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# THE ARCHER



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

## Thieves steal from children's charity

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Thieves have attacked the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. CCTV images show four hooded men removing lead from the roof and taking it away in a commercial waste bin.**



Rain coming through, plus some bricks coming away around a window, was what led to the discovery of the theft.

### Bank Holiday crime

The CCTV images have shown that the thieves struck over the August Bank Holiday weekend, when the premises manager was

Kevin Gillespie, Fundraising and Development Manager, told *THE ARCHER*: "This is very annoying. It's caused a lot of damage. The thieves made a thorough job of it, and we're faced not just with replacement work and fixing to the roof, but also repairs to rooms inside."

### Rain damage

The biggest treatment room is worst affected, meaning that work carried out with young babies in that space has had to be relocated and divided between smaller rooms. Mr Gillespie said: "There are visible signs of water on the ceiling of this main room, and we are finding other signs elsewhere, as water will move around until it finds an outlet. We have the buckets out".

away. The Centre has improved its security measures since.

Mr Gillespie told us: "Repairs should take weeks rather than months, but it's very disappointing that people could do this. They won't get much for the lead either. But life goes on".

At this stage, the Centre does not know the full cost of the damage.

The Bobath Centre, in East End Road, is internationally famous for its work with children affected by cerebral palsy. It only recently fundraised £50,000 to replace a defective roof in its reception area. Last year, readers of *THE ARCHER* helped to raise £2,000 for the centre by buying our 2010 calendar.



**Red tops:** red heads Finlay, nine, and Bentley entered the 'Dog who looks most like their owner' competition at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by John Lawrence.

See page 6 for our festival report

## Time to speak out on our library

By Daphne Chamberlain

**In what it calls a "root and branch" review of its library service, Barnet Council is looking at closure and/or relocation of libraries, sale and maintenance cost of library buildings, and changes in service delivery.**

The national Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has already stated that, under severe financial pressure, no change in library provision "is not an option". It goes on to say: "The key issue is not where services are delivered from, but the quality and consistency of that service and how well it is meeting local needs."

### Proper consultation essential

It appears inevitable that drastic changes are in store, but they have to follow a formal consultation. East Finchley Library Users Group is urging the community to co-operate with this. EFLUG's Polly Napper says: "While cuts will be made despite anything that is said in the consultation, it's important to engage fully with this process to demonstrate how vital East Finchley Library is to this community."

Barnet's Strategic Library Review documents emphasise that the council has to safeguard itself against legal challenges to its consultation process. When another local authority failed to do this, its programme of cuts was overturned because of a perceived disregard of local needs. This disregard is a breach of statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act. Barnet is taking legal guidance

to ensure that no similar challenge can be made here.

From now until the end of the year, the council have said they will be discovering the specific needs of library users and non-users. In the first part of next year, they will put forward their proposals, which will be the second phase of consultation.

### Lower tier

Following the 2007 library reorganisation, East Finchley

Library is already on a lower tier from the six main branches in the borough's town centres. Barnet has again stated its policy of developing those town centres.

The message seems clear. Change is going to happen. It is up to us to make our needs and opinions known. For further information, visit <http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/democracy/index.asp>

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to thank all the generous  
people who give up their  
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to deliver the paper for us.*

### Your contributions

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

Comments to THE ARCHER may  
be published unless clearly  
marked 'Not for publication'  
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### Copy deadlines

November: 15 October  
December: 12 November  
January: 10 December

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Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700  
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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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**National Express** 08705 808080  
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**Oak Lane Clinic** 020 8349 7000  
**Royal Free** 020 7794 0500  
**St Luke's** 020 8219 1800  
**Whittington** 020 7272 3070

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**Alcoholics Anonymous** 0845 7697555  
**Barnet MENCAP** 020 8203 6688  
**Cancer Support** 020 8202 2211  
**Carers' Line** 0808 808 7777  
**Drinkline** 0800 917 8282  
**Drugs Helpline** 0800 776600  
**MIND** 020 8343 5700  
**NHS Direct** 0845 4647

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**Barnet Age Concern** 020 8346 3511  
**Contact (N2)** 020 8444 1162

**Help the Aged** 0808 800 6565

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**Barnet Police** 020 8200 1212  
**Mus. Hill Police Stn.** 020 8808 1212  
**CrimeStoppers** 0800 555111  
**Victim Support** 0845 303 0900  
**East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team** 020 7161 9014

### Help & Advice

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**Disability Info Service** 020 8446 6935  
**E.F. Advice Service** 020 8444 6265  
**Gingerbread** 020 8445 4227  
**National Debt Line** 0808 808 4000  
**NSPCC** 0800 800500  
**Rape & Sexual Abuse** 020 8683 3300  
**Relate** 020 8447 8101  
**RSPCA Inspector** 0300 1234 999  
**Samaritans** 08457 909090  
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❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916  
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

## Stag Court to be offices

By Janet Maitland

**The future of Stag Court has been decided. It will be used as offices for the first time since it was built.**

In July we reported that this prime High Road property has stood unused for more than eight years and was being remarketed by estate agents Martyn Gerrard.

Stag Court, which is in a prominent position opposite the library, has had a controversial history, with several failed applications to use the site as a supermarket.

The ground floor has planning permission for offices, although it has never been used for that purpose. Until recently, the windows had been boarded up for several years.

When we asked ARCHER readers how you would like to see the site used, your sugges-

tions included a bakery, a gym with a swimming pool, and a furniture shop. One reader thought that the large windows made it unsuitable for an office, and that the three failed applications to have the use changed to a supermarket blatantly suggested that a supermarket is what had been intended by the developer all along.

We spoke to Nick Cotfold from Prodigy, the company that has now let Stag Court. He confirmed that the ground floor will be taken over by a local company and used as offices. "It's a local business, employing local people. They're expanding and need the extra space," he told us.

## Stanley Fields unlocked

**The barrier is down at the eastern entrance to Stanley Fields. Access to this much-loved community facility has been restored, at least until Barnet Council decides to secure it again.**

We reported in August's issue that the council had locked and secured both entrances to the field when a lease period apparently came to an end.

If you know what has happened to the gate, give us a call or send us an email. Our contact details are on this page.



The path by Stanley Road Field after rain in August. Photo by Cllr. Andrew McNeil

## Planning Applications

### Barnet Council

**Land outside 111-113 Abbots Gardens, N2**

Erection of a 45x35cm World War Two memorial plaque. Plaque to be made in mosaic, bonded to marine ply, mounted on a 20cm oak post and located on the grass verge outside 111-113 Abbots Gardens.

### 7 Deansway, N2

Extensions to roof including new rear dormer window and roof light on side elevation. Removal of UPVc WP pipe work and replacement of cast iron SVP pipe work with UPVc pipe work on side elevation.

### 125 East End Road, N2

Extension to roof including rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and front roof light windows to facilitate a loft conversion.

### Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, N2

Re-location of existing shed in rear garden.

### 18 Vivian Way, N2

Rear extension, garage conversion, side dormer, works to front drive, all to match 16 Vivian Way. Three Conservation Area roof lights (two front, one side).

### Haringey Council

#### 40 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Replacement of existing dormer window with double door and creation of light well stud wall.

#### 44 Beech Drive, N2

Erection of new single-storey swimming pool enclosure in rear garden.

#### 1 The Drive, Fordington Road, N6

Certificate of Lawfulness for the erection of a single-storey rear extension.

#### 45 Fordington Road, N6

Extension of height of front boundary wall to two metres.

#### 1 Lynmouth Road, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for alteration of roof from hip to gable, erection of rear dormer and insertion of roof lights to front and rear roof slopes.

