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# THE ARCHER



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CARS & COURIERS

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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Mums and children locked in park after dark

By Diana Cormack

An enjoyable August evening in Cherry Tree Wood ended suddenly for about 30 adults and children when they realised they had been locked in. The park is locked at night by a mobile unit responsible for locking a range of sites in the borough but no one in the park had been warned.

Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the Lazy Sally park café, left at 7.30pm. She told *THE ARCHER* there were mums with babies in prams, kids on pushbikes and people playing tennis on the courts. She said: "They were apparently locked in there for two hours and kids were screaming because they were tired, hungry and afraid of the dark."

A reader who was one of those locked in at around 8pm contacted *THE ARCHER*. She said they had to call the police four times but despite explaining that children and elderly people were involved they waited until 10pm before getting help from the fire department.

"Whoever locked the gates never came into the park to tell people. Also, we could not see a sign saying what time the park closed," she said.

In the days when Cherry Tree Wood had a park keeper a warning bell was rung at closing time.

Previous signs indicated dusk as locking up time. Recent new signs describe Cherry Tree Wood as a locked park but give no indication of time. Presumably this reflects the nature of the locking up system, which is regarded as erratic by locals. Occasionally the park is open all night and there have been times when morning commuters were met with locked gates.

A Barnet Council spokesman said: "This is an occasion where we have to hold up our hands and apologise for a mistake made by one of our staff. We have spoken to the person concerned to ensure

this will not happen again and we cannot apologise enough to residents who were locked in the park."

### Inside this issue:

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Cecilia on stage as Ivana

## Comedy on the High Road

Comedy fans have a treat arriving right on their doorsteps when Cecilia Holmes brings her music and improvisation show to the Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road.

See page 10 for the full story.

## Last chance for *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010

Have you got a photo that captures something special about life in N2? Well, now's your last chance to send it in for The Archer Calendar 2010.

People, places, animals or anything bizarre, we'd love to see them all. Please have a look through your albums or files and dig something out for us.

Twelve of the best will be picked to star in next year's calendar, to go on sale this autumn, and every penny raised will be given to a local charity. Our 2009 calendar raised more

than £2,000 for East Finchley-based neighbourhood charity Contact.

You can send in as many photos as you like. Please email them to the-archer@lineone.net clearly marking the email Archer Calendar and giving a few details about where or why they were taken. Closing date is Sunday 20 September. Thanks.



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to thank all the generous  
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### Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please  
contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may  
be published unless clearly  
marked 'Not for publication'  
within the text.

### Copy deadlines

October issue: 11 September  
November issue: 16 October  
December issue: 13 November

## 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

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Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935  
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265  
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 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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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 Community Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

## Survivors of domestic violence find sanctuary

By Janet Maitland

**Barnet Sanctuary Scheme has supported nearly 200 victims of domestic violence since it was set up in 2004, helping them to stay in their own homes and feel safe.**

Many victims of domestic violence flee their home and hide away in temporary accommodation, cut off from their family, friends, schools and work. Others are so terrorised that they are unable to leave, certain that their abuser will find them wherever they go.

The scheme provides additional security measures to the homes of victims, such as stronger doors, locks and window bars, and a Sanctuary Room within the house with a solid core door with steel hinges and special locks, where the victim can retreat and call the police.

This free scheme is managed by Barnet Homeseekers in Whetstone. You can apply through them or through Social Services, your GP, Barnet Homes and other support services. You are eligible if you live in Barnet, are the sole tenant, or

have sole occupation through a court order, and if the abuser has no legal right to enter the property because they have been banned by an injunction or a bail condition. For more information contact Barnet Homeseekers on 020 8359 4797.

Haringey also runs a Sanctuary Scheme, managed by Hearthstone, which has helped more than 100 women since 2005. "The scheme can provide women with the security to dare to remain in their homes," said Councillor Nilgun Canver. Contact Hearthstone on 020 8888 5362.

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

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## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

77 Bedford Road, N2  
Single storey rear extension  
42 Chandos Road, N2  
Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Extensions to roof to facilitate a loft conversion. First floor rear Juliette balcony.

9 Church Lane, N2  
Change of use from A1/A2 to D2 use as Pilates Studio.

42 Church Vale, N2  
Two storey side extension. Alterations to roof including raising of ridge and formation of dormers to both sides to provide second floor accommodation in roof.

Caretakers Bungalow, Nazareth House, East End Road, N2  
Change of use of former caretaker's bungalow and garage to offices for Nazareth Care (registered charity).

7 Fortis Green, N2  
Installation of an extractor flue at rear of A3 restaurant.

22 Heath View, N2  
Single storey side extension.

44 High Road, N2  
Creation of third floor to rear and conversion of first and second floors into two self-contained flats  
Land adjacent to 320 High Road, N2

Erection of three-storey block of flats containing six self-contained flats.

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

Conversion of part of existing office building into a live work unit containing a two-bedroom apartment, an associated office and a separate pottery studio. Insertion of roof lights.

27-29 Leicester Road, N2  
Erection of two-storey semi detached house with rooms in roof space adjoining 27 Leicester Road.

44 Ossulton Way, N2  
Extension to existing garage and

replacement of flat roof with sloping ridge roof. Lowering of existing sloping drive to allow better access to enlarged garage.

13-16, 21-24, 25-28 Pulham Avenue, N2

Replacement of existing windows and doors with new uPVC windows and doors.

9 The Bishops Avenue, N2  
New front entrance gates and brick wall to replace existing. New cycle and bin stores to front driveway.

Turquoise, 42 The Bishops Avenue, N2

Part demolition of wings to existing listed building. Erection of two new replacement two-storey wings. Demolition of existing garage and out-houses and erection of new single storey side extension.

Flat 6, Maple Court, 49A The Bishops Avenue, N2  
Roof extension to Flat 6 to provide additional living space. Installation of awning to south elevation.

### Haringey Council

24 Southern Road, N2  
Erection of single storey ground floor rear extension.

32 Western Road, N2  
Erection of single storey rear extension (Certificate of Lawfulness)

Muswell Hill Sports Ground, Coppetts Road N10

Construction of new playing facilities on part of Muswell Hill Playing Fields site, comprising multi-use games area, natural play area, skate park with two new access points.

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# Anger at proposed changes to controlled parking zone

By Diana Cormack

**Parking restrictions in one of East Finchley's controlled parking zones will be extended if plans by Barnet Council are approved. In addition, people with permits for one CPZ will no longer be able to park in another zone.**

