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THE ARCHER



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June 2010 No. 200 **20p**
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Too dam hot: a firewalker braves the hot embers at the Five Bells.
Photo by John Lawrence

Ouch! Brave firewalkers bare their soles at 500°C

Thirty-five volunteers put their courage on the line and tested the limits of human endurance when they strode out over hot embers in bare feet. Temperatures up to 500 C tortured their tootsies when they walked across four metres of white-hot wood outside the Five Bells Pub in East End Road.

Walking on fire has been a test of faith and courage in many cultures for thousands of years. In this case, the firewalkers were baring their soles to raise thousands of pounds for the vital work of the North London Hospice in Whetstone, which provides end-of-life care for patients and their families across Barnet, Haringey and Enfield.

The evening started with an intense training session behind closed doors where the firewalkers were told how to

harness positive thoughts to get them through their ordeal. There may have been a little Dutch courage involved too but they certainly looked deep in concentration when each stepped up to the burning embers for their turn.

Six or seven steps got them to the other side, cheered on by a crowd of friends and relatives. All the walkers made it across and headed straight for the buckets of cold water and a garden hose that were on standby to restore their cool.

Get ready for Festival 2010

By Rob Robertson

This year's East Finchley Festival takes place in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 20 June. It will run from 12 noon to 6pm and, as always, will be a celebration of what is great about living and working in East Finchley.

The festival will be preceded by a parade of local schoolchildren along the High Road. With the FIFA World Cup and the London 2012 Olympics in mind, the themes of this year's parade will be sport, recreation and the preservation of green, open spaces. The children will be accompanied by a band from 393 (Finchley) Squadron, Air Training Corps. Come and cheer them on to Cherry Tree Wood.

At the festival, there will be the usual opportunity to support local businesses and charities by visiting the various stalls. There will also be a chance to talk to

representatives of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Finchley Fire Station and St John Ambulance.

Top local bands will be doing their thing on the two stages. This year's acts include Spring Park Motel, Sound of the Suburbs and Sofa Sonic Sound. There will also be a taekwondo display.

Support from Budgens

The organising committee would like to thank Budgens for their generous support as the festival generally receives no direct funding and is largely dependent on revenue from

advertising, the stalls, the food and beer tents and the raffle.

So please come along, have a fun day, buy some raffle tickets and refreshments and support your local community. If you feel able to help in other ways, such as volunteering to be a steward on the day, please contact me at the Finchley Community Development Trust on 020 8883 4916.

Armed robbery at Iceland

Two men armed with what is believed to have been a gun threatened staff and stole cash from the Iceland store in the High Road.

Police are appealing for anyone who was in the car park at the rear of the shop between 7.30pm and 7.45pm on Monday 24 May to come forward. The suspects, two white men wearing balaclavas and hooded tops, entered the premises from the car park and threatened staff. Police say they made off with 'a quantity of cash'.

DC Neil Webb from the the Met Flying Squad said: "I am sure with the heat wave we were having on that day they would have stood out as being over dressed for the weather. I would like anyone who saw these men to contact the incident room on 020 8358 1751 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

New farmers' market

City and Country Farmers' Market, who run the Alexandra and Campsbourne School markets in Muswell Hill, are branching out in Finchley. They will be setting up in the stable block and courtyard area of Avenue House, East End Road, N3.

The market will be launched on Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 June, between 10am and 3pm. From then on, it will take place on the second and fourth Sun-

days of every month.

Producers who would like to apply for a stall should contact CCFM direct. Their website is www.weareccfm.co.uk.



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ARCHER 200

Welcome to the 200th edition of *THE ARCHER*. We've been going strong since January 1993 and we hope to keep going for another 200 issues at least. Thanks once again to all our volunteers and advertisers for making it possible.



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PRINTED BY
Sharman & Co Ltd

Thank you to The Bald
Faced Stag for providing
us with a meeting place.

THE ARCHER team wishes
to thank all the generous
people who give up their
spare time, in all weather,
to deliver the paper for us.

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

Copy deadlines

July issue: 11 June
August issue: 16 July
September issue: 13 August

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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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Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 7484950
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London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
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St Luke's 020 8219 1800
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CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
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East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team 020 7161 9014

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❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Com-
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❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Mixed picture on crime rates in Barnet

By Janet Maitland

Barnet has seen significant falls in the levels of hate crimes and crimes involving serious violence but burglary and robbery rates are both up.

Serious violent incidents fell by 29% in Barnet over the last year. "In this crime category, Barnet is the safest borough in London," said a police spokesperson.

Police have issued the latest crime figures covering the 12 months to March 2010. They show that there have also been large falls in racist and other hate crime (down 33.6%), homophobic offences (down 30%) and domestic violence (down 10.2%).

In addition, the most recent police survey of residents' perception of levels of anti-social behaviour (December 2009) revealed that 85% were confident that the police were dealing with the things that matter most to them. Car crime was also down with 17% fewer cars stolen and 12.5% fewer car break-ins.

The bad news

But there were increases in some crimes. Rape was up by 164% "Most of the increase in

reported rapes are allegations going back more than two years," said a police spokesperson. "However, there is still a year on year increase of 31%." Gun crime also increased, by 12.3%. Robbery against the person was up by 7.4%.

The biggest increase in the number of additional offences was burglary, up by 485 more offences (12.8%). Police have been working on a prevention campaign, distributing thousands of timer switches. They've set up the Street-a-Week initiative, which tackles issues identified by local residents. Safer Neighbourhood Teams are actively giving out crime prevention advice.

"We are committed to major improvements in our continuing war against burglars, robbers, and especially those who would threaten and injure our youth," said Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Neil Basu.

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Join us on a celebratory walk

To celebrate our 200th edition this month we are holding a free guided walk. Instead of learning what's happening in East Finchley today from THE ARCHER, come and find out about what happened in the past. Tony Roberts, an experienced leader with a wealth of local knowledge, will be our guide.

Discover the history of settlement around East End Road, Market Place, The Walks and the High Road. Old photos and maps will be used to illustrate some of the history associated with locations along the way. The walk will start at 2pm on Sunday 13 June. Meet at The Causeway exit of East Finchley tube station.

New Mayor takes office

Barnet's new Mayor Councillor Anthony Finn took office in May. The Mayoress will be his wife Anita Finn, with Councillor Lisa Rutter appointed Deputy Mayor and her husband Mark as Deputy Mayor's Escort.

London loves artsdepot

North Finchley's artsdepot has been voted London's Best Neighbourhood Theatre as part of Smooth Radio Love London Awards 2010.

Londoners were asked to cast their vote in an online poll, run by Smooth Radio in conjunction with Allinlondon.co.uk. Beating off stiff competition from other London venues such as Soho Theatre and Stratford Circus, artsdepot, a multi-art form venue that opened in 2004, took home

the Best Neighbourhood Theatre award for the second year in a row.

Voters described artsdepot as a "state of the art venue with a warm and inviting atmosphere", and "a gem of a theatre with a diversity of different acts: everything here for young and old".

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

98 Brim Hill, N2

Conversion of garage into habitable room including replacement of garage door.

2 Chamberlain Road, N2

Extension to roof to two storey rear projection

62 Heath View, N2

New roof light windows to front and rear elevation. Internal alterations and extension to roof, including two rear dormer windows and roof light windows to front elevation, to facilitate a loft conversion.

Haringey Council

35 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Amendments to approved planning application HGY/2007/2549 to include dormer window and insertion of four roof lights including alterations to fenestration.

40 Church Vale, N2

Erection of single storey rear extension

48 Eastern Road, N2

Erection of single storey rear extension.

16 Shakespeare Gardens, N2

Erection of rear dormer window.



T'ai Chi & Qigong

Wednesdays: 1.05-2.00pm

(Trial session: £5)

at East Finchley Methodist Church, 197 High Road, N2 8AJ.
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He is Vice-Chairman of the Longfei Taijiquan Association

Other classes (Tottenham Ct. Rd., Westminster, The City): www.taiji.co.uk
email: james@taiji.co.uk phone: 020-888 333 08



Arson attack at petrol station

By Janet Maitland

Police have confirmed that a fire behind the Esso petrol station on the High Road on 12 May was started deliberately.

