Dr Dougall the best of luck in his new practice in Dalston.

As well as training doctors, the practice has set up a patient group that meets every few months. It provides feedback to Woodlands Medical Practice on how to improve the service they deliver.



Dr Paul Dakin (Right) bids farewell to Dr Ben Dougall. Photo by Sippy Azizollah

The group is looking for more members to join so that it has the opinions of a broader range of ages and cultures. Your comments can be put in the suggestion box in the waiting room, or you can email woodlands.medical-practice@nhs.net



Paul Homer rattles his bucket outside the tube station.

Phoenix Cinema out on the streets

Staff and supporters of our iconic Phoenix Cinema have taken to the streets to raise awareness and money for the cinema's Centenary Restoration Project by holding collections at local tube stations.

The Phoenix Cinema Centenary Restoration Project aims to restore, renovate and develop the beautiful but ageing cinema in time for its centenary celebrations in 2010. A total of £1.1 million is required for the project and over 85% of this has been raised, leaving just £125,000 to be found to complete the project.

Collections have been held

at East Finchley, Finchley Central and Highgate tube stations, with great success. Paul Homer, Chief Executive of the Phoenix Cinema, said: "We are enormously grateful to the people of East Finchley for their generosity and support so far. The restoration project is vital for the Phoenix and it is exciting to be so close to achieving the funds we need to start building work."

Life after cancer

Fiona Castle, bestselling author, cancer campaigner and widow of TV presenter Roy Castle, will visit East Finchley Baptist Church on Friday 6 November for a special evening.

Fiona and Roy regularly attended the church near their home, until Roy's death in 1994, aged 62, from lung cancer. Despite never smoking, Roy contracted his illness after years of playing the trumpet in smoky jazz clubs early in his career. Since Roy's death Fiona has supported lung cancer research and was a key figure in campaigning for the British smoking ban, which came into effect in 2007.

Fiona will share her personal experience of living through very tough times, and the moving story of Roy's illness with cancer and subsequent death. She will speak of the practical and spiritual problems they had to face, and the faith that has sustained her.

Simon Dyke, pastor of East Finchley Baptist Church, said: "We'd like to invite people to come and hear Fiona speak of her journey in life, her humour in ordinary experiences and the joy and hope that she's



Fiona Castle

known through the pain, and sorrow."

Fiona will be at East Finchley Baptist Church on Creighton Avenue on 6 November from 7.45-9.45pm with light refreshments provided. Tickets are free, although donations will be accepted for North London Hospice. To book tickets, contact the church office on 020 8883 1544 or e-mail eastfinchleybaptistchurch@yahoo.co.uk.

October at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer

It's all hands to the pump at the Phoenix as we inch closer to our fundraising target to restore the cinema. We now need a further £125,000, though we do need most of that by the end of this month so as not to jeopardise the project timescale. Our supporters have been wonderful, from local businesses holding evening events, to individuals giving us prints to sell and even organising yoga classes with the proceeds going to the restoration. If you have an idea to help raise money, please do get in touch with me.

The film line up for October is very exciting. The late Heath Ledger comes to the Phoenix on 16 October in the new Terry Gilliam film *The Imaginarium of Dr Parnassus*, which has all the wonderful weird ideas that one wants from a Gilliam film.

Then 30 October sees one of the most anticipated debut performances for a long time. Carey Mulligan stars in *An Education*, based on the memoir of Lynn Barber.

We're delighted, as always, to be welcoming the London Film Festival back to the Phoenix on Monday 26 October with screenings of *Defamation*, which examines whether anti-Semitism is used by right wing Zionists for their own ends, and *Ajami*, which looks at a mixed Israeli neighbourhood.

On 27 October we have the second of Older Women in Film events and a new screening strand kicks off on 2 November when we'll be playing *In the Night Garden* for younger audiences. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Diamond anniversary art

A major exhibition of paintings and other art works by members of the Finchley Art Society will run from 7-22 November at Trinity Church Centre, North Finchley, N12.

The show marks the 60th anniversary of the society, founded in 1949 by Paul Smythe, and will be opened by his granddaughter Barbara Pierce at 11am on Saturday 7 November. 200 works of art will be exhibited, along with original pictures by Paul Smythe.

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Ann Owens Centre regular Pat Novis is happy to be behind the wheel again.

Heartache turns to happiness after mindless vandalism

By John Lawrence and Janet Maitland

When staff at Age Concern's Ann Owens Centre returned to work in Oak Lane after the August Bank Holiday weekend, they were horrified to find windows smashed and steering wheels ripped out of three of their four minibuses, leaving them facing a repair bill of £5,000.

So began a difficult week for staff as they frantically searched for other vehicles to bring people to the centre and attempted to continue their vital work giving elderly and isolated people a social lifeline.

Helping hands

But the actions of the vandals were no match for the spirit within the local community. Within days, several companies had offered their vehicles on loan while Paul Ralhan from mobile repairs company Glasstec, and Peter Guinchard, who runs Trucks from UK in Stanmore, volunteered their repair services for free and got the Age Concern minibuses back on the road.

