THE ARCHER - 08717 334465



Coffin campaign for financial justice

A group campaigning for a fair deal for Equitable Life policyholders took its ongoing fight to Westminster when hundreds of former and current members petitioned their MPs to continue to support their call for compensation.

At its height Equitable Life had about 1.5 million investors across the UK of whom some 5,300 live in the four north London constituencies of Finchley and Golders Green, Enfield Southgate, Enfield North and Chipping Barnet. Finchley and Golders Green accounts for approximately 2,070.

Justice urged for dwindling numbers

Roy Finchett, an East Finchley resident and chairman of the recently-formed Equitable Members Action Group North London action committee, said on average 15 Equitable investors die every day and for them justice will never be served. The group carried coffins to make their point.

Each speaker at the event pledged their unequivocal support to ensure the Government implements in full the findings of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's Second Report published during the summer of 2009. This report recommended compensation to all Equitable policyholders for the loss of investments and income caused by maladministration by financial regulators in the 1990s.

The meeting at Methodist Central Hall attracted over 400 Equitable investors, and was addressed by MPs Vince Cable, David Davis, Fabian Hamilton, Daniel Kawczynski and Dr. Tony Wright.



Roy Finchett, left, at the Equitable Members Action Group protest in Westminster.

Re-dedication at All Saints

By Daphne Chamberlain

"All good music draws the soul upward after a wonderful manner. Many people here are happy to have their souls bewitched by music." Who said that? Father Christopher Hardy of All Saints Church, Durham Road, speaking at Mass last month.

He told *THE ARCHER*, "We are very fortunate to have a magnificent shrine to St Cecilia in our church, which we are rededicating".

St Cecilia is the patron saint of music, making it very fitting that she should be associated with the venue of the annual East Finchley Arts Festival.

Festival organiser Geoffrey Hanson and internationally famous poet Fleur Adcock both worship at All Saints. Fleur wrote a sonnet asking for inspiration for everyone involved in the art of music and Geoffrey set this to music for the choir to sing.

The sonnet particularly mentioned instrument makers,

which was another fitting touch. The re-dedication date was 13 December, the birthday of the late Dietrich Kessler, celebrated maker and restorer of viols. Dietrich's widow, the viol player Jane Ryan, who also worships at the church, was there with their family.





The Kaos choir giving it their all at the Royal Festival Hall. Photo courtesy Suzy Davies.

Big year ahead for deaf and hearing choir

The ground-breaking Kaos choir is kicking off 2010 with the release of a new CD and a DVD recording of their latest ultra-catchy songs.

With titles like *Groovy Granny, Respect* and *Crazy Hairdresser*, Kaossongs all start with ideas from the children in the choir and are written to be performed in sign language as well as song. *Moving On* is a particularly touching number about leaving behind your primary school friends to take the big step up into secondary school.

Last year was not an easy one for Kaos, with funding hard to come by. But 2010 is the choir's 15th birthday year and promises to be an exciting one.

There are plans for big con-

certs and events, and the choir is getting celebrity support from TV and stage actress Josette Simon, who says: "There is no other choir like it. The songs are witty and moving and they're a celebration of creativity."

With 200 deaf and hearing members already, rang-

ing in age from four to 18, Kaos is always open to new recruits. They have weekly song workshops and singing sessions at locations in Muswell Hill, Hornsey and Highgate.



Choir members exude energy and happiness. Photo courtesy Suzy Davies.

> Find out more about Kaos or buy their recordings and sheet music by visiting www.thekaos.org. All profits go towards the choir's annual fundraising target of £10,000.

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