When the emergency services arrived at about 2.15am, the fire was raging at the back of the petrol station, behind a mesh security gate.

This closed-off area is used for storing gas and damaged cars awaiting repair. Signs on the gate warn that the gas is highly flammable.

"Fire officials said the fire had been started deliberately with rags," said a police spokesperson. "We did an immediate street search because arsonists usually stay nearby to watch the fires they've started, but we didn't

find anyone. Whoever started it must have climbed over the security gate. No witnesses have yet come forward."

Several cars were damaged in the blaze. Police said it was difficult to be precise about the number as the cars were already damaged. A police vehicle recovery unit was at the scene for several hours. No one was injured.

If you have any information about this crime, please ring police on 0300 123 1212. If you want to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Two injured in three-car crash

By Janet Maitland

Two people were taken to hospital on 4 May after a speeding car crashed into two others on Summerlee Avenue. The accident, which happened at about 9pm, was caused by a car speeding down Baronsmere Road into Southern Road, smashing into another car coming down Summerlee Avenue and then crashing into another car parked diagonally opposite.

A witness reported that a young man was driving the speeding car and that an elderly man was in the back seat. There was also another youth in the front seat. As the police arrived, the young men leapt from the car and ran away, leaving the older man in the car.

Fire, police and ambulance services arrived shortly after the accident. A 70-year-old man with facial injuries was taken by ambulance as a priority case to the Royal Free Hospital. A 53-year-old woman was taken to Hillingdon Hospital with a back injury. All the vehicles were badly damaged.

No arrests have yet been

made. "If anyone has any information about this accident could they please call 0300 123 1212," said a police spokesperson. "You may know the two youths involved. If you want to give information anonymously, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Do you have a story for us?

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Cushy: the Year 6 girls from Holy Trinity School with their best-selling cushions. Photo by John Lawrence

Colourful cushions sell out fast

By Molly Windust

Year 6 girls from Holy Trinity School designed and sewed unique cushions for their Summer Fair. They used beautiful donated and recycled materials which included silk, velvet, linen and cotton, adding colourful buttons and lace to produce gorgeous original cushions, all of which sold at the fair.

The girls were in charge of running the Sewing Stall, which meant they had to create, market and sell all of their produce. They raised over £400 for their school. The cushion stall was a star attraction at the fair, which also included sports activities and fabulous homemade food.

Cherry Tree Wood friends revived

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood (FCTW) group has appointed a new committee and set out its mission statement. The committee says it aims to put the woodland and park at the heart of the local community, with the emphasis on preservation and conservation of the woodland environment.

It also aims to improve the recreational facilities and activities in the park in a manner sympathetic to the environment.

The Friends' new Chair is Natan Tiefenbrun, supported by a committee of ten other members including Debbie Linton (secretary) and Geoff Curry (communications).

Mr Tiefenbrun said: "Cherry Tree Wood is a wonderful asset to the area. We are taking a proactive role in its conservation, and want to ensure that it is widely used and offers a range of activities to local people of all ages."

Mr Curry added: "We wish to engage with local residents and

organisations in the agenda and work of FCTW and to understand their needs and concerns. We will liaise with the local community, Barnet Council and other external organisations supporting or using the park."

New ideas

Charles Parkes, committee member responsible for conservation, has already met with Tracey Sawyer, Barnet Green Spaces officer, to discuss a number of initiatives. These include the establishment of a fruit orchard in the current picnic area, a proposal to develop some shallow ponds within the woods, and the development of a meadow.

As part of its campaign to improve Cherry Tree Wood the Friends are planning a membership drive and will have a stand at the East Finchley Festival on 20 June. It also plans to update its website www.cherrytreewood.co.uk, thereby offering more information to visitors. To become involved, email info@cherrytreewood.co.uk

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Warning from bag snatch victim

By Janet Maitland

When Lydia Burman drew up at the temporary traffic lights on Squires Lane on 18 March, she was in the middle of a busy day, taking her two children to their after-school swimming lesson. The last thing she expected was to be robbed.

Suddenly the passenger door was wrenched open and a youth snatched her handbag. The thief ran off down a nearby alleyway, chased by Lydia. "I didn't think about it, I just ran after him," said Lydia, "but I didn't catch him." No one has yet been arrested.

Irreplaceable

The bag contained not only Lydia's phone, money, cheque book and cards but also her passport and another cheque book belonging to a charity of which she is the treasurer. "All these items have taken weeks to replace," she said. "I also had

to pay £300 to have my locks changed because my house keys were in the bag. And I've lost completely irreplaceable things like my address book and photos of my children. They were really disturbed by the whole experience.

"The police told me they had been aware of this activity for some time," said Lydia. "But there were no warning signs or cameras and I hadn't seen any publicity which might have acted as a deterrent or helped to catch the thief.

"I'd like my experience to act as a warning to ARCHER readers.

Make sure your car doors are always locked, particularly at traffic lights or in a traffic jam."

A police spokesman said that during February, March and April there were four other similar incidents but none was by the temporary traffic lights. Two were several hundred yards away and two were on the other side of the A1000. The patch is not one of the top 15 crime hotspots.

If you have any information about this crime, please ring police on 0300 123 1212. If you want to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Help children to carry forks, not knives

By Susan Bennett

A request to bring a group of well-behaved young members of Muswell Hill's Hollickwood School Gardening Club, many of whom "have never actually SEEN a garden" to visit our garden led us on a series of unimagined adventures.



Ready for Action. Photo by Earl Hyde.

Aged four to eleven, they arrived at our garden in Alexandra Park Road, N10, bearing gifts including hand-drawn garden designs and huge bags of spinach they had just harvested. They had so few tools they had to take turns digging.

Recycling tools

After they left, I discovered the Tools Shed, a garden tool recycling project run by the Conservation Foundation, which reclaims unused spades, forks, trowels, shears and hoes for repair in prison workshops,

contributing to prisoners' training and rehabilitation. The spruced-up tools are given to schools and community projects.

Inspirational experience

Brilliant! I registered the school. Next thing, along with Linden Groves, a garden historian and the parent who runs the gardening club, we were invited on a VIP Tour of HMP Wandsworth's workshops. It was an inspirational experience which resulted, after some persuasive networking by Linden, in the prison workshops constructing seating, pergolas and planters for the school playground.

We left with a bundle of tools that have been put to good use. The children have won prizes in all categories entered at the local horticultural shows.

The success of the Gardening Club at Hollickwood has inspired the whole school. Teachers, parents, members of the local community enjoy working together, and the results so far are really original and encouraging. I hope the experience will give the children a passion that will grow throughout their lives, and that they will never be tempted to ruin their chances by carrying knives.

Unwanted, broken, old hand tools can be dropped off at our National Gardens Scheme openings at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10, on Sundays 27 June and 25 July from 2-7pm. More details from www.ngs.org.uk and www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

Skylark soars above disability

By Diana Cormack

On Good Friday shoppers at Budgens were greeted with hot cross buns, courtesy of the store, and cup cakes made by Sippy Azizollah to accompany her fund raising efforts. In just four hours customers at the supermarket on Viceroy Parade donated £140 to the charity Skylark.

Skylark provides counselling and psychotherapy for people affected by disability, offering a confidential service available to any disabled person, carer or relative who needs help with their emotional problems. It is not part of Social Services or the NHS but is a service of Disability in Action in the Borough of Barnet. Counsellors familiar with disability issues are trained to listen and understand problems such as depression, isolation, difficulties in relationships and fear of the future.

One client who is having counselling told *THE ARCHER*: "I have felt liberated by facing old issues. I'd become stuck in a circle of old patterns, but with the help of my counsellor I've



Sippy collecting in Budgens. Photo by Diana Cormack

found the chink in that circle and I feel empowered by the sessions I have at Skylark."