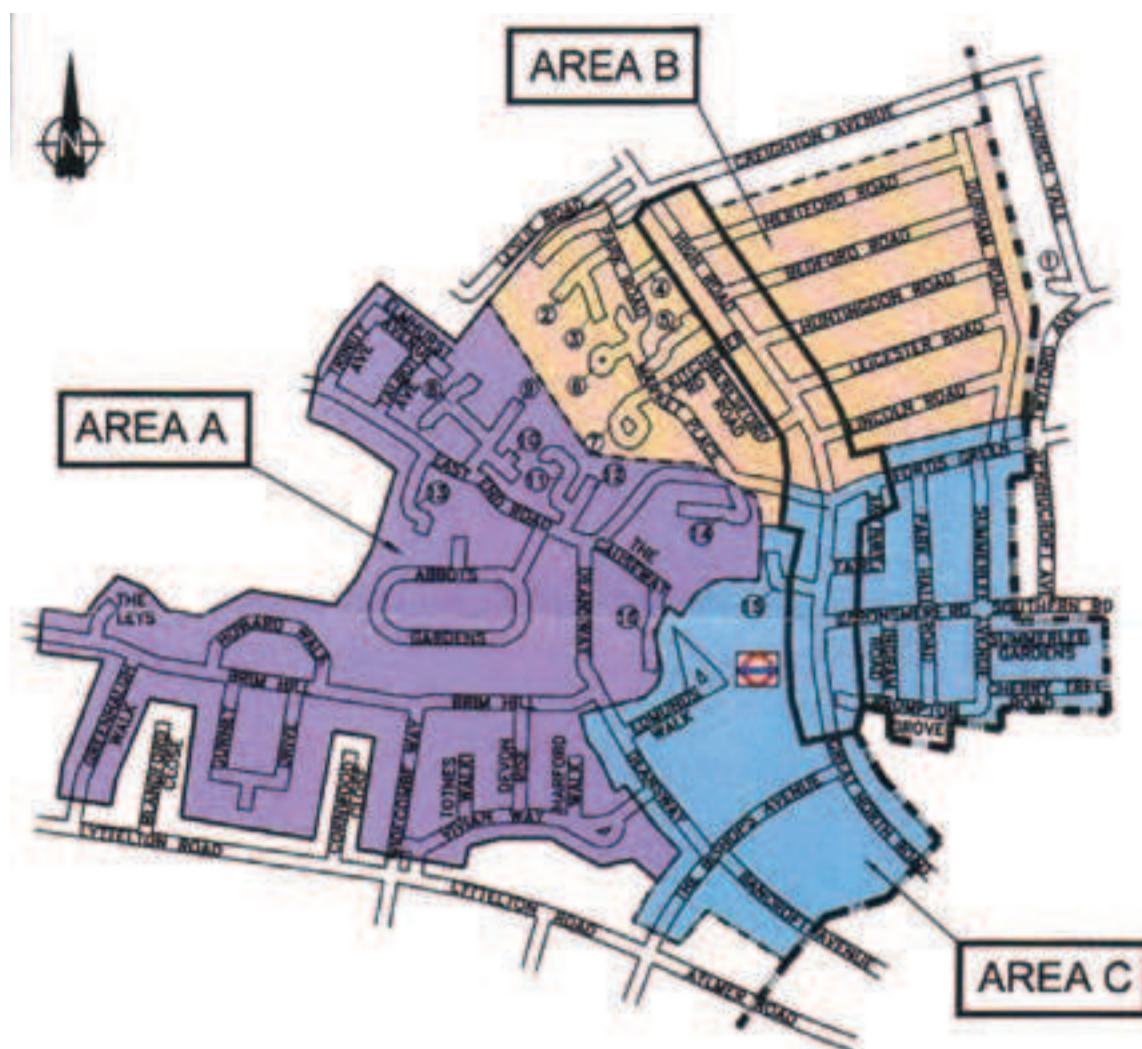
The proposed changes are revealed in Barnet Council's long-awaited letter announcing the outcome of its July 2008 local questionnaire which was finally delivered to residents on 18 August. Some residents are furious (see Letters page).

The proposals are for Area B (see map) to have the present one-hour restriction between 2pm and 3pm extended to operate from 10am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. Area C already has this longer restriction but a new M1 parking permit is proposed which would be valid only in Area C. This would mean that people in Area B could not use their permits to park in Area C and vice versa.

Area A would remain the same except for "minor parking issues".

The letter stresses that residents and traders will be consulted again as part of the process. However, this may not placate some in Area C who are angrily questioning the conclusions of the council. They feel their protests against longer restrictions imposed when Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute moved to the High Road in 2004 have been and continue to be ignored. At the time of writing plans were being made to protest against the proposals.

Concern is also being expressed about the effect



London Assembly members Joanne McCartney (far right) and Jenny Jones (next to her) with allotmenters and their families.  
Photo courtesy Nick Vosper

## Save our plots

By Sheila Armstrong

**Allotment holders in Fortis Green are battling to save the land where locals have grown fruit and vegetables for 80 years. Thames Water, which owns the site, wants to sell the land, and there are fears that it may be bulldozed to create space for houses or flats, despite planning restrictions put in place by Haringey Council.**

Campaigners have won time to fight the plan. Thames Water announced that it was taking the site off the market and entering talks with the allotment holders, who may put together a bid of their own.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Nick Vosper, secretary of the Fortis Green Reservoir Allotment Association. "It doesn't mean the threat to the land is lifted, but it gives us a chance to work out a future for this lovely green space that benefits the local community."

Since Thames Water announced their plan to sell last month, the campaign to save the land has gathered more than 700 signatures for its petition and gained support from Haringey Council, who have written to the company to warn it against undermin-

ing the planning restrictions on the site.

Nick Vosper added: "We are tremendously grateful to everybody who has spoken up for the allotments but I'm afraid we are going to need a lot more help in the coming months if we are really going to see off the threat for good."

A Thames Water spokesman said the company was willing to consider an offer from the allotment holders, but added: "We owe it to customers to get the best price for property we no longer need because the proceeds help pay for essential upgrades to our network which would otherwise be funded solely by customers' bills." Visit the allotments campaign website at [www.savefortisgreeallotments.com](http://www.savefortisgreeallotments.com)

these new measures might have on the elderly, on people getting to their doctor and on businesses in the High Road. Let *THE ARCHER* have your views on the proposed CPZ plans. Our contact details are on page 2.

In a comment to *THE ARCHER* over the delay in the survey results being delivered to residents, Barnet Council said: "The council received a greater number of responses than anticipated to the consultation letter. These responses were a lot more detailed than expected for this type of consultation."

### KEY:

- Existing Stop and Shop scheme - Mon-Sat 8am - 6.30pm
- Existing AREA A - 1 hour zone Mon-Fri 2-3pm
- Proposed AREA B - extended hours Mon-Sat 10am - 6.30pm
- Proposed AREA C - Zone M1 Mon-Sat 10am - 6.30pm



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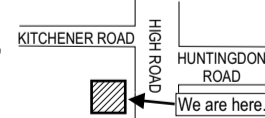
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## New man at the top for Barnet Police

By Janet Maitland

The Metropolitan Police Service has appointed a new Borough Commander for Barnet. Chief Superintendent Neil Basu described joining Barnet Police at the end of June as "next to becoming a dad, the proudest day of my life".

He has spent his first few weeks in the job meeting as many local partner groups and community leaders as possible.

"My priorities are to focus on catching those criminals causing the most harm to the community and to realise an ambition to make Barnet the safest borough in London," said Chief Supt Basu. The latest

crime figures show that Barnet is one of 18 London boroughs with a recent increase in burglaries.

"We are targeting particular areas and known burglars coming out of prison," he said. "But over 50% of burglary is opportunistic, so make sure your home doesn't look empty and mark all your property with your house number and post code."

The Chief Supt is passionate about accountability to the public, believing, like Robert Peel, that "the public are the police and vice versa". "If you dial 999 to report an emergency we should be there in 12 minutes," he said. "If you ring the



non-emergency number 0300 123 1212 you should be given advice and a reference number. And if you ring or email the Safer Neighbourhood Team, they should get back to you within 24 hours."

Hate crime is also a passion. "Victims of crimes and incidents related to racism, domestic violence, sexual offences, homophobia, faith and disability can go to a third party reporting site, if they are too frightened to go to a police station."

The website for East Finchley is Victim Support Barnet, The Flat, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE or 020 8343 4435.

## Stanley Field: date for your diary

By Rob Robertson

In the last issue of *THE ARCHER* we gave notice that the Finchley Community Development Trust is planning to stage a big event on the Stanley Road Playing Field, close to Holy Trinity School, in the second half of September.

The date has now been fixed for Wednesday 30 September between 4pm – 6pm. It will form part of the trust's continuing campaign to persuade Barnet Council that the Stanley Road site should be retained for sporting and recreational use.

Work on the planning of the event is still in progress but we hope local school children will come along and take part in an organised five-a-side competition. We also hope a player

from one of London's top Premier League clubs, as well as a former player active on the Masters Football circuit, will be there to chat to the children and sign autographs.

On the cricket side of things, Steve Selwood, ex-Derbyshire batsman and now Head Coach at Finchley Cricket Club, will be there with a message of support from Eoin Morgan. Eoin, who plays for Middlesex, was recently called up for the England ODI squad.

Look out for more publicity soon or for more informa-

## If it sounds too good to be true, it is

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

In response to a lot of enquiries, this month's column is about scams or dishonest attempts to part you with your money or steal your identity.

Scams can reach you in the form of letters, junk mail, emails, telephone calls and text messages offering everything from financial services to bogus holidays. Remember that if it sounds too good to be true, then it is.

If you haven't entered a competition, you haven't won anything, and if you have to pay money for a 'free' gift, it isn't a gift but a hook to pull you in. And of course never give any personal details about yourself, particularly bank or card details, unless you are 100% sure that whoever is contacting you is legitimate.

Scams also take the form of bogus callers, such as fake charity collectors, and rogue traders. Remember that these types of criminal can be very convincing, charming and persistent.

Never give information, part with money, or invite anyone into your house unless you have checked their credentials. Contact the Charities Commission 0845 300 0218 [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk) to check on charity collectors.

To check on companies, contact Companies House on 0303 1234 500 or [www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk) and, if you need work done on your property, ask for recommendations of tradespeople from friends and neighbours.

Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk) has useful advice about scams. The Office of Fair Trading on 0800 389 3158 or [www.oft.gov.uk](http://www.oft.gov.uk) has

a free leaflet for people who are worried about elderly or vulnerable friends or family falling prey to scams.

To stop junk mail, contact the mail preference service on 0845 703 4599 or [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) and to stop unwanted phone calls contact the telephone preference service on 020 7291 3320 or [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk). Both services are free, so be

wary of anyone ringing you claiming to be from either service asking for payment to complete your registration.

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



## Little Aid can mean a lot to war victims

East Finchley resident Dr Mareeni Raymond tells us about the charity she has helped to set up for the benefit of those affected by the civil war in Sri Lanka.

As a Sri Lankan brought up in the UK, I was moved and disturbed by the conflict there. Thousands who have had to leave their homes and possessions now live in very basic camps set up by the government. Rehabilitating them will take time and will be a difficult task.

They need basic things such as food and clothing and, in the long-term, education, psychological and social support.

After countless discussions about how to help, some friends and I decided to set up the registered charity Little Aid, a name chosen to emphasise that we would use the smallest of donations to make a massive difference.

Our immediate goal is to help with basic needs. We have already raised enough money to send lorry loads of food, milk powder and clothing to the camps. Our long-term objective is to resettle all the displaced people and help them to get on with their lives.

Most recently we have

been working with a camp in Ambepussa where more than 120 children now live, and numbers increase daily. They have very disturbing pasts. The children said they would love to learn traditional music among other things, and so we have organised delivery of many musical instruments and a music teacher for one year to help with their psychosocial development. You can see the delivery of these items at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiIAZ8wqQwE>

If you have not yet contributed to a charity helping those in Sri Lanka, please consider ours, or any, to help the people most at need there. Find us at [www.littleaid.org.uk](http://www.littleaid.org.uk).



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## Street party back on the block

By Kridon Panteli



Barbecue food and a bouncy castle got the party started in Chandos Road. Photo by Sylvie Clarke

On the morning of 19 July, the usual Sunday morning calm and quiet of Chandos Road was broken by the shouts of excited and happy children. A quick look outside the door confirmed the arrival of a bouncy castle and a barbecue was being set up.

It was the preparation for the long awaited street party, which was a regular event at one time, but then ceased after the previous organiser moved and left us fond memories of past parties and thoughts about doing the same again. This year, Danny, James, Tim and Steve got together and wrote to all the residents informing them of plans to rekindle the event.

Chairs and tables were donated and set up, food was prepared in abundance and a self-service drinks bar was set up in a garage.

Music was on hand from our young neighbourhood guitarist Keir, a name to remember.

There was football, races and tug of war. One thing is for sure; this event will become a regular one and we are all looking forward to next year's already.



The scene inside the Oakview Gardens house

## Cannabis factory discovered in blacked-out house

By Janet Maitland

Four hundred cannabis plants with a street value of £100,000 were found when police raided a house in Oakview Gardens on 11 August.

"This is the 13<sup>th</sup> cannabis factory we've raided in the last seven weeks, most of them in large houses in the north of the borough," said Drugs Intelligence Officer Jim Kellett. "This was just a four room property, with the partition walls knocked down to make more space.

"These factories have three or four cultivations a year. In one of this size, that's getting on for half a million pounds a year."

The plants were growing under very strong lights with one 600 watt light bulb for every ten plants, using illegally extracted electricity, costing as much in a single day as would be used in a small flat in a year.

A neighbour, who preferred not to be named, informed *THE*

*ARCHER* that the windows had been blacked out for some time.

"Cannabis factories are set up by gangs," said Jim Kellett. "They find a site, equip it and then leave one man in charge. They bring him food, like meals on wheels, and he never leaves the premises.

"The man on this site was a Vietnamese national, who may have seen nothing of this country but the inside of this property in Oakview Gardens. We found a large knife under his pillow."

If you have any information about this factory or any other, please ring Jim Kellett on 020 8733 5858, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Resurgent Phoenix prepares for take off

By David Hobbs and Neil McNaughton

There can be few better times to hold an open day than in the week when the Heritage Lottery Fund announces that you have been awarded a £607,000 grant, but that was the situation at the Phoenix on Sunday 12 July. It was, as Paul Homer, the Trust's Chief Executive said, "a good week for the Phoenix". The open day was not just a celebration of the funding award, but also an opportunity for people to hear about the future plans for the cinema and to speak to the trustees.

With the centenary less than a year away, Mr Homer said that the aim was to complete the refurbishment in time. This would mean the building work starting in January 2010 and being completed by July. For the first three months of the work the Phoenix will remain open in the evenings and at weekends, but for April, May and June it will close completely.

However for all this to happen another £135,000 needs to be raised to enable the trust to reach its target of £1,070,000. For £500 you can have a year in your name and select a film from that year to be included on the new 'timeline' that will be set up in the foyer when the Phoenix reopens. In addition a number of limited addition prints are available at £30 unframed and £50 framed. Donations of any size are welcome. Please contact the box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk)

The current plan for the Phoenix is to restore the exterior and interior to the state it was in when it was refurbished in 1938, in other words to recreate it in its original art deco glory. A modern café bar will be created at the front. Inside, air conditioning and a new sound system will be installed, as well as new lighting. Sadly, as Phoenix patron Maureen Lipman laments, this will mean the end of the famous bare light bulbs poking through the ceiling. However, we are promised that the Phoenix's celebrated cakes will still be on offer.

## Online petition against phone masts

By David Melsome

A campaign group has opened an online petition to muster more opposition to plans to install phone masts in East Finchley's oldest building.

The e-petition has been set up by the East Finchley Village Residents Association to highlight the level of opposition to the proposals by Holy Trinity Church, in Church Lane.

The church wants to install four masts in the church spire on a 20-year agreement in order to bring in much-needed funds. Campaigners claim the masts will spoil the open spire and say local residents have not been properly consulted over the plan.

A decision on the installation is expected to be made by the Diocese of London before November. The online petition can be found at [www.gopetition.co.uk/online/30013.html](http://www.gopetition.co.uk/online/30013.html)

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## East Finchley Arts Festival

The first orchestral concert of the East Finchley Arts Festival on Saturday 3 October by the London Mozart Players will include a new work, *Five Nocturnes*, by festival founder and director Geoffrey Hanson in memory of local resident Angela Beveridge.

Angela, who with her husband John lived in Baronsmere Road until her death last year, began her career as a dancer at the famous Windmill Theatre and latterly was a member of the choir at All Saints Church in Durham Road, where the festival is to be held from 1-11 October. After finishing at the Windmill, Angela formed her own dance troupe. One of the poems Geoffrey has set marks Angela's great love of cats.

Two other orchestras feature: London Vintage Jazz Orchestra pay tribute to the

Golden Age of the late 1920s and 30s, whilst the London International Orchestra play exciting music including Magyar, Cossack, a dash of Gershwin and music from *My Fair Lady*.

The young talented early music group Pantagruel play music from the Renaissance on citterns, gitterns, lutes and flutes whilst award-winning young organist Tim Harper will put the organ at All Saints' through its paces in a lunch hour recital.

The Fidelio Piano Quartet

play chamber music by Mozart, Faure and Brahms. Local resident and internationally renowned poet Fleur Adcock will read from her work together with fellow poet Dannie Abse in anticipation of National Poetry Day and the East Finchley Writers group will present a selection of their work. The Finchley Children's Music Group will give their usual display of talent in the closing concert.

Support of the North London Hospice continues with an Art Exhibition and bucket collections at each event.

### Here is the full programme:-

• **Thursday 1 October**, 6.30pm – 8.30pm: *Art Exhibition Private View*, the exhibition of works by London and international artists will be open on concert evenings and from 12 noon at the weekends.

• **Friday 2 October**, 7.30pm: *East Finchley Writers* present a selection across many styles and genres to move, surprise and amuse. Admission free; bucket collection.

• **Saturday 3 October**, 12.30pm: *Young Artists' Recital*, Claire Bracher and Liam Byrne play viola da gamba duos from the English, French & German repertoire. Tickets: £5, under 18s £1.

• **Saturday 3 October**, 7.30pm: *London Mozart Players*, Bach *A minor Violin Concerto*, Britten *Simple Symphony*, Hanson *Five Nocturnes* (first performance), Haydn *Symphony 49*. Tickets: Nave £20 concs £18; side aisles £15 concs £12; under 18s £1.

