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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.

Walkers welcomed to Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Haringey's planned improvements to the Muswell Hill Playing Fields north of Coldfall Wood should start to appear this spring but may take years to complete. Meanwhile, however, immediate practical measures will give walkers clearer, easier and safer access to both open spaces.

Proposals include work on gates and paths at all three entrances to the wood from Creighton Avenue, to make them less muddy and slippery for pedestrians and to deter motorcyclists. It is hoped that a new bridge over the stream will replace the one made from railway sleepers.

Safe access to field

Currently, people can reach the field from many alleyways and roads in the Coldfall estate, as well as from the wood. This will be rationalised, with some access points closed and others clarified by signs and fencing and the installation of pedestrian chicanes

or motorbike inhibitors. Wheelchair and pushchair-friendly circular gates are being considered for the Marriot Road and Coppetts Road entrances.

Residents backing on to the playing fields will welcome measures to inhibit motorbike access after suffering annoyance and danger from them for years. The Venue, the newest housing development bordering the field, remains a potential entry point for motorbikes but the police are advising Wimpey, the developers, on how to create secure access to the fields for residents of The Venue, but not for bikers.

Recycling expands

Barnet residents are now able to recycle extra items through their kerbside collection service. Cartons made by Tetra Pak and used for milk, fruit juice and wine can now be placed in blue recycling boxes.

The complex manufacturing of Tetra Pak products has made them difficult to recycle as they are made out of cardboard, contain a foil lining and with a plastic screw cap. However, Barnet Council's recycling service provider May Gurney has now located a UK reprocessor that can recycle the cartons.

Residents will be able to place the complete carton, with the cap removed, into their blue box. As with cardboard, Tetra Paks must be flattened to help make best use of the space on the recycling collection vehicles.

Residents of flats served by communal recycling facilities will be able to recycle their Tetra Paks alongside cardboard.

Do you love our local wood?

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are calling on all interested users of our local wood to attend the AGM on Sunday 24 January at the Old White Lion next to East Finchley tube station, starting at 11am.

They hope members and others may offer to join the committee and help to preserve the wood for the benefit of all and into the future. For more information, visit www.cherrytreewood.co.uk



Martin School pupils. Photo by Rebecca Bak.

Tree o'clock

By Jack McCabe and Ollie Clymer

Eco Council reps and pupils at Ravenscroft Secondary School and Martin Primary School got together on Saturday 5 December in a global attempt to break the world record for planting trees at a single site in one hour.

The record to beat was 18,124. After one hour's hard work, our joint efforts meant we had managed to plant 300 trees, which had been donated by the local taxi firm Greater London Hire.

We kids were not alone in this attempt as teachers and other school staff, such as Tristan Green our caretaker and Suzy Osborne, who works in the school office, joined in as well. Mr Green said: "It was hard but in the end very rewarding."

We are now looking forward to watching the trees, which include ash, oak and hawthorns, start to grow on our school field.

John Scott, managing director of Greater London Hire, said it was a great

privilege to be involved. "We're extremely lucky," he said, "that Martin School and indeed East Finchley have the playing field. It will be lovely to watch the trees grow over the years, and to think that many years hence some of the planters will be able to point out the trees we planted to their own grandchildren."

The two schools didn't smash the record but three other tree-planting sites around the UK did. Also, the Martin and Ravenscroft trees will count towards a record for the most trees planted at any number of sites in one hour. The total is still being counted. Read more about tree o'clock at the BBC Tree O'Clock website www.bbc.co.uk/treeoclock.

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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

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London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

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Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
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St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

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

OAP's Advice

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Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Crime

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CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111
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Team 020 7161 9014

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❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020
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Drugs arrest on High Road

By Janet Maitland

A man was arrested on the High Road for possession of 15 wraps of cocaine on 26 November. He was stopped and searched by PC Eddie Rose from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, who was on foot patrol. The man matched the description of a report from a local resident who had seen a man behaving suspiciously on Fortis Green. The drugs had a street value of about £200.

"This is a great example of a quick response to a call from a member of the public by one of the team," said Sergeant Andy

Matthews. The man appeared at Hendon Magistrates court on 4 December. He was fined £80, plus costs.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

East Finchley Advice Service,
42 Church Lane, N2

Demolition of existing ground floor annexes and construction of new three-storey dwelling house with basement and roof terrace to rear of 42 Church Lane fronting King Street.

3 Elmfield Road, N2

Retention of sunken patio area.
Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road, N2
Construction of new stepped access from public pathway to reinstate existing access to building and relocation of existing public bench.

16 Fortis Green, N2

Conversion of three flats into five flats following formation of front and rear light wells at basement level and alterations to roof including two rear dormers to facilitate a loft conversion. Installation of solar panels to rear and front roof slope.

111 High Road, N2

Change of use of ground floor shop to part retail (Use Class A1) and part restaurant (A3) between the hours 9am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. Continued A3 use of the basement between the hours of 12pm to 2.15pm and 6.30pm to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 10pm on Sundays. Continued A3 use of the ground floor between the hours 6.30pm to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 10pm on Sundays. Erection of a single storey rear extension.

27-29 Leicester Road, N2

Erection of a two-storey semi-detached house with rooms in roof

space adjoining 27 Leicester Road. Retention of existing car parking, addition of associated landscaping to the front, and alterations to the side of the existing house at 27 Leicester Road to include the reinstatement of a previously blocked window facing 25 Leicester Road.

301 Long Lane, London, N2

Single storey side extension.

67 Park Hall Road, N2

Part single, part two-storey rear extension.

42A Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Extension to roof including insertion of three rear dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion.

Rooftop at Viceroy Parade, High Road, N2

Installation of three antennas and two dish antennas on rooftop with ancillary cabling and access ladder. Installation of ancillary equipment cabinet and electrical meter within brick enclosure at ground level along East End Road. Telecommunication development.

Haringey Council

Chessing Court, Fortis Green, N2

Formation of additional floor to create a new sixth floor consisting of two one-bedroom flats.

11 Southern Road, N2

Erection of single storey front and rear extensions, reconfiguration and refurbishment of interior, and installation of new low front boundary wall.

23 Western Road, N2

Erection of rear/front dormer window and insertion of three Velux windows to front elevation.

Raising awareness of lupus

By Diana Cormack

Lupus sufferer Sippy Azizollah used the fact that it was Lupus Awareness Month back in October to help people learn more about this life-changing illness. As well as making herself available to talk to interested parties, Sippy provided leaflets and other relevant information including a body chart showing sites that can be afflicted by the disease. She sold fundraising merchandise connected with the cause and also ran raffles at the venues of her two events. More than £60 was raised at the Woodland Medical Practice on Leopold Road and £80 at The Five Bells public house on East End Road.