Development manager Lisa Dubow thanked everyone for their generosity in helping the charity get its crucial service up and running again so quickly. "It was a hard week but we're so grateful to everyone who helped," she said. "We couldn't have afforded to repair the minibuses ourselves."

Effect on elderly folk

And her message to the criminals who broke in and did the damage? "We'd like to make them aware what our services mean to people. We bring dozens of people to the centre every day to see their friends and enjoy activities. Without the minibuses, they'd

be stuck at home and they might not see anyone for days on end. For some, it's all they have."

The police told *THE ARCHER* that the vandals forced the doors of the minibuses and broke the windows before removing the steering wheels and leaving them on the drivers' seats. They believe they may have been attempting to steal the vehicles.

Information needed

Sergeant Andy Matthews, of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, said: "It is a shame that mindless criminals do things like this at all, let alone when it concerns the property of a good-natured charitable organisation. We do really need anyone with information to come forward and help the investigation."

If anyone has any information, please call 0300 123 1212 and quote the crime reference number 2420326/09, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Reaching out to the housebound

RSVP is one of the largest volunteer groups in the borough. Here, Barbara Davis from RSVP explains what it does and how you can get involved.

As the name implies, the housebound are one of the most difficult groups of people to reach. There are many people behind closed doors who could join any project if only they knew about it.

Keeping in Touch is a telephone-befriending scheme. We find you a suitable volunteer who will ring you regularly for a "gossip" session. There is no charge for this.

Read for pleasure, knit for the world

Our telecommunication Book Club is also free. The books come in large/small print, hard/paperback and on CD. They are delivered to your home and, approximately every four weeks at a pre-arranged time for one hour, we discuss our read. Should opinions dry up there is always something to talk about, whether it be TV, grandchildren, gardening or the weather.

For more details on Keeping in Touch and the Book Club, call the RSVP office on 020 8445 2780. Incidentally, Barnet runs an excellent Home Library Service for those who cannot get out. Call Claire on 020 8359 3901.

Finally, home knitting is the fastest growing pastime around. The phrase "Knit for England" has been extended to "The World" as our finished items get sent worldwide to provide comfort where needed. Wool is delivered to you and the finished product collected, another chance for a gossip. For details, contact Mandy Francis on 07880 971051.



Kridon Panteli. Photo by Costas Christdoulou.

Nostalgia on film

Illustrator and photographer Kridon Panteli was runner up in this year's annual photographic awards at Lauderdale House, Highgate.

He submitted an image called "A Day At The Aerodrome" (right) bringing back memories of a time gone by, with a mother and two sons dressed in typical 1950s clothing, one of the boys holding a toy biplane.

Kridon, of Chandos Road, has a new project called "Artists, Artisans and Athletes", a series of images of local people and their work, and he is looking for interesting faces and professions to capture on film. He can be contacted via his website, www.panteli.net



Kridon's commended photo A Day At The Aerodrome

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YOUNG ARCHER



Paint it green: the guides go under camouflage. Photo by Toni.

Guides go under cover in the woods

By John Lawrence

Summer camp turned into a survival exercise for a group of Guides when Territorial Army Captain Zayne Crow and her colleague Anna of the Royal Army Nursing Corps turned up for a day of training in camouflage and survival techniques.

The girls from 4th East Finchley and 8th West Finchley Guides were at the Cherry Green Trees campsite, Colney Heath, for a five-day camp.

Zayne and Anna, both from 256 (City of London) Field Hospital, showed them conceal-

ment methods, took them on a blindfold assault course in the woods, trained them in fitness and first aid, and helped them cook Army ration packs.

Guide leader Toni Dietmann said: "The girls loved it. It was one of the highlights of the whole camp. I think they still had on most of the camouflage paint for the rest of the week."

The Girl Guide organisation is 100 years old this autumn and the 4th East Finchley Guides are celebrating their first birthday.

For more information on 4th East Finchley Guides, who meet on Thursdays, call Toni on 020 8815 0715. For information on 8th West Finchley Guides, who meet on Fridays, call Ruth on 020 8449 5598.

New toddler group

There will be wriggles and giggles galore in East Finchley as a new group for under-threes is launched. Little Fishes, the group for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers, is starting on 6 November at East Finchley Baptist Church. The sessions will be held in the church building and staffed by experienced volunteers.

Each session starts with an adult café with real coffee and newspapers plus free play for the children on a wide range of toys. This is followed by snack time for children, crafts and activities on the day's theme and singing time. The group will have a Christian ethos and activities will include sessions on harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Little Fishes will take place on Friday mornings from 9.30-11.15am at the church on Creighton Avenue. Each session costs £2.50 plus 50p for each additional sibling who is aged over six months. To find out more you can turn up on the day, contact the church office on 020 8883 1544 or email administrator@eastfinchleybc.org.uk.

Teaching life in China

By Helen Morrison, head teacher at Martin Primary School

Earlier this year, I had the good fortune to be selected by Barnet Local Authority as one of four head teachers to visit China as part of a delegation of more than 100 head teachers from all over the UK. The trip was funded by the British Council and supported by Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International.