• **Sunday 4 October**, 4pm: *Choral Evensong* at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2. One of East Finchley's oldest buildings and a Victorian gem, Holy Trinity is well worth a visit. The service will be sung by the choir of All Saints' to music contemporary with the building.

• **Sunday 4 October**, 7.30pm: *London Vintage Jazz Orchestra* directed by Dave Burman, a tribute to Golden Age of the late

1920s and 30s. Tickets: Nave £15 concs £12; side aisles £10 concs £8; under 18s £1.

• **Tuesday 6 October**, 7.30pm: *Fleur Adcock and Dannie Abse* read from their works in anticipation of *National Poetry Day*. Tickets £10 concs £8; under 18s £1.

• **Wednesday 7 October**, 7.30pm: *Pantagruel Early Music Group*, Anna Maria Antonius Wierod's voice combines with citterns, gitterns, lutes and flutes played by Dominik Schneider and Mark Wheeler in the passionate music of the Renaissance. Tickets: Nave £15 concs £12; side aisles £10 concs £8; under 18s £1.

• **Friday 9 October**, 7.30pm: *Fidelio Piano Quartet*, a programme of chamber music by Mozart, Faure and Brahms. Tickets: Nave £20; concs £18; side aisles £10 concs £8; under 18s £1.

• **Saturday 10 October**, 11.30am, 2pm and 3.30pm: *Punch & Judy for the children*, Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch and Judy show in the church garden, indoors if wet. Bucket collection.

• **Saturday 10 October**, 12.30pm: *Young Artists' Recital*, Tim Harper – Organ, award-winning young organist plays Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Howells & Harris. Tickets £5; under 18s £1.

## More strings to the bow

By Daphne Chamberlain

It's nearly time for the East Finchley Arts Festival again, which means that music ignoramuses like me can learn a little. For example, what exactly is a viol? An early violin? Wrong, and in fact rather like calling a spider an insect. To begin with, while the violin family has four strings, most viols have six, occasionally five or seven.

Unlike those of the violin family, the bow is slightly convex and held with an under-hand grip, which means that the player can use their fingers to control the strings.

A pivotal member of the Festival Committee is Jane Kessler, widow of violin and viol maker and restorer Dietrich Kessler, and herself, as Jane Ryan, a noted viol player and Professor of Viol at the Guildhall School

of Music. Jane quoted another classic definition of the difference to me: "Viols to soothe, violins to animate."

East Finchley Festival goers will be soothed by the warm, mellow sound of the viol at 12.30pm on Saturday 3 October at the Young Artists' Recital, when Claire Bracher and Liam Byrne demonstrate that this very early instrument can still delight today.

• **Saturday 10 October**, 7.30pm: *London International Orchestra*, conductor Toby Purser, play Magyar, Cossack, American and European music with balalaika, piano accordion and vocal soloists, Strauss, Mussorgsky, Brahms and Gershwin etc. Tickets: Nave £15 concs £12; side aisles £10 concs £8; under 18s £1.

• **Sunday 11 October**, 7.30pm: *Finchley Children's Music Group*, a firm Festival favourite, FCMG perform choral and solo items. Tickets £10; concs £8; under 18s £1.

Box offices are at *Black Gull Books*, 121 High Road, N2, Tel: 020 8889 7112; *Les Aldrich*, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 Tel: 020 8883 5631. Season ticket for £50 entitles holder to one ticket for each event. Online booking at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyartsfestival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyartsfestival)

Support the 2009 Arts Festival by becoming a Patron. A minimum donation of £25 will give support to the Festival and entitle you to be listed as a Patron in the Festival programmes.

All events (except for Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity Church) are held at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2 9NH. All Saints' has disabled access and facilities.

Visit the website [www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk)

## Oktoberfest

The third annual Oktoberfest takes place over the weekend of 25 - 27 September at the East Finchley Constitutional Club in The Walks, off Park Road.

There will be live music featuring Den Brudern Applischen and the Fruhling Park Motel. A German sausage and meatballs barbecue will provide traditional sturdy German food to help soak up the 10 real ales and speciality German beers and wines available.

On Saturday 26 September, the barbecue and festival continues throughout the day with a disco and karaoke with a German theme in the evening.

Entrance costs £1, but is free for club and CAMRA members and anyone carrying a copy of *THE ARCHER*.



Helen and Happy Go Lucky club's karaoke session.

Photo by Diana Cormack

## Come and join dance and social club

By Diana Cormack

Many readers will be familiar with the *Happy Go Lucky* group of wheelchair dancers from their past performances at the East Finchley Community Festival. Long term member Helen O'Toole contacted *THE ARCHER* to provide an update on their present position.

The group used to hold sessions at the artsdepot in North Finchley, but various problems led to them moving to the Flash Musicals Youth Centre in Edgware. They now meet there in term time only on Mondays from 7.30 – 9.30 pm, evenings being essential as some members work or attend day centres. Each session costs £5 and refreshments are available.

Helen emphasised that *Happy Go Lucky* is a social club and is not just for those in wheelchairs. On my visit, I was soon invited to join in rehearsals for their next public performance, led by two young dance teachers Bianca Cohen and Sarah Lawrence from the "Can Do"

Company. This was followed by an enthusiastic karaoke session. Club member Phillip Rackham described it all as "a night out and a laugh as well".

Many expressed gratitude for the help of Steve and Elaine Symmonds, who run the Edgware centre, which has enabled the club to continue. Sadly a lack of members means that *Happy Go Lucky* may be forced to close. Along with an increase in numbers, there is also a need for more transport and volunteer drivers. Inevitably cost and health and safety issues have to be taken into account. If you feel you can help in any way or are interested in joining, contact 0208 201 1891 or [hgdanceclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hgdanceclub@hotmail.co.uk)

## At your own pace

By Daphne Chamberlain

Get out and enjoy some nice walks, and maybe reduce your risk of heart disease, diabetes, dementia, depression and cancer. That's the message from Age Concern Barnet, as part of their programme to promote exercise by older people.

Age Concern run 13 instructor-led walks through some of leafy Barnet's most attractive green spaces. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day, and note that the invitation extends to anyone over 18. Walks cost £2.50 if you pay each time, £17.50 paid in advance for 10 walks, or £14.50 paid in advance for 10 walks for the over 60s (proof of eligibility required).

All instructors are quali-

### Programme:

Mondays 9.30am – 10.30am, Woodside Park / Totteridge, grade 1-2; Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am, Oak Hill Park, grade 2-3; Tuesdays 9.30am – 10.30am, Hampstead Heath, grade 2-3; Tuesdays 10am – 11am, Watling Park, grade 1-2; Wednesdays 9.30am – 10.30am, Friary Park, grade 2-3; Wednesdays 10am – 11am, Oak Hill Park, grade 2-3; Thursdays 9.30am – 10.30am, Edgwarebury Park, grade 2-3; Thursdays 9.30am – 10.30am, Hampstead Heath, grade 2-3; Thursdays 2pm – 3pm, Welsh Harp, grade 1-2; Thursdays (every other week) 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Copthall Stadium, grade 4; Saturdays 9.30am – 10.30am, Woodside Park / Finchley Central, grade 3-4; Sundays 9am – 10am, Orange Tree, Totteridge Village, grade 3-4; Sundays 10.30am – 11.30am, Hampstead Heath, grade 3-4.

fied, and the walks are graded for difficulty.

Grade 1 is little faster than a stroll on the level, grade 2 includes a slight incline, grade 3 is a brisk walk with inclines and grade 4 is power walking.

Tempted? Take a look at the programme. For further information, call 020 8346 3511, contact [ageconcernbarnet@btconnect.com](mailto:ageconcernbarnet@btconnect.com), or visit [www.ageconcernbarnet.org/calendar](http://www.ageconcernbarnet.org/calendar)



## Public has its say on Memorial Hospital

By Janet Maitland

**More than 50 local residents attended a public meeting on 15 July to have their say about NHS Barnet's plans to build a new hospital on Bow Lane playing fields in North Finchley and then decommission and demolish Finchley Memorial Hospital.**

The meeting was chaired by Martin Cowie, Head of Barnet Planning and Development. Representatives from NHS Barnet also attended the meeting, along with the architects Murphy Phillips, who have designed the proposed new hospital. Detailed plans will be submitted to the planning authority in the autumn.