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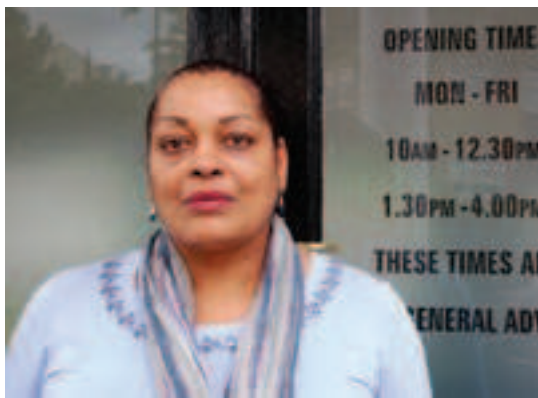


## Advice service faces closure

By Linda Sansom

**An advice service that has been serving the needs of East Finchley residents for almost 30 years faces closure within the next few months.**

East Finchley Advice Service, which has been under threat of possible budget cuts, has been told officially that Barnet Council will not renew its funding from the end of December. As



Ruby Joseph: "We are in big trouble."

the lease of the centre's Church Lane premises runs out in February, it may also have to find alternative accommodation.

Set up in 1982 by Barnet Social Services in response to increasing demand for benefit and housing advice, EFAS has faced closure before when funding was withdrawn in 1994. A successful application resulted in a £15,000 grant, leaving the centre with around £10,000 annually after paying rent.

### Big Society

"We are in big trouble," says manager Ruby Joseph. "The council say we have to compete in the third sector like you do in business, and that they have to go out to tender. And instead of funding lots of advice centres in the borough they are going to give all the money to one."

"Ours is exactly the kind of service David Cameron talks about for his Big Society, and it is already here and doing well. It seems as if the trend is to smash us down and reinvent us."

Ms Joseph has been the full time manager at EFAS, based at the neighbourhood

centre in Church Lane, since last October and would face redundancy along with a training co-ordinator and two other part-time employees. There is also a band of volunteers who bring expertise to a variety of social and financial problems facing local residents.

### Council response

A Barnet Council spokesman said existing grant funding to current advice providers was coming to an end, including that for EFAS.

He said: "The council is now recommissioning a more clearly defined advice service for residents across the borough. EFAS and other local providers have been asked to help develop new contract arrangements over the last two years and they will be able to bid for the contract when it is advertised."

However, Ms Joseph said EFAS was in no position to bid. They have now applied to the National Lottery and have a petition available for signing at the Centre as well as in local shops. If there is no guarantee of funds, however, the outlook is bleak.

## Glory of the new Phoenix

By Sheila Armstrong

**An old-style commissionaire, on loan from the Ritzy Cinema in Brixton, welcomed everyone to The Phoenix when it opened its doors on Sunday 12 September so East Finchley could see just how well the refurbishment project had gone. A host of staff, trustees and stars were on hand too.**

The auditorium has been restored to its original colours, two previously unseen Mollo and Egan art deco panels have been rehung at the back of the auditorium, and bare 100-watt light bulbs no longer hang from the ceiling having been replaced by discreet modern down-lighters.

### On time and on cost

The attractive new café bar cleverly uses space from the full height entrance hall, and essential behind the scenes refurbishment has also been done. Building contractors and architect Nick Weedon brought in the £1 million job on time and on cost.

Trustee and actor Bill Patterson declared himself "genuinely delighted" with the improvements and similar favourable comments were heard all round the café bar, a small but perfectly formed space with a balcony overlooking the High Road.



Jenny Lee of Cherry Tree Road dressed up for the occasion..  
Photo by Diana Cormack



The Archer's Sheila Armstrong and Phoenix patron Bill Paterson.  
Photo by Diana Cormack

Actor Alison Steadman opened the new interactive Phoenix Centenary Timeline and Gerry Turvey introduced an afternoon of vintage films from the 1910s. Gerry has written *The Phoenix Cinema: A Century of Film in East Finchley*, with profits going to the cinema. There will be other *Free From the Archives* events on Sundays as well as tours of the building.

The website for information, programmes and bookings is [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk).

## Have a cake break

**The second National Baking Week takes place from 18-24 October. Sponsored by a variety of companies involved in the food industry, the idea is to encourage people, whether at home, in the workplace or at school, to enjoy a cake break.**

Why not combine it with National Apple Day on 21 October by using a suitable recipe from their website? Visit [www.nationalbakingweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalbakingweek.co.uk) for more information. If you do take part, *THE ARCHER* would like to hear about it. Our contact details are on Page 2.

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The Dick Turpin pub on Long Lane closed in August.

## Last orders at Dick Turpin

The Dick Turpin pub in Long Lane was closed suddenly in late August and is now awaiting redevelopment. *THE ARCHER* has been told that it may be turned into a restaurant.

The pub, on the corner of New Trinity Road, has had a chequered history but had become increasingly popular with locals in the last two years, particularly due to a regular outdoor barbecue session on Friday evenings.

However, there is believed to have been a string of complaints by nearby residents about unruly behaviour and loud noise coming from the

pub.

Police were not involved in the closure of the building but the licencees moved on and left the pub locked up with 'closed' stickers on the window.

*THE ARCHER* believes the Dick Turpin has already been sold to a developer who is aiming to turn it into a restaurant or café.

This is the second pub in the Long Lane area to close in the

last five years. The Red Lion pub in Red Lion Hill was demolished and the land redeveloped for flats. The closest remaining pubs are the Windsor Castle, off Church Lane, and the Five Bells, on East End Road.

There have been previous complaints about activities at The Dick Turpin, which has had periods of closure and a number of licencees in the last 10 years.

## Who is billing your mobile?

By Janet Maitland

**If someone calls you claiming to be a telephone engineer checking mobile circuits or equipment, be very careful. Police have issued a warning about a mobile phone scam that enables thieves to bill their calls to your phone.**

"The caller asks you to press #90 or #09 on your phone, but if you do this, they will have access to your SIM card, allowing them to bill calls to your mobile," said a police spokesperson. "Another version of this scam is that you receive a text telling you you've won a holiday, asking you to text back #90 or #09."

The advice from the police is to hang up immediately if you receive a call like this and to delete any texts without replying.



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## Top marks for Barnet's schools

**Eighty two per cent of schools inspected in Barnet last year were rated good or better, figures released by Barnet Council have revealed.**

During the academic year September 2009 to July 2010, 22 Barnet schools were inspected. Of those, six schools (27 per cent) were rated outstanding, 12 schools (55 per cent) good and four (18 per cent) satisfactory, with none inadequate.

This compares nationally with 11 per cent of schools rated outstanding, 42 per cent good, 38 per cent satisfactory and 9 per cent inadequate. Included in the inspections were two nursery schools, 17 primary, two secondary and one special school.

## Be safer on Facebook

By Janet Maitland

**Do your children use Facebook and are you worried about their online safety? A new application has just been launched that will help to protect Facebook users.**

Developed by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the CEOP centre - the UK's national law enforcement agency dedicated to child protection - the 'app' provides direct access to expert advice about safety and a dedicated facility for reporting instances of suspected grooming or inappropriate sexual behaviour.

When bookmarked to appear on the user's profile, it also acts as a strong visual signal to friends, family and others that the Facebook user is in control.

"If you are a parent on Facebook, add the app and encourage your children to do so too,"

said Detective Chief Inspector Graham Grant from the MPS Child Abuse Investigation Command. "This will act as a visible deterrent to offenders. You will also receive regular online safety tips from CEOP, so you can feel reassured that they are better protected online."

As well as the app, young people can stay safe when using Facebook by making sure that the privacy settings are set to private so that the only people who can see their page and information are friends.

For full information about the CEOP, go to [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) or [www.facebook.com/clickceop](http://www.facebook.com/clickceop).