After an initial meeting, which is free of charge, clients who wish to continue with the

service are matched to a counsellor for weekly one-to-one private, confidential sessions. For further details call in confidence 020 8343 8001 or email skylark@dabb.inweb.co.uk

Hospice group needs helpers

The Northern Heights Support Group, which promotes the North London Hospice in East Finchley, Muswell Hill and adjacent areas, is looking for more volunteer helpers.

Last year, the Group raised £20,000 for the Hospice. The Group organises events, and meets three to four times a year. Contact Peter Kraushar

on 020 8883 4736 if you are interested.

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Fathers' Day comes early

By Kate Imeson

A busy few weeks in the Highgate Children's Centre culminated in early May with a very successful Dads' Day event. The rain threatened but just about held off and 80 local families, including many of the dads and toddlers from the regular Wednesday morning Dads' Club, braved the dark clouds and the cold to come along.



Enjoying Dads' Day. Photo courtesy Highgate Children's Centre

It was a fantastic community event. The ponies, bouncy castle and toddler football in the playground went down very well with the children and the barbecue was enjoyed by all.

Inside the centre there was face painting, storytelling, singing, cake decorating, messy play and a giant artwork. At 2pm everyone was given a pot of bubbles for a mass bubble blowing celebration; it was a fantastic sight.

The Haringey Council-funded event was designed to highlight the role of fathers and to encourage local dads to bring their families to the Children's Centre. It was lovely to see so many dads with their kids (as well as all the mums and grandparents).

For more information on any of the classes and activities at Highgate Children's Centre please drop in to the centre at Gaskell Road (off North Hill) in Highgate N6, or call 020 3213 0004.



Three female firefighters and two N2 gardeners on site. Photo by Diana Cormack

Firefighters help with guerilla gardening

By Diana Cormack

The almost barren bank alongside the entrance to East Finchley station car park has been given a new lease of life. Digging it over and planting flowers and shrubs took place on a particularly cold day in mid-May, when the N2 Community Gardeners were given a helping hand by a group of women firefighters.

They belong to *The Good Women*, a group organised by and for women firefighters, bringing them together to learn new skills to support each other and the communities they serve.

Their aim is to help with volunteer projects and they recently worked on Camley Street Natural Park in Camden with the London Wildlife Trust. (For more information visit www.thegoodwomen.org) The link with N2 Gardeners came about because the mother of one of the firefighters is a member of our local guerilla gardeners.

If you would like to help, contact n2gardeners@gmail.com or visit their stall at the East Finchley Festival on Sunday 20 June. Donations such as cuttings, plants and seeds are needed and also people who would do some watering.

Anti-social drivers beware

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

Over the past few months there have been several near misses on the pedestrian crossing by Martin Primary School on the High Road. Anti-social motorists have been speeding, failing to stop at red lights or using their mobile phones while driving.

To tackle this, the Safer Neighbourhood team has worked with the school to apprehend motorists and raise awareness. We ran an operation to catch motorists at the pedestrian crossing for three hours on

Thursday 22 April.

The exercise was well received by local people and we issued a total of 10 penalty notices to motorists. The team has also arranged with Barnet Council for additional warning signs to be placed on the approach to the school.

The children and parents of Martin Primary School are fed up with the anti-social behaviour of motorists. It is an offence to speed, not stop at traffic lights or use a mobile phone while driving. If caught, drivers will be issued with a fine and penalty points will be placed on their licence.

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.

Host a student

Organisers of the first international fashion school to be held at The Institute in East Finchley this summer are appealing for local families who have space to host a student.

Students will arrive in July and payment will be made available to any host families. For more details, contact Brad Vernon on 020 7341 8586.

Cannabis factory raided

By Janet Maitland

Police officers found 640 cannabis plants when they forced an entry into a house in Sussex Gardens, off the Great North Road, on 9 April. Suspicious neighbours had alerted police to the possibility that the house was being used as a drug factory.

The raid was carried out by officers from Haringey's Drugs Focus Unit. Five rooms were being used to cultivate the plants under strong light bulbs, fuelled by illegally abstracted electricity. An engineer attended the raid and made the supply safe. At the time of going to press, no arrests had been made.

"This was a very real fire hazard, especially to neighbouring properties," said PC Paul Hallas. "We would like to thank local residents who provided essential intelligence. The discovery of this factory

and the seizure of the plants have prevented large quantities of cannabis from reaching the streets."

If you have information about drug misuse, please contact 0300 123 1212 or speak to your Safer Neighbourhood Team. In an emergency, dial 999.

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Eric and Archie reminisce

In anticipation of Archie's 70th birthday next month, David Tupman eavesdrops on a conversation between him and his creator Eric Aumonier.

Archie: Well knock me down with a feather and call me Daisy! If it isn't me old mentor Eric Aumonier, famous artist and sculptor of yours truly.

Eric: Archie, my dear boy, I can't believe you're 70 this July. You're looking so well.

Archie: Yes, I'm fighting fit. Apart from the old trouble in my inspection plate all is tickety-boo. Well they do say 70 is the new 50, don't they?

Eric: You know, Archie, you were my pride and joy. One of the biggest commissions of my career at London Transport. I laboured for many hours on your fine features and resolute demeanour.

Archie: Steady on, Eric, you'll have me blushing.

Eric: You know you are one of a kind, especially with your gold trim, pointing your bow over London from high on the north plinth of East Finchley station.

Archie: Eric, it's puzzled me for years, but why don't I have an arrow?

Eric: That's simple. Health and safety! That was an issue even in those days. Old LT bosses were worried that resting pigeons might injure themselves on any sharp edges and they couldn't afford the insurance cover.

Archie: Surely, as I am now an Olympics icon, the Lottery could spare a few bob for an arrow?

Eric: Archie, you have to face facts. The 2012 planners have spent vast sums on creating



Eric Aumonier with Archie in 1940. Photo courtesy London Transport Museum © TfL

special VIP traffic lanes to Stratford and you're simply not important enough.

Archie: I don't think this is fair. In fact I'll retire to Bexhill-on-Sea and grace the Art Deco pavilion there with my presence.

Eric: Your friends in East Finchley would be mortified if you were to go. You must stay, old boy, please. Who would we have in your place? It might have to be a certain former lady MP of this area.

Archie: Lawks-a-mercy Eric, you've convinced me.

I know where my duty lies. It's another 70 years for me in East Finchley.

THE ARCHER 200 quiz

How well do you know *THE ARCHER* and East Finchley? Try our fun quiz celebrating 200 editions. Answers are on page 11.

Q1: When did *THE ARCHER* first appear in East Finchley?

(a) February 1992 (b) January 1993 (c) March 1993 (d) February 1994

Q2: The first edition of *THE ARCHER* had which lead news topic?

(a) parking (b) dog mess (c) vandalism (d) policing

Q3: Who was East Finchley's MP when *THE ARCHER* first hit the streets of N2?

(a) Margaret Thatcher (b) Hartley Booth (c) Rudi Vis (d) John Marshall

Q4: 'Archie' the famous East Finchley statue was the work of which sculptor?

(a) Eric Gill (b) Eric Sykes (c) Eric Morecambe (d) Eric Aumonier

Q5: East Finchley station is widely regarded as a modernist icon. When did a station first open on this site?

(a) 1867 (b) 1879 (c) 1925 (d) 1939

Q6: Two cinemas once existed in the High Road, N2. The Phoenix is still thriving but what was the name of the other?

(a) Ritzy (b) Odeon (c) Finchley Athenaeum (d) ABC

Q7: In which year did Cherry Tree Wood come into local authority ownership?

(a) 1900 (b) 1915 (c) 1935 (d) 1939

Q8: Holy Trinity church and school opened in 1846-47. When did the school move to its current site in Eagan's Close?

(a) 1950 (b) 1959 (c) 1969 (d) 1974

Q9: Which dignitary opened the first of the new council flats in Prospect Ring in 1960?

(a) Diana Dors (b) Margaret Thatcher (d) Peter Sellers (d) Barbara Windsor

Q10: One of East Finchley's most popular High Road shops was established in 1971. What is its name?