Sippy told THE ARCHER that she was very grateful to Amy's store on the High Road, which regularly raises money for Lupus UK. She would also like to thank the local shops and busi-

nesses that generously provided raffle prizes and all those who took part and helped with this successful venture. For further information about lupus, visit www.lupusuk.org.uk

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Lifting of CPZ restrictions thwarted

By Diana Cormack

At the end of October, following massive opposition from residents and traders, Barnet Council scrapped proposed plans to extend parking restrictions in East Finchley's controlled parking zones. At the same time Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, announced that roads close to the station with all-day parking restrictions would revert to one hour a day.

The all-day restriction was imposed when The Institute moved to the High Road from Hampstead Garden Suburb. It was anticipated that an influx of students would increase demand for parking places, but this has proved not to be the case.

Some who live east of the High Road and south of Fortis Green were delighted with Councillor Harper's announcement, having complained about the all-day restrictions and extra expenditure on visitor vouchers since its inception. However, their delight was short-lived.

Another consultation

Apparently Cllr Harper was advised that a so-called "pilot scheme" prompted by The Institute's move had been introduced as a temporary measure in August 2004. Barnet Council made this permanent in February 2006. To change it would

require a statutory consultation in the area concerned, which could take up to six months and would be costly.

This raises the question why letters and emails already submitted to Barnet by those residents affected could not be used to gauge opinion, thus saving both time and money in an era of restraint.

Pilot or permanent

But another question is puzzling locals with long memories. Following an appeal by The Institute, a decision reached by the Planning Inspectorate in November 2006 stated that in October 2005 the council undertook to review the CPZ. Residents would like to know what happened about this review and how Barnet could make the "pilot scheme" permanent within four months of their undertaking and many months before the Inspectorate came to any decision.



Grace shows off her dolphin-friendly face at the Holy Trinity School fair.

Angelic voices and fabulous faces

Young singers in the Holy Trinity Primary School choir stopped people in their tracks when they sang at the school's festive fair in December. The children's voices brought the main hall to a halt as they sang some seasonal favourites old and new.

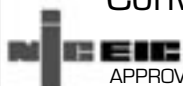
Face-painting, home-made food and Father Christmas's grotto were other firm favourites at the fair. Money raised from the event goes to fund school equipment and special outings.



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Red and grey by Tom Falk

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The price is £5 and every penny made will go to support the work of the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral

Palsy in East End Road. They provide therapy, treatment and emotional support for families affected by this debilitating

condition.

Buy your calendar now

Thanks to all the local traders who are selling the calendar. You can buy it along the High Road at the Black Gull bookshop, Budgens, the Cherry Tree gift shop, Kokos, Lazooli, Tony's Continental, as well as the Lazy Sally kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood and several shops in East End Road. Look out for *ARCHER* Calendar 2010 posters in shop windows.

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

Can you lend your expertise?

A charity is looking for new volunteer trustees to help it run its services. East Finchley Advice Service gives free advice on debt, welfare benefits, employment, education, family matters and consumer rights.

The organisation is looking for new trustees to sit on its management committee, involving a two-hour meeting about once a month.

Anyone with a vocational background or knowledge of legal, social, educational or community matters would be particularly welcome, as would anyone with experience of advising in the charity or voluntary sector.

EFAS in its present form has

been serving the local community for some 25 years. It also runs a legal surgery, an employment training programme, drug and alcohol rehabilitation support and outreach projects for senior citizens and carers.

If you can help, please contact the manager Ruby Joseph on 020 8444 6265 or by email on help@efas.org.uk. The charity is based in Church Lane, N2, and its website is at www.efas.org.uk.

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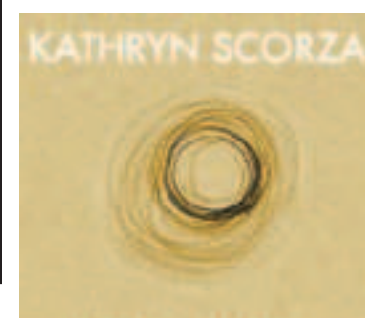
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Out with the old, in with the new

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

January is the time to reflect on achievements, and to plan what's still to be done. In 2010, we'll be concentrating on burglary and vehicle crime. Look out for information on setting up new Neighbourhood Watches and a DNA protective marking scheme. And you might see us start patrolling on bicycles.

Crime down

Last year, total crime in East Finchley fell by 6%. The team seized £10,000 worth of Class A and B drugs. We made 16 arrests, including three for burglary and three for robbery. Five drug search warrants were executed, and two for dangerous dogs. Four anti-social behaviour contracts were issued.

Six youths were referred to a Targeted Youth Scheme, to help prevent them from embarking on a life of crime. Two PCSOs worked with young people to stop them offending.

We improved the way we share intelligence about anti-social behaviour with housing associations, so we can now tackle it better. A civil injunction was taken out on a persistent and prolific offender, which bans them from particular places. This had a big impact on local crime levels.



On patrol

We played a big part in setting up the Shield Project, a borough-wide scheme protecting vulnerable elderly people. We also set up static patrols in places like the tube station and Viceroy Parade at busy times, so we can talk to residents and learn about community issues.

The team now has a full complement of staff, with four new officers joining us since I started here in February: Eddie Man, Eddie Rose, Dora Theodorou, and Sam Hedger. Thanks for all your support. We wish you a happy and crime-free year.

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 or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.



Keith John of Contact waiting on table at the Christmas meal.
Photo by Diana Cormack.

Contact at Christmas

By Keith John

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact held its Christmas lunch at the Green Man Community Centre in December, a splendid turkey dinner with all the trimmings that was much enjoyed by all who attended.

Contact serves lunch every Tuesday at the Green Man Centre, and also serves a special lunch of halal food for Muslim ladies on Wednesdays.

New members are always welcome so if you would like more details phone Keith John on 020 84441162 or go to www.efncontact.org

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Farewell to Lincoln Parade

This picture, taken by Martin Addison, shows the last few days of Lincoln Parade, demolished two months ago to make way for a building development.



The demolition crews move into Lincoln Parade. Photo Martin Addison
Write to us at THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA, or email the-archer@lineone.net

The demolition work revealed the size of the space behind the parade on the corner of Lincoln Road and High Road and briefly uncovered the fascia for Finchley Pet Stores, which traded for 40 years before closing in 2002.

One of the store's regular customers was the Sultan of Brunei, resident of The Bishop's Avenue, whose staff took large monthly deliveries of cat and rabbit food, along with fish food for the royal carp.

Do you have memories of the pet store, or perhaps of getting a hair cut at the Gents' Hairdressers almost next door? Let us know your Lincoln Parade memories and we'll publish them in a future issue.