Martin Primary School has been chosen to partner with Longjiang Experimental School in the town of Longjiang, just outside Shunde in southern China. It is a primary school with 1,500 pupils in a relatively affluent area of China known for its furniture production.

Outstanding

I spent four fascinating days at the school, with a detailed itinerary starting early in the morning until late into the evening, my first day being marked by a spectacular flag-raising ceremony performed by pupils and staff. As well as being able to observe daily life in the school, I observed several lessons, none of which was less than outstanding.

After every lesson, whole staff teams were released so that we could meet to discuss what I had seen and share good practice. I was also treated to a truly inspiring stage performance from the children that

included acrobatics, dance, traditional Chinese drama and Kung Fu.

Surprises

My trip was full of surprises and my preconceptions about China were frequently shattered. I expected lessons to be very formal and teacher-led with children sitting in rows, but was pleasantly surprised to see very similar practice to the UK's. Staff expressed the desire to 'modernise' their teaching and everywhere I went I saw happy, relaxed and enthusiastic children. I saw real scope for my school to learn much from our partner school and vice versa.

Before I left we agreed future aims for the partnership at a formal ceremony. Short-term aims are for Martin Primary children to have the opportunity to make friends through email communication, to learn Mandarin and to celebrate festivals together, preparing them for a successful future as international citizens.

Safety first for school kids

By Janet Maitland

Do your children take their iPod, MP3 player, laptop, games consoles or mobile phone to school? In a drive to prevent school children being robbed, Barnet police are urging parents to think carefully about whether such items should be in their children's school bags.

The advice they are issuing to parents and children is to avoid carrying expensive items to school unless they are essential. Keep school bags closed at all times so no one can see your possessions.

Stay alert and aware of what's going on around you. Avoid wearing headphones or keep the volume low so you can still be alert. Don't walk alone through parks or alleyways after dark; stay in well lit

areas with a group of friends.

Mark your property with your house number and postcode using an ultra violet pen, which are available in the home security section of most DIY stores. Make a note of your phone's IMEI number, so that if your phone is stolen or lost, your phone provider can use this number to make it useless to anyone else. Get the number by keying *#06# on your phone keypad.



Create Theatre fan Sophie. Photo courtesy Lisa Omar

Get creative in the theatre

By Lisa Omar

Caroline Lau had always dreamt of opening a theatre school; this dream finally came true in January 2007, when Create opened.

Caroline's background is in teaching drama for 10 years, and as a primary school teacher in Barnet.

Create is a small theatre school with a maximum of 20 children in all classes. The aim is to create a close family feeling.

Children can attend one, two or three classes with a choice of drama, dancing, singing, Create-teenies and CR8 Street Dance. All classes are held on Saturdays at Tudor Primary School, Queens Road, N3. For more information, contact Caroline Lau on 020 8882 9009.

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Sports reports: Wingate and Finchley FC, Ryman League Division One North

By Daniel David

Wingate and Finchley FC 1, Thamesmead Town FC 1, Saturday 22 August

It was Wingate and Finchley's first Saturday fixture at the Abrahams Stadium which ended in a draw, continuing their good start to the campaign, although both sides would say they deserved to win in an eventful game which saw one disallowed goal and a more than arguable refereeing decision.

Both sides started the game in an edgy fashion but soon enough chances were created. The away side looked more threatening than their opponents but, right on the 45th minute, the referee pointed to the spot after a mistimed tackle on Wingate

forward Leon Nelson, who then coolly converted.

On the hour mark, the referee disallowed Thamesmead's Andy Constable's headed goal for being offside. Seventy five minutes in, the referee saw a Thamesmead defender handle the ball when trying to clear a cross, when in fact the ball hit him straight in the face. A dubious penalty decision given, Wingate captain Marvin Samuel stepped up to deliver a poor penalty, which was saved by Steve Northwood's trailing legs.

Wingate & Finchley FC 3, VCD Athletic FC 0, Saturday 5 September

From the start of this

game, tackles were flying in, and inside four minutes Wingate's Jordan Fowler had to be replaced by Ola Williams after a nasty challenge. Leon Smith grabbed the first of his hat-trick after making the most of a poor back pass, which he then rounded the keeper to finish in an empty net. Soon after, Smith doubled his side's lead with a smart lob over VCD's James Tedder after going clear on the right flank.

From this point on, the away side rarely had a say in the game, which looked to have been won inside 30 minutes when the Blues had a chance to go three up. A shot was spurned by Marc Weatherstone, however, and before long Smith completed the rout with a superb solo effort.

VCD couldn't get themselves back in the game and a desperate-looking attempt from defender Anthony Hogg was their last effort on goal. A man of the match performance from Blues' centre back Craig Ellis, who never looked shaken by VCD's frontmen, ensured the home side went away with a win and a clean sheet.