## Minibus appeal helped by Swedish football fan

By Daphne Chamberlain

**The Age Concern minibus fund has received a £100 boost from a Swedish football fan. Dan Rantala, who lives near Stockholm, put in the highest bid to win a signed shirt donated by Barnet Football Club Supporters. The money will go towards a new minibus for the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane. A collection at a Barnet match in April raised £290 for the same cause.**

**Barnet's foreign fans**

Dan is by no means Barnet's only foreign supporter. John Adkins, Overseas Liaison Officer for the supporters club, told *THE ARCHER* they have fans from all over Europe, as well as Japan, Korea and Thailand. There is a lot of support in Australia, New Zealand and Canada too, though that tends to be from expats.

How do these people from other countries come to support

Barnet? John explained that there is a website set up by a Swede which lists all English football clubs, giving their histories and results. Many foreign fans have pledged their allegiance to Barnet via this route.

John, who lives in Muswell Hill, first became interested in non-English supporters about a year after he became involved with Barnet, around 1992. "I met nine Norwegians at a home match, and then at an away game, who soon became my friends."

Dan Rantala was presented with his shirt at Barnet's home match with Hereford on Saturday 2 October.

To contribute towards the minibus appeal, visit [www.ageconcernbarnet.org/donations](http://www.ageconcernbarnet.org/donations) or call Grace Fensome on 020 8445 1808.

## Give blood locally

**The NHS mobile blood donor unit will soon be returning to East Finchley. On Friday 12 November it will be in the NCP car park behind the tube station. Blood donating sessions are to be held from 9.45am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm. To make an appointment or for further details call 0300 123 23 23 or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)**

## Cuts cut car crime

**Burglary and car crime figures have fallen in Fortis Green thanks to an initiative to improve "natural surveillance". Residents have been encouraged to trim hedges and Haringey Council has cut back trees that were blocking out light. This acts as a deterrent to would-be thieves because it increases the chances of them being seen. Car crime in the area has fallen by 28%. Police say that foliage in front gardens should be no more than one metre high.**

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Bad cattitude. Photo by Joseph Brown

## Do you have cattitude?

By Ken Carter

**Cats are known as stand-offish creatures but in fact they are communicating with us all the time, according to feline expert Jane Ehrlich.**

Cat counsellor Jane lives in Arizona but maintains family contacts here in East Finchley. She visited the Black Gull Bookshop, High Road, on Thursday 9 September to talk about cattitude, sitting comfortably in a Windsor chair at the rear of the shop.

Jane specialises in cat behaviour problems. With an outgoing, welcoming manner she engaged with us directly, much as one might salute a fellow cat, enthusing her audience into discovering their own insights and exchanging their experiences of living with cats.

Jane said humans have a mix of attitudes towards cats, usually either ignoring them, treating them as toys or meeting them as sentient beings with their own legitimate concerns. Likewise, cats have attitudes

towards humans. Sometimes these attitudes coincide with what people expect from them; at other times, humans find cats' attitudes unexpected, even painful. People may then "misread" the cat.

Jane's supple guidance begins here. Cats' attitudes, she declared, are not unclear or enigmatic, though they may occasionally be complex, for instance being defensive through fear. We can understand cats well after learning to read their body language.

### Reading the signs

She had a pile of photos and a few cartoon depictions ready, passing them round one at a time, asking us what cattitude we saw in the picture, and where. Are the pupils wide or dilated, are the ears perked up or flat, or swivelled in different directions? Are the whiskers lying flat, and how about the tail, the most eloquent communicator of all: up, down, straight or curled?

Jane helped us see more clearly what cats told us about themselves. We could understand better when they were alert, wary, relaxed, trusting, apprehensive, ready to scratch or ready to flee (not flea). Quite an evening. For more information, visit [www.cattitude.vpweb.com](http://www.cattitude.vpweb.com).

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## Find the cat at colourful new restaurant

By Diana Cormack

**It is not only the menu that's attracting compliments in Mydonos Chargrill Meze Restaurant at 7 Fortis Green. After months of work put in by its joint partners, the premises has emerged as a smart modern dining establishment. But some of the new look is due to one of their friends who has painted a large part of the inside wall with a colourful representation of Istanbul.**

Manager Medet Gozukara told *THE ARCHER* that, because he used to own the grocery store on the corner of High Road and Baronsmere Road, he knows many people in the area. One of these, a retired accountant who paints as a hobby, came to check on their progress and subsequently offered to do the mural. It is signed simply Jamal and, if you look closely, you should be able to spot his cat somewhere in the picture.

Mydonos is available for parties of up to 40 people and is open from 11am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 11am to 10pm on Sundays. Reservation and telephone orders are welcome on: 020 8815 9777.

## Walk in good company

**The Finchley and Hornsey Group Ramblers Association has a programme of walks lined up for the autumn and early winter. October walks include a ramble along the London Loop from Cockfosters, a circular walk of Epping, a walk through several London parks from Warren Street, and a circular walk around Berkhamsted to celebrate 75 years of the Ramblers Association.**

Later in November and December, walks will be based around Hampstead, Amersham, Chesham and Barnet. Newcomers are always welcome to come along for free and, if they enjoy the outings, are encouraged to join the association. For more information, contact Vivien Mallindine on 020 8883 8190.

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Road signs crowd the entrance to East Finchley Station. Photo by David Tupman

## Call to cut the clutter

**Many readers may be delighted to learn that government ministers Eric Pickles and Philip Hammond have written to council leaders calling on them to reduce the number of signs and other 'street clutter'.**

They say that "we are being overrun by scruffy signs, bossy bollards, patchwork paving and railed-off roads - wasting taxpayers' money that could be better spent on fixing potholes or keeping council tax down."

They add: "We don't need all this clutter confusing motorists, obstructing pedestrians and hindering those with disabilities who are trying to navigate our streets. Common sense tells us uncluttered streets have a

fresher, freer, authentic feel, which are safer and easier to maintain."

East Finchley has its fair share of so-called "street furniture" and crowded signage, most notably the plethora of signs outside the tube station. Is it a waste of space or a necessary evil? Send your views to the council or us, at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

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# Donkey madness at the Muswell Hill Festival

The donkey derby and dog show were the highlights of the Muswell Hill Festival in aid of the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

Sun shone on Cherry Tree Wood for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual festivities on Sunday 12 September. Karate displays, live bands and dozens of colourful and fascinating stalls made it a fun day out.

The centre, based in Muswell Hill, provides therapy and education to around 50 children across London and the Home Counties, all with neurological damage resulting in cerebral palsy.

The charity needs £250,000 a year to keep running, so events like the festival are vital for its fundraising efforts. Around one in 400 children born each year in the UK has cerebral palsy. Find out more at [www.cplondon.org.uk](http://www.cplondon.org.uk) or telephone 020 8444 7242.



Novelty cake specialist Adam Cox working on an edible mini-Ferrari. Adam can make a cake to any design you want. Visit [www.topmycake.com](http://www.topmycake.com)  
Photo by John Lawrence



Above: Bread and pastries piled high at the Sable D'Or stall.  
Right: Dozens of stalls to browse and a chance to relax for the festival crowds  
Photos by John Lawrence.



Right: Donkey derby riders cling on for dear life.  
Photo by Lois Lawrence



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## There's no business like shoe business

By Marian Bunzl

Members of North London Chorus have dipped their collective toes into show business. Richard Thomas, composer of *Jerry Springer the Opera*, has created *Shoes*, a song and dance revue celebrating the love of exotic footwear, on a stage dominated by a giant stiletto. There are four singers, 12 dancers, and the recorded voices of North London Chorus accompany many of the numbers.