Knowledge grows on tree

A love of books and reading is a top priority at Tudor School. On Tuesday 24 November, the school opened its new library. This calm, quiet space is called the 'Tree of Knowledge'.

Jude Stone, co-headteacher, said: "Developing a love of reading is paramount to improving the chances our children have for a better future. We are so happy to have a new space for reading in peace and quiet, a place where they can discover new authors, enter imaginary worlds and extend their learning."

Robert McCulloch-Graham, director of children's services at Barnet Council, was on hand to cut the ribbon to the library. Also present was Jonny Zucker, author of the popular *Max Flash* novels, who has worked with the school regularly over the past two years.

Mr Zucker spent the day reading to all the children in the school from the very youngest in Nursery to the eldest in Year 6. The opening ceremony was videoed and then watched by the whole school, who assembled in the main hall to join in the celebration. Waterstones in Barnet donated new books for the children to enjoy.



Robert McCulloch-Graham Director of Children's Services opens the new library.

Good old-fashioned food

More than 100 senior citizens enjoyed old time lunches and dinners of boiled bacon, carrots and pease pudding in a community project sponsored by Budgens East Finchley.

The old-fashioned meals were served to great acclaim at the Age Concern Ann Owen Centre in Oak Lane, the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale, and Paul Byrne House on the Thomas More estate. Demand was high, with an overwhelming number of requests to do it again soon.

Budgens say they are grateful to local people for their support during and after the recent alterations to their High Road store and are open to ideas for sponsoring or assisting events for all age groups in the community.

The store will once again be a sponsor of the East Finchley Festival this summer and regularly donates to the Finchley Community Development Trust and Contact East Finchley.

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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.



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*, Kaos songs 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, ranging 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.

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 re-dedicating".

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.

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That was the year that was

It was the year of guerrilla gardening, swine flu, fundraising for the Phoenix and controversy over street lights, parking and plans for the pavilion. Read all about it in our review of 2009.

January

The Phoenix Cinema begins its £1 million fundraising drive in earnest after gaining planning consent to add a glass-fronted café and terrace bar to the front of the building. They hope to

be granted money from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project, which will also see the 100-year-old cinema auditorium renovated to its 1930s art deco glory.

Residents in Summerlee Gardens clear up after being left with bulging recycling boxes for nearly three weeks because no one bothered to collect their rubbish. Surrounding roads were cleared but Summerlee Gardens suffered without collections following the introduction of the new blue recycling boxes for plastics, cardboard and tins.

Vandals spray paint graffiti on tree trunks and the Lazy Sally Café in Cherry Tree Wood. The damage on the trees ran from the entrance opposite East Finchley station all the way up the main pathway to Highgate Woods. Barnet Council is quick to clean up the damage.



January: Year 6 pupils at Martin Primary School produce their own newspaper called *The Martin*. Photo by Helen Drake.

Actors Dame Judi Dench and Daniel Day Lewis spend five days at the Phoenix Cinema filming scenes for the movie *Nine*, which tells the story of film director Guido Contini.

THE ARCHER launches its brand new website. You can read the latest issue online and explore our archive of stories going as far back as 1997 at www.the-archer.co.uk.

February

The 263 bus route from High Barnet through East Finchley to Archway is given a longer route down part of Holloway Road. The East Finchley Bus Watch group claims the added congestion at the southern end of the route may make frequency and reliability worse than it is already. They continue to campaign for increased frequency or for the 17 route to be extended beyond Archway to run through

East Finchley and terminate at North Finchley.

Two days of heavy snow sweep across the country and leave the capital at a virtual standstill. The Northern line stops working for East Finchley commuters and the buses are put out of action. Cherry Tree Wood is full of snowmen and the streets are full of snowball fights.

Daniela Antoinette, of Prospect Ring, becomes the youngest-ever winner of a Barnet Community Volunteer Award for her unpaid work helping at the Monday Youth Club in East Finchley. Five other volunteers at the club are also rewarded with certificates.

Residents in the Church Lane area gear up again to fight plans to place three mobile phone masts in the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church. The plan reappeared after being withdrawn in 2007.

March

Barnet Council announces that it plans to withdraw resident wardens from sheltered accommodation. This is seen as a body blow by many senior citizens, who say replacement 'floating' wardens are no substitute for someone based permanently on site.

Hundreds of people break fundraising records when they take part in the annual Big Fun Walk, stepping out from East Finchley station through London's parks to Westminster, just under eight miles away.

Barnet Council announces that Cherry Tree Wood is to be included in a bid to the Civic Trust for Green Flag status.

Princess Anne visits the Phoenix Cinema for a special screening of a film showing the work of disability charity Sense. She is the patron of the charity, which works with deafblind people.

Marathon runners from East Finchley include Victoria Davenport, of Durham Road, running her fourth marathon and raising funds for Kids Company, and Julia Law-

rence, of Richmond Road, running her first and raising funds for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

April

North London Hospice puts out a call for donations and financial help to see it through the recession. The hospice in Woodside Avenue, N12, serves patients and their families from across Barnet, Enfield and Haringey and needs to raise most of its £5 million annual running costs through voluntary donations.

Film director Tom Hooper, who was raised in Finchley, releases his movie *The Damned United* to critical acclaim. The film stars Michael Sheen and gives a fictional account of Brian Clough's doomed 44-day reign as manager of Leeds United.

Barnet Council promises to send out the results of its survey on the East Finchley controlled parking zones. They say all residents and commercial premises affected should know the outcome some time in May. The results are actually released three months later in August.

Members of the North London Chorus combine singing with slimming when they go on a collective weight-loss drive. Cutting out biscuits at rehearsal tea breaks helps them lose spare inches and raises money for Diabetes UK.

May

A major street light replacement programme gets under way in East Finchley. Many residents complain that lights are relocated too close to driveways or bedroom windows.

Seven-year-old Jack Brown loses his four-year battle with neuroblastoma. Hundreds of people had raised money for the Barnet youngster to have pioneering treatment in America. Jack passes away in hospital with his parents Yvonne and Richard, brother Connor and sister Rhian at his bedside.

Helen, Joel and Andy from *Blue Peter* take over the Phoenix Cinema to screen a movie they made in just 24 hours. The *Me*



May: Members of the Phoenix Cinema's Kids Club are treated to a special screening of a film put together by the presenters of *Blue Peter* as part of a challenge to make a movie in 24 hours. Photo by Jodi Warren.



February: Six inches of snow overnight meant a day off work and a day off school for many. Photo by Andrew Louth.

and *My Movie* challenge is a joint venture with Bafta and BBC Learning. Young critics from the cinema's Kids Club vote it a hit.