Ben and Mam have their own kitchen at last. Photo by John Lawrence

Family Thais

By John Lawrence

A new mother and son team have taken over the Thai kitchen at Maddens pub in the High Road. Mam Spencer and Ben Henham have always longed to run their own business and now they've got the chance.

Mam grew up in a small village outside Bangkok and has had a career in catering in London, working in some of the top Thai restaurants in Wardour Street and Carnaby Street.

Ben, a former Martin School and Fortismere pupil, is in the last year of his game design and multimedia studies at the University of Greenwich and has business experience running and serving in a bar.

After coming across the chance to open the Maben Thai kitchen at Maddens almost by accident, they have many plans for the business.

Ben said: "We were very close to taking a restaurant in High Barnet but I used to come

into Maddens once a week with my dad and Kieron the manager knew my mum was a chef. When the previous team moved on, he asked if we would be interested. Having a business in East Finchley is what we really wanted."

Ben and Mam's mission is to help diners explore and enjoy Thai food, rather than feel intimidated by the ingredients or the choice. They want to serve central London-quality food at common sense prices.

Maben is open at Maddens from 12pm-3pm and 6pm-10.30pm Monday to Fridays, and 12pm-10.30pm Saturday and Sundays.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Beware: Cliff!

Just when you thought it was safe to believe in the future of rock 'n' roll an ageing 1950s matinee idol and professional God botherer embarks on the kind of tour that gives senile degeneracy a bad name. Yes, the perma-tanned star of 1963's biggest film is back.

When rock was young, Cliff was a rocker and his 1958 single *Move It* was the first English rock record. He was a bit like Elvis without the burger addiction and, like Elvis, quickly moved from edgy rocker to housewife's favourite. It was all going well everywhere, except America which had enough sense to remain immune. And then came The Beatles.

The Beatles changed everything. They wrote their own songs, they sounded different and, as Philip Larkin wrote, 'The permissive society began in 1963, between the Chatterley trial and the Beatles' first LP'. Time to choose sex, drugs, the Summer of Love and Woodstock. Cliff chose God bothering, crap TV shows and the Eurovision Song Contest. Cool? Cliff wasn't cool; he was so uncool that he joined the Festival of Light, Mary Whitehouse and Co's attempt to drag everyone back behind the net curtains.

In 1975 he disowned his new single *Honky Tonk Angel* once he realised it was about a prostitute, not some heavenly apparition. When punk arrived in 1976 Cliff should have been first into the dustbin of history, but for some weird reason he wasn't. Instead he was repackaged as a rock star. And for 10 years it almost worked.

The new, leather-trousered, almost-cool Cliff managed some almost-cool hits, even in America. I almost stopped laughing, but Cliff didn't let me down; he got the Christmas bug and churned out dross like *Mistletoe and Wine* and *Saviour's Day*.

While the rest of the world got Nirvana and grunge, Cliff got a knight-hood and in 1996 made a major contribution to Wimbledon. If he hadn't burst into song to entertain the rain-sodden crowds they might never have put a roof on Centre Court. It was an act of humanity and the only way to stop him doing it again.

As a new millennium beckoned even radio stations woke up and at long last stopped playing his records. Not that he got the message, he still believes that he's the most radical rock star ever because he never did the sex, drugs and alcohol thing. Problem is, he never really did rock 'n' roll either.

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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 07956 375607.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

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- ❖ **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 12 & 26 Oct** 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 7-9 pm, 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 Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **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.

Frost star goes back to the footlights

TV actor Sir David Jason, star of *Frost and Only Fools and Horses*, will be guest of honour at a fundraising dinner hosted by Incognito Theatre. The Gala Dinner on Saturday 21 November at Hendon Hall is part of a £120,000 fundraising campaign to create a spacious and comfortable theatre for both members of the company and audience.

Sir David began his own career with the group and remains their star patron to this day. Formerly David White, he grew up in Friern Barnet and joined the amateur theatrical group around the age of 14 before moving on to drama school and taking up acting professionally. Incognito is one of north London's largest theatre groups, with around 130 active members staging six productions a year, and a regular contender in the Barnet Festival.

The company was set up more than 70 years ago and occupies a 65-seat theatre in

Friern Barnet. Backstage space is limited and the auditorium is tiny by the standards of other theatres. However, the quality of Incognito's productions receives frequent praise.

The exclusive Black Tie dinner will help to raise funds to create a new foyer and bar area, to make proper provision for youth work and to provide an extra rehearsal space and disabled access. To reserve a ticket (price £75 including arrival drink, three-course dinner and wine) contact Ruth Nixon on 020 8886 3274 or email Ruthrhedel@aol.com.

Fancy dress delights

By Diana Cormack.

Do you want to look like Rod Stewart or is Marie Antoinette more to your taste? Maybe a touch of Spiderman or Wonder Woman is what you're looking for? Whichever character takes your fancy, Culture Vultures at 200 High Road could probably help you out. They have more than 200 costumes available for hire.

THE ARCHER wondered if there were ever any strange dressing up requests. "Strange doesn't seem strange any more," owner Deborah Handford replied. "It's all quite normal."