The recording session was an interesting experience. Microphones hung menacingly over us, and we had to wear huge headphones that played electronic chords to keep us in time and tune. After each "take" the musical director had a weird one-sided conversation with the sound-proofed recording team. We had to repeat each section until they were satisfied, and then "once more for luck". We were booked for a four-hour session, but in the event we did well enough to be let out half an hour early.

### Foot-tapping

The show is inventive, imaginative and great fun. The score includes elements of pop, rock, jazz, gospel and opera, and the lyrics are irreverent and witty ("time wounds all heels"). Highlights include a chorus of nuns intoning Jimmy Choo, Manolo Blahnik, Christian Louboutin (etc), a lively tarantella to the rhythm of Salvatore Ferragamo, a Jesus figure singing a hymn to his Birkenstocks, and Imelda

Marcos arguing with the nation to a background video of her shoes as police exhibits. Other special moments don't belong in a family newspaper!

*Shoes* played at Sadler's Wells for a short season in September, and will transfer to The Peacock Theatre in February 2011.

## Do you remember the British Restaurant?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Does anyone remember the British Restaurant in East Finchley? Apparently it was organised in the Methodist Church during the Second World War.

British Restaurants were set up all over the country by the Ministry of Food, and run by local committees. Meals cost a set maximum price of 9d (equivalent to about £1 today) and consisted of no more than one serving of meat, game, poultry, fish, eggs, or cheese. Minced beef with carrots and parsnips was said to be a favourite.

It seems they were mostly used by office and factory workers, or in emergencies by people who had been bombed out of their homes or run out of

ration coupons.

Their original name was Community Feeding Centres, but you can see why this didn't catch on.

The Finchley Society Archives have been given a painting of one in Gainsborough Road, North Finchley, which was used by the Minister of Food himself. Now The Archer is wondering whether you have any photos or stories to tell about the East Finchley version. Write to us at THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8LA, or email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

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*More than ever nowadays, people are changing careers midstream. Sometimes it's a complete change, sometimes it's a case of using acquired techniques and skills in another setting.*

*Gill Davis starts what could be a new ARCHER series in her article below. We'd love to hear why and how you too changed your life. Send your story to the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.*

## Why I'm living my dream

By Gill Davis

**In 1980 I was living in the High Road and working at the Old White Lion pub. By 2006, I had a career as a project manager and business development manager, responsible for raising millions of pounds through global initiatives. I had also reached an abyss of despair, disillusioned with my work/life balance. To achieve my dreams I had to leap from corporate life to set up on my own.**

Using many techniques from my previous career, I am now a professional business coach, running experiential workshops.



### Revealing blocks

I specialise in helping people lead themselves, their teams and their businesses. Clients come to me for many reasons, but getting one pregnant by 'immaculate conception' was nothing short of a miracle!

We were working on how she could achieve better results with her team. After a few sessions, it became obvious there was a big block in her way. Her focus wasn't so much what she could do for her company, but more what she could do for herself.

### How coaching works

Uncovering blocks is fundamental. Coaching is about carefully crafted questions and active listening. The greatest gift I can give to someone is to listen, non-judgmentally and in confidence, so people start believing in themselves and rebuilding self-esteem. Sessions vary between help-

ing someone realise what they want and what is possible, identifying ways of increasing performance, getting clear about career moves, or managing a new role.

It is so satisfying that results are ongoing and there is a real sense of achievement.

Initially, realising my dreams meant taking a massive pay cut, but releasing the equity on my property in Long Lane, where I had lived for over 12 years, enabled me to buy a bigger house, creating a revenue stream. I was determined to live the dream and challenge the reality.

My dreams include helping as many people as possible make the most of their lives. So my website [www.leadingyourselftosuccess.com](http://www.leadingyourselftosuccess.com) has a dual purpose: to remind me that I am leading myself to success, and to share tools and techniques with others, so they can do the same..

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## Climb every mountain

**Steve Harper, of Leicester Road, recently conquered a 110-mile route through the Pyrenees from this year's Tour de France. Here he recalls the pain and the glory.**

Heavy people shouldn't cycle over mountains. It's a simple matter of power to weight ratio and, if the maths don't work out in your favour, it's going to hurt. I knew that when I set out to raise funds for the MS Society by riding the 2010 Etape du Tour. I didn't expect a good finish time but, in the event, I had to choke back a tear or two from sheer relief at just crossing the finish line. After all, of the 10,000 riders who started the course, 3,500 didn't make it.

### Supportive sponsors

I have to thank the many people from East Finchley and beyond who sponsored Nick Hassel (also from N2) and me. We raised around £4,000 and everyone's support and encouragement kept me going when things got tough. In case anyone missed the chance to donate, you're still welcome to at: <http://beatms.mssociety.org.uk/netcommunity/steves-etape>

Everyone who watched stage 17 of this year's Tour will have seen Contador and Schleck duelling for the yellow jersey over the same course; it looked hard but they rode it like the supermen they are. I didn't look or feel like a superman. My ride was a mixture of painful grinds up relentless ascents interspersed with exhilarating descents, all through achingly beautiful scenery.

### High points

The 1,474m Col du Soulor was a 13km climb at an average gradient of 7.1%, slightly steeper than the rise from East Finchley Underground to the Bald Faced Stag but stretching all the way to Potters Bar (one of the thoughts that occurred to me as I rode up it). This part of the course was the first time I felt really challenged mentally. I didn't stop or climb off but lots of riders did. Even so, when I got to the summit my legs were shredded - and the main event of the day, the formidable Col du Tourmalet, was still to come.

There were high points too. Cheering locals and fans, already camped all the way up the mountain waiting for the Tour to pass, came out repeatedly with ice-cold water to pour over us as we passed. I think that without their kindness I couldn't have carried on. When I crossed the timing mat at the finish I knew, for me at least, I'd done something really special - and I hadn't cracked.

## Blitz hits East Finchley

By Peter Wynne Davies

**Seventy years ago, on 2 October, the East Finchley early morning might have seen milk being delivered by horse and cart and some commuters making their way to the still new East Finchley Underground Station.**

Days after the end of the Battle of Britain the German bombing of London, now known as the Blitz, had started in earnest, and at 05.14 a.m. on that October day a 100 kilogramme bomb containing high explosive landed in the back garden of 85 Bedford Road.

### ARP rescue residents

The blast resulted in damage to surrounding houses. Responsibility for dealing with the aftermath of bombs fell to a mainly volunteer force, Air Raid Precautions (ARP). Their primary task was the protection of civilians from damage caused by air raids, but often they would have to search for survivors and help recover bodies.

The ARP centre for Finchley was based in Avenue House on East End Road. Word quickly reached them about the Bedford Road bomb and within an hour the two residents at 85, a Mr and Mrs Smith, had been taken by ambulance to Finchley Memorial Hospital. They were just two of the 336 Finchley residents injured during the Blitz. A fur-

ther 78 were not so lucky.

### Further attacks

East Finchley suffered much less aerial attack than other parts of London, but almost every county road had their own bomb attack during the war. Many of the houses south of Fortis Green suffered attacks by phosphorus bombs which did not explode but caused fires on roofs and in attics.

In November 1940 one of the particularly feared parachute mines destroyed many of the buildings on Chapel Street and the High Road around where Mulberry Court now stands. Twelve died in that raid alone.

Later in the war Abbots Gardens was struck by Germany's most feared weapon, a V2 rocket, the world's first long-range ballistic missile. Five died, including five-year-old John Fulford. See *THE ARCHER*, January 2009, for a full account.

Records of all the 570 local wartime incidents dealt with by the ARP are held by Barnet's Archive Service.



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## Taste of adventure for Oak Lodge pupils

By Teresa Ellis

This summer, 36 students and staff from Oak Lodge Special Educational Needs School, off East End Road, were sent packing for a week of extremely challenging situations. Activities included canoeing, sailing, horse riding, archery, zip wires and abseiling plus a range of team building tasks.

