

JEREMY LEAF & CO.

Professional Sales & Lettings
AT COMPETITIVE RATES
020 8444 5222
eastfinchley@jeremyleaf.co.uk

Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER



GLH
www.glh.co.uk

020 8883 5000
CARS & COURIERS

March 2011 No. 209
ISSN 1361-3952 **20p** where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Save our library!

By Ann Bronkhorst

Passing drivers hooted their support for the crowd outside East Finchley Library on Saturday 5 February: a scene repeated nationwide in a day of protest against the threats to libraries and library services.

More than 200 local residents heard campaigner Polly Napper's rousing defence of the well-used East Finchley Library as vital to local families, the elderly, people with reduced mobility and those looking for work. She urged the council to avoid the "massive injustice" of closing smaller branches and centralising services to a few larger libraries.

Local writers speak out

Poet, former librarian and local resident Fleur Adcock,

a six-year-old child and added firmly: "You've got to be able to walk to your local library; it's a civic amenity."

Anne-Marie Conway, local children's author and mother of two young children, described the threatened cuts in the library service as "criminal...like going back to the Dark Ages." For her family, to have a bag full of books is normal. She appreciates East Finchley Library's provision of something for every age group and wants the service developed,

mother of three young boys said that her eldest had learned to read, and to love books, because of the stimulating displays in the children's section, which that afternoon was packed.

Future events

Free events this spring, organised by EFLUG, will support and celebrate the library. On 19 March, 2-4pm, there will be readings by Fleur Adcock and Peter Hart, author and Oral Historian at the Imperial War Museum, with a short presentation about the East Finchley Oral History Project, due to launch this year.

For children of 7-11, children's authors Anne-Marie Conway (Star Makers' Club) and Jonny Zucker (Max Flash) will read from their work on 2 April, 2-4 pm

On 29 March a report is due on Barnet's library consultation, with branch closures a likely outcome. To be kept informed of events, protests and plans join the EFLUG mailing list via pollynapper@btinternet.com or join East Finchley Library Users Group at www.eflug.org.uk. A video of the protest is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=EesyEdIxxXE.



Protesters make their voices heard outside the threatened Finchley Youth Theatre. Photo by Ken Osborne.

Save our theatre!

By John Lawrence

Young people and their parents are battling desperately to safeguard the future of drama groups at Finchley Youth Theatre, threatened by council budget cuts. At a protest rally outside the High Road theatre on 25 January they called for the theatre's services to be protected.

Proposed cuts to Barnet Council's Youth Services budget would remove all part-time staff at the theatre. Only one full-time manager would remain, which campaigners say is not enough to run the weekly dance and drama sessions. The future of the building itself will probably be reviewed next year.

Renovation

Finchley Youth Theatre, formerly known as The Barnet Drama Centre, was set up in the 1950s. Following a major fire in 1991, the building was rescued by Barnet Youth Services and renamed. Two more refurbishments have taken place since then. Only last year, the building had a £120,000 renovation creating a new auditorium and a dance studio with a sprung floor.

Inclusive and welcoming

FYT stages ambitious productions of shows involving all its members, including West Side Story and Carmen. Catherine Atkinson has a 15-year-old daughter with a learning disability who regularly attends the theatre's sessions. Catherine said: "It's her social life and the only place where she feels included and really welcomed. There won't be enough money or manpower to run the groups. If the theatre goes, there will be nothing left for young people in East Finchley."

Former member Megan Fellows said it had always been a thriving organisation at the centre of East Finchley. She said: "FYT is not only a theatre group but also a means of support and guidance for the young community."

Council response

Barnet Council said the theatre will continue to offer services to young people using a "multi-agency" approach, involving voluntary workers and youth workers spread across several different venues in Barnet, but could not specify whether the services would match current ones.

In a statement, Councillor Andrew Harper, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families, said: "I know the FYT is held in high regard, not least for its role in promoting inclusion and interaction between those with and without disabilities, and for this reason the theatre will continue to offer services to young people."

See the public opinion on page 4, and Letters on page 11.



Protesters say a well-used library like East Finchley's should not be threatened by cuts. Photo by John Lawrence.

OBE, emphasised the importance of libraries to the development of all writers. She recalled the joy of browsing through books "in a little tin shack in Surrey" as

not closed down.

Inside the building, protesters of all ages were signing the 'Save Barnet's Libraries' petition and queueing to borrow books. One

VICTORY AUTO SERVICES

Air-Conditioning - Recharge & Servicing

Mechanical repairs, tyres,
bodywork, clutches, exhausts
MOTs by appointment

109 Fortis Green East Finchley London N2 9HR
Tel: 020 8883 9707 / 0023 Fax: 020 8482 9179



ALL DOMESTIC
ELECTRICAL
WORK
UNDERTAKEN



ESTABLISHED IN
THE COMMUNITY
FOR OVER
18 YEARS

- AUTHORISED STOCKIST OF ROBERTS RADIOS
- FAN HEATERS
- CONVECTOR HEATERS
- HALOGEN HEATERS
- OIL FILLED RADIATORS

Call us FREE on 0800 279 3463

www.everything-electrical.com 38 High Road, London N2 9PJ

In this issue:

- Parking charge fury.....p3
- Options for Stanley Field.....p3
- Allotment attacks.....p5
- Fight for the Old Barn.....p7



.....The Right Choice

Estate Agents - Valuers - Residential Sales - Lettings - Management - Cyprus Properties
40 High Road East Finchley London N2 9PJ Tel: 020 8883 9090 Fax: 020 8883 8580
Email: enquiries@primelocations.co.uk Website: www.primelocations.co.uk

Call us for a Free Valuation.

Family Business you can Trust.



**82 High Road
East Finchley
N2 9PN**

020 8883 0033

highroadn2@prickettandellis.com

Estate Agents and Valuers . Established 1767

• Visit your community newspaper on-line at www.the-archer.co.uk •



THE ARCHER

**PO Box 3699
LONDON N2 8JA**
WWW.THE-ARCHER.CO.UK
**e-mail: THE-ARCHER
@LINEONE.NET**
Voicemail (messages only)
0844 579 6949
then enter mailbox
number **75390**
for Advertising / Finance
or mailbox number **63450**
for Editorial / Enquiries.

PUBLISHED BY
East Finchley
Newspapers

CHAIR
Kevin Finn

COPY EDITOR
John Lawrence

EDITORIAL TEAM
Diana Cormack
Daphne Chamberlain

SUB EDITORS
Ann Bronkhorst
Jeff Robson
Pam Kent

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Alison Roberts

PICTURE EDITOR
Mike Rubens

**FINANCE &
ADVERTISING**
John Dearing

DISTRIBUTION
Toni Morgan
Margi McAlister
Pam Kent

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.*

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'
within the text.

Copy deadlines

April: 11 March
May: 8 April
June: 13 May

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
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

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries 0845 748 4950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8349 7000
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
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

OAPs' Advice

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

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Crime

Emergency 999
Barnet Police 020 8200 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
**East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood
Team** 020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
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
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

**EAST FINCHLEY
ADVICE SERVICE**

**The Green Man Community
Centre, Strawberry Vale,
London N2 9BA**
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

We have moved!
**Please contact us on on the
above number for details of
our services.**

Community Services

❖ **Credit Union**, Green Man Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Com-
munity Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020
8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

95 Abbots Gardens, N2
Single storey rear extension. Part
single, part two-storey side and rear
extension. Extension to roof includ-
ing Velux windows at front and rear,
and side dormer to facilitate a loft
conversion.

65 Durham Road, N2

Single storey rear extension,
alterations to ridge level, addition
of solar panels, roof lights, and
side and rear dormer windows to
facilitate a loft conversion.

46, High Road, N2

Installation of externally illuminated
fascia sign.

82 High Road, N2

Conversion of first, second and
third floors from B1 (office) to
form four self-contained flats,
incorporating first floor infill
extension.

1A Lincoln Road, N2

Single storey rear extension with
enclosure to walkway.

2 Oakview Gardens, N2

Single storey side extension.

Haringey Council

39 Twyford Avenue, N2
Erection of single storey rear exten-
sion, conversion of garage to habitable
room, hip to gable loft conversion with
rear dormer and new first floor rear
window.

Rear of 39 Eastern Road, N2

Demolition of existing garage and
erection of part single, part two-storey
dwelling, including new paving to exist-
ing access road and renewal of exist-
ing fencing and changes in levels.

1 Sussex Gardens, N6

Erection of three-storey side extension
including conversion of garage with
internal alterations.

1 Beech Drive, N2

Alterations to side and rear dormers,
insertion of roof light to side elevation
and erection of front dormer.

Chessing Court, Fortis Green, N2
Formation of additional floor to create
two one-bedroom flats.

56 Great North Road, N6

Erection of front and rear dormers with
insertion of roof light to side elevation
to facilitate a loft conversion.

Councillors on the move

**Barnet Council is closing the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre
and so after 20 years the Councillor's Saturday Advice Surgery
has transferred to East Finchley Library.**

The surgery runs from 10-11.30am
each Saturday and no appointment is
necessary. Alternatively, contact Cllr
Andrew McNeil, 020 8444 3834, cllr.a.m
cllr.alison.moore@barnet.gov.uk,
020 8349 4483, cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk or Cllr Colin Rogers, 020 8346
9887, cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Man arrested after series of attacks

By Janet Maitland

A man from Hornsey has been arrested following a series of vicious attacks on men in the Muswell Hill area. The first victim, a 67-year-old man, was found lying on the ground unconscious at 10am on 5 January, close to the gates of Alexandra Park, Alexandra Palace Way. A passer by discovered him and called the police. The man had serious head injuries and was taken to an east London hospital in a critical condition. On 31 January, an 84-year-old man was found unconscious with severe head injuries by a member of the public, this time in Queens Wood, near Wood Vale. He was taken to a north London hospital.