The fancy dress shop has been there for more than 20 years. Deborah worked part-time for the previous owner Colin Scott and took over with her husband David some five years ago. He used to work in banking, she at Middlesex University. Together they set about giving the whole business a work over, which included raising their profile with their own website.

Festival fun

Since then business has increased by 50% and they have established a wide circle of customers coming from as far afield as south London and Watford. Some of them are well known personalities and local celebrities. Busiest times are at festivals such as Christmas, New Year, Purim and Hallowe'en. Passersby now expect to see Boris the Hallowe'en Spider and Billy the Waving Snowman in the



Culture parrot - Teresa Khan waits to be served

shop window at the appropriate time of year.

Culture Vultures' impressive range of accessories accounts for some of the increase in trade. Wigs, hats, masks, glitter, allergy-tested face-paints: if you can't find what you want, they will try to get it for you. There is a sale rail, which has on occasion been snapped up completely by a school or drama club. Visit www.cvfd.co.uk or call 020 8883 5525 for more information.

Review: Bel Canto Singers

By Ken Carter

On Sunday 13 September at the East Finchley Methodist Church there was Something for Everyone, in aid of Contact. This was the Bel Canto Singers' first outing in two years, a reunion, virtually a family get-together. The seven singers were well known to many of the audience and our compère was assured yet engagingly diffident, a very English mix.

The event was charming, varied and quite stunningly accomplished, in the best sense 'amateur' to its fingertips. The singers showed refinement and panache, wooing us with soothing harmonies from our folk tradition, rousing us with a Handel-like chorus and enlivening us with brash, syncopated

melodies from Broadway.

Solo spots were Sarastro's bass aria from *The Magic Flute*, a cameo from Ravel's *Sonatine* and a brazen, 'give it all you've got' musical number. An arrangement of *Autumn Leaves*, with moments of filigree counterpoint, was enchanting perfection.

What's On...

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

Thursday 1 October to Friday 30 October

- **Exhibition of colour photographs by Emilie Selbourne** entitled *Rus in Urbe: urban but rural places* in north London, including Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Long Lane Pasture; Chorak Cafe Gallery, High Road. For more details visit www.emilieselbourne.com

Monday 5 October to Sunday 1 November

- **East Finchley Open art show at the Phoenix Cinema.** Around 25 artists will show their work, many inspired by the cinema. Pieces available to buy, proceeds to Phoenix Restoration Fund.

Friday 9 October

- **East Finchley Jazz Band** live at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Chestnuts, The Walks (off Park Road, south of Leopold Road, N2), 8.30pm to 11.30pm; £5 entrance; telephone 020 8807 7552 or 020 8292 2911.

Until Sunday 11 October

- **East Finchley Arts Festival** continues at All Saints Church, Durham Road. Tuesday 6 October, 7.30pm, poets Fleur Adcock & Dannie Abse read from their works; Wednesday 7 October, 7.30pm, Pantagruel Early Music Group; Friday 9 October, 7.30pm, Fidelio Piano Quartet play chamber music by Mozart, Faure & Brahms; Saturday 10 October, 11.30am, 2pm & 3.30pm, Punch & Judy for the children, Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch and Judy show in the church garden, indoors if wet; Saturday 10 October, 12.30pm, Young Artists' Recital; Saturday 10 October, 7.30pm, London International Orchestra, conductor Toby Purser; Sunday 11 October, 7.30pm, Finchley Children's Music Group. Box offices at Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2, (tel 020 8889 7112), Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10, (tel 020 8883 5631). Book online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyartsfestival

Sunday 11 October

- **Live music at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road (opposite Creighton Avenue), 7.30pm. Red Baroque quartet presents Autumn Serenade, with works by Haydn, Schumann and Shostakovich. Free admission with collection in aid of the North London Hospice. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Saturday 17 October

- **Romantics in Hampstead guided walk** with Pavement Pounders at the Institute. David Lay and Dr. Maryanne Grant-Traylen give an 11am illustrated talk at the Institute, East Finchley, followed by a 2pm walk from Hampstead Underground Station following in the footsteps of Keats, Shelley, William Blake and many more, ending at the Bull and Bush. Details from David or Maryanne on 020 83407178 or visit www.pavementpounders.co.cc. To book, phone the Institute on 020 8829 4141 or visit www.hgsi.ac.uk
- St Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate, hosts a **gala concert to raise funds for the Dyspraxia Foundation**. Channing School Chamber Group and Choir, with baritone Alastair Hamilton of Southgate Opera, himself affected by dyspraxia; 7.30 pm. Part of Dyspraxia Awareness Week. Tickets £10 adults, £7 concessions, £3 students and children from Les

Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill, or David Hamilton, 29 Twyford Avenue, N2 9NU. Telephone 020 8444 7722. (Cheques payable to Dyspraxia Foundation and please send SAE).