The trip was to the Calvert Trust, Exmoor, which specialises in totally accessible adventure holidays for wheelchair users, vulnerable young people and adults.

A number of organisations in East Finchley including Budgens, and Belmont School in Mill Hill, helped raise significant funds to

sponsor the adventure, which also provided a rare but very important respite for the students' families.

Please contact Oak Lodge School for more information at [www.oaklodge.barnet.sch.uk/](http://www.oaklodge.barnet.sch.uk/) or if you would like to support future challenges. Oak Lodge School's charity link is [www.hearts-of-oak.org/](http://www.hearts-of-oak.org/)

## Open afternoon at Tudor School

Interested parents are invited to visit the nursery at Tudor Primary School on the afternoon of Thursday 7 October between 1.30 and 3.00pm. The nursery is housed in a separate building from the main school, which is situated at Queen's Road, N3. It has its own large outdoor area with space for climbing frames, sand pits and an area for bikes and trikes. The outdoor area can be used all year round due to the recently installed extensive canopy.

Inside, the very large nursery space is fully equipped with a range of play equipment for the children to explore and use in their learning. With a flexible

provision for all families, the nursery also offers extra sessions at a very reasonable rate. Telephone 020 8346 6010 for further details.

## Reach for the top

North London-based chartered accountant Dipesh Chhattralia and his cousins Mehul and Pratik raised £4,000 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

All the team members have strong family connections to Tanzania so the motivation to climb the mountain was both physical and personal.

Dipesh said: "We were very keen on ensuring that our chosen charity was a small charity so we could see where the donations were going. I realised

that Noah's Ark was such a fun and caring charity that my team and I would be honoured to raise money for such a cause."

Their trek started in the jungle, going into the moorland, then into the alpine desert and finally on to the ice cap. The ascent took 4.5 days to the peak and 1.5 days back to the gate.

## Manorside stays international

Manorside School in Squires Lane has once again been successful in gaining the International School Award and is accredited for a further three years.

Amongst the internationally focused activities undertaken are: language of the month, with every class using a few key words of the chosen language every day; an international food festival; cultural exchanges (of both staff and children) from schools as far afield as Beijing and Namibia, and other activities that fit into the curriculum seamlessly.

The school has expressed a big thank you to Mrs Cohen who was responsible for co-ordinating the application and to the

staff whose global outlook helps shape much of the international focus of the school.

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## YOUNG ARCHER



Vegetables and plants are flourishing at Martin Primary School. Photo by Rebecca Bakar.

## Garden glory

By Rebecca Bakar

Pupils and staff at Martin Primary School were delighted when they heard they had been awarded first prize for the most eco-friendly garden in the recent Barnet in Bloom competition.

For the past year, pupils from the school's eco-council have worked hard on developing the school's garden, growing a wide range of fruit and vegetables such as cucumbers, tomatoes, strawberries, peppers and cabbages. Some produce has already been sold to parents to generate funds for further gardening projects.

### Inventive ideas

The eco-council members decided they wanted to recycle items being discarded during the school's refurbishment programme, so objects ranging from old wooden desks to toilet cisterns have all been used as unusual plant pots.

The emphasis throughout the project has been on being as eco-friendly as possible. For example, natural materials such as willow have been used to construct frames for runner beans. At the same time, rainwater collected in water butts has been used for watering and a composting area has also been established.

Although setting up and maintaining the garden has been a lot of hard work, it has been tremendous fun for the pupils. "I've really enjoyed doing all the digging and learning about different plants. We've also seen lots of birds because we've put bird feeders all over the garden," said eco-council member Olivia

Manzi-Richmond, aged 8.

Special praise goes to Oliver Clymer, who left Martin Primary School in July to go to secondary school. He devoted lots of his free time to the garden project and was awarded a certificate of merit in Barnet's 'Young Gardener of the Year' competition.

## Green fingers galore at Tudor School

**How did your garden grow this year? Tudor School gardening club worked really hard in the spring and summer and put lots of colour in the grounds. Pots and tyres were planted with flowers and dark dull patches were transformed.**

Children from the Junior and Infant gardening club planted vegetables, which they harvested in the first week of term. The beans did extremely well and the cook had enough to use for school lunch. They were also very lucky as the slugs and snails failed to find the beautiful

lettuce and ruby chard. Their harvest also included potatoes, spinach and carrots.

Club members are not letting their green fingers go to sleep over the next few months and will be planting out winter vegetables ready for another crop in the spring.

## Theatre bursaries for young people

If you are in the appropriate age range, meet the right criteria and are interested in the performing arts, you could be eligible for a bursary to support your studies on a part-time course at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Funding from the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation can provide tuition fee discounts on courses that include acting, musical theatre, TV and film and street dance. Each bursary will be considered on the basis of individual need and a percentage of the course fees awarded as appropriate.

To be eligible students must be aged between 11 and 25, resident in the Borough of Haringey, attending or have attended a Haringey secondary school and be in need of financial assistance. So, if you think you've got talent, call 020 8826 9217 or visit [www.mountview.org.uk](http://www.mountview.org.uk) for more information.





## Behind the scenes at the museum

By Sheila Armstrong

Where would we be in the UK without volunteers? The National Trust, national museums, hospitals, and of course *THE ARCHER* are only a few of the organisations that greatly benefit from their help. Both the institution and the individual gain from the arrangement and there are a variety of ways of helping.

At the British Museum, for example, there are several hundred volunteers who help in many different ways: working in the different departments, cataloguing objects, giving "eye opener" tours to visitors and facilitating lectures.

East Finchley resident Gwen Kirstein has been a volunteer there for 25 years, recently receiving one of their awards. She told *THE ARCHER* jokingly that the award was probably given to her for stamina.

Gwen has been there since 1985, long before the museum's volunteer scheme was in existence, and even before that she used to visit the museum regularly with her young daughter.

Amongst other things, Gwen works in the Pre-history and Chinese departments with their Handling Collections. These are ancient objects from the collections that visitors can touch and ask about. They might include a million years old axe or a 3,000-year-old piece of Chinese jade.

If you are interested in volunteer work at the British Museum, visit [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org).

useum.org.uk, or if you would like to explore volunteering more widely you can visit

[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) and type in your interests to find out where you can help out.



## Where are the pumpkins?

Around Halloween 2009, this stencil painting of two pumpkins appeared on the wall near the Noble Sage Gallery on Fortis Green, signed by the London-based street artist Pochoir, who also painted a 'GLC plaque' in Berlin and recently used this image as part of a redesign for the Adidas store in London.

Then in April this year the pumpkins suddenly vanished just as mysteriously, presumably under layers of whitewash that could be removed in a restoration. According to Councillor Alison Moore, a spokesperson from Barnet Council has stated that this work was not whitewashed by the Council's anti-graffiti squad.

If you are among those who would like to see them reinstated or have any further information, please go to the 'Bring back the Pochoir pumpkins' group on Facebook.

## An October treat

By Diana Cormack

Here is a simple pumpkin soup recipe for Hallowe'en taken from my mother's World War II recipe book. Serves four.

### Ingredients:

1 onion  
2lbs / 900g pumpkin  
Water to cover  
1 oz/ 25g margarine  
Salt and pepper  
Milk as required  
1 egg.

### Method:

Chop up the onion. Peel the pumpkin, remove the seeds and slice. Place in a pan together with the onion and enough water to cover. Cook until tender, then strain. Return to the heat, adding the margarine and salt and pepper to taste. Add enough milk to make a nice creamy consistency and bring to the boil. When you feel it has cooked through enough, remove from the heat and add a well-beaten egg then serve.