Two other men were attacked in the Muswell Hill area during January, a 37-year-old and a 63-year-old, but both managed to escape with minor injuries. One of these attacks was in Queens Wood, and was also in broad daylight. When police appealed for any information that would help them find the attacker, they said the assaults were obviously linked because of their similarities.

On 4 February, shortly after the last attack, the 29-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of attempted murder and GBH with intent and two counts of attempt to cause GBH with intent. He appeared at Brent Magistrates Court the following day, where the case was committed to the Central Criminal Court. He has been remanded in custody until he appears in court on 16 May.

Laptops stolen from school

Thieves stole four laptops after breaking into Holy Trinity School, Eagans Close, during a power cut on 14 February.

The school told parents that the laptops were password-protected but three of them contained data, including photos, dates of birth and postcodes, of children in reception, year 1 and year 2. The governing body was conducting a full investigation into the break-

in and future security, and asked parents to join with the staff in reporting any unusual contact relating to their children. The incident was reported to the police, the local authority, the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Information Commissioner's Office.

ROBIN KIASHEK

BSc (Hons) Ost Med

OSTEOPATHY in Fortis Green

including the Perrin Technique for Chronic Fatigue
Syndrome/ME, Nutrition, Life Coaching/NLP and
Autogenic Training

**52 Twyford Avenue
Fortis Green
London N2 9NL**

**020 8815 0979
07956 213 759**

www.robinkiashek.co.uk



**North London
IT Support**

IT Support in your business and at home

COMPUTER ON GO SLOW?

0800 756 1400

www.N2cr.com

Computer repair specialists: Apple Mac and PC Help
LOCAL Computer Support. We are based in EAST FINCHLEY



Fury as Cabinet approves rise in parking charges

By Diana Cormack

Press coverage of the vociferous Valentine's Night cabinet meeting at Barnet Town Hall has shown there was little love in the air, with council leader Lynne Hillan threatening to have protesters thrown out and to abandon the meeting.

The protesters were already dissatisfied with time limitations and answers given during public question time, so feelings ran high as people realised that, despite petitions, letters and emails appealing to councillors not to support proposed budget plans, they were going ahead.

Reprieve for Newstead

East Finchley residents were among protesters against the hike in charges for allotments and parking spaces, as well as trying to save children's centres from closure and to retain wardens in sheltered accommodation for the elderly. Those supporting Newstead Children's Centre in Fallows Close learned that it would

be one of 13 to remain open. However, councillors returning from an unprecedented adjournment faced further fury as they ratified a raft of plans.

Disproportionate

Residents living in the controlled parking zone (CPZ) opposite East Finchley tube station, south of Fortis Green and north of Cherry Tree Wood, where restrictions last from 10am until 6.30pm six days a week, felt the rise in visitor voucher charges from £1 to £4 would hit them particularly hard. They face paying a much greater proportion towards the upkeep of borough roads than all other Barnet road users, most of whom do not live in a CPZ (See Letters to the Editor, page 11).

Campaign continues

Many are continuing with the protest, which has featured in the press, on television news and the internet. Solicitor David Attfield of Summerlee Avenue told *THE ARCHER*: "The Cabinet dealt with residents' questions in a contemptuous manner. Councillor Coleman even claimed that there had been 'extensive consultation' about the increased residents' charges. There hasn't. There has been a campaign, once residents found out about them. That is very different." He points out that all those living in CPZs are adversely affected by the increases and, at the time of writing, the legality of Barnet's actions is being investigated.

Archbishop officially opens Academy

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams visited Wren Academy in Hilton Avenue, North Finchley, to perform the school's official opening ceremony.

Although the Academy opened to its first cohort of Year 7 students in September 2008, the official opening event was arranged to take place once all of the school's new buildings were complete

some of the Academy's lessons and took part in a question and answer session with students.

Year 9 student Amanda Shodeko said: "We were very privileged to have the Arch-

bishop delighted that the Archbishop was able to find the time to visit us. Our students have been absolutely thrilled to see him here. Dr Williams' visit is a huge endorsement of the Academy's progress."

Wren Academy is sponsored by the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) and Berkhamsted School (a leading independent school). The Academy's new buildings project was completed in the summer of 2010 at a cost of £23.4 million.



The Archbishop of Canterbury spent time talking to pupils during his visit. Photo courtesy Wren Academy.

and in use. Wren Academy now has three year-groups, with over 500 young people attending the school.

During his visit, as well as unveiling a commemorative plaque, Dr Williams sampled

bishop come to the school. When the Archbishop went into the classrooms I think it was a moment that the students will never forget."

Academy Principal Michael Whitworth said: "I

Options for Stanley Field

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Finchley Community Development Trust has until May to initiate a viable offer for Stanley Road Field. The Trust wants it to be an Olympic legacy in an area lacking sports facilities. Barnet Council, though, will want any offer to give realistic value.

At a public meeting in Holy Trinity School last month, the Trust asked East Finchley to consider four possible options for the future of the field.

- Open market development for an estimated 50-100 households, with associated cars. Cllr Brian Coleman said at the meeting that housing was not the only possibility, as some free schools were interested. This option had no support.

- A split between housing, and a cricket club incorporating other sports like badminton. The Trust would negotiate for public use.

- A combination of indoor and outdoor sports, with a cricket centre incorporating other sports, multi-use pitches, and a strip around the edge for dog-walking or an outdoor gym. This was the overwhelmingly popular choice.

- Outdoor five-a-side pitches, with changing facilities. This was rejected, as it could not be maintained.

The options were illustrated with drawings of how each could look by local architect Chris Hampson, who said that the indoor sports building would be about the height of Holy Trinity School.

Opinion in the hall was that

activities should integrate the public across age and gender ranges. Cllr Alison Moore said that the community wanted a sustainable package for young people and the whole of society.

Sports organisations involved

The Trust's Roger Chapman, who chaired the meeting, said they were in discussion with Finchley Cricket Club, London Marathon, Sport England and governing bodies of various sports, and would explore collaboration with commercial sports centres. They must look for the appropriate solution for East Finchley.

Cllr Colin Rogers warned that Barnet must be convinced that any development could be maintained, but said that if we gave up the field it would be lost for ever.

Can you help?

The Trust need volunteers to help assemble an offer, particularly people such as lawyers, accountants, business managers and Facebook specialists.

Keep in touch and/or offer your services or suggestions via Facebook (Stanley Road Playing Field) or email stanleyroadn2@gmail.com or Rob Robertson on 020 8883 4916.

KF Computers & Imaging

93 High Road, East Finchley N2 8AG

- FREE PC/Laptop Check-up
 - Custom built PCs
 - Laptop/Pc Sale, Repair
 - Data Recovery
 - PC Reinstall & Virus Removal
- Prints, Posters, Canvas
Digital Cameras, frames
Wedding Videos, Photos
Onsite Studio Available
Photo Gifts (Cup, t-shirt - Prints)
- www.kf-computers.co.uk OR www.kf-imaging.co.uk

02088159898

Problem finding a reliable electrician?



East Finchley Electrical Contractors turn up on time, guarantee our work and are unbeatable value!

- Domestic re-wiring
- Fault finding
- Safety inspections
- Free site surveys
- No job too big or too small!

Call EFEC now: **020 8883 9098** or visit www.ef-elec.co.uk

East Finchley Electrical Contractors
115 High Road, East Finchley N2 8AG



**HYPNOTHERAPY
SPIRITUAL HEALING**

Kathryn Scorza

Registered Hypnotherapist
Soul Therapist
and Spiritual Healer

Contact me for more information or to make an appointment

07703 404 839

kathryn@kathrynskorza.co.uk
www.kathrynskorza.co.uk

Hypnotherapy offered for a wide range of issues
excluding only
weight loss and smoking cessation

Nicky Sharp Osteopathy Clinic

**Cranial and Structural Osteopathy
and Acupuncture**

All Major Insurers Accepted

For consultations and appointments:

Telephone: 020 8815 9433

260 East End Road www.nickysharposteopathy.co.uk

London N2 8AU e-mail: info@nickysharposteopathy.co.uk

Josephines

EXPERTS IN CREATIVE FLORAL DESIGN

Happy Mothers Day Mum, thanks for all your help
Love you Loads xx

Mothering Sunday 3rd April 2011 – don't forget!

www.josephinesflowers.co.uk

Tel: 020 8444 9569/020 8883 3598

60 High Rd, East Finchley, London N2 9PN



Barnet mums on the march

Local mums and children are joining the second annual Mothers March against cuts, poverty and discrimination.

Concern over cuts has already been shown by the recent demonstration in support of artsdepot and protests in support of East Finchley Library and Newstead Children's Centre.

The Mothers March is an opportunity to highlight the impact of the cuts and other government policies on children and their parents or guardians. It is hoped that mothers and anyone else who supports these concerns (including men) will join the march.

No easy answer

Emily, a mother of three, says: "Mothers do a huge amount of unpaid work, raising children and working in our communities. We depend on and must defend local services and low cost activities, libraries, open spaces and allotments. Barnet's Easy Council won't be easy for us."

Mother of two Zekiye says: "As a single mum with no income, I work day and night for my children, volun-

teer in my son's school and study to improve my family's future. I must pay council tax but do not receive benefits. We mothers give 100 % and get no help or resources in return. The radical cuts will make the life of my family and others an everyday struggle, now and in the future."

The Mothers March is organised by the women's rights group, Global Women's Strike. Last year's march was endorsed by prominent individuals including the natural childbirth campaigner and author, Sheila Kitzinger, and the child psychologist and author, Oliver James.

The march starts at Trafalgar Square at noon on Saturday 12 March. Local supporters will meet at East Finchley tube station at 10.45am and are welcome to bring their demands on signs and T-shirts. For more information, visit www.globalwomensstrike.net or contact zekiye kartal@ymail.com or ewb.ewb@talktalk.net.