Technical problems with Barnet Council's parking permit systems drive residents to distraction. Applicants are left hanging on phone lines for hours and the automated online system fails to work. The council's parking call centre goes into meltdown as a backlog of thousands of permit requests builds up.

The knocking of wooden poles and the sound of bells is heard around East Finchley when the Westminster Morris Men tour N2, stopping off at several of our pubs to perform their traditional dances.



June: Master of ceremonies Antigua Joe and young fan Fin from Martin Primary School enjoyed the music and entertainment at the hugely-successful East Finchley Festival. Photo by Sylvie Clarke.

June

The team at the Phoenix Cinema celebrate when their ambitious project to restore the glory of the 100-year-old building wins more than £600,000 in lottery cash. The award kicks off a push to find the final £200,000 needed for the restoration work to begin.

Swine flu cases are reported in the area. Two schools in Hampstead Garden Suburb are forced to close temporarily and cases are reported at Holy Trinity Primary School in East Finchley.

Barnet Council confirms it will go ahead with its controversial proposal to axe residential wardens in sheltered accommodation. They will be replaced with a 24-hour alarm system and a team of 'floating' wardens. The decision causes dismay for many elderly residents.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist athlete Kristian Thomas, 20, performs a forward roll over six pupils and one teacher when he visits Tudor Primary School, N3, as part of a scheme to encourage children to get active.

Long Lane Pasture enters a new era when campaigners succeed in leasing the land from Barnet Council on a 25-year peppercorn rent. The pasture opens to the public on weekend days and continues to develop as a major conservation project.

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July: East Finchley art director Victor Martinez takes tea on the Trafalgar Square plinth on the first day of Anthony Gormley's public art project, which sees a different occupant on the plinth every hour round the clock for the next 100 days.

July

Plans for transforming the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood are displayed at a public consultation meeting. Lazy Sally Café owner Sally-Anne Wigfield aims to turn the pavilion into a not-for-profit community and well-being centre. Opponents say the idea is not suitable for the location and argue that the site should be returned to natural woodland.

It is announced that Finchley Memorial Hospital will be demolished to make way for a planned new hospital on Bow Lane playing fields, North Finchley.

The East Finchley Village Residents Association goes from strength to strength as it campaigns on traffic and social issues in the Church Lane area and beyond.

East Finchley tube station is 70 years old. Lord Ashfield, then chairman of London Transport, hosted an opening day party on 3 July 1939, arriving in a special

train from Archway. This was followed by lunch at the newly-reconstructed White Lion Hotel, next to the station.

August

The long-awaited results of the July 2008 questionnaire into parking in East Finchley are finally revealed. Barnet Council proposes to change Monday to Saturday no-parking hours around the High Road from just one hour per day to eight and a half hours per day. Local traders and residents claim this will drive away shoppers and throttle businesses in the High Road.

Around 30 adults and children are locked in Cherry Tree Wood for two hours when the mobile park unit shuts the gates without warning anyone to leave. Mothers and children are trapped as darkness descends and are freed only when the fire brigade arrives. Barnet Council apologises and says the keyholder has been 'spoken to'.

Allotment holders in Fortis Green battle to save their plots. Thames Water wants to sell the land where local people have grown fruit and vegetables for 80 years. Campaigners win time to fight the sell-off.

Guerrilla gardening takes off in East Finchley. Flowers appear in a small plot close to the tube sta-



August: Guerilla gardeners brighten up a bleak spot near East Finchley tube station. Photo by Diana Cormack.

tion and a group of enthusiastic volunteers starts to plan more planting projects.

status as a premier park. Seven other Barnet parks are successful. However, Cherry Tree is one



September: Tottenham Hotspurs Academy star player Dean Parrett, centre, and coach Tony Parks, right, watch Martin Primary School team triumph in a special soccer tournament on Stanley Field. Photo by Shane Vincent.

September

Protests mount against the proposed parking changes in East Finchley and more than 2,000 people sign a petition calling on the council to scrap the new restrictions.

Wendy Hallett, who runs retail clothing business Hallett Retail from N2, is named Innovator of the Year in the Specsavers every-woman in Retail Awards.

Muswell Hill becomes one of 10 neighbourhoods in London to be given funding of up to £400,000 to become a Low Carbon Zone.

Comedy comes to the High Road when Cecilia Holmes stages her Whistle and Wink Comedy Show at the Finchley Youth Theatre. Shortly afterwards, regular comedy nights open at the Old White Lion pub, next to the station, and The Alexandra pub in Fortis Green.

October

People power wins the day when Barnet Council announces that it is scrapping its proposals to widen parking restrictions around the High Road. Letters of protest, a petition and a stormy residents' forum all persuade the council to make its U-turn. However, there is disappointment that the all-day parking restrictions in roads close to The Institute may not be lifted without a further lengthy consultation exercise.

A special inter-school football tournament is staged on Stanley Road playing field to highlight the ongoing campaign to save the open space as a leisure facility for the community, rather than being sold off for housing development. Tottenham Hotspurs Academy player Dean Parrett and coach Tony Parks lend their support.

Cherry Tree Wood falls one point short of winning Green Flag

of 11 parks nominated to receive new play equipment.

Teacher Anna Finn, of Manor Park Road, goes into training to run ten marathons in ten days around Lake Windermere. She also aims to become the youngest woman to have completed 100 marathons.



October: Mam Spencer fulfils a lifelong dream to run her own restaurant when she and her son Ben Henham take over the Thai Kitchen at Maddens pub. Photo by John Lawrence.

November

Archie, the statue atop East Finchley station, is chosen by public vote to be Barnet's landmark for the 2012 London Olympics. He will be featured alongside other London icons on a series of pin badges to go on sale in 2010.

Transport for London announces a severe cut in its budget, raising fears that

the Bus Watch campaign's long-running request for another bus service along the High Road may be parked.

An application to increase the size of the planned medical centre development on the site of the garden centre in East End Road is blocked because it does not comply with the London Plan for new developments and because sustainability issues have not been fully addressed.

The Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust continues with its fundraising campaign to buy the land from Thames Water, after winning a stay of execution on a public sale.

Lincoln Parade, on the corner of Lincoln Road and the High Road, is demolished and cleared.

December

Plans are announced to give walkers easier access to Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill playing fields. Gates and paths in the wood will be improved and a new bridge built over the stream. Access to the field will be better signposted for pedestrians but made harder for nuisance motorbike riders.

Residents close to the High Road and Fortis Green continue their fight to get their all-day parking restrictions lifted. They are concerned that a public consultation exercise would take six months or more and cost too much money.