## Autumn colours at the Pasture

By Linda Dolata

It has been an eventful summer at Long Lane Pasture, with several successful organised events, such as Wildflower Day and Butterfly Day. There have also been a couple of school visits; it's a great way for children to connect with their environment, in a restful and lovely place.

Meanwhile, each weekend brings a trickle of visitors, making good use of the meadow, a small haven of ancient hay meadow on our doorstep, with several ponds and a good range of habitats. Especially popular have been the blackberries, descendants of wartime allotment cultivars.

### Glowing colours

Recent wildlife sightings have included slow-worms, voles, toads and frogs, and of course the exciting wasp spiders, so aptly named with their bright warning coloration. There will soon be other colours to enjoy in the leaves. Delicate golden birch hues, the toffee brown and ripening acorns of deciduous oak, lovely russets and crimson all herald the new season.

Look out for the 'Guelder rose', not a rose at all, but a species of *Viburnum*, and for the sparse but beautiful Spindle fruits, an impossible combination

of candyfloss pink and orange, which somehow looks lovely.

### Fascinating fungi

Also not to be missed are the huge fruiting bodies of some of the fungi that spend most of the year under the soil as microscopic mycelia of hyphae (masses of tiny white threads). This year there are some splendid large examples as well as a whole range of smaller species.

I would urge anybody who has not seen the Pastures to come along one Saturday or Sunday, and have a look. If you pop in between 10am and 12noon on a Saturday, when the volunteers are around, we can show you where to look for the wasp spiders, for example.

Anybody can come along and help. There is also an unusual job for somebody special: going out in a canoe to clear the large pond of the ubiquitous pondweed, which threatens to choke it.



Briony Geekie has moved from the country to the town.

## City life v country life

Briony Geekie recently joined Active Chiropractic Healthcare Clinics at 98 High Road after working in the rural north. Here, she describes how her city clients are shaping up against their countryside counterparts.

For the new associate chiropractor at Active Chiropractic Clinic, London is a little different from the sleepy town of Brigg in North Lincolnshire with its pig farmers. I am seeing far more office-based workers living the fast-paced life in this superb capital city.

With city living comes a sedentary, deskbound lifestyle which means a higher number of people with lower back pain walking through the clinic door. Low back pain can range in signs and symptoms from stiffness and mild aching to acute, raging pain with various symptoms affecting the legs and feet.

The commonly-used phrase "poor posture" refers to muscles shortening and their counterparts lengthening and weakening. In the case of lower back pain sufferers, the back muscles shorten and tighten, with the

abdominals lengthening and weakening.

A complication to poor posture and workplace ergonomics may eventually exacerbate spinal pain. If you recognise any of the symptoms described it is advisable to seek advice from a qualified health professional.

For the month of October I am offering 50% off the New Patient clinic admission fee and a chance to assess postural imbalances, spinal dysfunction and methods of treatment and offer advice on workplace set ups.

Briony is available to do free talks at any groups or businesses/organisations in the local area; for more information or bookings please contact Active Chiropractic Healthcare Clinics, 98 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9DY, tel: 020 8444 0666, e mail: [info@activechiropractic.org.uk](mailto:info@activechiropractic.org.uk)

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## Don't dump Stig

This is the age of cuts and the BBC has decided that the world is weird enough for cuts to boy's own television and that means Top Gear. Now that the Stig has been revealed to be someone no one had ever heard of, the Beeb has done the dishonest thing and sacked him. So who's next for the designer race suit and tinted visor? And what colour will they be?

We've had the original Black Stig, the White Stig and assorted American, German and African Stigs, so what we need now is a full-colour Stig.

The problem is where do you start? The Stig has to be someone whose life has become so pointless that their best hope of salvation is to become anonymous. So let's start with a new role for the man who saved the world. Yes, time for a superhero renowned for his suit of brownest brown. Step forward Brown Gordon. Time to don the full-face helmet, stop talking and become Brown Stig. So what if he can't drive, the boys aren't very good at driving either so no one will notice.

But what if brown is not your colour? Maybe it should be Blue Stig. And it doesn't need to be just one person. You can have caring, new father, all in it together Blue Stig, or hard line cut everything, trash the studio Blue Stig or even avuncular, cigar chomping, jazz loving Blue Stig. Jeremy would be so happy at finding himself surrounded by Dave, George and Ken. If we're lucky they'll all crash in a burning fireball so that Red Stig can rise from the ashes like a millipede.

The problem with such flights of sanity is the boys will miss out on someone who really needs to be wrapped up in tin foil and gagged. Time for the up market, Eton-educated, smooth-talking platinum blond Stig. Yes, it's time for bouncing, bonking Boris to find a new way to warp time just like he warps the language. Give the man who should shut up a job where he has to shut up. Better still, give the job to me. That way you could get out-to-lunch Stig, and I know that makes sense.

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## Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stretchingpeople.co.uk).

## MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes**-beginners & 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 11 & 25 Oct 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](http://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.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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.



Photo by Sheila Armstrong

## Multilayered maps

By Sheila Armstrong

**Local artist Anya Beaumont will be working at artsdepot, North Finchley, in the popular Big Draw in October, when parents and children are encouraged to come together and make pictures.**

An experienced teacher and sculptor, working at both Middlesex University and Amersham and Wickham College, Anya will be using her own work as a starting point. Her focus will be on maps, images and shadows; cutting, manipulating and layering maps of Barnet with other printed paper.

Using work done by children at artsdepot on 24 October, Anya will make a large site-specific work that will be displayed at their gallery. She has recently

worked with Coppetts Wood and Martin Primary Schools on work inspired by land artist Richard Long's exhibition at the Tate.

In preparation for the Big Draw she is asking for donations of paper that would normally be recycled, including lists, forms, children's drawings, old posters in other scripts and languages, etc. These can be left in a box outside the artsdepot gallery. More information on the Big Draw from [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk).

## What's On...

### Wednesday 6 October

• **Tumbleweed Comedy Show** at the Old White Lion pub, next to East Finchley tube station. Enjoy an evening of comedy in a relaxed atmosphere, £5 on the door, from 7.30pm.

### Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 October

• **The Knitting and Stitching Show**, Alexandra Palace. Call 8365 2121 for details or visit [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

### Saturday 9 October

• Come and enjoy an evening of music and laughter with **The Confections**, St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road, N2. Tickets including refreshments £8, concessions £7, from 020 8440 2817, or on the door. All proceeds towards refurbishment of St Mary's church hall.

### To Sunday 10 October

• **East Finchley Arts Festival** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, featuring 13 events over nine days plus an art exhibition. Tickets from Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 (020 8444 4717) and Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 (020 8883 5631) and online: [www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.efinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk)

### Sunday 10 October

• **Battle of Barnet**: a guided walk. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm; a tour of the famous battlefield of 1471, with Paul Baker, City of London guide.

• **Sponsored Walk for Health and Hospice**. Join Cllr John Marshall and local doctors for a walk round the Heath Extension. Meet at Heathgate entrance, off Meadway, NW11 at 10.30am. All welcome; bring dogs

and children for a pleasant walk to benefit you and the North London Hospice. Sponsor forms from Jan White (020 8455 2535), Heathfields Medical Centre (020 8458 9262) or the Hospice (020 8446 2288).

• **Free concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. Adagio Duo (flute and guitars) play classical and traditional music from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Collection in aid of The Big Issue Foundation. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

### Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 October

• **10<sup>th</sup> British Invention, Innovation and Technology Show**, Alexandra Palace. Call 8365 2121 for details or visit [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

### Monday 18 October

• **Authors Jean Pestel, Judy Langton, Rosanna Taylor and Johannes Kerkhoven read new work**. Upstairs at The Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6 at 8pm. Admission £7, concessions £5. Includes complimentary glass of wine during interval. Box office 020 8340 3488.