(a) Budgens (b) Tony's Continental (c) Iceland (d) Spar

Love and war in Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

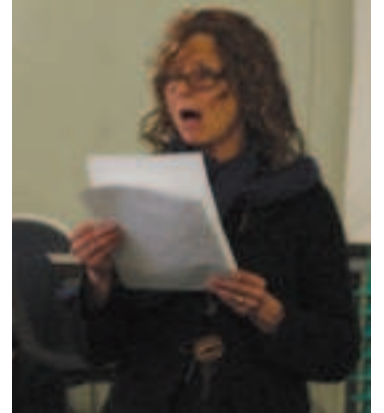
When a local creative writing class discovered Barnet Local Studies Centre, people from the past spoke again. On an open evening in East Finchley Library we heard six of their stories, a blend of fact and imagination.

Inspired by records, personal memoirs, photographs and periodicals from Barnet Archives, the class introduced us to a First World War nursing sister at the Memorial Hospital, and to an East Finchley Second World War wireless operator and codebreaker. We heard from a woman being "rehabilitated" in the Good Shepherd Convent Laundry after giving up her baby, and from social reformer Octavia Hill as she renounced thoughts of love to concentrate on her work. A

"Suburb singleton" from the 1950s and an early photographer in Church Lane made contrasting appearances.

Archives come to life

Kay Stonham, tutor of the new writing group Made in East Finchley, found a theme for their creative work in a workshop set up by Barnet archivist Yasmine Webb. The resulting stories, written by Angela Anderson, Sarah Callaghan, Gill Hirsch, Lauren Tobias, Karine Barsam and Jean Long, were read by actors against a projected back-



Kay Stonham at Love and war in Finchley. Photo courtesy Barnet Local Studies Centre.

drop of photographic images from the archives.

You can catch the performance again at The Institute Arts Centre in Beaumont Close, at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22 June; find out more on 020 8829 4211. For more information about Made in East Finchley, contact Kay on 07973 716531. The group grew out of a Creative Writing for Wimps course at The Institute, run by Kay, which she will be repeating from September 2010. Anyone interested in that, or in a short summer course, should contact The Institute, 11 High Road, N2 8LL, on 020 8829 4141 or visit www.hgsi.ac.uk.

The Local Studies Centre collects historical documents relating to the Borough of Barnet, including records of the community from as far back as the 17th century. Its multi-media Pocket Histories cover individual areas. To find out more, contact 020 8359 3960 or library.archives@bar.net.gov.uk.

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Raising laughs raises funds

By Diana Cormack

An audience of over 300 enjoyed *An Evening of Song and Laughter with Maureen Lipman and Friends* at The Middlesex University Campus in Hendon on Sunday 18 April. The event was in aid of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund, part of The Finchley Society, and was compered by Spike's daughter Jane.

There were a few familiar faces in the Angels of Kaos choir, who sang with their usual verve, accompanying some numbers with sign language. Jessie Buckley (runner-up in I'd Do Anything, BBC One's talent competition to find a new Nancy for the stage show *Oliver*) sang some stunning jazz numbers and Jane Milligan impressed with her vocals too. Varied performances on a range of musical instruments were very entertaining, providing a suitable run-up to the two stars of the evening, Victoria Wood and Maureen Lipman.

Their performances were second to none and Ms Lipman's natural talent continued to amuse as she ran the auction of paintings and books signed by stars and patrons of the charity. She was ably assisted by Councillor Brian Coleman

(the then mayor, accompanied by his mother) whose many witty off-the-cuff comments entertained the audience.

Undaunted by shortfall

By the end of the evening over £3,600 had been raised towards the goal of a statue of comedian and writer Spike, which it is hoped will be erected in the grounds of Avenue House, East End Road. Visit www.spikemilliganstatuefund.org.uk for more information.

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund Committee announced in April that, as they were still approximately £23,000 short of their target, payment to sculptor John Somerville has been temporarily suspended. However, their fund-raising campaign is continuing. If the Arts Council approve the committee's application for a grant, the statue could be in place next year.

Then and now in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Where the last ice sheet stopped its southward slide a vast forest eventually grew, and a tiny fragment of that ancient forest, Coldfall Wood, still remains. Guided by botanist and lecturer David Bevan, former Conservation Officer for Haringey, more than 25 people (plus children and dogs) joined a walk organised by the Friends of Coldfall Wood on Sunday 21 March, to discover its past, present and future.

We zigzagged across the wood, roughly east to west, past stands of trees, coppiced glades, dead-hedges and streams. David's sharp eyes found plants thriving after years of dormancy, largely because of better light. Each told a tale: the rare 'soft-shield' fern; the St John's Wort flourishing thanks to birds eating its seeds in local gardens; the seven kinds of sedge emerging since the coppicing.

BIG pruning

Coppicing was the key word, on this walk. It explained the wood's name: a 'fall' was part of a coppiced wood, while 'Cold' referred to the charcoal made, traditionally, from the hornbeam trees. To visualise coppicing, think BIG pruning, with trees cut down to stumps from which 'poles' re-grew and were harvested. Wheel-

axles and butchers' chopping boards were also made from this dense hornbeam wood.

Friends or foes

The walk also showed that ivy and brambles shouldn't be seen as enemies to be removed. "Ivy simply uses trees for a leg-up to the light, and doesn't tap into them," David said. And, like ivy, brambles provide excellent cover for small creatures, as well as a food supply. He was pleased to see how brambles are binding piles of felled logs, transforming them into safe habitats.

Returning to my own bricks-and-mortar habitat, I felt I had been given insights into the distant past of Coldfall Wood, its lovely springtime present and a future that seems more hopeful than for many years. For more information visit www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Open week at The Institute

The Institute is holding its first new-look Open Week from Monday 21 to Saturday 26 June. In the past, the college has always held an Open Day in June but this year, in line with most other colleges across London, they have decided to throw their doors open all week.

Organisers say this gives prospective students the chance to come along, talk over their needs, and their apprehensions, with sympathetic teachers and even visit some taster classes to experience what studying at The Institute is all about.

The college next to the station will be open from Monday to Thursday from 12 noon to 2pm and from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, on Friday from 12noon to 2pm and on Saturday 26 June from 12 noon to 5pm. Alongside advice and guidance sessions and the opportunity to visit some classes, there will also be a wide-ranging programme of activities.

The Institute has more than 600 courses on offer ranging from Art, Design and Creative through Computing and Cookery, Languages, Media & Performing Arts to English, Maths, ESOL and Teacher Training. It has been providing adult education to the local community for the past 100 years.

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Pat and Avis do a Titanic at the quiz evening. Photo by Ashley Jones.

Quiz and chips and a titanic performance

By Jo Girling

The beginning of a new term at Martin Primary School saw not just the pupils asked to exercise their brain-power, but the parents too. Quizmasters Pat and Avis, a fantastic husband and wife duo, put the teams through their paces.

There were the usual general knowledge rounds, but also some questions with a twist.

Would you recognise 'screams' from well-known songs or be able to place our friendly High Road shop keepers if they were photographed in the 'wrong' local shop?

The most entertaining round by far saw the teams acting out iconic scenes from well-known films. It proved the highlight of the evening, the quizmasters earning themselves a raucous round of applause for their performances as Jack and Rose aboard the Titanic.

The proceedings stopped

briefly for parents to enjoy a delicious fish and chip supper provided by the Tally Ho Fish Bar.

Not only was the evening highly entertaining, but it also raised over £900 for the school. This amount was boosted by very generous sponsorship from local business GLH and continued support from Budgens.

The next date to put in your diaries is the Summer Fun Day to be held on Saturday 12 June, when you will be able to enjoy the usual range of entertainment, food and craft stalls, a bouncy castle and a visit from the Fire Brigade.

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Cast your votes, please

It was not only adults in Finchley who had the chance to vote in May's General Election. The children at Tudor School in Queen's Road, N3, also cast their votes.

After an assembly about the history of voting in Britain the children were read three party manifestos and a polling booth was set up in the front entrance hall for a secret ballot.

The Recreational Party promised more rewards, more play and more money for play equipment. The Learning Party promised more class outings, fun learning and pupils having a say in what is taught. The Friendship Party promised to promote kindness, smiling and working together to make things better.