Sunday 18 October

- **JCC Break-Up Wall - Break-Up Night**; join the Jewish Community Centre to celebrate the closing of the Break-Up wall with singers and storytellers, including Jonny Berliner and Mark Greenfield; a unique evening of heartache; closure has never been so entertaining; The Gallery, 190 Broadhurst Gardens, London NW6 3AY, 7.30pm. £5 in advance, £7 on the door. Tickets and information 020 7431 9866. www.jcclondon.org.uk

Wednesday 21 October

- Mark Evison, Manager of **Alexandra Park**, and Paul Braybrooke, Communications Manager for **Alexandra Palace Trading Company**, talk about the palace and the park. Questions welcomed. Hosted by the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association; 8pm - 9.30 pm at North Bank, Pages Lane, N10.

Saturday 24 October

- An evening of music and laughter with **The Confections**, St. Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road, N2 at 7.45 p.m. Tickets £7 (conc) and £8 (including refreshments) from 020 8440 2817 or at the door on the night. All proceeds to St. Mary's.
- Jazz meets the classics when the **BBC Elstree Concert Band** hold their fourth fund-raising concert in aid of the North London Hospice at St James Church, Muswell Hill; 7.30 pm.

Thursday 29 October

- Jane Blackburn talks about **Hampstead Garden Suburb: Place and People**. This is the Jean Scott Memorial Lecture, hosted by The Finchley Society; Avenue House, East End Road, N3, at 8pm. Everyone welcome; £2 admission for non-members. Telephone 020 8346 7812 for more details.

Friday 30 October and Saturday 31 October

- **Hallowe'en Barnet Ghost Walk** with guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube, 7.30pm. Prize for the spookiest costume. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 for more details.

Friday 6 November

- **Martin Primary School fireworks display**, Plane Tree Walk, N2. Gates open at 6pm for food and drinks, fireworks at 7pm. Tickets priced £4 for adults and £1.50 for children available in advance from the school; £5 and £2 on the door. All OAP tickets £2.

- **Fiona Castle**, widow of TV presenter Roy Castle, will be at East Finchley Baptist Church on Creighton Avenue from 7.45-9.45pm to **talk about Roy's illness with cancer and her campaign since his death**. Tickets free although donations accepted for North London Hospice. Light refreshments provided. To book tickets, contact the church office on 020 8883 1544 or e-mail eastfinchleybaptistchurch@yahoo.co.uk.

Saturday 14 November

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

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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.

Sign up against allotment sell-off

Dear Editor,

I would like to appeal to all residents in East Finchley. The allotments under threat (*THE ARCHER*, September 2009) are those owned by Thames Water located on the covered reservoir between the Archery Club, Southern Road and Tetherdown School. Thames Water plans to auction off the allotments with a view to redevelopment. The suggested plan is for up to 48 houses and flats, with the alleyway running to Woodside Avenue being turned into a road.

If you want to save an important piece of green space for people and wildlife (in an area that does not need more housing), please sign the electronic petition online here:

www.ipetitions.com/petition/savefortisgreenallotments/index.html.

If enough local opposition is voiced before the auction in October, the hope is it will make any prospective developer think again.

Yours faithfully,
Julie Murphy,
Southern Road, N2.

Parking changes create a problem

Dear Editor,

I have just opened my lovely copy of *THE ARCHER* to read with dismay about the proposed extension of the CPZ and find myself wondering what Barnet Council has got against East Finchley.

My son is at Holy Trinity Nursery, which is in the existing zone, but only has parking restrictions from 2pm to 3pm. As I live next to the North Circular, it is quite a walk to school. I am happy to walk the 20 minutes (at a pace) in the morning but often use my car to pick up at 12pm so we can make it home in time for lunch. Four-year-olds don't walk very fast and can tire out quickly.

It is particularly hard for mums with more than one child and who therefore have four pick ups and drop offs when they have children in both main school and nursery, which will be my situation in two years' time.

Walking would take a total of 1 hour, 20 minutes of back and forth. As I work for myself, that is valuable time away from my work, which I fit into the windows of opportunity while my children are at school.

Apart from the impact on my own life, I see all the businesses that will be affected by these parking changes as it will become impossible to park and shop in East Finchley. As the Phoenix Cinema moves forward with its amazing restoration plans, who will be able to go to the afternoon showings and the baby cinema if they have to keep leaving to move their car from one hard-to-find parking space to another hard-to-find space? Who can take their heavy parcels to the Post Office or collect from the Market Place sorting office anything larger than a Jiffy bag? Who will come to learn at the Institute before 6.30pm, or be able to join their friends at Lazy Sally's café in Cherry Tree Wood?

So I ask again: what does Barnet Council have against East Finchley, and what is to be gained by anybody having these parking rules, apart from restrict-

ing the lives of those who live here? How can we stop this from happening?

Yours faithfully,
Phoebe Oldrey,
Address supplied.

Parking changes solve a problem

Dear Editor,

We are delighted with the outcome of the new CPZ (*THE ARCHER*, September 2009) as we live in what is to become Area C around East Finchley Station. Every morning from about 7.30am, cars start cruising round looking for an empty bay so the driver can catch the tube. Bear in mind that all are from within the existing zone and some of them I recognise as being from a mere couple of hundred yards away. In any event, everybody who has a current permit to park here is no more than a 10-15 minute walk away. This causes huge problems for the residents trying to park if they go out during the day as the Institute, of course, attracts even more people looking for parking spaces.