### Wednesday 20 October

• **Gill Simpson**, church community worker, will give an illustrated talk on the **history and heritage of North Bank**, Pages Lane; at Muswell Hill Methodist Church, 8pm. Everyone welcome.

### Saturday 23 October

• A fun **Soulful Adult Singing Bootcamp Workshop** at Jacksons Lane, Highgate, 2.30pm - 5.30pm. Participants learn to relax and perform various soulful songs and much more, all for the price of a

## New direction for choral society

By Judy Obrart

**Securing Michael Etherton as Music Director of the Alyth Choral Society is a feather in the cap of its leadership. Viv Bellos was always going to be a hard act to follow but Michael's background is wide-ranging and dynamic.**

He qualified as a barrister but then turned his talents to cello and conducting. After studying at the Rubin Academy in Israel he returned to London and plunged into conducting orchestras and choirs within the UK and outside it, including last year the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. He is also Music Director of the Central Synagogue Choir and the London Jewish Male Choir.

The Alyth Choral Society, which performs big choral works, will take his musical interests into new realms.

Michael cites his favourite choral composer as Haydn and says it is a huge privilege to be preparing his powerful and groundbreaking *The Creation* for performance. His favourite living composer is Michael Hersch and the work he would love to conduct above all others is Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

### Rewards of choral singing

When asked about the benefits of singing in a choir, Michael says: "Singing is the basis of all music-making including instrumental, and singing with a choir can be amazingly reward-



ing. In a choir environment that is supportive and energizing as it is at Alyth, the experiences one has, especially the public performances, are often among those that most stand out in a lifetime."

He says he would like to see a far higher profile for the choir in the local community and wants to draw in new audiences.

The Alyth Choral Society meets from 8-10pm on Tuesday evenings during term time at the North Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11. If you are interested in joining, contact Gill on 020 8346 5821.

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

7.45pm and Sundays 4pm; box office 020 8340 3488.

### What's on at artsdepot, North Finchley

Sunday 3 October, 1pm - 2.45pm, **Sunday Buzz Free, Giorgio Serici**. Friday 8 to Saturday 9 October, 7.30pm, **Tuning Out With Radio Z**. Thursday 14 October, 7.30pm, **Blood, Sweat and Tears**. Friday 15 October, 8pm, **Napoleon Maddox: ISWHAT?!** Saturday 16 October, 8pm, **Journey Through Jazz**. Saturday 16 October, 3pm and 7.30pm, **Farm Boy**. Sunday 17 October, 1pm-2.45pm, **Sunday Buzz Free, Marama Café Band**. Thursday 28 October, 8pm, **Robin Ince's Bad Book Club**. Sunday 31 October, 1pm-2.45pm, **Sunday Buzz Free, Darren Dutson Bromley**.

### Wednesday 3 November

• **Tumbleweed Comedy Show** at the Old White Lion pub, next to East Finchley tube station. Enjoy an evening of comedy in a relaxed atmosphere, £5 on the door, from 7.30pm.

### Thursday 4 November

• **Fireworks Spectacular** at Martin Primary School, 7.0 pm. Tickets available from Martin School office, Holy Trinity School, Tony's Continental (High Road) and The Green Man Community Centre.

### Thursday 11 November

• **An Evening with Jeffrey Archer**, hosted by the Henrietta Barnett School LitSoc. Tickets £5 each plus sae, cheques to HBS Trust c/o Jo Velleman, The Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square, London NW11 7BN. Phone 020 8209 9730 or email [development@hbschool.org.uk](mailto:development@hbschool.org.uk) to join the mailing list.

one-hour lesson. For info please e-mail [infoanj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:infoanj@yahoo.co.uk) or go to [www.meetup.com/soulful-Adult-Singing-Group](http://www.meetup.com/soulful-Adult-Singing-Group)

• **Black History Month celebration**; music and song, cultural displays, African and Caribbean food. East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 2pm - 6pm. Free admission.

### Thursday 28 October

• **The Finchley Society** hosts *The Restoration of Alexandra Palace after the Great Fire of 1980*, a talk by Richard Loren, principal architect for the Great Hall, in the 2010 Jean Scott Memorial Lecture; 8pm in Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Non-members very welcome, at admission fee of £2.

### Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 October

• Theatre in the Square present *A Voyage Round My Father* by John Mortimer; United Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate N6. Performances 7.30pm with Saturday matinee at 3.30pm. Tickets £8, concessions £6, available online at [www.theatreinthesquare.org](http://www.theatreinthesquare.org) or by phoning box office at 07522 791618.

### Friday 29 to Sunday 31 October

• **Things That Go Bump in High Barnet**: special **Hallowe'en Ghost Walk** with Paul Baker, City of London guide. Meet at High Barnet tube station booking office, 7.30pm. Prize for spookiest costume.

### Until Sunday 31 October

First fringe production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the hit musical that won more Tony Awards on Broadway in 2006 than any other musical; Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, Tuesdays to Saturdays



**Letters to the editor****Pavilion debate needed**  
**Dear Editor,**

I should like to refer to the article in July's edition entitled 'Pavilion plans change', which discusses a proposed future for the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion.

The long article seems to be almost entirely based on a question and answer handout produced by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion, which includes Sally Wigfield (not Whigfield, as printed), who wishes to run the pavilion. The handout wishes to be informative, but at the same time it is propaganda for the proposal.

However, the article does not enquire into the composition of the group that produced the handout. There is no mention of the tendering process. The article does not explore how the Trustees will be selected, nor their relationship to the proposed Community Interest Company.

As you are aware from your own letters pages, there is some opposition to the plans and perhaps a more rigorous debate is now appropriate.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**R Reece,**  
**Address supplied.**

**Waste not, want not**  
**Dear Editor,**

I have been following Adam Justice-Mills' articles 'Every Little Helps' with interest. As a child I often stayed in Wales at my grandparents' house, which had no mains water or electricity, so have never been one to let the tap run while cleaning my teeth. Precious rain water was collected in butts and, when the pump at the bottom of our garden went dry, we had to carry water from a tap about half a mile away in the village. Woe betide us if we spilled any!

Nowadays, when taking a shower I wet my body, then turn the water off while I soap myself. If I shampoo my hair under the shower I use the lather as soap. Otherwise I use soap instead of shower gel etc as I think we pour so much more such stuff down the drain and into the oceans than we ever used to. Some of my friends and family do the same, but is it significant that we all seem to be of a similar age?

**Yours sincerely,**  
**Diana Cormack,**  
**Cherry Tree Road, N2.**

**Wrong stop for**  
**Ally Pally**  
**Dear Editor,**

When the W7 bus reaches the bottom of Muswell Hill, in both directions, the announcement says "Alexandra Palace". To reach Alexandra Palace from either of these stops requires a 20-minute to half-an-hour walk up a fairly steep hill. I know because I have done it. I have twice contacted the customer service team about this in the past couple of months, but the announcement has not been changed. The correct announcement, which is used on the 144 bus and should be used on the W7, is "Alexandra Park".

The Alexandra Palace announcement should be made at the top of Muswell Hill. It is then a 12-minute walk through a park on more or less flat ground.  
**Yours faithfully,**  
**Frank Gordon,**  
**Address supplied.**

**Speak up against**  
**speeding traffic**  
**Dear Editor,**

As a local resident, I am responding to the concerns about speeding traffic on Church Lane, N2 (*THE ARCHER*, August 2010). Having nearly been knocked down myself, I am very concerned by the speed some drivers accelerate to on what is a very narrow road.

It is a major cut through from East End Road onto East Finchley High Road and is used by fast-driving impatient commuters who have no regard for pedestrians crossing the road. It is also a main route for scores of young toddlers heading to nursery, and young primary school children walking to school.