Opportunities for all at Green Man Centre

By Daphne Chamberlain
The Green Man Centre held its first Opportunities Fair in January and organisers hope to make it an annual event. One of the centre's aims is to play a bigger part in community life in East Finchley.

Centre Manager, Mark Healey, told *THE ARCHER*: "Around 300 people attended, including 35 organisations from across Barnet who joined us to promote their work to the local community. We have had a lot of positive feedback."

Those of us on the *ARCHER* stall certainly found it an excellent opportunity to network and discover more about Barnet's groups and organisations.

Green Man benefits

It was also an opportunity to showcase the centre. The Green Man is the largest and most modern of East Finchley's meeting places, but is often overlooked because of its position at the extreme north of the N2 area by the North Circular Road.

Mr Healey is keen to rectify this. He has just launched a membership scheme, open to all East Finchley residents as well as everyone on Strawberry Vale. Benefits will include discounts when booking a space at the centre, which has two meeting rooms, a main hall and kitchen.

East Finchley Advice Service moved in at the end of January with new drop-in hours of Monday to Friday, 10am-1pm, plus 2-5pm on Tuesday afternoons.

Transport for London has cleared overgrown vegetation and debris between the centre and the flyover, and Mr Healey



Ann Bronkhorst on *THE ARCHER*'s stall. Photo: Steve Davidson

wants to convert derelict land nearby into a proper garden. Inside the centre, he has earmarked the smaller of the two computer rooms as a community resource, offering nine computers and a music/film studio.

Wedding party

In the immediate future, the management committee want to organise a celebration for the Royal Wedding in April "that will be remembered for years to come". Volunteers to help make this happen will be very welcome.

Keep up to date with what's happening at the Green Man Centre via Facebook at www.facebook.com/greenman-centre, or by contacting Mark Healey on 020 8815 0703 or reception on 020 8883 4916. To check availability when booking events, email Mark at centremanager@greenman-centre.org.

Green power project

Teenagers meeting at the Green Man Community Centre over the next few months will be building a mini solar power pod to be used at community events throughout the summer.

Central Barnet Woodcraft Folk Venturers group won £500 from their national organisation to complete this project, which will help to power activities at East Finchley festival in June and at the national Woodcraft camp in Sherwood Forest in August.

Oscar Hender, 15-year-old Venturer, said: "We already use two solar power panels at our summer camp but this project means we can get more advanced technology and make a mobile lightweight pod which we can use everywhere. It's great to understand how stuff works."

The power pod is just one project. The programme of events for 13 to 16-year-old Venturers who meet each Friday evening during term time is driven by what the children want to do. Already in the next few months they will be building a clay oven to bake bread in, growing plants on a local allotment and doing drama. Other regular features of Woodcraft group nights include discussions and debates.

The Venturer group is hoping to grow; if you are interested in joining, contact Kate on 020 8444 4652.

Save our theatre

Jake McConnell asked people on the High Road what they thought of the potential closure of Finchley Youth Theatre.

Chris, from Tony's Continental: "It's a loss to East Finchley as a whole, and especially to the youth. I saw West Side Story there and it was fantastic. We need to safeguard institutions like the theatre; they're a valuable asset and we need to encourage the youth."

Mr Greenberg, who lives just off the High Road: "Some cuts are necessary. It's difficult to determine between right and left. It's hard to decide which stance to have on it."

Paul Walhaus, of Twyford Avenue: "It's bad, but it's not the council's fault, it's the fault of the central government. It's a terrible loss to the community. I know children who go there from my children's school Tetherdown. The council needs to consider the health of the community."

Margaret Donachie, of Hertford Road: "It's tragic, but cuts need to be made because Labour have spent all our money. I've seen all shows at the theatre for the last four to five years, and they're great. My daughter was a member. The council should keep it open as it's a great local facility and there's not much for kids to do around here. You have got to save money somewhere though."

Another shopper: "It's utterly short sighted. As usual, the government are protecting their friends and making everyone else pay for it. The council should have a backbone and stand up against the Tory government for the local people."

YOUR TIME IS PRECIOUS!

WEST END QUALITY, COMPETITIVE PRICES, CLOSE TO HOME.....

A CUT AND FINISH WITH JO SUTHERLAND FROM £45 ALL INCLUSIVE.

(WEST END SALONS FROM £85* +TRAVEL+PARKING+HASSLE)

A 25% INTRODUCTORY OFFER ON ALL SERVICES**

JO SUTHERLAND HAIR STUDIO

EXPERIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | PASSION

119 EAST END ROAD, LONDON N2. 020 8444 9440

* EXAMPLES ON REQUEST
** CONDITIONS APPLY

east finchley
smiles
expert general & cosmetic dentistry

NHS CHECK-UPS £16.50
(this includes x-rays where necessary)

NHS EXEMPT PATIENTS AND CHILDREN UNDER 18 ARE FREE

new NHS list now open

member of the
BDA and the BDHF



smile with confidence

020 8444 3436

144 The High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9ED

www.eastfinchleysmiles.co.uk

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome



East Finchley Festival threatened

The future of East Finchley's Festival is under threat. As *THE ARCHER* went to press, we heard that Barnet Council was considering imposing charges for events held in parks, which could be in excess of £1,000. Until now, there has been no charge for community events like the festival.

Future events will be priced mainly by estimated attendance, though a discount may be applied to the daily rate for charitable/community events at the discretion of the Director for Environment and Operations.

"Outrageous"

Roger Chapman from the Festival Committee said: "The Cabinet Resources Committee considered a report on fees on 13 January. This contained a separate category for community events in parks chargeable at £56 per day plus VAT, but this has disappeared from the version going to Cabinet. "We are contacting the Council urgently to find out how this will affect us, and to see if we can negotiate a reduction. To go from charging nothing to charging over £1,000 for a one-day community event is outrageous. We will keep people in touch on our discussions with the Council on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/East-Finchley-Festival/270157876374".

For nearly 40 years the festival has been a huge event in East Finchley, bringing together local people and attracting growing numbers from outside the area. This year it is scheduled for Sunday 19 June.

Could you help Home-Start?

Home-Start Barnet is a charity based in Finchley that supports local families with children under five years old. Many families are struggling with issues including depression, isolation, multiple births, illness, immigration, disability or simply managing family life.

Home-Start Barnet trains volunteers to visit families regularly in their own homes, usually once a week for three hours. The volunteer and the family decide together when to meet and how the time will be spent. Sometimes a parent may want someone to listen, someone to talk to, or even

just someone to share an adult conversation.

Confidence boost

Volunteers provide non-judgmental, practical and emotional support and help build the family's confidence and ability to cope.

If you think you could be a volunteer for the N2 or N3 areas and are happy to attend a training course, please contact the charity. You do not need any specific skills; the only requirement is to be a parent yourself and to have a genuine desire to help someone. The office number is 020 8371 0674 and the website is www.homestartbarnet.org.



brera gardens

- garden design
- maintenance
- hard landscaping
- interior & office plant displays
- soft landscaping
- East Finchley based

Mob. 07939 557 934

Tel. 020 8365 3615

Email: breragardens1@btinternet.com

Slimming World
East Finchley
can be found at:-
East Finchley Methodist Church
197 High Rd
(opposite Creighton Avenue)
Wednesdays 9.30am, 5pm and 7pm
Telephone **Natalie** on
07889 252548 for all enquiries
0844 897 8000
www.slimmingworld.com

SAVE £5
*Half price membership until 21 April 2011

Gang terrorises allotment holders

By Janet Maitland

A gang of youths has been terrorising plot holders on Vale Farm allotments at the end of Tarling Road. On 30 January, the fire brigade was called out to two separate arson attacks, which destroyed four sheds. Another shed was burnt to the ground on 4 February.

The gang also threatened a 77-year-old allotment holder on 2 February, pelting him with objects and then chasing him off the site. All of the youths wore black scarves across their faces except one. He is described as very tall, with chiselled features, a prominent straight nose, dark hair and a Mediterranean or mixed race appearance.

Residents of nearby Borrowdale Close have reported having their front doors kicked and seeing the gang running round the allotments late at night. "I fear for the safety of my family, our neighbourhood and plot holders," said one resident.

Council response

A Barnet Council representative met with the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) in early February to discuss security at the site. A council spokesman said: "These sorts of incidents are infrequent, with the plots kept secure using padlocked iron gates and high fencing." He said damaged fencing would be replaced as soon as possible.

"Vale Farm is a particularly vulnerable site," said Richard



One of the burnt-out sheds at Vale Farm Allotments. Photo by Lois Lawrence

King, Secretary of Barnet Federation of Allotment and Horticultural Societies. "It needs a higher level of protection and better maintenance than the council has been able to provide. It is not reasonable to expect a handful of volunteers to tackle a backlog of problems like this at their own expense. And to have to pay three times the rent for such a poor facility would be extraordinary." The crisis at Vale Farm coincides with council proposals to increase allotment rents from £33 a year for a full sized plot to over £93.

Extra security

The SNT say they have now made the security of the site a priority, assigning it to a Community Support Officer as a specific patrol duty. Two other officers have also been patrolling in plain clothes. Matt Clee, the new sergeant running the SNT, has also sought help from other police teams such as the Priority Intervention Team, supplying them with details of the suspects. "They'll target the hotspots and suspects at various times, day and night," he said.

This approach began to pay off on the evening of 9 February, when two youths were arrested shortly after hoax calls about the allotments were made to the police and the fire brigade. Mobile numbers were quickly traced and the phones in question were then found on youths near the allotments.

If you have any information about these incidents, please contact police on 0300 123 12 12, quoting crime reference number 2402529/11. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. You can also contact the SNT on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767 or email them at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk

Allotment holders speak out

By Janet Maitland

THE ARCHER spoke to several plot holders about the assaults and damage at Vale Farm allotments. Here's what they had to say:

Sadly, many of the allotment holders at Vale Farm feel too frightened to continue with their plots. "I planted four apple trees there ten years ago and I feel so sad that I won't be able to enjoy them any more," said one.