I realise that no scheme can please all the people all the time but on this occasion I think I speak for many others in the new Area C when I say: "Well done, Barnet Council."

Yours faithfully,
Tony Joseph,
New Area C, N2.

Listen to the majority on parking

Dear Editor,

I have puzzled long and hard about the figures Barnet Council gives in its letter proposing extensions to the CPZ controls in East Finchley. Their 'proposed actions' as a result of the consultation don't seem to match their own figures.

In the one-hour zone, a minority (30.5%) said they had problems parking, which means that 69.5% do not, and 48.1% actually said they were very happy with it as it is. That means the majority of those who answered want the status quo to continue. In the one-hour zone, it seems crystal clear: keep things as they are.

Conversely, in the all-day zone, a minority (27.3%) were happy with the current system. That means the majority (72.7%) were unhappy with the current arrangements to varying degrees. The all-day zone issues are more complex, but the key component - the ridiculously long hours of operation - is apparently to stay in place.

Governments are elected on majority verdicts. Council members are elected on majority verdicts. Why are the wishes of the majority apparently being ignored here? The prob-

lems created by high levels of car ownership cannot be solved by ever more restrictive CPZ schemes. If we want East Finchley to thrive, we need to allow people from outside the area to come in and use the local businesses and amenities we are proud of. A balance needs to be found.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

Any more guerilla gardeners out there?

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to hear there is a term for what I did last year and would do again, despite the embarrassed horror of my family ("Guerilla gardeners make things look greener", *THE ARCHER*, September 2009). I couldn't bear the sight of the corner bed outside Budgens, full of lovely shrubs but completely matted over the top with bindweed. So I spent a morning ripping it all out and leaving it in a huge pile, so the plants could breathe again, and then I contacted the council maintenance team to follow up, which it seems they did. I wouldn't mind joining a small rota to do something about the beds outside the station if anyone else would be interested.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.
You can contact the writer of this letter via THE ARCHER. Our contact details are above.

Proceed with caution on the pavilion

Dear Editor,

May I comment on your article in the August issue on the plans for transforming the Pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood? Before the current Tory Council came to power, there was an application by McDonald's to turn its staff canteen into a public restaurant and takeaway. We local residents successfully objected to this on the grounds of health, safety and the environment, largely the extent of discarded food and containers that would ensue in the wood.

While the wish to see the pavilion put back into constructive use is practically unanimous, many of us would still feel that turning it into a café and making it available for evening activities would be counterproductive.

Sally-Anne Wigfield already has a successful café in the wood. It serves its purpose. The use of the pavilion as a larger food outlet will raise the health and safety and environmental issues again.

While we do not have a resident park keeper, use of the pavilion in the evenings is not practical as it means having the wood open late, an invitation to drug users and the ensuing

increase in petty crime in the area.

In the late 1960s and 70s the pavilion was used as a successful mother and toddlers base, run by local mothers. Sadly when that generation of children grew and families left, the group closed and the place fell into disrepair. We now have a new generation of young families, and the area is a popular one for such families to move into. In restoring the pavilion this kind of use should be borne in mind: daytime activities, yes, but for evening ones I would counsel we proceed with caution.

Yours faithfully,
Joyce Arram,
Summerlee Gardens, N2

Chill out over holiday stress

Dear Editor,

So Jane Hankin found her week's holiday in a rambling cottage in the Dordogne with her family stressful, did she? (*THE ARCHER*, September 2009) Sorry, but is that stress? This summer many mothers and fathers in the UK woke in a "rictus of tension", to use her phrase, over whether or not they'd have a job, let alone one that could fund a foreign holiday.

Jane, there really are bigger worries than packing enough croissants for a car journey across to France, believe me. With this in mind, I hope you enjoy your holiday next year much more. And leave the Valium behind.

Yours faithfully,

Julia Cooper,

Long Lane, N2.

Why destroy the pavilion roof?

Dear Editor,

It is great to see that something may be done to save the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. It is a lovely building and has enormous potential as a local resource for the community with their proposals of a café and a place to gather. But unfortunately the scheme proposed will completely remove the lovely sweeping roof, changing the character of this local landmark beyond recognition. Had they cut the

terrace into the roof the overall shape of the building could have been kept. Apart from the arches, which they are retaining, the building may as well be demolished and rebuilt. The proposal will be a modernist box. I have nothing against modern buildings but when you have an attractive existing building it is a shame to destroy it.

Yours faithfully,
Philippa Worke,
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

Anyone for water aerobics?

Dear Editor,

Is any one of your readers a car driver and wants to attend water aerobics on a regular basis? There are excellent daytime classes at Copthall Leisure Centre, NW7, and as I live in East Finchley I would welcome a lift up there. This form of exercise is enjoyable and a great way to keep fit.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Hughes,
Market Place, N2.