Local artist Mari l'Anson launches her *Finchley Sketchbook*, capturing some of the quirkiest and most handsome buildings in Finchley.



November: Archie becomes a London icon for the 2012 Olympic Games. Photo by Rob Steinberger

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YOUNG ARCHER

Daisy knocks them for six

By Diana Cormack

Thirteen-year-old Daisy Moore has had another successful cricket season. During the past year she was selected for teams in a higher age bracket and was also the sole female in two local sides. Her prowess at batting and bowling proved to be the turning point on many occasions.

Daisy, of Cromwell Close, won Finchley Under 13 Girls' award for best batter and made her first half century in an innings of 51 not out. She also scored a hat trick with the first three balls she bowled in their match against Underhill CC. She played for Middlesex Under 15 Girls and opened the bowling for Gunnersbury Women's 2nd eleven.

Daisy was the only girl in Finchley Boys' Under 13 team,

batting at number four to help them reach the finals of the under-13 knock-out cup. Also in the team were local boys Luke Chater, Ferdinand Hunter (captain) and Ross Sutcliffe.

All-round sportswoman

Playing for her father Robert's N2 side, Daisy dismissed some very experienced male cricketers.

As well as succeeding at cricket Daisy has won the Barnet Indoor Rowing Championship in her age group for the past two years, representing Hendon School. Despite being an August baby and therefore nearly a year younger than most, she gained twelfth place in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships. Now Saracen Rugby Club is looking at Daisy for their ladies team.



Daisy Moore. Photo by Diana Cormack

Fortismere pilots new school day

By Noah Style, Year 10, Fortismere School

Last term, after consulting with parents, Fortismere School piloted a new school day running from 8.35am to 3pm.

As a student there, I found the first week in November rather strange, getting into the habit of different lesson times; so too did the teachers. Now, the new day seems normal.

It brings both good and bad with it. The obvious advantage to students is finishing earlier than other schools; it is like rolling back the years to nursery, with an early finish. This early end allows us more time to socialise, do homework and attend regular twilight sessions (catch-up lessons for GCSE years).

Like many other pupils at the school, I find that the new break and lunchtime are too short. During break, if you need to walk from one wing to the other to get to your next lesson, that's your break finished! The lunch break also is too short, being only 40 minutes, so there is not much time to catch up with friends, especially if you are queuing for lunch.

Extra-curricular impact

Although the short lunch may not be considered to affect the school routine, it does actu-

ally have a large impact on the lunch clubs and music groups. There is considerably less time for sports at lunch, taking into account that you must change into kit and eat.

Music groups such as the orchestra and choir also suffer, and often run over into the registration period. Some groups, therefore, are forced to meet after school (as well as during lunch), to make up for lost time and to prepare for concerts.

So, to summarise, for an individual who is not actively involved with extra-curricular activities in the school, the positives probably do outweigh the negatives. But for those attending twilight sessions or other activities, the day just seems longer, though the after-school activities do finish earlier than they would have done previously.

There will be another questionnaire sent out by the school following the pilot to find out whether or not parents, and more importantly students, want to continue with this new day.

Manorside news

In December, Manorside School's infant production of *The Nutcracker* blew the audience away with its heady mix of dance, fabulous costumes, singing and storytelling.

After a term of visits to theatres and cinemas, the seasonal festivities started with the whole school attending *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* at artsdepot. Christmas parties took place throughout the school, while Santa stopped by his Manorside grotto for a slice of cake (and to see the children, of course) and to celebrate this year's great SATs results and value-added scores.

Review: The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus

By Helen Drake

Apetulant teenage Father Christmas enacted on stage is something you should not miss! *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* was a thoroughly charming, amusing artsdepot show that received a big thumbs-up from my children, aged 8 and 10.

With echoes of *The Wizard of Oz* (not surprising as it is based on a book by the same author, L. Frank Baum), the orphaned Claus, meaning "little one", grows up in the enchanted forest with nymphs and other immortals until he strikes out on his own journey of self-discovery.

On the way he meets the Fairy of Song who bears a remarkable likeness to Stacey from *The X Factor* and the bad boy Jack Frost.

In a Damascene moment our young Claus decides that "every man should leave the earth a better place than when he was born". In his quest to fulfil this aspiration the origins of all our Christmas traditions are revealed: hanging up our stockings (it saves time) and coming down the chimney (who answers the door in the dead of night?)

The reindeer, Flossie and Glossie, are the grumpiest you'll ever meet; and rich, demanding Bessie Blythsome is a finely-drawn comic creation ("where are my people?") who would bring a smile to the face of any Scrooge in your entourage. Verdict from this family: it's a seasonal classic.

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Brookland School children get ready to skip. Photo by Ziz Chater

School goes skip-tastic

Children at Brookland Infant and Nursery School in Hampstead Garden Suburb got out their skipping ropes for a Skip-a-Thon to raise money for the BBC's *Children in Need*.

All the pupils involved had taken skipping lessons in the spring term and had been practising their skills during the summer term. This event gave them the opportunity to put them to the test.

Each class took turns to skip to music for five minutes. The older children were particularly competitive, each trying to be the one to complete the most skips at a time.

Teachers said the children looked forward to fundraising events and they were an important part of school activities. Previously the children have raised money for Cystic Fibrosis and Marie Curie Cancer care.

Sponsorship by friends and family meant the Skip-a-Thon raised more than £1,000 for Children in Need, with the highest amount raised by one child being more than £70.

**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

A whole new decade

As Brown Gordon plummets towards a disused sewage farm on the outskirts of Biggleswade, it's time to welcome a new decade. Some people ask what the next ten years will hold for us all and if we can find a person to sum up the next decade in the way Paris Hilton summed up the last one. Not me, I'm going to take a mean and twisted look back at ten years of life, death and Big Brother.

This was the decade that was iPods, broadband, Google, lies, damned lies and Wikipedia. A time for Big Brother, the rise and demise of Jade Goody, the rise and rise of Ant 'n' Dec, the rise and rise and rise of Simon Cowell and the decline of taste. Jeremy Clarkson, the gerbil and the other one replaced laddism with the charmless world of a minor public school and the Beckhams proved that no taste is no barrier to fame and holding the front page.

This was the decade of endlessly rising house prices followed by the crashing and burning of estate agents and the sudden realisation that a house might actually be a home. The decade of escaping to the country until your home goes under the hammer and you have to flog it if you don't want some nutter with a TV crew on your doorstep asking if you want to swap your wife.

This was the decade of global warming and super-pious people carbon trading their Porsches by getting a Prius as well as a Hummer. The last time to see polar bears before they move to Florida and buy Raybans.