One lady is giving up her plot after 11 years at Vale Farm. She said: "My shed was burned down. Part of the problem is that the site is tucked away at the end of a road so it's easy for them to get away with it. We need people to make complaints against the gang and the police need evidence so they can bring charges."

Another plot holder saw the attacks and damage as the result of Barnet Council's neglect of the site over many years, echoing fears elsewhere in East Finchley that green land is being eyed for sell-off. "The

council's won, haven't they? They've neglected this site for years and they just want it for development."

One plot holder said that the allotments could never be an impregnable fortress because fences, bolts and barbed wire would never deter people with no qualms about vandalising property.

Stella Burnett, who used to be secretary at Vale Farm, said that the best protection came from a fully occupied site, with well-cultivated plots where there are people around. "Too many of our plots are derelict or have been vacated and not re-let," she said.

A Local Handyman

available for general household & garden maintenance.

No Job Too Small
Free Estimates

Call: 0789 010 3831
or: 020 8350 2188

Greene Driving School

East Finchley N2

From **£17.50** x 2 Hr lessons

Safe driving for life

Low Co2 footprint 114

Eco & Low Maint Tuition

Pass Plus 4 cheaper

Insurance. Greenedriving.co.uk

Call John M.L.M.I

0773 851 4406

Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths

Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.

email: admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk

28 High Road, London N2 9PJ

Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 0989

www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk

Eva Polish Deli Specialist in natural sausage

**36 High Rd
East Finchley
London N2 9PJ
Tel: 020 8365 3113**

Simplicity3d studios
Designs with that extra sparkle.
Looking to get your business online? Call for a free consultation.
Web Design
Community & Business Sites
3D Graphics
Tel: 020 8341 9542
info@s3dsdesign.com
www.s3dsdesign.com



The charity walkers set out to walk to the match. Photo by Sarah Binns.

Walking to the match

Twelve fans of Wingate & Finchley FC walked from The Abrahams Stadium in Summers Lane to Waltham Abbey's Capershots ground on Saturday 12 February for charity, a distance of around 12.5 miles.

They walked via Southgate, Winchmore Hill, Enfield and Waltham Cross before stopping for lunch at The Angel in Waltham Abbey and making it to the ground in time for kick-off. The walk raised over £2,000 for the Jewish Blind and Disabled organisation and the 2-4 win over The Abbots was a great result too.

Holy Trinity Church Church Lane, East Finchley Church of England

*We're a warm and friendly congregation
who look forward to welcoming you*

Sunday Parish Communion at 10.00 am

Children's Sunday Club ♦ Meet over coffee after church

Michael Stanway is happy to answer any enquiries:
Tel: 020 8346 8591

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

**Sunday service at 10.30 a.m.
With Creche and Junior Church**

Worship Music Social events Toddler Group Wheelchair friendly
e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk Room hire tel: 020 8444 9887

Burts Bees
Korres
Ortigia
VVP Bags
Tea Forte
LSA
True Grace

*Mothers Day
Competition
Come in and
ask for details*

Mother's Day Sunday 3 April

the
cherry
tree

172, High Road, East Finchley N2 9AS
Tel: 020 8883 4369

info@thecherrytreeuk.co.uk www.thecherrytreeuk.co.uk

Yoga for all ages

London may be one of the busiest cities in the world, but, tucked away in a quiet road off Fortis Green, you'll find an oasis of calm. Summerlee Studios, run by mum-of-two Rosalind Hubbard, offers clients a relaxed place to practise yoga.

Brought up in Southgate, Rosalind has been practising yoga since 1995 and teaching for the past eight years. She first trained with the British Wheel of Yoga (BWY Dip), went on to practise Iyengar, Astanga and Sivananda-based yoga, and is inspired by the teaching and writings of TKV Desikachar.

Rosalind believes yoga can help everyone to feel good about themselves and to age gracefully. She does not follow any strict method or school of yoga, but encourages mindfulness. Her classes focus on flowing sequences with attention to the co-ordination of breath with movement.

In addition to her classes for adults, Rosalind works with children and teaches in primary and secondary schools. Her approach helps children develop respect for their bodies as well as a strong sense of self. An interest in yoga therapy has led Rosalind to teach groups at mental health organisations in North London.

For more details about her yoga therapy, working with toddlers and children in schools, or to book any of her classes or courses at Summerlee Studios, please contact Rosalind on 07917 094 795, ros@yogaforyou.mobi or visit her website www.yogaforyou.mobi

Music society event

The Haringey Recorded Music Society event due to take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16 March at Les Aldrich, Fortis Green Road, has been cancelled.

Phone 020 8361 1696 for information on future dates.

Pub quiz supports children's hospital

By Diana Cormack

When Brian Hooper launched his Christmas Quiz Charity Raffle last December, he hoped to surpass the amount raised in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital the previous Christmas. Then he was able to donate the sum of £1,550. This time his worries that the recession might have a detrimental effect proved groundless and he was able to hand over a cheque for £2,015.



Brian Hooper presents the cheque to hospital fundraiser Martin Harris. Photo by Kenric Nabrough.

Brian, of Fortis Green, organises weekly quiz nights on Tuesdays at The Old White Lion next to East Finchley tube station. He told *THE ARCHER* of his gratitude to the local shops and businesses who donated 60 prizes with a total value of over £1,000. They are always very generous and have gone a long way to help Brian raise over £6,500 for charity since October 2008. Thanks are due to them as well as to the customers and staff at the pub, not forgetting Brian and all the hard work he has put in.

Food pours in for charity

By Gaynor Spry



Diane Scott MBE, volunteer with the North London Hospice, pictured with the food mountain

Nursery open morning

The Holy Trinity nursery open morning will take place on Wednesday 23 March from 9.15am to 11.30am.

All parents, carers and children are welcome to visit the nursery in Eagans Close. Applications for admission to the nursery for children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 close on 6 May 2011.

Before Christmas, Active Chiropractic Healthcare at 98 High Road launched a food drive to celebrate being open for three successful years. We were delighted with the response. Many existing and new clients generously donated food in return for complimentary chiropractic consultations and we were able to donate a number of bulging boxes of food to the North London Hospice. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the food drive such a success.



Street party to save the Old Barn

By Janet Maitland

The Old Barn Action Group will be holding a street party on 13 March for anyone who wants to bring the community centre on Tarling Road back to life. The aim of the action group is to return the centre to the local community, to be run by local people, for local people.

"As local residents, we strongly object to the manner in which this important local community resource has been taken over, stripped of its assets and allowed to be left idle," said William Hudson of the action group.

The street party will be held in Fallows Close, behind the Old Barn, between 2pm and 4.30pm. There will be a barbecue, including halal food, with music and children's activities

such as face painting.

A questionnaire about the future of the Old Barn will be circulated and people can sign up to support the action group, which can be contacted on 07870 647284 or endofstrife@hotmail.co.uk. A Facebook page has also been set up.

Background events

THE ARCHER reported in January that since a group of new trustees took over the Old Barn Youth and Community Association (OBYCA) last July, the Monday Youth Club had been forced to move out because of health and safety concerns. The After School Club has also been discontinued. Family support charity Home-Start still has offices at the Old Barn but its Young Parents' Group now meets across the road at the Newstead Centre.

Trustees' plans unclear

The action group claims that Reverend Geoffrey Muhoro, Director of OBYCA, has not attempted to either engage with or provide services for the local community.

THE ARCHER asked Reverend Muhoro to provide us with an update on plans the trustees have made for the Old Barn. He declined to comment, saying this was because our article in January "did not say what I told you to say."

The OBYCA leases the building from Barnet Council. A council spokesperson said that OBYCA was invited to apply for funding a year ago, but no application had been received. They added that, as a separate issue, they were reviewing the position in respect of the lease and the building.



Kinks at the Clissold

Last month we reported that Kinks songwriter Ray Davies and drummer Mick Avory had visited the newly reopened Kinks Room at The Clissold Arms in Fortis Green.

Here's a photo we didn't have room for. George Karageorgis, owner of The Clissold Arms, celebrates the opening with Ray, centre, and Mick.

Photo by Angela Anderson.



The Busy Bees are Carmel Bates, Katherine Deng, Lillian Murphy and Shirley Caldeira. Photo by Mark Healey

Busy bees

By Daphne Chamberlain

Can't knit? Think you could never crochet? Couldn't possibly make your own clothes?

Well, go along to the Bees' Knees and you might find you can. This creative group meet every Friday, apart from Christmas and Easter, at the Green Man Centre. The busy bees I met last month have always loved their handi-crafts, but quite a few other members couldn't manage a stitch when they started.

Hats and scarves are a good way to start, and then it's just confidence and practice. As Carmel pointed out: "After all, there are only two knitting stitches to learn". Experienced crafts people like Lillian and Shirley can look at snoods and dresses in magazines or shops, and adapt them in their own colours and materials for a fraction of the price.

Katherine, who is skilled in embroidery and crochet, sees the group as a great place to socialise. It was her idea to set it up in 2009. Since then, as well as creating for themselves and their families and friends,

they have produced many items to send to Africa, and have held sales in the centre.

"Knitting is a wonderful stress-reliever," they all told me. What about pessimistic folk who are afraid they would spend hours on something that didn't fit when it was finished? "That wouldn't happen here," they said.

Crafty cooks

They concentrate on a different craft each week, with knitting alternating with crochet, sewing and cookery. On cookery days, the usual tea and coffee give way to sharing the meal they have prepared. Carmel obviously spoke for all her fellow bees when she described the Moroccan meals as "wonderful".