Although a few people welcomed the plans, the majority of those who spoke were opposed to them. Most of the objections were about the impact of the big increase in the number of people using the hospital.

It was confirmed that not only would the hospital have new treatment facilities, four pharmacists and 15 GPs, but that parts of the hospital and the green space around it would be available for everyone in the community to use as a 'health campus'.

Some people therefore wanted to know why the

planned car park was for only 200 cars, others why it wasn't sited underground, others why improving public transport links seemed to be such a low priority. Others wanted to know why anyone other than a patient or visitor should be welcomed into a hospital.

Several people were angry that this was the first public meeting about the development for over two years and that identical points were being raised. One resident recalled the loss of the open air swimming pool by Squires Lane, and hoped history wouldn't repeat itself. "We were promised a state of the art replacement, and all we got was a piddling little pool."

Martin Cowie emphasised that all of the points raised had been noted and would be taken into account by the planning authority, other than concerns about declining property values which are not a material planning consideration.

## Sea sickness sufferer sails the seas

By John Lawrence

**Simon Kane is a big fan of ocean racing but he is also a chronic sufferer of sea sickness so he has had to content himself with following the America's Cup from his armchair.**

Until now - because the 51-year-old TV presenter has won a place in the 2009-2010 Clipper Challenge. He'll be racing on a 68ft boat with a crew of nine on a Pacific journey from China to San Francisco in 35 days, then on to the Panama Canal and Jamaica.

Simon has no previous yachting experience but his enthusiasm and determination got him through the interview stage and three tough weeks of training at sea.

So how does he feel when he's at sea? "It's very intensive but take the sea sickness away and I can cope," said Simon. "When you stand on the deck with the huge sails above you, it's so exhilarating and something I've always wanted to do."

"I always promised myself



Simon Kane will be sailing across the Pacific.

in my mid-life crisis that I'd do something like this and never got round to it. Now I have."

Simon climbs on board in February 2010 and will be at sea until May. He's accustomed to travel and adventure from his job presenting shows on the Travel Channel.

Simon lives in Hampstead Garden Suburb but hopes to move back soon to a flat he

owns in Leslie Road. By coincidence, Leslie Road is also home to Lauren Mead, the 21-year-old student who will be the youngest woman in the race (*THE ARCHER*, June 2009).

Considering that race organisers have been recruiting team members from across the world, what are the chances of two people from Leslie Road taking part in the same event?

## Pounding the streets of New York

Victoria Davenport, of Durham Road, ran the London Marathon in April in aid of Kids Company. In November, she's heading to New York to run the city Marathon for the same cause. Here, she explains why.



Victoria Davenport

**If you haven't heard about Kids Company, let me give you some of the facts. It is an exceptional organisation, with exceptional people working for it (like you and me) helping children from the inner city to have a life they never otherwise could have.**

The clients of KidsCo are exceptionally vulnerable: 52% presented with potentially life-threatening circumstances, 83% reported having had

an experience of at least one significant trauma in their life. Prevalence of mental health issues is dramatically higher than the national average.

As for the good work KidsCo has done, 60% of kids have been rehoused and 77% had their living conditions improved; 53% achieved the goal of returning to education or training. KidsCo is now working in 38 schools across London, reaching 12,000 children.

Its team of psychotherapists, social workers, art facilitators, in-class support workers and volunteers provide a programme

of one-to-one and group therapy, drop-in counselling, lunchtime and after-school clubs, arts workshops play sessions and day trips. If you are interested in learning more about Kids Company, please go to [www.kidsco.org.uk](http://www.kidsco.org.uk). Or if you wish to sponsor my NYC marathon run, please go to: [www.justgiving.com/victoria-nyc](http://www.justgiving.com/victoria-nyc).

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Street dancers at the Old Barn Fun Day. Photo courtesy the Old Barn.

## Street dancers and jugglers at the Old Barn

By Sonia Singham

**On Saturday 25 July a family fun day was organised and held at the Old Barn Community Centre. The aim was to bring young people and families together to socialise and enjoy what turned out to be a lovely sunny day.**

Oak Lane was partially closed for the occasion and all were able to enjoy a talented display put on by several groups. They included street dancers, jugglers and a martial arts display.

Parents and friends from the Grange Estate and Font Hills made the day even more enjoyable by having a barbecue with mouth-watering chicken, burgers, sausages and delicious

home made cakes.

Local community groups were there with their information stands, including Barnet Youth and Connexions. There was also a bouncy castle provided by Barnet Football Club.

Altogether an enjoyable time was had by all. The organisation by the staff of the Old Barn was greatly appreciated by all who attended the event.

## Carry on camping

By Catrin Dillon

**On a warm, sunny weekend with the weather prospects set fair, what could be better than gathering your family together, dusting off the tent and the sleeping bags and heading for ... Martin Primary School Field.**

This is exactly what around 50 families, all parents, carers or staff at the school did back at the start of the summer. The idea came from Alison Gold, mother of two Martin Primary pupils and a governor at the school.

From 4pm the field slowly transformed from its usual term-time look into a sophisticated and well organised campsite, complete with barbecue and camp fire.

Many families were very seasoned campers, obvious from the great array of sophisticated equipment, and the speed with which they pitched their tents. Others were using this one night to test the water and to use it as the introduction to a long and happy camping career.

As the sun set, the camp fire was lit, and people settled down to

enjoy chatting with their friends, or singing along to old favourites accompanied by some of the dads on guitars. Before retiring to their tents, the children were all given marshmallows toasted on the campfire.

"It's like going on holiday with your best friends," said one happy young camper. "Please can we do it again next year?"

Alison said she got the idea from a primary school in Highgate and added: "The help and support of site manager Tristan Green were absolutely vital and he took complete charge of the camp fire which I think was the nicest part of the whole event. I couldn't have done it without Tristan, and also a great number of people who helped with the barbecue and tea and coffee in the morning."

## Where's the old gum tree, mate?

Picture and story by Diana Cormack

**Despite a month touring in Australia, I was disappointed at never managing to see a kookaburra, though I heard plenty of them. However, three years later I achieved my ambition when I was able to see and touch this noisy bird very close to home. It happened in July at Tudor School, N3, where First Class Falconry gave a display of British birds of prey.**

Chatting to the owner, I discovered he also had a kookaburra and that it was right next to us in his van. I was delighted when he brought Kookie out for me to see and stroke and wonder if anyone in East Finchley heard the bird calling over the North Circular Road?



I come from a land down-under

## Live music showcase

By Mike Hughes

**Are you in a band or do you play music? Then you might be interested in a new monthly live music showcase coming soon to the East Finchley Constitutional Club. Called the Monthly Constitutional, it aims to give a platform to music talent from the local area and plans to attract acts that might not otherwise have reason to come to East Finchley.**

Co-organiser Dan Atrill said: "Why should a band that's based in East Finchley, Muswell Hill or nearby have to drag all their equipment to Camden midweek to be exploited by unscrupulous promoters in order to get their music heard? Now once a month bands can play here on a Friday night, which is a much better night of the week for your friends to come and see you and to kick back and relax with some live music."

All any band or solo act needs to do is send off a link to their Myspace page along with their contact details and they'll be considered. Please send an email to [info@springparkmusic.com](mailto:info@springparkmusic.com) with a link to your Myspace page and recordings.

## Concert for dyspraxia

**For Alastair Hamilton, school was always difficult. He suffers from a condition known as dyspraxia, also called clumsy child syndrome, that affects his ability to co-ordinate movement.**

But he has always excelled at music and now Alastair, of Twyford Avenue, has had the idea of putting on a concert to raise funds for Dyspraxia Awareness week running from October 10-17.

Alastair began playing cello under the tutelage of an energetic young cello teacher at Channing's Junior School.

Grove, Highgate on Saturday 17 October at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 adults, £7 concessions and £3 students and children. You can buy them from Les Aldrich Music Shop in Muswell Hill or David Hamilton, 29 Twyford Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9NU. (Tel: 020 8444 7722). Cheques made to Dyspraxia Foundation. Please send SAE.

At secondary school, Alastair passed the first three music grades (Grade 1 with Merit) and developed his rich baritone singing voice.

When he left school, Alastair became a student in the Performing Arts Department at Southgate College. He joined the opera group chorus and has taken part in six operas. Every May he sings in the North London Music Festival.