If anyone can offer Claire a lift, contact us on 08717 334465 or the-archer@lineone.net and we'll pass on your details.

Care for carers

A course is running at Avenue House in East End Road, N3, to give support and counselling to people caring for family members with mental health problems.

The Caring4Carers course balances support with education and empowerment, and is taught by a mental health professional and a trained family carer.

Another course starts early next year. For further details, contact Jeffrey Breslaw on 020 8906 1666 or jeffrey.breslaw@millfields.org. The charity's website is at www.caring4carers.org.uk



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Happy birthday, artsdepot

By Sheila Armstrong

It's five years since artsdepot opened in North Finchley. The venue's director and East Finchley resident Tracy Cooper spoke to *THE ARCHER* to mark the anniversary.

Since the curtain went up on artsdepot at Tally Ho Corner five years ago, it has been voted Best Neighbourhood Theatre in the Love London Awards and has greatly expanded its community work. "All good reasons to celebrate," says Tracy Cooper.

Tracy took charge at artsdepot three years ago after working at the Royal Albert Hall, a true landmark venue. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of artsdepot. The main entrance has been criticised for being invisible from the main roads through North Finchley, burdening the arts centre with a low local profile.

Raising the profile

"For a variety of reasons, signage on the front of the building is a problem," said Tracy. There are constraints but there are now plans to make the artsdepot more of a landmark at Tally Ho Corner. "We may possibly use the outside of the fly tower for signage," Tracy hinted, but probably not film projection onto the building.

Maybe people think of artsdepot only as a theatre but, like an iceberg, there's a lot more beneath the surface. Tracy pointed out that the centre is a focus for many community projects, including



artsdepot boss Tracy Cooper

Ignite for school refusers and young offenders working with theatre and dance. Play covers work with young children and includes courses and the National Big Draw Campaign; Schools is for both primary and secondary schools; Access concentrates on working with disabled youth; and Roots and Shoots on work with refugees and asylum seekers.

Friends of artsdepot

Information about all activities at artsdepot now comes in a series of well-designed brochures such as the Seasonal Guide to theatre and performance for adults and the Family Guide to children's performance and courses for kids. The Friends of artsdepot has been relaunched. For £35 a year, you get a number of benefits including discounted tickets. For information on activities and performances, visit www.artsdepot.co.uk or contact info@artsdepot.co.uk and the box office on 020 8369 5454.

A tale of two cities on two wheels

By Fay Sanders

For four gruelling days in late August, 53 cyclists took up the challenge of biking from London to Paris in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Fay Sanders was one of only 10 women to sign up for the 318-mile trek. Here she reveals how it went.

I kick-started my training programme by cycling the 17-mile round trip from my flat in East Finchley to my offices on the Strand, gradually introducing longer rides at the weekend. Shortly before the big day, I cycled the length of Sardinia with a friend, in 40C heat, which certainly prepared me for what lay ahead.

The first day of the challenge cycling 90 miles from Blackheath to Dover was definitely the toughest. Not only did I suffer two punctures within 40 minutes, but I also developed an unsettling habit of seeing straight past the dazzling orange arrows that painstakingly marked out the entire route to Paris.

A few hours into the ride, I realised with a sinking feeling I had seen neither an orange arrow, nor a fellow cyclist, for a good few miles. Luckily two



Eiffel fine: Fay celebrates after making it to Paris on two wheels

male cyclists had made the same mistake of merrily following the A227, albeit at a faster pace. We managed to navigate back to the morning water stop, arriving, to my dismay, just in time to set off again.

Against increasing odds, including my rash decision to buy clip-in cycling shoes two days before the ride and my struggle to use them, we all arrived in Dover in time to catch the ferry to Calais.

La belle France

It was a particularly moving experience riding through the WWI battle zones of North-

ern France. Row upon row of graves stood on lonely hilltops, often engraved with a poignant inscription to a nameless soldier.

The elation the whole group felt upon reaching Paris was unforgettable. Only moments earlier we had been cycling past fields of cows, and suddenly we were storming down the Champs Elysées, car horns blaring, people cheering and cameras clicking.

Cancer support is a cause close to my heart after losing my father, also a keen cyclist, to cancer 15 years ago. So far I have raised more than £2,025 in aid of Macmillan, but any extra donations via www.justgiving.com/fays would be extremely welcome.

Arts Festival continues

The thirteenth annual East Finchley Arts Festival is running at All Saints Church, Durham Road, until Saturday 11 October. See details of the remaining programme in our What's On column on page 10.

Running alongside the festival is the highly regarded Art Exhibition, featuring a wide variety of artists, including Klaus Wuttke and Nick Orsler. Some of the artwork has been donated, but most will be sold, with one-third of the proceeds going to the North London Hospice.

The church foyer is open every concert evening, from 6pm and between 12-10pm on weekends, where traditional oil paintings and pottery through to silk scarves, jewellery and even digital art will be on sale. Anyone can come and browse; you don't need to attend a concert.

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