People of all ages are welcome, including children. Bees' Knees meet at the Green Man Centre, at the top of Strawberry Vale, on Fridays, 1-3 pm. It's free, and everyone is welcome.

40 years on for Finchley Society

By Daphne Chamberlain

February marked 40 years since a group of strangers met in a former YMCA building in N12. That group became The Finchley Society, and among their anniversary guests at Avenue House on 12 February were the Deputy Mayor Cllr Lisa Rutter and local MPs Mike Freer and Theresa Villiers.

Recalling his days as Leader of Barnet Council, Mike Freer said the Society was never afraid to poke dignitaries in the chest and say, "You've got it wrong". Cllr Rutter described the Society as "the eyes and ears and voice of the public", while Theresa Villiers said their work was "a shining example of how much can be achieved when people have the energy and enthusiasm to get involved in their local community".

She also mentioned how nice it was to hear the name of Mike Freer's predecessor, the late Rudi Vis, in the Society's new Roll of Honour.

Chairman David Smith related how that original group of strangers, inspired by Spike Milligan, led by Finchley's GLC councillor Jean Scott, succeeded in saving Lodge Lane's historic cottages from demolition. What they and the current 400 members of the Society have in common, he said, is a love of the essential, unique character of Finchley and Friern Barnet.

Constant involvement

Displays in Avenue House showed what this concern

means in practice. It means constructive improvement as well as conservation. The Finchley Society is building up a comprehensive local history archive, but it also keeps a constant eye on planning, transport, and the environment. While some members liaise with Councils and official forums, others may be clearing rubbish from Dollis Brook.

Major Paddy O'Brien, the Society's Patron, praised the whole team "root and branch", and Budgens of East Finchley supplied champagne and a celebration cake.

Discover more about The Finchley Society on their user-friendly website, www.finchleysociety.org.uk, or contact Membership Secretary Stephen Yeo on 020 8445 9827.

Bupa London 10,000 Run

Run for your local charity

We have guaranteed places
Call Sarah on
020 8442 2275

BOBATH CENTRE
FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

www.bobath.org.uk
Registered Charity 229603

ALMAR BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Accountancy | Payroll & Book-keeping | Tax services

Our Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year End Accounts • Tax Return Services • Bookkeeping • VAT Return • Payroll • Tax Services • Company Formations • Service Charge Accounting 	Tailored packaged services offered for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start-Ups • Sole Traders • Partnerships • Limited Companies • IR35 • CIS Contractors • Charities • Non-residents
--	--

Why choose us?
We offer an honest and friendly service
Fixed fees—no expensive hourly accountancy bills
Non-Jargon and straightforward advice
Reliable, honest and friendly accountancy service

For a **FREE** initial consultation, call **07894 473309** or email: info@AlmarBSL.co.uk

Lose up to 12lbs in just 9 days

Choices - a different kind of slimming programme.

This proven two-stage plan enables you to attain and maintain your ideal weight.

I will provide 1:1 coaching throughout the process, giving you the support you need to succeed.

For more information about this successful weight loss plan

CALL Nicola Eve 020 3051 0361

TELEPHONE FAULTS REPAIRED

**50% CHEAPER THAN BT * the POST OFFICE * TALK TALK etc
HOME * OFFICE * FACTORY
LINES * EXTENSIONS * EQUIPMENT - TESTED & REPAIRED**

Call **RON COLLINS 0208 883 9325 * 07748 278728**
email: roncallsaver@yahoo.co.uk

Japanese Acupuncture & Shiatsu

- Joint Pain & Sciatica
- Migraines & Headaches
- Digestive Problems
- Back & Neck Pain
- Insomnia, Anxiety
- Pregnancy, PMS

Ph 07795203107

UTDPIA 11 Leicester Mews, N2 3SD

Fiona Hurlock MARS MASS DIAL

www.fionahurlock.com



An active Zumba class underway

New mums work their bodies

By Alisha Johnston

A new fitness class has started in East Finchley, with a twist. Called Mummy Zumba, it is full of lovely new mums and the babies come along too.

Zumba is a Latin-American dance based fitness class but I was assured by AJ (the teacher) that no previous dance skills were needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to "shimmy".

I went along to give it a try with my little boy who is eight months old. The babes-in-buggies are all lined up, some sleeping, some watching. Then the music starts.

Upbeat tunes to dance away to and in no time I am working up a sweat, laughing along

with the other mums. During the class you can run back to your little one as needed (a welcome breather) then join in again.

For new mums who would like to do some exercise Mummy Zumba is a welcome change from walking and pushing the pram.

Mummy Zumba is £7 a class (£35 for six) and takes place on Wednesdays at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane. For more information contact AJ on 07738 968408 or at getbacktoclass@gmail.com.

Great games for Great Ormond Street

By Zion and Joe W, Year 5, Holy Trinity School

The Year 5 pupils of Holy Trinity and Kerem Jewish school came together to design and make a selection of fun games. Together, we decided on a charity, it was Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

On Tuesday 8 February, we set up our games in the Holy Trinity hall. Each of the junior children brought in £1 from home to pay to enter the hall. Once inside, they had 20 minutes to play as many games as they wanted.

The aim was to complete the games and win as many raffle tickets as possible. At the end of each class's turn in the hall the children laid

out the raffle tickets they had collected. Miss Artemiou pulled out the winning raffle ticket from the bowl. Congratulations to Anna in Year 3, Heather in Year 4 and Lauren in Year 6 for winning prizes.

It was a fun afternoon for all of the children involved and we raised over £100 for the sick young children in Great Ormond Street.

Glorious gardens

By Sheila Armstrong

Kenwood House has a new photographic exhibition. The Gardens of English Heritage: From Inspiration to Restoration, accompanied by a new book of the same name. Hosted in the Orangery and covering gardens from all parts of the country and all periods, the exhibition tells the stories of their creation and their restoration, from Queen Victoria's garden at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight to the creation of the exotic Quarry Garden at Belsay Hall in Northumberland.

The exhibition uses images from the National Monuments Record, which is the public archive of the English Heritage, and includes photos, plans, drawings and records.

It runs till 3 April and is open from 11.30am to 4pm daily. More details on the National Monuments Record at www.english-heritage.org.uk/NMR

Peddalling families welcome

This year the North London Hospice is inviting families as well as dedicated solo cyclists to join its annual sponsored cycle ride on 15 May to raise money for patient care.

Cyclists taking the 40-mile challenge will hit the road at 9am from Queenswood School in Hatfield and those who want to try the 20-mile route will join them an hour later from the same venue. Both will take a circular route round the leafy lanes of Hertfordshire ending up back at the school for well-earned refreshments.

Entry is £15 for adults and £5 for children and the hospice is offering a special family rate of £35 for two adults and up to three children under 16.

"We want to make this year's bike ride a real success by attracting all members of the community to a great event," said fundraising manager Judi Guy.

North London Hospice provides specialist care for 1,300 patients and their families living with a life-limiting illness in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. It is only partially funded by the NHS and relies on donations from the community to fund the care of three out of every four patients.

For more details, call the fundraising team at North London Hospice on 020 8446 2288 or email fundraising@northlondonhospice.co.uk. You can also register online at www.northlondonhospice.org

Oak Lodge tops the class

Teachers and pupils at Oak Lodge Special School off East End Road are celebrating coming top of the class after Ofsted judged the school to be 'outstanding'.

It joins three other community special schools in Barnet in having achieved the highest level of approval from the Government schools inspectorate. Oak Lodge is a maintained Community Special School offering 165 day places for students aged between 11 and 19 who have a range of learning difficulties.

"This is a fantastic achievement which recognises the commitment and enthusiasm of the school's staff, parents and pupils," said Oak Lodge head teacher Lynda Walker.

YOUNG ARCHER Football report: Holy Trinity vs Chalgrove

By Dillon Lyons and Adam Gwynnette

On Tuesday 25 January, Holy Trinity took part in a match against Chalgrove Primary School in N3. The players on our team were: Cameron Macleod, Sam Carter, William Chapman, Adam Gwynnette, Dillon Lyons, Abdul Rahman, Joe Nicos, Luke Bell, Laurie Pearce and Zion Park.

Chalgrove kicked off and within minutes we'd intercepted their pass and soon after made it 1-0, thanks to a great strike by Adam. Chalgrove were disappointed but didn't give up.

Not long after there were some awesome passes and Chalgrove had no chance. Dillon crossed it to Luke, Luke chipped it to Joe and, with an amazing volley by him, we made it 2-0 within ten minutes.

After a few close shots and good passes, Dillon did a beautiful power shot that was blocked by one of their defenders and we got a corner. Adam took the corner and passed to Laurie who passed back to Adam and then

again with a classy shot we made it 3-0.

Chalgrove improved in the second half and had a good chance of scoring but they missed thanks to a good block by Dillon. Then out of nowhere, William chipped their goalkeeper to make it 4-0.

Sam Carter saved us from making it 4-1 by blocking one of their shots. Then again out of nowhere William blasted it to the goal and scored. Later, Laurie scored too.

At the end of the match Chalgrove got a goal and it finished with the end score of 6-1. We were congratulated and then we were on our way back to school.

Masked ball at Manorside

Having read and seen Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Year 6 at Manorside Primary School enjoyed a workshop based on the play where they enacted a masked ball as well as sword fights. Both Year 5 and 6 were also very lucky to have seen the Friern Barnet production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Popular clubs at the school include the new Archery club for Year 6 and a Samba Band. The language of the month is Polish and all classes will enjoy practising a few words of this in addition to French (and English).

There is so much going on throughout the school, from the Every Child a Writer scheme to after school discos. To find out more about the school and see all that goes on, visit www.manorsideprimaryschool.co.uk

Holy Trinity C of E School Nursery Open Morning

Wednesday 23 March 2011 9.15am - 11.30am

Applications for admission to nursery for children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 close on 6 May 2011.