I have emailed Barnet Council to consider erecting two schoolchildren road safety signs, one on the bridge and one further down near the East Finchley Neighbourhood Office. I urge as many people and parents of young children who use the road to also email the council and perhaps they will take notice and do something about the speeding traffic issue.

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Angela Sheeran,**  
**Sedgemere Avenue, N2.**

**Red light means stop**  
**Dear Editor,**

I am shocked at the number of parents who take their children across roads despite the pedestrian signal being on red. If they can't be bothered to train them in road safety, how are they ever likely to train them in anything else?

**Yours faithfully,**  
**Mary Smith,**  
**Eastern Road, N2.**

**Art**  
**exhibition**  
**helps**  
**hospice**

By Claire Roth  
**The Art Exhibitions supporting North London Hospice is running alongside the East Finchley Arts Festival at All Saint's Church, Durham Road until 10 October. It features works by many renowned London and international artists including Fred Jarvis, former TUC president and photographer, and Royal Academy member Peter Freeth.**

Fred Jarvis recently exhibited 'Pictures for a Hospice' at the TUC in memory of his late wife Anne who was cared for by the hospice three years ago. He has captured all elements of his professional life from rallies to schools to General Election campaigns.

Peter Freeth has exhibited his engraving works widely in the UK and Europe and has taught etching at the Royal Academy Schools since 1966.

There will be a variety of other artwork for sale including contemporary paintings, sculpture and jewellery. The exhibition will be open on evenings when events are held, and from 12 noon at the weekends. A percentage of all works sold will be donated to the hospice.



Royal insight from Katie Nicholl

**Lives of two princes**

By Milena Ciric  
**Katie Nicholl, the Mail on Sunday's diary editor and royal correspondent, has released her debut book, documenting the lives so far of Princes William and Harry.**

This definitive book about the brothers, *William and Harry*, hit the shelves in June this year to much critical acclaim. Katie, 33, who was born in East Finchley and still lives nearby, has written about the young royals for over a decade and her new book takes a peek into the intriguing reality of their lives.

**It's who you know**

The full-time journalist and author admitted that getting information about the princes was difficult. She said: "They have a very small, select and carefully chosen niche of friends, so actually getting information about them is incredibly hard."

"I think the key to getting into the inside track of their private lives is to know the people that know them and get them to trust you enough to speak to you."

Katie's unique set of contacts plays a part in her successful journalism career. She said: "I think I am very lucky. Luck is a huge thing and great contacts enable me to break great stories like Guy and Madonna's split."

Katie said she wrote this book because of the fascination she feels towards the young Royals and her unique knowledge about them. "I hope people that read the book will feel that they have gleaned an insight into the lives of the two men that I think will change the house of Windsor. And if I've done that, then I've achieved what I set out to do."

She added that she hopes that this will not be her last book and said: "With a royal wedding probably in 2011, the next book just has to be on William."

**Review: Trinity**  
**College of Music**

By Ken Carter

**Three generations from the Trinity College of Music opened the East Finchley Methodist Church's season on Sunday 12 September. Alan Peach, piano, has taught both Viola da Cunha, mezzo, and Charlotte Keefe, trumpet/piano.**

France, Germany, Spain, the UK and the US were all present. We heard folk songs, lieder, songs from American musicals, piano solos, duets, and much else.

In the Schumann lieder, Viola da Cunha sang with exquisite expertise, but on eggshells. She gave a flowing delicacy to Shur's song cycle, recent settings of poems silvery, brave and serene from a terminal cancer patient. Da Cunha came fully into her own, however, with the four de Falla songs whose raucous loudness had a thrilling, uninhibited splendour.

Charlotte Keefe was remarkable, lending a clear-toned distinction to all she touched: the lively yet sedate romanticism of Busser, the dance band 1930s lyricism of *Night and Day* and the jazz-tinged versions of *My Favourite Things*, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* and *Till There Was You*. At the piano, she enjoyed Benjamin's Jamaican Rumba, too. Alan Peach accompanied expertly throughout.

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**Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).**

**Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.**

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# THE ARCHER

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## Panoramic visions

David Cotter has lived in London for seven years but, being from Manhattan, he has an outsider's eye that has led him to create some stunning panoramas of some of our familiar local landmarks.

His beautiful images of Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill, Highgate, and sights along the River Thames, are part of an exhibition of David's work running at Sable D'Or patisserie in Muswell Hill Broadway until 14 October.

David said: "If I had to describe my style, I would say it's images that are vivid in colour and use movement, lines, shapes and repetition to catch the eye. I'm also a big fan of night shots."

David lives in Fortis Green Avenue, Muswell Hill and is a member of and volunteer with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution.



The city skyline from Muswell Hill. Photo by David Cotter

## Haringey Recorded Music Society

Now in its 65<sup>th</sup> season, Haringey Recorded Music Society meets monthly in members' houses to listen to and discuss selected pieces. The 2010-2011 programme is as follows:

October 20, My Favourite Music 1, by John Sparrow; November 10, Something About Mahler, by Eri Gideon; December 1, Rarities?, by John Boshier; February 23, Mostly British, Mostly Light, by Tony Claydon; March 16 (provisional), Recent Trade Releases, by Mark Rumbelow; April 6, A Personal Choice, by Graham Summers; May 18, (to be announced), by Dennis Evans; June 8, AGM/My Favourite Music 2, by John Sparrow.

All programmes on Wednesdays at 7.15 for 7.30pm. For venues and further details, telephone 020 8361 1696.

## Writing opportunities

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Budding writers, this could be your chance. North Finchley based Greenacre Writers introduced a nationwide short story competition at Waterstone's last month. Entries must be no more than 2,000 words, and the closing date is 31 March 2011.**

Greenacre Writers run a Short Story Group and a Life Writing Group (autobiography, biography and memoirs), with the two meeting on alternate months, and also sessions for novelists.

Writing is just part of a bigger Greenacre project, which is concerned (not surprisingly) with all

things green. It is a community organisation promoting, for example, sustainable living, cycling, green spaces and local history.

Find out more about their activities and the competition from Rosie on 020 8346 9449, Lindsay on 020 8343 7181, or by emailing greenacrewriters@gmail.com.



It always happens. I'm printing something important and the ink runs out (how does it know?). I'm about to jump in the car and pop round to Cartridge World on East End Road to get the cartridge refilled, when I remember: a third of my carbon footprint comes from car usage.

Now I like the convenience and pleasure of driving, but living in London I can't justify having a car most of the time. There's plenty of (mostly predictable) public transport, lots of great local shops and I like riding my bike even when it's raining.


So why do we have a car at all? Perhaps it's because of picking up the teenagers from their parties, or for holidays or for when I can't get a three-piece suite on the back of the bike. But really, it's just inertia. Here are some green things I'm trying: car clubs, home delivery and car share.

StreetCar have put a brand new car on Twyford Avenue (they're aiming to have a car no more than five minutes from any Londoner). I tried it out for just an hour: clean, cheap, green and convenient is what I found. Cheap, despite the annual joining fee (that covers insurance, quite good free fuel mileage, recovery etc). Green, because they have low CO<sub>2</sub> diesel vehicles. I'll be writing a longer article on my experiences soon.


We've used Ocado for home deliveries of heavy groceries (for a fee). I hadn't realised that Budgens will do a "you shop and we drop" service for locals, as will Iceland. Of course, since I got the trolley, local shopping on foot is much easier.

Car sharing seems more adventurous, though for longer or regular journeys it might be worthwhile, and it's "Liftshare Week" from 4-8 October. Perhaps I'll try that too. Anyway, I had a change of heart and decided




to cycle for the refill - then ran out of paper. Doh!  
Read more at mememoryman.wordpress.com


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