Exit polls strongly favoured the Recreational Party and they claimed a landslide victory with 68% of the vote. The Learning



Harinam makes his choice. Photo by Ms Bakshi

Party came second with 22% and the Friendship party came last with 9%.

With a version of Alternative Vote the results were closer, with 44% of the vote going to the Recreational Party, 33% going to the Learning Party and 23% going to the Friendship Party.

Members of the School Council are now charged with making some of the winning party manifesto work.

Teaching assistant Mrs Talbot commented: "It gave everyone a good insight into what the election was all about."



More silverware for Finchley boys

By Lisa Omar and Chris Galvin

Finchley Rugby Club Under 9s and Under 10s took part in one of Essex's major rugby tournaments at Eton Manor on Sunday 25 April. The Under 9s, including Mo Galvin and Christopher Brown from St Theresa's RC School, East End Road, won all their pool games to reach the final where they were unlucky to lose 2-0 to Eton Manor.

The U10s, including Emmett Galvin and Stephen McCarthy, also from St Theresa's, dispatched Thurrock 9-1, Woodford 3-0 and South Woodham 6-0 to storm into the final. Chingford awaited and after 14 minutes of fantastic rugby, Finchley were victorious, winning 3-0. This brought an end to a very successful season for both sides.

Fair in the square

The Fair in the Square takes place on Saturday 12 June between 12.30pm and 5.30pm in Pond Square, South Grove, Highgate. This is the day of the year when the heart of Highgate Village turns into a huge street party with entertainment and events for everyone.

Local ballet schools, dancers, singers and musicians will perform on the main stage together with a steel band and Bjorn Again topping the bill. Further highlights include the Dog Show, Highgate's Pearly King and Queen and madrigal singing in St Michael's churchyard. For up to the minute information visit www.fairinthesquare.co.uk.

Runners

make it big

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy stands to raise more than £30,000 thanks to the efforts of their intrepid team of runners who took part in the London Marathon in April.

The East Finchley charity, which has a world class reputation for the treatment of children with cerebral palsy, needs to fundraise to keep its doors open. Fundraising manager Kevin Gillespie said: "Most small charities are beginning to struggle in the recession so events like the marathon are more important to us than ever."

The weather was cooler than predicted and all 14 Bobath runners completed the 26.2 mile course. If you would like to support the charity please contact Kevin on 020 8444 3355.

YOUNG ARCHER

Why Woodcraft

Folk are fun

Fourteen-year-old Millie Burgh is a keen member of The Woodcraft Folk, a national youth organisation. Here she explains why it's good fun.

The thing I am looking forward to most this summer is meeting new people, learning a variety of skills and partying at Venturer Camp. It is a camp for 13-15 year olds belonging to The Woodcraft Folk, held every three years.

The Woodcraft Folk isn't just a camping organisation, however. It is a youth organisation that holds group nights and camps for six to 16-year-olds (split into age-appropriate groups). The Central Barnet district meets on Friday evenings in East Finchley.

The aim of The Woodcraft Folk is to promote equality, peace, cooperation and social justice. We do a wide range of activities including art, cooking, performing arts, sports and debating to teach young

people valuable skills and improve their self confidence. I have made many new friends and learnt a lot during my time as a member and I love working with the younger groups as well as spending time with people my own age.

In my opinion the best part of The Woodcraft Folk is definitely the camps. As well as working cooperatively to cook, wash up and collect wood, you do a range of activities including walking and relaxing around the campfire.

For more information or to become a member of The Woodcraft Folk please contact Kate Brown on 020 8444 4652, email brown.kate@btinternet.com or visit www.cbwf.org.uk or visit our stall at the East Finchley Festival on 20 June.

Take a second look

We hear a lot about second-hand book and record stores struggling to compete with the online might of the likes of Amazon and eBay. Do second-hand book shops still have a place in today's world? Here, Brian Schwartz, of the Black Gull Bookshop on the High Road, says an emphatic yes:

Second-hand book selling is a funny business. You're not required, or at least not expected, to have the latest offering from publishers or be able to supply the book of the review you just read in your Sunday supplement but what is mandated is a sense of surprise.

Bumping into the unexpected should be the raison d'être of such a shop. It also needs a skilled buyer to avoid it being just a random collection of books sitting on shelves. Of course, the internet allows you to target and snatch almost any book you care to think of. Bullseye every time. This is a useful and necessary function but automatic bullseyes are not an Olympic sport.

Serendipity

A good bookshop, on the other hand, offers something more subtle and satisfying.

It provides the opportunity to make contact with books you never thought you were interested in or even knew existed. Serendipity is the word that springs to mind to describe this process. Of course you might not find anything at all. You might win, you might not. The unpredictability of it all! Now that's a sport.

A bookshop should help define a neighbourhood by opening its doors to local talent, enthusiasms, and energy and to that end we invite anyone or any group wanting a platform to approach us with their ideas. In the past we have hosted Nina Conti, the stand-up comedian and ventriloquist, who gave us a work in progress, and most recently Jeff Robson reading from his new novel.

Black Gull Bookshop is open at 121 High Road seven days a week from 9.30am to 7pm.

Plug and plant

Newstead Greenfingers is a project being started to create a fruit and vegetable patch in the grounds of the newly renovated nursery in Tarling Road.

The project has been initiated and led by a parent who sits on Newstead's advisory board, and who has raised funds to start a 'plug and plant' vegetable patch.

The healthy lifestyle aspect of the project complements the national agenda and it has been enthusiastically supported by the children's centre's manager and staff.

"We are aiming to work with the children, planting and growing a vegetable garden over the year (and beyond) giving us all an opportunity to learn about healthy eating and where our food really comes from. We hope to involve parents in family and weekend community planting, growing and picking sessions," said centre manager Sajni Sharma.

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Church of England

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The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
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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>



Phoenix nights

By Sheila Armstrong
Alongside the restoration of the Phoenix Cinema itself, work on its oral history project *The Phoenix Storybook* has begun.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project will record memories of Phoenix fans over the years. There are now enough volunteer interviewers and film-makers to get the project going.

A great start has been made with an interview with Kitty Cooper, owner of the Phoenix in the 1970s, already in the can. It was the Coopers who renamed the cinema the Phoenix in 1975.

Heritage Officer Eleanor Sief is not only looking for comments about usherettes, newsreels, the National Anthem, Saturday kids' films and 'B' movies, but also for more recent memories of the cinema too.

Feel free to contact her on heritage@phoenixcinema.co.uk if you would like to contribute, whatever your age, location or recollection. The interviews will be shown at the cinema and some will find their way on to YouTube. A book about the history of the Phoenix written by one of the trustees is to be published to coincide with its reopening in September.

Concert bliss

North London Chorus' forthcoming concert is titled *A Little Night Music*. It will start with *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, Mozart's much loved occasional piece composed (according to the critic Wolfgang Hildesheimer) with a "light but happy pen". We will then perform his joyous, exuberant, and anything but, *Solemn Vespers*, which includes the well-known soprano aria *Laudate Dominum*.

From there we turn to Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*: a song cycle on the subject of night, including its more sinister aspects. And the final piece is *Pastoral* by Arthur Bliss, his beautiful setting of a diverse anthology of poems that depict an Arcadian scene, with Pan as the central figure, taking us from dawn to dusk. Do come and enjoy an evening of sheer bliss.

The concert is on Saturday 3 July at 7.30pm at St James' Church, Muswell Hill, N10. The ticketline is 020 8455 9840, with prices at £18, £13, £8 and concessions £2 reduction. Tickets are also available from St. James' Church Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill N10.

Phoenix closes ahead of a new lease of life

By Paul Homer, of the Phoenix Cinema
By the time you read this, The Phoenix will be closed. Fear not, for we shall reopen, reborn, restored and re-invigorated in early September. As I write, we are almost a third of the way through the building works and so far all is progressing well. The new café space has been created and the new mezzanine floor will be built in the next few weeks. External work is nearing completion as the tired-looking wall in Fairlawn Avenue is completely repaired and the façade has a new terrace created for the bar.