Forms and admission policy are available at the Open Morning, from the school office and from the website at www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk. Holy Trinity runs morning and afternoon nursery sessions integrated with main school extended care provision and offsite day care. Pop in and find out more.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)**

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

**The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.**

**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>



Stained glass artist makes her mark at the Phoenix cinema

By Sheila Armstrong

When the Phoenix cinema was looking for local funding for its recent renovation, local stained glass artist Ruth Kersley decided to donate a piece of her own work: a stained glass window for the cafe. The finished window shows a phoenix in shades of brown, green, red and white glass, in a quasi-Cubist abstract style. The final design for the 14-panelled work was arrived at only after Ms Kersley had submitted several designs and maquettes to the trustees of the cinema.

Ms Kersley worked with the Phoenix's architect from an early stage of the renovation, which is important as she wants her work to be an intrinsic part of whatever building it is in. The window was started in October, put into the cafe recently and, at the time of writing, Ms Kersley is still working with the Phoenix on improving the lighting to ensure the window is seen at

its best at night.

Green fingers too

Originally trained as a sculptor, Ms Kersley has for many years worked in glass and boasts an impressive CV. Currently working as an art teacher in a local primary school, she has also worked in schools on the Art 4 Schools project and on public and private commissions.

In addition she and her husband open their garden in East Finchley each summer; details are in The Yellow Book of gardens open in London. Their garden is well planned and stocked, with Ruth's garden glass and pieces of glass sculpture easily visible.

You can find pictures and further details of her work on her well-laid-out website www.ruth-glass.co.uk.

Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat
at reasonable prices
Free-range poultry
Home-made sausages
(including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,
Fortis Green, London N10
Tel. 020 8883 5303

THE WELLBEING COACH

Based in East Finchley, Dan Roberts offers coaching for stress, anxiety, career, relationships, weight loss and all-round mental and physical wellbeing.
Experienced, professional and effective.

Call 07766 704210 or visit www.danroberts.com

Nick's on the run again

By Lois Lawrence

The last time Nick Dodd ran a marathon was 29 years ago but now he has a very good reason to run another one. Nick has a niece who suffers from cerebral palsy and he hopes to raise roughly £4,000 for the Bobath Centre on East End Road, which takes care of children with the condition.

Nick, 54, who has lived in East Finchley for around 20 years, is finding the training hard but is enjoying it at the same time. He says that it's good to be out in the open, getting fresh air. He also believes he's never done so much training in his life.

Nick, of East End Road, is using different training routes to prepare for the London Marathon in April, mostly around Highgate Woods, Alexandra Palace and Hampstead Heath. He doesn't have many set routes because he prefers to follow different directions every time and says it's good to chop and change where he runs.

Despite the daunting 26-mile challenge ahead, Nick is already saying he would like to run another marathon because the whole experience is very enjoyable, but maybe not straightaway.

If you would like to support Nick with his fundraising for the Bobath Centre then please visit this website: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickDodd>. All donations, however small, would be welcome.



KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Bonkers Bank Holidays

In the world of the Big Society Diddy David Cameron knows there is nothing bigger than the Royal Family. That's why we are getting a day off in April so we can grovel appropriately when one of them gets married, and one next year to celebrate 60 years since the Queen came to the throne. And now, to ensure we all know our place, he wants to get rid of May Day.

May Day goes back to the dawn of history. It's the start of summer, time to dance round maypoles, perform fertility rites and celebrate. OK, in some countries that includes parading your army through the streets and making patriotic gestures involving tanks. But it's about the people, not the powerful, which is why Dave, Slasher and the rest of the Eton Rifles want to replace it with something autumnal and patriotic.

Top of the list of suitable dates is 21 October, the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Good move for European unity, celebrate the time the Brits beat the French and Spanish. If that's not convenient we could wait until the 25th and celebrate Henry V and Agincourt instead. Maybe we should go the whole way and replace the late May bank holiday with 18 June so we can all celebrate the British beating the French at Waterloo. Sure to go down well in Paris.

Staying with royalty and patriotic prejudice, why not have a bank holiday on 28 September to mark the anniversary of the first performance of the National Anthem in 1745? Best to leave out the bits about killing Scotsmen, just in case.

But there is an alternative and it's not just about leaving May Day alone, it's about giving us a whole new bank holiday that will unite the country. What could be better than 5 October? Why? Because on that day in 1969 Monty Python's Flying Circus arrived on our screens. Let's celebrate it, let's make everyone do a silly walk and watch *Life of Brian*. It would be something completely different.

Beautiful music for Lent

By Marian Bunzl

At their next concert North London Chorus will perform two undeservingly rarely heard works with a Lenten theme. The first is Mozart's cantata *Davidde Penitente*, a setting of Lenten penitential psalms commissioned by the Vienna Society of Artists in 1785. Mozart was given only a short time to produce the work before the performance date, so drew heavily on parts of his great *Mass in C*.

Secondly, Beethoven's dramatic oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives* portrays the turmoil of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In spite of the solemn nature of the texts, both works contain lively and even joyous music. In particular, the final movement of Beethoven's work is known as his very own Hallelujah Chorus.

We are fortunate to have four delightful and talented young soloists at the early stages of what are clearly going to be outstanding careers. (If you come) you heard it here first!

The concert takes place on Saturday 26 March at 7.30pm at St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Tickets priced £18, £13, £8 (unreserved) and concessions (£2 off) are available from the ticketline: 020 8351 8774, and from St James Church Bookshop, and Les Aldrich Music shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

**Good homestay accommodation
is required for foreign language
students studying in London.**

Good rates of pay.

**Please contact Christel on
07930 813162**

Human Resource Solutions Plus

Helping you to manage, train
and develop your employees
at a commercially sensible cost.

www.hrsp.net

Richard Pell: info@hrsp.net • PO Box 27013, London, N2 0WX

HRSP



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
- ❖ **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.

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 14 & 28 Mar 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.

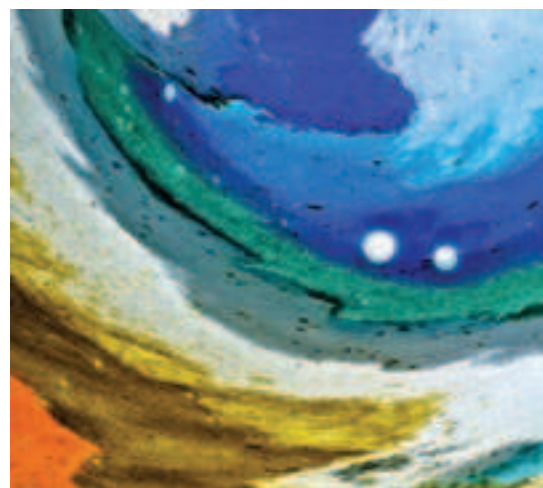
CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

- ❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, 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 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.

Art to light up the Phoenix

Lights Up is the title of an exhibition of paintings, prints and photography at the Phoenix Cinema by local artists belonging to the East Finchley Open. The EFO is contributing towards the cost of new low-energy spot lighting for the gallery space at the Phoenix which should be in place in time for the new show.



Above: Jane Dormer's abstract print that she describes as 'galactic art', and, right, Christine Watson's pastel of the fish market at night in Istanbul.

Each artist has interpreted the exhibition theme in their own way, so visitors can expect to see a variety of original approaches. All works are for sale and can be collected after the exhibition closes.

The EFO is planning further exhibitions in 2011, including *Small is Beautiful* at artsdepot, North Finchley, in April, its first on-line exhibition of photography in May, as well as the annual Open Houses event in July. For further information see www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Lights Up runs at The Gallery in the Phoenix from 2-30 March. Opening times as per the cinema.



Return of the Beat poets

By Sheila Armstrong

A Sunday in late January saw the return to the Five Bells pub of *Jazz Words*, an evening of poetry from the Salisbury House Poets accompanied by the Special Edition Quintet with Angela Elliott. Angela kicked off the evening singing jazz, blues and bebop accompanied with brio by a backing band of bass, piano, drums, harmonica and trumpet.

In 2010 the North London based quintet approached Anthony Fisher, who runs Enfield's Salisbury House Poets, and both agreed to give the well-trying combination of jazz and poetry an airing in East Finchley. On the night they were supported by a large following from Enfield, including the Mayor Jayne Buckland, who has served the cause of poetry well by instituting an Enfield poetry prize.

Angela Elliott, an ex-television writer who now writes her own songs, led the proceedings with elan, and gave *THE ARCHER* the low down on the musicians' credentials: Graham Pike wrote the music for the TV show *The Tweenies* and Louis Cennamo started out

with Chuck Berry.

Well matched

The poets, all fully rehearsed with the musicians, read their latest work and there was an open mic spot to which the redoubtable Chris Davies stepped up to read her poem, as "to the manor born". And very well received by the audience it was, though she confessed to *THE ARCHER* she had never read with a band before. Another particularly successful pairing was Jack Stanley, whose poems about the jazz greats seemed well suited to Special Edition's accompaniment. Allen Ashley brought back memories of the late great Adrian Henri, reading his *Hot Rock* poem.

A new date is planned at the Five Bells. Watch this space.

Performed with authority

Review by Lucy Chamberlin

Back in January, the Incognito players pulled off a hat trick at the Incognito Theatre in Friern Barnet with a gritty performance of Conor McPherson's *Port Authority*. Three Irish might-have-beens comprise the entire cast of what is not so much a play as a storytelling, each man weaving his own sorry tale of missed opportunities and women out of reach.

The theatre's newly built foyer was open to the public for the first time, and we were treated to fresh white paint, shiny pine flooring and the suggestions of a bar (work still in progress!) Outside, the new extension has a modern, minimalist look, and both interior and exterior provide an interesting contrast to the lovely, lived-in old theatre.