This was the decade when CCTV replaced free speech and when freedom had to be protected by locking it up and hiding the key. The decade when tourists got arrested for taking pictures of Buck House in case they were terrorists rather than tasteless.

This was the decade when the foot in the trough replaced the foot in the mouth, your average local politician asked you to pay for his porno duck house's bell tower. The decade when the banks went bust and asked us to give them money so that they could pay themselves bigger bonuses. This was the decade when 'we're all in it together' ended with the poor paying for the crass stupidity of the rich, the decade when brown turned out not to be the new black.

This was the decade that it's time we forgot.

Scenes of Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local artist Mari l'Anson's *Finchley Sketchbook* was launched officially at Waterstones, North Finchley, last month, where it had already sold nine copies in a few days. This is a book celebrating one of Mari's great loves, and she thanked The Finchley Society for their support in producing it.

The book includes all areas of Finchley, where Mari has lived for 40 years, concentrating on the different character of each area. So the "village" around Church Lane is covered as well as the High Road. "I am passionate about buildings," she told us, "and working on this, my own book, has been what most illustrators only dream about."

Spot your neighbours

She has sketched handsome buildings, quirky buildings, historical and modern buildings, and sometimes ones which were demolished shortly afterwards. There are also a couple of originally commissioned sketches of other people's favourite buildings.

Dotted round most pages are sketches of people strolling, shopping, working or playing. Mari has drawn them from life, so you might just recognise yourself or a friend.

Deputy Mayor Hugh Rainer was conducting his first book launch, and The Finchley Society's David Smith took the opportunity to suggest



Mari l'Anson with (centre) The Finchley Society's David Smith and Deputy Mayor Cllr Hugh Rayner, Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

that Barnet might produce a weekly newspaper all about the arts. He also said that The Finchley Society should make people more aware of what is

going on in the arts world.

Mari l'Anson's *Finchley Sketchbook*, ISBN 978-0-9543607-1-9, is published by The Finchley Society at £15.

Review: An Education

By Daphne Chamberlain
There is something to be said for missing a film first time round, if you can catch up with it at one of The Phoenix special screenings, with the bonus of a question and answer session with one of the film's makers.

The Q&A for *An Education*, shown last month, featured journalist Lynn Barber, who wrote the memoir on which the film was based. The teenage heroine of this film, set in the early 1960s, was starring in a chunk of Lynn's own life, as adapted for the big screen by Nick Hornby.

Growing up fast

This account of a schoolgirl seduced by a fatally attractive man-about-town, who won over her parents before herself, is very true to its period, and it steers clear of cliché.

The girl marked out for Oxford listens to French songs ("The 60s didn't start until the Beatles") baffles new friends by rattling off snatches of French, and yearns for a life of adult sophistication.

The acting was superb, even if Carey Mulligan's portrayal of the heroine was often so arrogant that she lost a bit of sympathy. "But I did behave badly at times," said Lynn, referring to her character's own dishonesty.

I was intrigued to see that the much softer-seeming and more hesitant older woman before us actually had a roguish smile identical to the young girl on the screen.

Pretty in pink

By Fay Sanders

Customers visiting East Finchley beauty salon Es Vida found themselves quite literally tickled pink. Festooned with bright pink balloons and pink ribbons, the salon wowed local residents with a charity event in aid of breast cancer research. Visitors could receive a pink manicure, and walk away with the bottle of nail varnish, for £10 a pop. All proceeds went to Cancer Research UK.

The eye-catching window display of enticing raffle prizes was one of the star attractions. Local businesses clubbed together to put their classiest pink products up for grabs. Featured amongst the goodies on offer was a trendy pink purse, normally retailing at £105, from Kokos shoe shop, a beautiful bouquet of pink flowers from Jose-

phines the florist and a bottle of Crémant de Rosé from Nicolas wine stores in Crouch End.

The fundraising event was the brainchild of salon receptionist Johanna Maddock, 27. She said: "My mother got the all-clear from breast cancer a year ago, so I wanted to do something that would raise awareness."

In keeping with the Hispanic flair of Es Vida, which moved from Muswell Hill to East



Staff at Es Vida show off their pink goodies. Photo by Fay Sanders.

Finchley in the summer, tortillas (not pink) were on the menu, as well as cupcakes with pink icing and pink lemonade.

From pink to blue

Inspired by the new pink nail varnish launched by US brand OPI to support breast cancer awareness, Johanna already has her sights set on the salon's next change. OPI has just brought out a blue coloured nail varnish, to raise awareness for lung cancer.

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- ❖ **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** 4 & 18 Jan 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.
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- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
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- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
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- ❖ **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.

An artsdepot audience with Angela

By Diana Cormack

When she became the first woman to present BBC TV news regularly, Angela Rippon was the subject of much media comment. Despite this and her impressive career in radio and television, she is famously remembered for her dance routine with Morecambe and Wise in their 1976 Christmas Show. Her lovely long legs kicked away the stuffy news-reader image, a forerunner perhaps to performances by today's news teams on Children in Need.

Listening to her clear, crisp tones as she told her life story at artsdepot in November, it seemed inevitable that Angela would have become a presenter. But there is much more to this elegant and engaging lady than having a voice that holds the attention; she also possesses a wealth of knowledge about her profession. As she told her large audience: "I didn't go to university and do a degree in Media Studies. I learned on the job."

A grounding in journalism

Having left her Plymouth girls' grammar school at 17, Angela spent three years learning every aspect of local newspaper work. She became a West Country BBC radio journalist, then an editor for Westward Television before moving to London.

Angela feels she gained the news reading position "purely by chance" because she happened to be around when the regular newscaster and his male counterparts were all unavailable. Angela commented



Angela Rippon. Photo courtesy of the artsdepot.

on the Royal Wedding in 1981 and the only downturn in her award-winning career appears to be a brief involvement with launching TV-am the following year, after which she left to work in the United States. Her four years using all her professional skills as the voice of LBC Radio's News Talk are still much admired.

I can thoroughly recommend artsdepot's "Audience With..." productions, particularly the question and answer section. In this, Angela's views were sought on the BBC being ageist, particularly towards women. Her answer was measured and diplomatic, but then being a 65-year-old woman presenter, would she bite the hand that feeds her?

Review:

Organ delights

By Ken Carter

The All Saints' Church organ itself is a magnificent beast, bombed out from Clapham, given a home in Durham Road and restored in the 1990s.

Geoffrey Hanson put the revived organ through its paces. Usually, the organist is a remote figure, hidden somewhere behind us. Here, on a wide screen right before our eyes, we could see him throughout the performance.

He chatted to us. We saw his fingers leap along, over and across three keyboards; we saw his knees pound the pedals at his feet. We heard the majesty and swell we expected from Bach, Handel and Boellman.