We started serious planning for this project four years ago and serious fundraising for it over two years ago. It's wonderful now to be able to see the fruition of all that work. We've raised over £1,080,000 and now have less than £30,000 to raise to meet our target. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us, and if you've not yet done so, then now's the time to make a real difference to your community.

We also have a really exciting project of collecting people's stories of The Phoenix on film. You can see the first few of these on YouTube.

We'll be keeping you

informed of the project as it progresses over the next three months and we'll welcome you back through the doors in September to the restored cinema. Our programme of films for the autumn is already starting to look exciting. We'll release more details of those as we have them.

Finally, whilst we are closed we will be taking bookings for the 2010-11 New York Met Opera season. Details are on our website. So we'll be bringing you films you can't miss in a cinema you just have to see. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk



Chefs and staff in the new bar area at the redesigned Cochin restaurant. Photo by John Lawrence

Restaurant is reborn

Five years after first opening its doors, big changes have taken place at Cochin. The High Road restaurant specialising in southern Indian cuisine has reopened with its dining and cooking spaces entirely transformed.

The popular lower eating area is still there but the upstairs floor is unrecognisable from before. A larger kitchen now occupies a rear extension, creating room for 20 more seats in the upper half of the restaurant.

A new bar area has been installed containing a seafood display and grill, where diners can watch squid, prawns, scallops and other speciality dishes being cooked in front of their eyes.

Owner Tejas Somaiya said: "The restaurant has been

totally redecorated and we are presenting our food in a new way too. A leading chef from the Grosvenor Park Hotel, Hyde Park, came to train our chefs, so a lot of the old favourites are there but they look exciting and different."

Seating capacity has risen from 36 to 56 and the refit means there is now room to accommodate parties of 20 at one table. Organic food was already a tradition at Cochin and this is now complemented by an all-organic wine and beer list.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Interesting times

This is not the Age of Aquarius, it is the age of Posh Boy and Fag, of slash and burn, of Osborne the attack dog, the age that Brown Gordon, fast as a speeding milk float, could not prevent. These are interesting times.

Admittedly, there have been more interesting times. The Black Death made things spectacularly interesting as it wiped out about half the population. Same for the age of cholera and the potato blight that ripped across 19th century Europe. And that's before we look at last century's unique record of death and destruction when humanity proved that inhumanity was second nature. Nice.

Living in interesting times doesn't always have to be a curse, not when we have a World Cup to look forward to. And this one could be the best since 1966 and we might even win! Who says? A bunch of hedge funders and worn-out bankers, that's who. The problem is that anything that comes out of a bank or hedge or any other garden feature is not to be trusted, especially when they reckon that England will beat the Dutch on penalties. That said, they do admit that scores can go up as well as down. Just like banks, but unlike bankers' bonuses.

In today's dog eat dog world there is more to the World Cup than England delighting every Scotsman by losing to some unfancied bunch of Americans, because North Korea are there. As anyone with a discerning taste in haute cuisine knows, it's not just dogs that eat dogs in Korea. And they don't need Heston Sevicestation to tell them how to cook it either.

Then again, we may need his recipe for canine soufflé, especially if Posh Boy and Fag make life so interesting that the best place to meet your friends is when you're all down the dole office. These will then be interesting times and no self-respecting dog will expect anything less than an entire chapter in Jamie Oliver's Guide to Korean cookery.

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- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk
- ❖ **Tai Chi class** at EF Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- ❖ **Yoga, pregnancy yoga, meditation** classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

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- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-15 year olds. Mondays 6.30-8pm. Contact Dominic Conway 0777 284 3958
- ❖ **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 7 & 21 June at 8.15pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact 07957 344 724 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Mon each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

- ❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com
- ❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.

Review: Evil in the rectory

By Daphne Chamberlain

Why is the new rector's wife so nervous? What secrets does the aggressive, snooping neighbour know? Why is a respectable elderly lady being blackmailed? If you don't know the answers, you should have gone to see *Deliver Us From Evil*, the latest production from the Guild Players. This local dramatic group has been entertaining us since 1946, and anyone who has never seen them has missed a treat.

Whatever their choice of material, their standards are excellent. I personally prefer them in drama or pantomime rather than comedy, but that's a matter of taste. Last month, they were very at home with this intriguing thriller by JD Robins.

It was not an easy play to perform, however. Although the sense of mystery was there from the beginning, Robins takes a long while to set the scene. With weak actors and direction, it could have lost its impact, but the performances of Carol Renfrew and Jeffrey Bengé as the rector and his wife were virtually flawless.

Sally Martin, as the elderly blackmail victim, also never put a foot wrong, and they carried the audience with them.

The Guild Players perform at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3. They are attached to the church, but many of their members come from the general community. To find out more about them, see their website at www.guildplayers.org.uk, or call Betty Robertson on 020 8441 7696.

Their next production will be *3 for 1*, an evening of three one-act plays, on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 July. Don't miss it!

Review: Concert for Balanyá

By Ken Carter

In a concert at East Finchley Methodist Church in aid of Balanyá, a charity that sends volunteer music teachers to Guatemala, the Jacquin Trio began with the famous bouncy minuet from the young Beethoven's *Septet*, which he soon adapted for clarinet, piano and cello.

For a dreadful moment, I heard the piano of Daniel L'Homme thunder out over the clarinet of Jill Anderson and the cello of Elizabeth Nevrkla. However, he soon recovered poise. Throughout the rest of the concert, I could hear clarinet and cello clearly, with the piano part vigorous and robust, yet discreet; no mean achievement.

Something was amiss, however, with the Brahms *Clarinet Trio in A minor*. I delighted in the smooth, flowing, mellow, forward-pressing, song-like path that L'Homme

and Nevrkla took, but couldn't square it with the harsh, terse, raucous phrases I heard from Anderson's clarinet.

Just before the interval, we heard cello and piano in Beethoven's *Variations on Bei Männern* from Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Beethoven's tongue was in his cheek; there was an impish tone to his gravity. Nevrkla came to the fore with a surging, rich, deep-grained, assertive declaration, with L'Homme responding heftily and magisterially in kind. This was captivating and fun, the high spot of the evening.



Hazel McBride (left) and her three young actors from last year's show have a break with *The Archer*. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

What does poetry mean to you?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month we told you how East Finchley resident Hazel McBride, organiser of School English Scene, is making poetry more accessible to secondary school pupils, but how healthy is the general poetry scene?

Very healthy, Waterstone's at North Finchley told us, citing Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, Costa Award winner Christopher Reid and Pam Ayres as particularly popular. On the other hand, Muswell Hill Bookshop says it is "not enormously strong" there. Most popular are the classic anthologies, plus Bloodaxe publications, including Neil Astley's *Staying Alive* and *Being Alive*.

East Finchley poet Fleur Adcock is also published by Bloodaxe. She told us: "As far as I can tell, poetry seems about as popular as ever, but perhaps with more of an emphasis on readings and performances rather than people actually buying books and sitting down and reading them. But I see only a limited part of the picture."

Certainly, both Waterstone's and Muswell Hill Bookshop feature local writers and readings, and there are many adult poetry classes. Dennis Evans has run his East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops for many years. Contact him on 020 8346 9528 for details.

Hostages and prisoners have kept sane by repeating poems they learned long before, while a friend of mine has always turned daily events into verse, mostly humorous but always thoughtful. Poetry means a lot to her, and also to me. One of my most treasured possessions is Palgrave's *Golden Treasury*, a childhood present from my father.

So what does poetry mean to you? We would be interested to know. Write to us at *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email the-archer@lineone.net

What's On...

Sunday 6 June and Sunday 4 July

• **The Bothy Garden at Avenue House**, East End Road, opens to visitors from 3-5 pm. No admission charge. The Finchley Society welcomes help in maintaining the garden on Fridays, 10am-12.30pm. Coffee provided.

Sunday 6 June

• **Battle of Barnet**, a guided tour around the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. Contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Wednesday 9 June

• **Crochet for knitters and crafters**. New class at East Finchley venue. Call Omara on 07932 035325 or visit www.omarama.co.uk for more details.