The fundraising concert takes place at St. Michael's Church, South



Alastair Hamilton



The Scribbles nursery children enjoy life on the farm. Photo by Sylvie Clarke

## Fun on the farm

By Sylvie Clarke

**A group of children from Scribbles nursery, on Hertford Road, visited Willows Farm in Hertfordshire. They took an organised tour, and were able to feed plenty of animals, punctuated by endless hand washing, and they took a ride on Tristan the Tractor.**

The children enjoyed a sheep dog display and a few of them were able to don a gauntlet and sport a very obliging owl on their arms.

Under a searingly hot sun, the three and four-year-olds enjoyed playing on the giant bouncy slide, plus a great many more climbing activities. The day made a very special

goodbye to some of the older Scribbles flock who will be starting full time schooling this month.

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

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Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

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

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

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



## Inspiration from China

When acupuncturist Conny Duxbury worked in Hangzhou in China recently, she was inspired by the way the treatment is offered to patients there. Conny said: "Working in a national hospital in China was a real eye-opener. Over there, traditional medicine like acupuncture and Tui Na (Chinese therapeutic massage) is often the first choice of treatment."

"Patients come into the hospital and are referred straight to the acupuncture ward, with no waiting lists. It is amazing to see how acupuncture is available to everyone straight away."

The working visit has prompted her to offer a reduced cost service at her own clinic at the Active Chiropractic Centre here in East Finchley. Conny, who is also a lecturer at the London College of Traditional Acupuncture, is very aware of the challenges facing the health service in this country.

"As acupuncture is still a relatively new discipline in the West, it is very often used only as a last resort," she said. "Add to this long waiting times, and many people may only end up trying it after having suffered with a particular condition for months or even years. This is a shame, as the earlier a condition



Conny Duxbury

is treated, the better the chances of success."

The reduced cost service operates on Wednesdays at 98 High Road. Initial consultation and treatment is £35 with follow-ups priced at £30. Call 020 8444 0666 for appointments.

## Hairdressing and the law

By Betti Blatman

Jo Sutherland may be unique among hairdressers. She is also the proud holder of a postgraduate diploma in law and is qualified as a barrister. It was something she studied for part-time while running her own hairdressing business. She says: "I did the law thing because it interests me and to prove that I could do it!"

Now Jo has opened Jo Sutherland Hair Studio at 119 East End Road. She lives locally and has set up business here because she likes the village atmosphere and the fact that there is plenty of parking space for her customers.

She says: "I am not in the business of running a run of the mill hairdressing services business. I aim to provide here what you normally find in the West End, Chelsea or Knightsbridge, but not at those kind of prices, of course." For an appointment or advice, contact Jo on 020 8444 9440 (Tuesday – Sunday).

To celebrate her new business, Jo is running a competition for any customer who presents a copy of *THE ARCHER* by 18 September and answers the following question: "In which country did the Brazilian Straightener originate?" The first person selected with the correct answer will receive a Brazilian Straightener treatment.



Brightening up a busy site. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Guerilla gardeners make things look greener

By Diana Cormack

Earlier this year, after Barnet submitted it for Green Flag status, weeks of renovation work took place in Cherry Tree Wood. Passers by might think that the sprucing up near to the park entrance is also the work of Barnet Council, but they would be wrong. A couple who live nearby took matters into their own hands and decided to cultivate the small garden situated behind the wall bordering the High Road pavement.

They started by clearing up the litter. Being close to the bus stop opposite East Finchley tube station, there was plenty. However, with obvious pleasure they told *THE ARCHER* that since then the situation has improved with less litter to be seen. What can be seen however are the results of their work in the garden. Thanks to this community minded couple, who wish to remain anonymous, the area has been brightened

up as well as cleaned up. If you know of any similar activities, known as guerilla gardening, that do something to improve our local surroundings, please let *THE ARCHER* know. Our contact details are on page 2.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## Shiver me timbers, it's the silly season

These are weird times and the only thing to do is to embrace the weird, surrender to madness and allow the insanity of the summer to sweep over you.

Where better to start than the strange tale of the toxic slime lurking in France and preparing to attack Diddy David Cameron. But is this real toxic slime or the Tory MEP who described the NHS as a big mistake or the closer-to-home version who claimed that MPs were being starved to death on rations of only £64,000 a year. Some toxicity there, folks.

Toxic is the only way to describe the strange world of Peter and Katie, their lives, their loves and their tabloid exclusives. As she cavorts with a man who fights cages and he claims chastity, you just know you are only a pay cheque away from another front page.

Real silliness is even closer to home as the real live version of *Pirates of the Caribbean* hits the English Channel. Yes, according to conspiracy theorists and a couple of tabloid hacks, there is a pirate ship cruising off shore. Well, shiver me timbers, here comes Captain Blood and his band of cut throats bearing down on some unsuspecting cross channel ferry and threatening to make 'one eyed Jack' walk the plank. Yo ho ho, and a bottle of duty free.

Sport is the best place to look for silly season madness and no where is stranger than the bizarre fixation with cricket that gripped the throat like an over tightened cravat. Yes, it was Ashes time and that meant the Aussies arrived, drank beer, played a bit of cricket and had a barbie. The Brits' contribution was 102 all out. Something they blamed on the weather, which was either too hot or too cold or just too much like weather.

But never mind, September beckons and madness will return to normal and I can return to the serious business of being weird.

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## Regular Events

### SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **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](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).

## MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and Improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-18 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops.** Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 14 & 28 Sept** 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](http://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 Joanna 8883 0941 or [joanna-brunt@cybergal.com](mailto:joanna-brunt@cybergal.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](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 8340 3343 or email: [admin@hlsi.net](mailto: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.

## A real page turner from Paige Toon

By Lucy Chamberlin

Paige Toon's father was a racing driver and, in writing her third novel *Chasing Daisy*, Paige has drawn upon her own experiences of life in that world. Australian-born, she came to East Finchley two years ago, fell in love with it, and now lives in Huntingdon Road with her husband (from Yorkshire) and young son.

*Chasing Daisy* follows the adventures of Daisy, a front-of-house girl with the Formula One racing team. A rollicking read in the best traditions of chick lit, Paige takes us around the world with her heroine in a dizzying round of parties, fast cars and fanciable drivers. This is an easy holiday read, and is surprisingly unputdown-able. I found myself still awake one night at 3am, anticipating the next twist in Daisy's problematic love life.

Paige is a former reviews editor at Heat magazine, but says that ever since she was a little girl she has wanted to write books. Now she is able to stay at home with her son, snatching time for writing while he takes his naps. Her first book was *Lucy in the Sky*.

"I just started writing and did it in two and a half months. I absolutely loved it – you couldn't keep me away from the computer," she says. "The idea for 'Lucy' was about being torn between two



different countries, and that's me down to a T."

Paige enjoys writing what she calls 'happy books', and despite some disastrous episodes *Chasing Daisy* is a fun, light-hearted read, the kind of thwarted love story where we can look forward to a happy ending from the first few pages. Paige is currently writing her fourth book and loving it. *Chasing Daisy* is published in paperback by Pocket Books.

## September at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer

**Our restoration project is coming along well. We're still working hard at the fundraising; we now need only a further £135,000 to complete the fund. However we do need most of that in the next six weeks, so if you've not yet given or know of anyone who you think would support the project, now's the time to act.**

As donations big and small come in we get ever closer to giving you the cinema you deserve. In the last month we have been poring over the details of the new kitchen and bar. We're packing a lot into our small kitchen to ensure that we can offer a wide range of food and drink to you. The bar will have an art-deco feel about it with geometric patterns, mirrors, dark furniture, intimate lighting and oranges and browns as the colour scheme. We're getting really excited about this new space and can't wait to open it to you.

By the time you read this you may have already enjoyed the new Pedro Almodovar film *Broken Embraces* which opened at the Phoenix on 28 August. It's

playing until 10 September so don't miss your chance to see one of the best films of the year.

From 11 September, we are playing the brilliant *Fish Tank* with Andrea Arnold, who impressed us so much with her debut *Red Road*. *Fish Tank* won the Jury Prize at this year's Cannes festival, with a stunning performance by Katie Jarvis as the teenage dancer who can't but help finding herself in trouble. It cements Arnold's place as one of the most exciting young British directors.