More of a surprise was a light, tripping chorale prelude from Oley, a Bach/Handel contemporary, a soft cradle song from Vierné, an elegant cascade from Saint-Saëns and the Purcell *Rondeau* that Benjamin Britten made famous.

Fittingly, the programme ended with Geoffrey Hanson's own *Rose Variations*, seven of them. The theme, ideal for varying, had long phrases with moments of syncopation and chromaticism. Hanson's explorations were riveting and engaging, some tersely fragmentary, others smoothly meditative. We ended, splendidly, with the *Rose* of Advent flowering warmly.

What's On...

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

Tuesday 12 January

- **An evening lecture by Ken Marks** on the archaeology of Anglo-Jewry in London, The Drawing Room, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Entrance free. Hosted by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society.

Wednesday 13 January

- **Crochet class**, all materials and refreshments provided. Make beautiful gifts and accessories after just one class. Starts 7pm at an East Finchley venue. Call 07932 035325 for details or register online at www.omarama.co.uk.

Saturday 23 January

- **Quizical Extravaganza** at The Alexandra, Fortis Green, at 7.30. Raising money for The Animal Hostel Trust. Big Prizes to be won!
- **Spring Park Motel** music evening at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, showcasing acts from north London.
- **Pavement Pounders** at The Institute: **Rembrandt and the Dutch Republic**. Meet at The Institute, East Finchley, for morning talk at 11am, then at The National Gallery at 2pm. Enquiries: course tutors David or Maryanne on 020 8340 7178 or www.pavementpounders.org.uk. Bookings: The Institute on 020 8829 4141 quoting course reference 517.

Saturday 6 February

- **Pavement Pounders** at The Institute: We look at **20th Century British art**. Meet at The Institute for morning talk at 11am, then at Tate Britain at 2pm. See above for contact details. Institute course reference 510.

What's on at artsdepot

Art gallery: Ed Pien: Memento, Wednesday 13 January to Sunday 28 February, 12pm - 4pm. **Sunday Buzz** free lunchtime concert: **Christian Brewer**, Sunday 17 January, 1pm. **Stewart Francis: Tour De Francis**, Thursday 21 January, 8pm. **Folk in the Foyer** free concert, Friday 29 January, 8.30pm. **John Bishop Elvis has Left the Building**, Friday 5 February, 8pm.

Review: Make laugh not war

By Lucy Chamberlin

A packed-out back room in The Alexandra pub in Fortis Green was the venue for the launch of new monthly comedy outfit Make Laugh Not War on 22 November. The crowd was young on the whole, trendy and artsy but on the polite side of raucous.

Masters of Ceremony Katrina Thompson and Lou Sanders provided a lively if slightly chaotic evening, covering for late comedians and introducing acts with pizzazz and in one or two cases significantly more ability than the acts themselves.

Tom Webb got the evening off to a good start with his darkly funny gags and very successful audience repartee. Grainne Maguire, though winning over a few audience members with her endearments, was a little too girl-next-door to pack many comedy punches. Daniel Simonsen brought his own sardonic Scandinavian take to some hilariously

recognisable scenarios and, in time, should be one to watch on the comedy circuit. The wild and wacky Roisin Conaty undoubtedly had the most stage presence and had us in stitches with her brilliantly conceived mime.

The headline act Paul Foot was, well, weird in every way. His exaggerated mannerisms and pedantic long-windedness were at best not everyone's cup of tea, and at worst simply exasperating. That said, Katrina and Lou are on to a brilliant idea. Check out the site at www.makelaughnotwar.co.uk for their next gig. It's right on your doorstep and, at only £5, it beats the West End hands down.

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Letters to the editor

Cherry Tree Wood pavilion: the full story

Dear Editor,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all those people who have emailed me and written letters of support and kind offers of help to shape the Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion project. I would also like to thank the members of our Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion committee for their on-going support and giving up so much of their time last year.

I am aware that there are people who oppose the project and we have always tried to listen to their concerns and engage with them. Unfortunately, it is turning something that I felt so enthused and passionate about into something that can be quite upsetting.

I felt it was time I put the record straight so I invite anyone to go to our website to read the full story of the pavilion project, its objectives and where we currently stand in the planning process. Please visit www.foctwpavilion.org.uk

Yours faithfully,
Sally-Anne Wigfield,
Friends of CTW Pavilion

What do you think of the plans for Cherry Tree Wood pavilion? Please let us know by emailing the-archer@lineone.net or writing to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA

Post Office queuing

Dear Editor,

I am writing to highlight the growing problem at the East Finchley Post Office. I have just left after having been in the queue for 35 minutes. They have closed all of our local branches and have left us clambering for service in one central hub. The queue wrapped around four or five times and there were only three people on the counter (one giving out travel money).

I complained to the manager only to be told he could not help his staff on the till as he was not trained, "cash management was not his skill" and he had no control over the hiring of temps or overtime.

Yours faithfully,
Sofia Gradoni,
Address supplied.

New life for playground

Dear Editor,

A couple of years ago, I started a public petition to upgrade the playground at Taring Road estate to modern safety standards, so that children can once again play there. Whether or not my petition had anything to do with this, I am told that Barnet Council are finally showing an interest in the playground.

My proposal is to give the refurbished playground a jungle theme, which proved a popular suggestion when I asked families living nearby. The main feature of the site, the concrete hill with the slide and tunnel, would be incorporated into this, along with animal-shaped bins and sculptures the kids could climb on, both of which have been used in parks in Barnet. Suggestions from children include tree swings and pictures of animals on the shock absorber.

The original proposal was to plant creepers over the fence as a 'shield' from the main road, and to add to the jungle feel. Following talks about security in a secluded area, I now suggest leaving the fences facing the car park and the houses behind uncovered, and including picnic tables near the gates for parents or guardians of kids playing here. The fence bordering the main road and the new flowerbed, however, would still have vines planted there.

I'd be interested to know what anyone else thinks of the plans. Would anyone like to add any suggestions? If so, please feel free to contact me using the ARCHER's details on page 2.

Yours faithfully
Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Fortis Green, N2.

Girl about East Finchley Home, James

By Fay Sanders

Ok, so orientation's never been my forte. Some say it's because I'm left-handed, others say it's because I'm blonde. I prefer the left-handed theory. When my cousin James drove from St Albans to visit me for the first time, I was determined to give him a good flavour of the area. We ambled towards Muswell Hill, where I took him for lunch in the Crocodile Café.

As we walked back towards my flat, I decided I should show him more of East Finchley. I'd already been living here a few months, but what with working long hours and often being away at weekends, I'd scarcely had time to explore properly myself.