Saturday 12 June

• **Summer Fun Day** at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, 12-3.0. Games, activities, food and bargains. Come and have a great afternoon.

• **Jumble Sale** in support of Highgate Choral Society, St George's Church Hall, Park Road at Cranley Gardens, N10, 2-4pm. Clothes, nearly new, books, toys, bric-a-brac, CDs, DVDs, videos, household goods, plants, cakes, teas, raffle, tombola. Admission 40p.

• **Fair in the Square**, Pond Square, Highgate, 12.30 to 5.30pm. Dancers, singers, musicians, dog show and Bjorn Again topping the bill. Free.

Sunday 13 June

• **East Finchley history walk** to celebrate *THE ARCHER'S* 200th edition. Meet at The Causeway exit of East Finchley tube station at 2pm. Free.

• **The Greenacre Bicycle Rally**, a three-mile circuit from North Finchley to Friern Barnet, to promote cycling in London. Assemble outside artsdepot, North Finchley, from 10am for a 12 noon departure. Full details from 020 8346 5503 or email MrGreenacres001@aol.com

• **Hooray for Hendon**, a guided tour of 1,000 years of history. Meet at Hendon Central tube station, 2.30pm. Contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, 7.30pm. Soprano Aine Cook, with accompanists, performs works by Beethoven, Bernstein, Sondheim, Loesser and Liszt.

Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 June

• **New farmers' market** in grounds of Avenue House, East End Road, N3, 10am-3pm. Enquiries to City and Country Farmers' Market at www.weareccfm.co.uk.

Wednesday 16 June

• **JCC Pamper Yourself**, an evening of indulgence and pampering with 15-minute treatments from £6. All money raised will be donated to charities. 6.30-10pm, St Paul's Church, 50 Long Lane, Finchley, London N3 2PU. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866.

Saturday 19 June

• **Finchley Choral Society** will be performing Scarlatti, Monteverdi and Vivaldi, 7.45pm, St Anne's, Highgate West Hill, London N6 6AP. Tickets: £13 / £1 students & children, available from FCS Box Office: 020 7263 3358 or on the door.

Saturday 19 - Sunday 27 June

• **Proms at St Jude's**, Hampstead Garden Suburb. A stellar line up of artists and orchestras including Sir Willard White and the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge. Visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk or call 020 8455 8687 for full details.

Sunday 20 June

• **East Finchley Community Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12 noon to 6pm, starting with a parade along the High Road from Martin Primary School. Entertainment, bands, stalls, food and drink make a great afternoon out.

Tuesday 22 June

• **Love and War in Finchley**, a collaboration between a local writing group and Barnet Archives, 6.30pm in The Institute Arts Centre, Beaumont Close, The Bishops Avenue. Further info from 020 8829 4211.

Wednesday 23 June

• **History walk around Alexandra Park**, 7pm. For further details, or to become a member of the Friends of Alexandra Park, email info@friendsofalexandrapark.org.

Thursday 24 June

• **The Finchley Society** hosts **Return**

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

to the **Kruger National Park**, a talk by Roz Avery, which follows the Society's AGM, 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 (02083467812). Non-members welcome. Admission £2.

Saturday 26 June

• **Summer Fair at St Theresa's Catholic School**, East End Road, N3, 12noon to 4pm. Entertainment includes pony rides, inflatables, a raffle (first prize mini Dell laptop), tombolas, games, food, music and crafts.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June.

• **Cyprus Wine Festival** at Alexandra Palace. Call 020 8365 2121 for details.

Open gardens in June

Sunday 6 June, East Finchley Cottage Gardens; 399 Long Lane, 20 and 22 Trinity Road, N2, 2-6pm; and 2 Stanley Road, N2, 2-6pm; 7 The Grove, N6, 2-5.30 pm. **Saturday 12 June**, 12 Rookfield Avenue, N10, 5-8pm. **Sunday 13 June**, 46 Duke's Avenue, 2-6pm; 79 Church Lane, N2, 2-5.30pm. **Wednesday 16 June**, 2 Millfield Place, N6, 5.30-9pm. **Sunday 20 June**, 6 Methuen Park, 1.30-6.30pm. **Sunday 27 June**, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Rd, 2-7pm; 5 Cecil Road, 2-5.30pm.

Saturday 3 July

North London Chorus sings 'A Little Night Music' featuring works by Mozart, Britten and Bliss, St James's Church, Muswell Hill, N10, 7.30pm. Ticketline 02084559840. Prices £18, £13, £8 (concs £2 reduction).



Letters to the editor

Danger junction should be widened

Dear Editor,

I write in support of your correspondent Pete Eiseman-Renyard (THE ARCHER, April 2010). Now the pavement on the north east corner of the High Road and Fortis Green cross-roads has been circumcised, sooner or later an articulated lorry will cut across it and demolish the front of Domino's. I just hope that nobody gets hurt.

For some years in the 70s and 80s there was a plan to widen this junction. It proposed moving the Bald Faced Stag, covering the pigeon corner flowerbed with tarmac and demolishing the shop now occupied by Domino's (some readers may remember that this shop was empty and derelict for many years).

I don't know why this plan was abandoned. Maybe it was another casualty of the high-handed Department of Transport intervention described by Mr Eiseman-Renyard. Since then there have been several attempts to improve traffic management in this area, none of which can be truthfully described as successful.

The inability of Transport for London and Barnet Highways Department to relieve the awful traffic congestion and its consequential impact on local bus services, is an embarrassment to both organisations, who must rue the failure to widen the junction 30 years ago.

If they are serious about improving this junction, the crossing should be made a boxed junction; all turning, both left and right, by all traffic should be proscribed; the separate pedestrian cycle should cease (since it would no longer be needed), and the junction should be policed by highly visible cameras.

However, since there are an awful lot of people who lack the wit to understand how this would work, and would get most upset about it, I doubt it will ever happen, even if there is a really bad accident at some point in the future.

Yours faithfully, John Dearing, Address supplied

Where did they go?

Dear Editor,

Does anyone have any idea what happened to numbers 1-8 of Chapel Court in East Finchley? I would really like to know as this has puzzled me for years.

Yours faithfully, Tracey Carroll, Address supplied.

Please contact us at THE ARCHER if you know the answer to Tracey's question.

Power to the people

Dear Editor,

Nick Clegg, our new deputy Prime Minister, recently said "power from the politicians to the people". Now the post-election dust has settled a little, a small group recently discussed how we might further the debate on setting up a local council in the East Finchley community (THE ARCHER, March 2010). Although a locally elected town/village council would be free of party politics, it would work with our local councillors who have much knowledge of the area and would provide a direct link with Barnet Council.

A local council could contribute to services and voluntary groups, currently struggling to obtain funding from Barnet, such as the East Finchley Welfare Service (THE ARCHER, May 2010). Perhaps some form of community transport to the Royal Free

Hospital could be funded. Community groups, local centres, youth projects, luncheon clubs, Cherry Tree Wood, local festivals, crèche or nursery facilities, could all be possible recipients of some financial support from a local council.

Local traders could also benefit from working with an East Finchley council, which would have some powers to improve the street appearance and help in any negotiations with Barnet Council.

As a next step, we would like to address and meet up with as many groups as possible, to explain more. If you run any local group, service or facility, or are involved with church or other faith groups, please get in touch by email to harriett2@btinternet.com or via The Archer.

Yours faithfully, Harriet Copperman, Diploma Avenue, N2.

Locking nuts are no answer

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article 'Lock up your wheels' (THE ARCHER, May 2010). A neighbour in our road had his wheels stolen twice from his Ford Focus and all his wheels had locking nuts. Even his alarm did not go off and no one heard a thing.

So locking nuts are not the answer. Perhaps a police presence would help but where are they? Surely by now they know about this car crime being carried out in East Finchley?

Yours faithfully, Name supplied, Elmfield Road, N2.