The month closes with Sam Mendes' latest *Away We Go*, written by Dave Eggers and telling of a young couple's preparation for impending parenthood. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk)

## Comedy Night on the High Road

By John Lawrence

Comedy fans have a treat arriving right on their doorsteps when Cecilia Holmes brings her music and improvisation show to the Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road. The Whistle and Wink comedy show is an adult evening of laughter, absurdities and oddball characters that has never been performed before.

Cecilia, of Park Farm Close, is a regular on the comedy circuit in the pubs and clubs around Soho and other parts of London. She plays a character called Ivana (and her husband) and, along with friend Nathan Keats, indulges in some silly games and improvisation with the help of the audience. There is piano accompaniment for Cecilia's songs and a mysterious climax to the show with the arrival of a psychic medium.

Cecilia only started performing five years ago in her late 30s when family and friends encouraged her to turn her natural manic humour into a comedy routine.

"When I got to that age, I couldn't decide what I really wanted to do," she said. "I'd

always done lots of silly voices and accents so being a comedian was really staring me in the face.

She started her working life as a nurse before becoming a colonic therapist, both jobs where a good sense of humour comes in handy.

Cecilia added: "This is a one-off show and I hope it will be a lot of fun for everyone. If it's a success, I'd like to do it again at Christmas. I was looking everywhere for a suitable venue and I'm lucky to have found the Youth Theatre."

Tickets for the show on Saturday 26 September at 8pm cost £10 each at the door or in advance from Cecilia on 020 8444 8702 or 07533 750400.

## Pub quiz is roaring fun

By Chris Goldsmith

**Having just moved to East Finchley in the last few months, me and the flatmate were looking for a decent watering hole to call 'the local.' Although only in our late 20s, we're more of a quiet pub and a 'good catch up' kinda lads rather than the drink-as-much-as-you-like culture of the West End. So it was a great relief that we noticed the Old White Lion had a pub quiz every Tuesday night.**

We arrived one evening not knowing what to expect and were pleasantly surprised. The place was buzzing with a great atmosphere. The brilliant quiz master is not to be messed with and his enthusiasm for the quiz is easy to see. He knows how to wind up the quiz players and makes the whole evening fun.

Everyone joins in and although competitive at times,

this quiz is more about having a good time and a laugh than actually winning. I think some teams put more effort into their team names than they do their answers.

It's a great evening down the pub and breaks up the working week well. The crowd is very mixed in age and everyone seems genuinely happy to be part of the fun.

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

**Saturday 12 September**

• **Table top sale** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 10am to 1pm.

**Sunday 13 September**

• **Muswell Hill Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12-6pm; donkey derby, stalls, live music, entertainment and family fun. Free.

• **Fabulous Finchley: a guided walk** through 1,000 years of history. Meet at Finchley Central tube (Ballards Lane exit) at 2pm. For details, contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

**Friday 25 September**

• **Barnet Ghosts, a guided walk** through haunted High Barnet. Meet at High Barnet tube at 7.30pm. Please bring torch if possible. For details, contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

**Saturday 26 September**

• **The Whistle and Wink Comedy Show**, Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, N2, 8pm; oddball characters, music and songs from Cecilia Holmes and friends. Tickets cost £10 each at the door or in advance from Cecilia on 020 8444 8702 or 07533 750400.

**Thursday 1 October to Sunday 11 October**

• **East Finchley Arts Festival**, All Saints' Church, Durham Road; eleven days of music, art, poetry, literature and performance. See full programme and booking details on page 6 or visit [www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk)

[eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk](http://eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk)

**Saturday 3 October**

• **Pavement Pounders at the Institute**: the first of a series of nine "talk and walks" **Coleridge at Highgate** given by David Lay, a speaker on art history, and scholar Dr Maryanne Grant-Traylen. 11am at The Institute, 11 High Road for an hour-long, illustrated talk and 2pm at Lauderdale House, Highgate for a guided walk.

For details call 020 8340 7178 or visit [www.davidlay.com/timetable.htm](http://www.davidlay.com/timetable.htm) To book ring the Institute on 020 8829 4141, quoting course number 511.

• **Four centuries of song**: mezzo soprano Marie-Anne Hall sings a varied collection of music from the 16th-20th centuries, including lute songs, lieder and opera arias; 7.30pm at St. John's Church, Friern Barnet Road, N11. Tickets are £5 on the door and all proceeds will go to charity. For more information email [marianne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marianne@hotmail.co.uk)

**What's on at artsdepot**

**Sherlock Holmes** – The Last Act: Thursday 24 September, 8pm. **Folk in the Foyer**: Friday 25 September, 8.30pm. **Sunday Buzz** – Darren Dutson Bromley: Sunday 27 September, 1pm. **Jonzi D's Markus the Sadist**: Thursday 1 Oct and Friday 2 October, 8pm; **Sean Hughes**: Saturday 3 October, 8pm.

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### Parking consultation was a farce

Dear Editor,

Did you notice that the air has been red with rage round the Cherry Tree Wood area this week as residents received Barnet Council's letter of response to its so-called consultation on the parking hours in our Zone.

To call it a consultation was in fact an insult to the residents, as despite the fact that those of us who live in the all-hour Zone indicated that 72.7% were NOT happy with the way the CPZ operated, not only were the Council not going to change our hours but they were going to extend them and reduce our ability to park in parts of the existing zone as is our current right as residents.

The views of the 77.3% who had made representations counted for little, especially the request for a public meeting with the Council when we could have a face to face debate on the matter. What a waste of time and money this exercise has been!

Is it more than a coincidence that Area A of our Zone remaining a one hour zone lies in the Hampstead Garden Suburb ward, which is represented by Tory councillors, while the existing and extended all-hour zone (Areas B and C) where our parking facilities are being reduced lies in the East Finchley ward, which is represented by opposition (Labour) councillors?

The council is making parking more and more difficult in this area and the knock on effect is that it will be the death of the family shops which currently still exist in our High Street who will have to close if their customers cannot park to shop with them. What kind of support does the Council think this gives its residents? Zilch!

Barnet, tear up your proposals, do as your resident tax-payers request. Call the public meeting for us to thrash this out.

Yours faithfully,  
Joyce Arram,  
Summerlee Gardens, N2

### Welcome the new street lights

Dear Editor,

Regarding East Finchley's new street lights, I really do not understand people's fear of better lighting. The more light you have around your house, the safer you are. Burglars, muggers and those who break into cars love the dark. It is the friend of the wrong-doer. They can carry out their evil deeds without anyone seeing or stopping them.

Please wake up and let us be surrounded by light. Welcome it with open arms and put curtains on your bedroom windows. You need them in the summer, anyhow.

This is the first good idea the council have had to help all the people, old and young. It would also be a premium on property. Who would buy a house in a dark road if they could buy one in a well-lit road which you would feel safe walking down?

Yours faithfully,  
M Gallacher-Mackay  
Leicester Road, N2

## Letters to the editor



A sparrowhawk 'dealing with' a pigeon in Brownswell Road. (See letter below). Photo by Leo Smith

### What pigeon problem?

Dear Editor,

In response to Jake Eise-man-Renyard's letter regarding the pigeon problem, who needs statues when we have our own resident solution in the form of Accipiter nisus, the sparrowhawk, which contrary to its name does have a taste for pigeons.

This one was seen in Brownswell Road, N2, a few weeks ago but the same bird still puts in regular appearances, lurking between trees, waiting for an unsuspecting victim. Pigeon corner is only a short distance away, so pigeons beware!

Yours faithfully,  
Leo Smith  
Brownswell Road, N2

### Bring in the real birds of prey

Dear Editor,

In response to Jake Eise-man-Reynard's letter in last month's ARCHER, there is indeed a way to control pest pigeons with birds of prey. The most effective birds for this purpose are Harris hawks and peregrine falcons which can be released by their trainer in the affected area over a period of time until the pigeons get the message and move on.

These pest controllers might also leave statues of the same birds in the area to deter the pigeons from returning. I did suggest this method to the council who must have thought I was joking as I never heard back from them. The problem of pest pigeons will, of course, persist as long as the ignorant few continue to leave mounds of food for them.

Yours faithfully,  
Name and address supplied

### Tidy up our station forecourt

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your piece on East Finchley Station and the Old White Lion in the July issue. It's good to have these bits of knowledge from you when we are no longer neighbours gossiping on the green.

It is a pity that the latest revamp of the Old White Lion involved tearing down the pargetting. No doubt they thought they'd find Tudor brickwork, but if they'd read your sources they'd have known what they would find. And a few pounds spent on some beading to fake up the 'beams' on the new entrance to the pub would improve the look of the place no end.