In the play, Graham Wilkinson played Kevin, whose mates are all "half in a band" and who is besotted with his gorgeous friend Clare. Except she always has boyfriends, and Kevin can never summon the courage to make the first move.

Meanwhile, Dermot (Andy Mills) leads the grey half-life of a loser until he is mistaken for somebody else, given a new job and whisked off to LA in a whirl of cocaine, booze, money-men

and their scantily-clad wives. At home in Ireland is his own wife Mary, who married him because she felt sorry for him and is still laughing at his foolishness.

Then there is Joe (Huw Morgan), living out his second childhood in a home run by nuns, who receives a mysterious package. With a still-guilty conscience he recounts his lust for another woman which led to a near encounter while his wife was in hospital; but a photograph sent years after the event is all he will ever have of the affair.

With its lack of dialogue and movement around stage, this is a difficult play to execute, but director Julianne Mullen and her cast excelled. Andy Mills in particular captured the Dublin poetry in McPherson's language, bringing uncomfortably close to home the tragedy of this pathetic trio.

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

What's On...

Wednesday 2 to Wednesday 30 March

- **Lights Up**, an exhibition of two-dimensional artworks by EFO (East Finchley Open) artists, The Gallery, Phoenix Cinema, High Road, N2. Opening times as per cinema. For further information visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 March

- **French Market**, High Road, N2. Sample and buy tasty food and drink, and artisan goods.

Saturday 5 March

- **Barnet Ghosts**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube station at 7.30pm. Please bring a torch if possible. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Saturday 12 March

- **Pavement Pounders** walk on Landscapes and Patriotism. One-hour illustrated talk at The Institute followed by visit to the Tate Gallery, 11am-4pm, £30. Telephone

0750-581 3297 or 01303 227150, or visit www.pavementpounders.org.uk

Sunday 13 March

- **Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road at 11am. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Wednesday 16 to Saturday 19 March

- **Hot Mikado** performed by Impact Theatre Company at artsdepot, North Finchley. Tickets £17.50 each (concessions for under 12s and OAPs, registered disabled and their carers £15.00) except for Gala Night in aid of Alzheimer's Society when all tickets are £22.50 each. Tickets available from Impact Box Office: 020 8421 6848 or 07770 914425 or via email: tickets@impacttheatre.org.uk.

Saturday 19 March

- **Readings at EF library**, 2-4pm,

by poet Fleur Adcock and historian Peter Hart, with presentation about EF Oral History Project.

Thursday 24 March

- **Quiz night to support AgeUK** at the Meritage Centre, Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT. Meet 6.30pm for 7pm start. Finish around 9.30/10pm. Tickets £10 per person, includes supper. Raffle and prizes (for losers as well as winners). Eight max per table; tables for ones or twos possible. Tickets, application forms and information from Loraine. sims@ageukbarnet.org.uk, or call Loraine on 020 8150 0962.

Saturday 26 March

- **North London Chorus** performs Mozart's cantata *Davidde Penitente* and Beethoven's dramatic oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, 7.30 pm, St James's Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Tickets: £18, £13 and £8 (unreserved). Concessions £2 off. Ticketline: 020 8351 8774.

Sunday 27 March

- **Coldfall Wood walk**, led by naturalist David Bevan. Meet at 2pm at main gate on Creighton Avenue.

Thursday 31 March

- **The Finchley Society** hosts *The Rise and Fall of Fleet Street*, a talk by Brenda Cole, 2.30 pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE (tel. 020 8346 7812). Everyone welcome, but admission fee of £2 for non-members.

What's on at artsdepot

Apthorp Gallery: Blue Suede Shoes: Friday 4 March to Sunday 1 May, 12pm - 4pm. **Sunday Buzz Free** - **Arun Ghosh:** Sunday 13 March, 1pm - 2.45pm. **Hot Mikado - Impact Theatre Company:** Wednesday 16 March to Saturday 19 Mar, 7.30pm, also 2.30pm Sat. **Sunday Buzz Free - Luca Luciano:** Sunday 20 March, 1pm - 2.45pm. **Memoirs of a Biscuit Tin:** Thursday 24 March, 7.30pm. **Simon Munnelly: Self-Employed:** Friday 25 March. Box office: 020 8369 5454.



Letters to the Editor

Challenge these charges

Dear Editor,

The February edition of *THE ARCHER* reported that CPZ charges are to be increased from 1 April 2011. The impact will be severe. For example, any CPZ resident who has a daily child-minder or carer will be paying over £1,000 in charges per annum for visitors' vouchers.

The aim of these new charges is to increase revenue from CPZ residents to pay for road maintenance across the borough of Barnet. This seems grossly discriminatory to a small minority (perhaps only 3.5%). A number of residents, therefore, attended the Cabinet Meeting on 14 February.

The meeting was a fiasco. We submitted questions in advance and councillors had written answers that did not answer the questions. They claimed not to know, for example, how many residents in Barnet live in CPZs. They claimed there had been a full public consultation since 8 December. There was no mention of the e-petition with 4,000+ signatures against the charges. They claimed there has been a fully comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on how the new charges affect vulnerable groups, for example, women, the elderly and disabled. The committee then went on to approve the new charges as from 1 April 2011.

There are a group of residents who are taking up a legal challenge on the matter. Anyone who is concerned about the charges can sign the e-petition at www.gopetition.com/petition/41889.html. Residents can also write to the Local Government Ombudsman via www.lgo.org.uk/ as Barnet has a duty to engage and consult with us appropriately.

Yours faithfully,
Debbie Linton,
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

I can't afford new parking charges

Dear Editor,

I am 90 years old, pay my taxes and receive no benefits after living here for 54 years. This appalling decision to try increasing the charge for me and my friends and families to park outside my own house is detrimental to my wellbeing and standard of life.

The reason us residents required these parking restrictions in the first place was to stop commuters parking in our streets all day, not as a way of the council generating money, which it does not invest in Barnet but other countries' banks that have now gone bust.

Please, Barnet Council, reverse your plans as I cannot afford to pay them.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs A L Reed,
Park Hall Rd, N2.

Unjustifiable rise in parking charges

Dear Editor,

Barnet Council has really excelled itself with its proposed increase in the cost of parking outside our own homes. It must think that its residents are a milch cow to be milked continuously and that we will meekly pay up! Unfortunately, all too often we have no choice and will have to do so.

However, they have gone too far with the cost of the Visitors' Parking vouchers which have been increased 400% from £12 a book of 10 vouchers to £48. This increase will affect senior

citizens in particular, many of whom do not have cars, but still need a supply of these vouchers for their visitors, whether they be family members, workmen or professionals like District Nurses etc.

Cllr Brian Coleman complains that residents in the Suburb are objecting to the price increase, but they are not isolated objectors, residents throughout the Borough are objecting, there is unity amongst us. We particularly object to this increase when (a) only this last week Norman Baker MP the Under Secretary of State for the Department of Transport assured listeners to BBC Radio 4 that there would be no reduction in the funding from his Department to local Councils for the upkeep of roads, despite government cuts elsewhere, and (b) councillors get free parking around the Borough and (c) Cllr Coleman is renowned for his claims for his travel (taxi) expenses - out of our Rates!

Yes, I know these expenses relate to his work with the London Assembly, but don't forget part of OUR Council Tax goes towards the Assembly, so WE are paying for him. While I suspect most of us would expect a realistic increase in the cost of our Residents Parking Charge the proposed 138% increase from £42 to £100 for the first car is not just obscene: it is immoral and cannot be justified. Think again Barnet.

Yours faithfully,
Joyce Arram
Summerlee Gardens, N2

Editor's note: East Finchley's three ward councillor's have waived their right to free parking.

Disproportionate increases

Dear Editor,

The proposed increases to CPZ charges across Barnet are disproportionate. The cost of residents' parking permits will increase from £40 to £100 for the first car, and from £70 to £170 for the second car. Furthermore, a single visitors' voucher will increase 400% from £1 each to £4 each.

Any residents who have day-care, whether elderly or for young children, will have to pay an extra £4 a day, on top of paying extra for anyone else who may come to visit them by car that day. The price for parking each year could easily run into £100s if not £1,000s extra a year for some residents.

There is an on-line petition against these proposals. If 7,000 people provide signatures across Barnet this is the threshold to force a dedicated debate of the council. Please make time to sign this if you are against the increased parking charges at www.gopetition.com/petition/41889.html

Yours faithfully,
Dr D Linton,
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

Only one way to save Stanley Field

Dear Editor,

I have been involved in the effort to save the Stanley Road Playing Field since I moved into East Finchley in 2006. Furthermore I am an academic expert in game theory. I believe that the stated intention of Barnet Council to sell the playing field is largely the consequence of our incorrect strategy to save it.

The logic of our political system is straightforward: East Finchley is a solid Labour ward, we are not part of the calculus of the Conservative Party

**Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",
The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 8JA or e-mail
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.

to retain power in Barnet. Furthermore they are committed to saving money for the Borough.

It appears that the only way to save the field is to present a viable business plan that involves sports rather than housing. However, the recent decision of the council to sell the field reflects the fact that the most lucrative use of the field is selling it off for housing. Furthermore the Conservative Party rejects a "business as usual" attitude which in previous times would have led to a decision to save the field for sports.

However, all hope is not lost: the council is committed to providing top services to all residents of the borough, regardless of whether they vote for the Conservative Party. They cannot appear to be following the above-mentioned logic of our political system, nor can they appear to care more about balancing the books than about the right of our children to play.

And precisely because the logic which dictates a sale for residential development is locally binding, the field can be saved only through big events that bring national attention to their contradictions in public policy.

If this approach were pursued vigorously in the next few months there would be a reasonable chance to save our field for our children.

Yours faithfully,
Dr Robert Samuel Simon
London School of Economics
London, WC2A.