Grant a last wish

Dear Editor,

A person's last wish can be very simple, yet is often the hardest to grant. The HoneyRose Foundation is a registered charity dedicated to raising money and organising special days for terminally ill people over the age of 40. The foundation is the only charity in the country dedicated to helping this age group. The HoneyRose Foundation has helped over 580 families and their loved ones. The heart-warming appreciation from the people who enjoy these specially organised days, is a reward like no other. The HoneyRose Foundation was founded in memory of three friends of Lynn Duffy who all died of a terminal illness. Nicola Honey passed away aged 21 of a rare ovarian cancer, Karen White was 27 when she lost her battle with a brain tumour and Rose Clark fought lung cancer until she was aged 57. The HoneyRose Foundation is a non-profit organisation that relies totally on finances provided by fund-raising events held throughout the year and donations. More information can be obtained at www.honeyrosefoundation.co.uk.

Yours faithfully, Emma Mehmet, HoneyRose Foundation

Fr. Ronald Jordan

All Saints Church in Durham Road was packed on 25 March for the Requiem Mass of well-loved local priest Father Ronald Jordan. The service was conducted by The Reverend Peter Wheatley, Bishop of Edmonton, assisted by Father Christopher Hardy, vicar of All Saints, and included the music of Fauré's Requiem.

'Father Ronnie' lived in East Finchley for 35 years, serving in an honorary capacity at Holy Trinity Church and, for the past 12 years, at All Saints. He had previously been vicar of St Michael's in Bowes Park, Wood Green.



Beloved by many, a walk down the High Road with Father Ronnie was like a royal procession as he stopped to chat and to admire babies and dogs alike. He was a loyal and devoted friend, gladly giving of his time to those who appreciated his wisdom.

Many will remember him for his compassionate counsel at the time of bereavement and for the sensitive way he officiated at the funerals of many local people. His friends appreciated his Rabelaisian sense of humour and the wicked twinkle in his eyes. He leaves a widow Gillian, a daughter Katharine, and many grieving friends.

Advertisement for Japanese Acupuncture & Shiatsu, featuring contact information for Fiona Hurlock at Squires Lane Medical Practice.



All set for a special party. Photo by Samantha Check

Take the strain out of your tea party

By Diana Cormack

Only a couple of months after returning to work following maternity leave, Samantha Check was made redundant. Like many others, she was on the look-out for a suitable job. Then, driving along Long Lane, she spotted an empty shop and realised that acquiring it could bring an inspirational idea to fruition.

Sam had always loved the ritual of afternoon tea and all that went with it. Why not open a place of her own where people could come to take afternoon tea? So Tea Party was born and private parties for all sorts of occasions are now held in the gorgeous room at 143 Long Lane.

Children's after school parties are popular and there is a dressing up box for those younger ladies. Whether you

want a girlie get-together for a chat, a hen or a pre-wedding party, a baby shower or a birthday bash (whatever age is being celebrated), Sam can supply the food, drink, decorations and even live music. There is the added pleasure of everything being served on vintage china.

Visit www.teaparty.uk.com; email Samantha@teaparty.uk.com or call 07779 635 876.

THE ARCHER 200 quiz answers

- Q1: (b) January 1993 as a pilot A4 sheet. THE ARCHER went to the current A3 tabloid sized format in February 1993.
Q2: (d) THE ARCHER led with policing, describing crimes and bad behaviour!
Q3: (b) Hartley Booth MP for Finchley 1992-1997.
Q4: (d) Eric Aumonier (1888-1974) the British sculptor whose work appears on TFL's Headquarters at 55 Broadway, SW1, and the Daily Express building, Fleet Street, among many others.
Q5: (a) East End (Finchley) station opened on the Great Northern overground line from Finsbury Park in 1867. It was renamed East Finchley in 1886. The current station dates from 1939.
Q6: (c) The Finchley Athenaeum, East Finchley's first cinema, was located at 170 High Road, N2, between Hertford and Bedford Roads and next to the Black Bess temperance hotel.
Q7: (b) 1915. Cherry Tree Wood, formerly known as Dirthouse Wood, once formed part of Hornsey Park, the Bishop of London's hunting park.
Q8: (d) 1974, the year of two UK general elections, the resignation of US President Richard Nixon and the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey.
Q9: (b) Margaret Thatcher, who was elected MP for Finchley in 1959, opened the first flats in Prospect Ring in April 1960.
Q10: (b) Tony's Continental store at 140 High Road was established in 1971 by Tony Athanasiou and run by his family.

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Advertisement for Almar Business Solutions, featuring services provided such as book-keeping, management accounting, and financial accounts preparation.

Advertisement for brera gardens, featuring services like garden design, landscaping, and maintenance, with contact information for East Finchley based services.



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Review: *Alice in Wonderland*

By Isobel Cronshaw and Greta Brambilla

The Create Theatre School scored another hit on the 8 and 9 May with its 2010 production *Alice in Wonderland* at the newly refurbished Finchley Youth Theatre, raising £250 for the Bobath Centre.



A very important date: the cast of Create's *Alice in Wonderland*

From the sassy Cheshire cats reclining on their chaise longue in glittery cat masks and pink feather boas, to the very funny Tweedledee and Tweedledum and their ongo-

ing identity crisis, along with a tardy White Rabbit, talking flowers and an extremely scary Queen of Hearts, this new version blew us into another world.

We liked the heart-shaped lights on stage at the beginning to set the scene. What we liked most was having three girls playing the part of Alice, for when she gets bigger and smaller. We interviewed the three Alices (sisters Katherine and Julia Males and Niamh Powell).

Question: "How do you feel swapping over all the time?" Katherine: "It was very confusing."

Question: "How did you feel when you heard that you'd got the part of Alice?"

Niamh: "Very excited because I didn't have a part in last year's show so it was a big chance for me."

Question: "Did you like your costumes?"

Julia: "Yes, but we had to sew on the aprons because they kept falling off."

Director Caroline Lau commented: "The children performed fantastically, we are very proud of them. They were all fully involved with a chance to shine, and shine they most certainly did."

For more information on Create contact Caroline Lau on 020 8882 9009 or visit www.createtheatreschool.co.uk

David brings home the medals

Local Taekwon-Do Instructor David Bogen represented England at the European Taekwon-Do Championship in Italy in March. Participants were drawn from all over Europe, including Russia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Estonia and Greece.

David, who runs classes for children, teenagers and adults at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre and throughout Barnet, brought home two silver and two bronze medals. England tallied a total of eight gold, four silver and 10 bronze medals.

David and his students have also had excellent results at the national English and London Open Championships

with many of his students collecting medals. He said: "We are currently preparing for the London Open Championships in July with many of our junior students keen to retain their titles earned at previous championships."

For the opportunity to train with a European medallist contact 07949 612 706 or visit: www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk



David Bogen, right, on the podium following a medal award ceremony during the European Championship.

Every little helps

By Adam Justice-Mills

If you're anything like me, you've heard about carbon footprints, where all the things we do have a mostly bad impact on the world, and everyone needs to "do something right now" to make things better.

If you are like me and have looked into things a bit you'll have found the whole situation complicated and huge. Does recycling really make a difference? Should I ever eat blueberries again? Can I help all the packaging? Is a solar panel in East Finchley a waste of money? Would I really share my car? Does it matter if I leave the tap on while I floss?

Maybe it's easier to let someone else sort it out. But if so, who? I liken the carbon footprint issue to the get more healthy issue: conflicting food

fashions, short-term pain for long-term gain, huge vested interests and global pandemics. I'm not sure I really trust anyone else to do that for me, ditto the carbon footprint stuff.

So I've decided to do something, or at least to try to do less harm in my everyday life. As I find out more, I'll let you know in future articles. Maybe you'll try some of these ideas yourself. Better still, get someone else to try them.

Green waste

First up: organic waste and what to do with it all. I admit that I don't compost anything, so I wondered where the green bin or garden stuff goes. Barnet Council's website says once it's collected it goes to the London Waste EcoPark in Edmonton and is turned into compost. Plastic bags in green bins ruin the whole batch, so they're not collected (even if there's only green waste in them).

The compost is used on London's parks, allotments and agricultural land. Last October, Barnet gave away free compost to East Finchley residents, which had been made in Edmonton. Nice to know it's useful locally. I'll remember that next time I'm peeling the spuds.

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