



## 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.

## 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)



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.

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