Don't bring the curtain down on FYT

Dear Editor,

As a proud former member of Finchley Youth Theatre (FYT), I am deeply upset with the proposed changes to such an important institution. Having attended FYT since the age of 15, and leaving only this year to pursue a university course in the arts, I cannot imagine an East Finchley without the young thriving artistic community it has rightfully gained.

FYT is not only a theatre group but also a means of support and guidance for the young community. What sets FYT apart from other theatre groups is its work with young disabled people: weekly drama and dance workshops are held, often leading to a showcase at the end of term for parents and friends. These groups allow participants to socialise and express themselves creatively and give parents a chance to meet other parents in similar situations: in turn creating a supportive community.

What's more, once a year the FYT community all pulls together to create a spectacular full-scale show. Past performances have included West Side Story in which a cast of 60 students performed, 15 of whom were young disabled people. FYT's pioneering inclusive work reflects its identity as a community. Unfortunately, this community is at risk of disintegration.

Yours faithfully,
Megan Fellows,
Address supplied.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Tick-box religion

By Alison Stein

Around 25 million households in England and Wales will shortly receive their census forms, with the option either to fill in the paper forms or to complete them online. Nearly all the questions are compulsory but one is optional: the question about religion.

In 2001 respondents were asked: "What is your religion?" 72% responded "Christian." Where's the harm in that, you ask? Well, as leading questions go it's not blatant, but it presupposes that we all have a religion.

What's more, the high percentage of people who ticked the "Christian" box, set against falling church attendance and evidence from other surveys on belief and practice, suggests that the data included not only fully-fledged believers, but also people with a vague cultural affiliation; for example, people who were brought up in a particular religion but no longer believe in it, or those who think "I don't go to church but I was baptised as a baby so perhaps I should tick the 'Christian' box."

Misleading data

The result is that the question has produced data that massively overestimates the religiosity of people in this country. This same data is used by the authorities and others to justify an exaggerated focus on religion in public policy; for example, the creation of more faith schools and the sub-contracting of social services to religious providers. And guess what? The same biased question will be reused in this month's 2011 census.

How do we know the numbers are wrong? Well, virtually all other reputable opinion polls say so. Consider, for instance, the latest British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA) published earlier this year but conducted in 2009. When the BSA asked the non-leading question, "Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?" 50.7% of those surveyed claimed to be non-religious. Only 43.7% said they were Christian, while the remaining 5% belonged to non-Christian religions.

Humanists, who are non-religious but have strong ethical beliefs, face a dilemma when it comes to answering the census question on religion. For the 2011 census the British Humanist Association is urging anyone who is not religious to tick the "No Religion" box. If they and other non-religious people choose this option, the data produced by this census may be less distorted. This may reduce the number of situations where, based on inaccurate statistics, local councils and central Government give undue weight to religious interests, and too little to genuine community cohesion and equal treatment under the law for believers and non-believers alike. More information is available at www.census-campaign.org.uk.

Klages Plumbing & Heating Agency LTD.

CONTACT TELEPHONE No: 020 8346 7218 / 8636

KLAGE

A NAME IN PLUMBING FOR OVER 40 YEARS

AP Exclusive in the UK to:
Gentlemen's Barbers
CRAZY BULL Hair Products
"You deserve the right
to have beautiful & stylish hair every day"
50 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9PJ
t: 0203 441 8048

Eastfinchleyclinic
Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk
East Finchley Clinic
2-3 Bedford Mews
Bedford Road
London N2 9DF
020 8883 5888
FAX: 020 8444 8874



Shoes, Trainers, Sandals, Bags and Luggage

Complete Repair Service by a craftsman
Same day if required

Key Cutting

1 Manor Park Rd. N2, behind 88 Church Lane, opposite Trinity Church
Tel: 07956 329 150 Open 12-7pm

THE ARCHER

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk

By Adam Justice-Mills

Mad March is here, with everything in the garden springing up, clocks springing forward and fuel prices climbing skywards. How to keep those bills down?

It always takes me a couple of days to adjust to the new time: the last clocks I do are the central heating and the car clock. Adjusting central heating timers to when we're actually in the house (and lowering the thermostat, of course) makes significant savings on heating bills. With care, we can dry laundry outside for the first time in ages, saving on tumble dryer costs (and electricity consumption and CO₂). By April, we might not need heating at all, most days.

We don't use our car every day but it's too old to be fuel-efficient and too young for the scrappage scheme, so I need to be careful when I use it. I've started putting in a fixed quantity of fuel which, as the cost goes up and up, makes me fill up more often, highlighting my fuel use.

I'm also learning to drive to save: easy on the throttle and anticipating to reduce braking. I'm cycling to work again, so that helps too. Some cars can convert to "green" fuel but bio-ethanol is going to be a long-term problem because of the water-to-grain-to-ethanol issue. A quarter of the annual 400 million tonnes of grain from the US already goes on bio-fuel, so it's not really sustainable. Electric cars might help and I'm looking into that.

Spring's a great time for gardens and this year we've got some plants from last year's seeds coming up. Seed swaps are fun and excess seeds get used locally, where they're likely to survive. I've been working with a group making a forest garden over the winter. For now, I'm watching my willow "fedge" sprouting and looking forward to foraging fun in summer.

Troy Boy

Review by Angela Anderson

If you like puns, head for The Gatehouse in Highgate Village to see *Troy Boy* directed by Kit Hesketh-Harvey, using his own translation of Offenbach's *La Belle Helene*.

The title of the musical sets the tone for jokes like "He's Homer-phobic" and "Don't worry, Achilles, that scratch will soon heal".

The lively action for *Troy Boy* begins in suburban England where the beautiful Helen is fed up with her very boring husband. A trip to the local Greek restaurant and an encounter with the handsome waiter from Troy leads to Helen and Menelaus being transported to live with the gods and goddesses in ancient Faliraki and the story of Helen and Paris told.

The Merry Opera Company is a new company which aims to make opera accessible and fun. I particularly enjoyed the performances by Anthony Flaum as Orestes, played as a streetwise, lascivious wide boy and Marcin Gesla as Agamemnon, who had a wonderful rich deep baritone voice and a commanding presence.

Musical director Stephen Hose, playing keyboard, leads five musicians playing cello, violin, clarinet, flute, viola and saxophone. Their spirited 19th century café-style perfectly complements the singing.

Kit Hesketh-Harvey is largely known for his work with Kit & The Widow and regular panel appearances on Radio 4's Just A Minute, but

he has been adapting, writing and translating since 1988. His quick wit and humour are evident throughout the production. *Troy Boy* runs till 5 March at Upstairs at The Gatehouse in Highgate Village. For information, telephone 020 8340 3488 or visit www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com

THE ARCHER needs a volunteer distributor for Brim Hill

(159 papers)

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net

The cast of *Wind in the Willows*, another hit for Create. Photo by Michael Cronshaw.

The Wind in the Willows

Review by Isobel and Grace Cronshaw, aged 11 and nine

The Create Theatre School put on its latest performance *The Wind in the Willows* on 6 February and the Finchley Youth Theatre was packed to witness a great show. With perfect casting of 40 children aged between three and 12, and the woodland characters we love, including Toad, Ratty, Mole, and Badger, it was filled with good songs and great singing.

We particularly liked the cleverly hidden microphones that added real punch to the tuneful vocals. A lot of thought had gone into the production. The scenery and costumes were very professional, and when Mole got lost in the Wild Wood a couple of snow machines provided a realistic wintry blast.

Our favourite scene was the trial of Toad. When he was found guilty the entire court burst into song with the verdict ("Twenty Years!") and pointed the way to prison. We also enjoyed the stoats ("too bad to be in a boy band") who were all dressed like old-fashioned gangsters and added a creepy edge. At one point all the woodland creatures started tap-dancing: not something you see very often in Cherry Tree Wood.

After the hit performance, we managed to grab an interview with Maddie (Mole), Niva (Badger), and Sona (Otter). They told us that they were doing four performances, had been practising for about five months (wow!), and that they got their parents to help them learn their lines.

We also thought that the raffle in the interval for the East Finchley Bobath Centre, which raised more than £310,

was a great idea (and not just because we won a prize!). For more information go to www.createtheatreschool.co.uk.

STEWART DUNCAN

OPTICIANS, SINCE 1962

- EYE EXAMINATIONS
- DESIGNER EYEWEAR
- CONTACT LENSES
- LATE NIGHT
- DYSLEXIA CLINIC
- DVLA APPROVED
- OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

020 8883-2020

126 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY



SECUREBASE

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Est 1988

CCTV
Access Control
Intercom Systems
Intruder Alarms
Locks Doors
Safes Grilles



+ EMERGENCY LOCKSMITHS

WHY NOT HAVE
A FREE ALARM SURVEY

Your Security Problems Solved!



020 8442 0660

112 High Rd • East Finchley • London N2

www.securebase.co.uk

ACTIVE CHIROPRACTIC HEALTHCARE CLINIC

"I'M IN PAIN"
CAN CHIROPRACTIC HELP ME?

We are often asked "What's the best way of finding out whether a Doctor of Chiropractic can help my problem?" We believe the answer can be found in a complete Consultation and Examination, including X-rays, if appropriate. Procedures that at our clinic normally cost £100 or more.

For a limited period we will complete a full Consultation Examination, X-rays (if necessary) and a full Report of our Findings - All for £20.

OFFER PRICE £20
Expiry date 15th March 2011

YOUR INITIAL VISIT WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ A private consultation
- ✓ X-rays, if necessary
- ✓ A thorough spinal examination including orthopaedic and neurological tests
- ✓ A confidential report of our findings
- ✓ An explanation of our treatment procedures if we determine Chiropractic care can help you
- ✓ A referral to the appropriate specialist if we determine Chiropractic care cannot help you

To make the most of this limited time special offer call us TODAY on:

020 8444 0666
www.activechiropractic.org.uk
98 High Road East Finchley London N2 9EB