The forecourt to East Finchley Station is much improved, thanks to your publicity, but there are still too many bent signs and ill-placed bollards. The damaged litter bins are still there and they are a disgrace to our fair suburb.

And will someone, please, please, take the planters in hand, or cement them in, so that we are not greeted as we are. I don't know how many thousands pass through these spaces every day, but the current sad circumstances reflect badly on us all.

Yours faithfully,  
Robert Morris  
Heath View Close, N2

### Litter letter

Dear Editor,

I applaud the lady from Shakespeare Road who takes the trouble of clearing up other people's litter (THE ARCHER, August 2009). I am one of dozens of people who do the same in the Hampstead Garden Suburb area.

Yours faithfully,  
Name and address supplied.

## The statistics man:

### Peter Crockford 1924 – 2009

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Peter Crockford, lifelong resident of East Finchley, died this summer. A slim, upright, fresh-complexioned man, he could often be spotted at bus stops using his own method of meticulously measuring the performance of the 263 and 143. He once told me that he travelled round London assessing other routes too.**

East Finchley Buswatch's Hazel Burnett told us: "Peter cared passionately about public transport issues. He was one of our founder members, and very active. His flair for providing statistical evidence of bus performance was useful when presenting our case to TfL. We very much appreciated the work he did for the group, and we will miss his contribution."

Peter also contributed to the Transport and Environment Committee of The Finchley Society, of which he was a long-standing member. Chairman David Smith has paid tribute to his surveys of buses, Finchley's (few) public toilets, public clocks, road conditions and traffic speed along the High Road.

Writing in the Society newsletter, David Smith praised him for his constant reporting of failures, and interest in everything going on around him. He said: "We hold him up as an example of a person who thought about his environment,

and whenever he found fault he did something about it."

A former pupil of Tollington School, a graduate in aeronautics and a lifelong cyclist, Peter Crockford worked for Handley Page and later for the traffic control department of Westminster City Council.

A contribution he made to THE ARCHER for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day shows his single-mindedness. He wrote: "On Monday I caught the train to Teddington, where I worked. I was urged to stay longer (visiting in Bristol), as VE Day was expected at any time, but I wanted to get back to my work at NPL on wind tunnel propeller tests". On VE Day itself, he went to church.

Peter lived for many years in Leslie Road, but spent his last few months in a care home at Muswell Hill, where he typically carried out a risk assessment on the premises. Peter could truly be called a "one-off".

## Search for family of RAF man

**An appeal has been issued to find the relatives of a RAF pilot who was killed during the final year of the Second World War.**

Flight Lieutenant Patrick James Garland was 36 when he died on 1 January 1945. Now his family are being sought to contribute to a roll of honour mentioning all officers and other ranks who lost their lives while serving in the No II (Army Co-operation) Squadron RAF. The squadron, currently stationed at RAF Marham in Norfolk, celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2012.

Flight Lieutenant Garland

was the son of Patrick Joseph Garland and Winifred Irene Garland, and the husband of Mary Elizabeth Garland, of East Finchley. The family must have suffered greatly as his three brothers also died on service.

Relatives of Patrick Garland are asked to contact historian Hans Onderwater at 26 Pinksterbloem, 2992 VP Barendrecht, Netherlands or by email at j.onderwater@chello.nl



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# THE ARCHER

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## Ten go mad in France

By Jane Hankin

**One week. One lousy week in the south of France. Wait. If the south of France is filling your head with images of open topped sports cars skirting the hairpins of Monte Carlo over a shimmering sea, ha ha ha, forget it. I am talking about the Dordogne; that Mecca for the worn out English middle class. That's me: three children ranging from 11 to 18, a friend for the youngest, a girlfriend for the 17-year-old, and my partner and his three boys who will be joining us from another part of France. That's right, a blended family. If you haven't yet come across this faintly upsetting phrase, watch out for it.**

### Middle of nowhere

We are all going to stay in a rambling house in the middle of nowhere, that's the hamlet of Nowhere in the county of Nowhere. We have seen some grainy pictures of the house snapped from a distance. Worryingly there are no interior shots, so in reality we have absolutely no idea what to expect.

When we booked this last autumn it seemed like the perfect solution. I had returned from a holiday in Spain feeling distinctly frazzled and deflated. I wanted to find a holiday that I could actually have an outside chance of enjoying. After all, holidays are supposed to be relaxing, rejuvenating. We look forward to them on freezing mornings in February getting dressed in the dark.

Then why oh why do I find holidays so desperately difficult? Why in the weeks approaching them do I wake each morning in a rictus of tension. Why, when I get there, is my sole preoccupation the needs and happiness of however many disparate holiday goers I have brought with me? How do I accommodate at a sweep the needs of three 11-year-olds, one 18-year-old whose girlfriend won't be

accompanying him and who will therefore feel like a spare wheel, a 14-year-old, a nine-year-old, and my long suffering partner?

### Just let it go

Men don't seem to have this problem. My partner is perfectly content to sit and read a book in the certain knowledge that all about him little fires are going off, someone is sulking, someone is isolated, someone is angry. He says: "Just let it go. Let them sort it out for themselves. It's not your responsibility to make everyone happy." What I want to know is how to do it? How to stop feeling like I'm taking Class 4F on a school trip, or working as a wrangler on a cat farm?

This holiday represents a week of my life. It starts as I wake at 4am, wash, dress, carry heavy bags down two flights of stairs and pack the car in torch-light. Then, when everything is ready, I will wake my sleeping charges, and coax them gently into the car. What do you mean food? Of course I thought of that, what do you take me for? That was the previous morning at 1.18am when I awoke with a pounding headache and scribbled down: "Buy croissants for

journey".

We will leave East Finchley and I will drive eight hours through France in a 15-year-old Volvo whilst mediating about music, food, drink, stopping and whose turn it is to sit in the front. You know the story. What will be occupying the dark recesses of my mind as I do this? Why next year's holiday plans, of course, and seeing my doctor for a course of Valium to get me through it.



## Mummy spider takes the kids for a walk

This wolf spider was photographed by Patsy and Paul Joseph walking along the fence post at their home in Elm Gardens. The amazing close-up clearly shows the silk ball full of eggs that she is carrying attached to her spinnerets. Patsy and Paul have opened their garden for the National Garden Scheme and try to create a habitat that attracts a variety of wildlife.

## The great apple hunt is on

By Marjorie Harris

Members of Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society have an intriguing hunt on their hands. They want to find out how many of the original apple trees donated by Dame Henrietta Barnett to early Suburb householders over 100 years ago are still alive and producing fruit, as well as establishing which modern varieties have been planted since then.

Their Great Centenary Apple Hunt will take place at the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11, on Saturday 12 September as part of the Centenary Autumn Flower Show. They hope as many Suburb residents as possible will bring apples for identification by a team of experts from the East of England Apple and Orchard Project.

People should bring their apples to the hall between 9am – 11am, with special arrangements being made for those who will be celebrating Shabbat. More details can be found on the society's website [www.hortsoc.co.uk](http://www.hortsoc.co.uk), by emailing [hgs@hortsoc.co.uk](mailto:hgs@hortsoc.co.uk) or phoning 020 8455 6507. The named apples will be on display at the show from 3pm – 5.30pm.

## Healing hands

By Kathryn Scorza

If you have ever fancied experiencing healing, it will once again be on offer at the Muswell Hill Festival on Sunday 13 September, courtesy of the Muswell Hill-based Soul Therapy Centre, which will be setting up a free drop-in healing clinic in Cherry Tree Wood for the day.

Practitioners and students will be giving spiritual healing to all comers, in exchange for donations to the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

Spiritual healing is an ancient, non-invasive therapy whereby healing energy is channelled by the healer through his or her hands to the recipient. This enables self-healing, self-balancing mechanisms to be stimulated and blocks to health and happiness to be dissolved.

You don't need to be ill to benefit from healing: while it can help with a wide range of specific issues, it can also help to bring general balance, calming those who feel stressed or energising those who feel drained.

The Soul Therapy Centre staff, all of whom are registered healers, include psychology, psychotherapy, hypnotherapy and Feng Shui among their professional qualifications, and aim to provide healing at every level of existence, mind, body and soul.

For more information, go to [www.soul-therapy.co.uk](http://www.soul-therapy.co.uk), or contact Ingrid Collins on 020 8883 8562.

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