So, instead of walking directly to my home off East End Road, we cut off to the right after Budgens. From there, we meandered through little twittens and pathways between houses.

James wasn't so keen a walker as me, and I sensed his mounting impatience to go back to the flat so I conceded that maybe I could discover East Finchley another time on my own.

Losing our way

Then it dawned on me that I didn't actually know where home was! We had turned so many times and the streets looked so similar. After encountering the same street for the second or third time, James twigged that we were lost and I couldn't keep up the pretence any longer. He was surprisingly good-natured about the whole episode, especially when the first spots of rain began to fall.

Losing face

I realised I had to get us back home soon, so seized my opportunity as we passed a gaggle of people coming out of the Windsor Castle pub. "Excuse me," I called out. "Does anyone know where East End Road is?" With a mixture of delight and humiliation I heard the response: "Yes, of course, where do you need to go exactly?"

I paused, thinking how to answer that question without losing face, and then decided I couldn't. "My home," I mumbled sheepishly, which was met by a roar of laughter. At least I'd caused amusement, not only to a group of strangers, but also to my poor cousin. Within minutes we were back on East End Road and I decided I would definitely embark upon my next mission to explore the area alone.

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January at the Phoenix

By the Phoenix Cinema's Paul Homer

A new year at the Phoenix and one that we hope will bring a major change to your local cinema. The Phoenix is special because it is a charity run by the people, for the people. It really is your cinema, and we are trying to make it wonderful again for you to enjoy for many years to come. We still need to raise the final few thousands of pounds, however, to realise the project, so if you've yet to donate please ask at the cinema or go to www.justgiving.com/phoenix-cinema.

We are now in the middle of the awards season with the Baftas, Golden Globes and Oscars all happening in the next few weeks. An adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, which plays at the Phoenix from 8 January, is sure to be among the top nominations. The last film to be adapted from another McCarthy novel, *No Country for Old Men*, was rightly lauded as one of the best films of the year. We expect *The Road*, a harrowing tale of a father and son walking towards the coast in a post-apocalyptic America, to be in the same league.

The end of the month sees master filmmaker Jacques Audiard's new film *The Prophet* at the Phoenix from 22 January.

Winner of the Grand Jury prize at Cannes, this is exhilarating filmmaking about a prisoner who defies the conventional power structure in a modern French prison.

To close the month, for one screening only we have one of the greatest films of all time, Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*, in a digitally restored version on Sunday 24 January at 1.30pm. Marlon Brando and Al Pacino give career-defining performances in this epic tale of family values and organised crime. We're making you an offer you can't refuse.

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Photo by Sylvie Clarke

Fire crew rookies

Children from Martin and Holy Trinity nurseries were shown round Finchley Fire Station on Long Lane by the crew. The children were allowed to climb on the fire engines and even had a turn at holding the hose. They all walked away proudly sporting smoke alarm stickers on their chests. Photo by Sylvie Clarke.

Final push for Phoenix fund

The Phoenix Cinema has just £90,000 left to raise to reach the fundraising target for its Centenary Restoration project. It is hoped work can begin in the spring when the magic figure of £1.1 million is reached.

Meanwhile, excitement is building and the cinema is celebrating the start of its 100th birthday year with the launch of a new logo.

Designed by Hughes Design, the Centenary logo will be used in all communications throughout 2010, including brochures, fundraising materials and centenary souvenirs.



Paul Homer, the Phoenix's chief executive, said

the logo represents the dawn of a new era for the Phoenix as it rises again, restored to face its next century.

Before the end of the year, it is hoped the restoration project will have restored the historic auditorium to its art deco glory and added a glamorous new glass terrace bar looking out over the High Road.

The Phoenix has survived not only two world wars, but also the developer's wrecking ball in the 1980s when it was saved for the community. 2010 realises the completion of this work by launching the centenary celebrations and the publication of a new, full history of the cinema.

For full details of fundraising activities and how you can help, visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Green plaque for poet's home

By Ann Bronkhorst

Coventry Patmore, Victorian poet, man of letters and friend of the Pre-Raphaelite artists, lived for a few years at Highwood Cottage, now 85 Fortis Green. In an informal ceremony on 10 December, the Mayor of Haringey Bernice Vanier unveiled a green plaque commemorating him.

The small gathering of enthusiasts heard an outline of Patmore's life from Patricia O'Connor, chairman of the Pre-Raphaelite Society, who had travelled from France for the occasion.

A poet in Fortis Green

In the late 1850s, Patmore was a hard-up young husband and father, just becoming recognised as a poet; a striking painting by John Singer Sargent at the National Portrait Gallery shows his older, more prosperous self. Today he is significant mainly for two reasons: he persuaded John Ruskin, the influential art critic, to write to *The Times* supporting the then unfashionable Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and he wrote an immensely popular poem, *The Angel in the House*, about married love.

Sue and Nick Vosper, the present owners of the house, had problems establishing the Patmore's exact dates of occupancy. Probably they lived at Highwood Cottage for more than the two years, 1858-1860, recorded on the plaque, but financial and other difficulties often forced them into rented lodgings elsewhere in north London.

Broken health

Emily, Patmore's first wife and the inspiration for *The Angel in the House*, bore six children but died of consumption (TB) in 1862, when the youngest was just a toddler. Patmore said of their frequent moves: "My wife's broken health has been destructive to home." Soon after her death he converted to Roman

Catholicism, a choice she had expected and dreaded, and married twice more.

In happier times, during the 1850s, the young couple's home welcomed many artists and writers. The poet Tennyson and his wife were their friends; John Everett Millais and Holman Hunt drew and painted Emily and her children; Robert Browning wrote a poem about her (*The Face*) and the



(L to R) Patricia O'Connor, John Hajdu and Sue Vosper beneath Coventry Patmore's Green Plaque. Photo by Ann Bronkhorst

American writer Edward Emerson dined with the family.

At the unveiling, John Hajdu, Chairman of Fortis Green Residents' Association, said the plaque joins a growing number of green plaques commemorating notable Haringey residents, including artist Heath Robinson and South African political leader Oliver Tambo.

The poem below is much shorter than most of Patmore's poems. The Latin title means *The Truth is Great*, and the setting is probably St Margaret's Bay in Kent. The poet hints at some unexplained bitterness, but achieves a calm, detached mood while watching the sea.

Magna est Veritas

By Coventry Patmore

Here, in this little Bay,
Full of tumultuous life and great repose,
Where, twice a day,
The purposeless, glad ocean comes and goes,
Under high cliffs, and far from the huge town,
I sit me down.
For want of me the world's course will not fail:
When all its work is done the lie shall rot;
The truth is great and shall prevail,
When none cares whether it prevail or not.

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