



Open house at the Phoenix

Free behind-the-scenes tours will take place at the Phoenix Cinema as part of Open House London, on Sunday 18 September from 10am-12.45pm, along with a free screening at 2pm looking at the work of local film pioneers.

Birt Acres, inventor of one of the first film cameras and an early projector, held Britain's first public film screening in Barnet. Robert Paul, another inventor and a key pioneer in British film-making, set up the country's first film studio in Muswell Hill.

Off Oak Lane in East Finchley were the larger premises of the British and Colonial Company, one of the top British production companies at the time. It released several series of popular films about adventurers such as female thief Three-Fingered Kate and dashing naval hero Lieutenant Daring. A rival company, Big Ben, had a studio occupying part of nearby Alexandra Palace from which it issued its own exciting films.

Film academic and Phoenix Cinema trustee Gerry Turvey says: "All this activity and more, suggests film-makers in the general catchment area of The Phoenix, itself under construction in 1910, played a major part in helping to establish the British film industry."

Turvey, along with noted film academic Ian Christie, will be present at the screening to introduce the films and answer questions from the audience. Booking for the free tours and screening is essential. Call the box office on 020 8444 6789. For more information visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/education/heritage/from-the-archives/



By Adam Justice-Mills

Last month saw the worst and best behaviour I've seen in London. It's still with me as I write this. I dislike moralising: being "the first to cast a stone" would be hypocritical and rather ironic. However, rampant consumerism must have influenced the decisions people made to steal what they wanted: electronic goods, designer clothes but not books or (much) food. Unthinking, uncaring of consequences, selfish, rapacious, devastating.

Then came the amazing heart-warming local community response to the aftermath: donating goods and services, voluntary clean-ups, sharing homes, remonstrating and standing up for what's right. Generous, mindful, creative, energising, cooperative. In bringing people together with a common purpose, what permanent positive changes will this have? There are parallels with how our day-to-day buying decisions can affect the local and global environment, directly or indirectly.

Last year I wrote about over-buying and waste management. This year there's a real possibility of two-weekly rubbish collections, charging for household waste tipping and the collapse of the waste disposal market (for lack of commercial places to put it). This could lead to an increase in fly-tipping and littering, but it would be great if the community response to waste was as effective as that following the riots.

Clearly it takes a lot to get the majority of people even to voice opposition to wrong thinking, let alone change the ways of life they are used to. That's why there are scare stories about climate change: people who want change to happen try to motivate us through visions of the apocalypse. That doesn't really alter what we do.

Small acts of random kindness; thoughtfully choosing what we actually need; returning unnecessary packaging to sender; disposing of all waste appropriately: we can all do that. When we do it together, it makes a real difference, locally and long-term.

Phoenix is tops

Congratulations to the Phoenix Cinema, which featured at the top of a list for the best independent cinemas in London by Time Out magazine.



Electricity in the making. Photo by Ian Cormack

Switch on to sunlight

By Diana Cormack

Rooftops have recently reached the top of my interest list. Instead of peering into gardens and windows when I'm out and about, my eyes are raised to higher things. It's not that I've developed a fascination for chimney styles or types of tiling, but because I'm on the lookout for solar panels.

A few months ago I didn't know that these can vary in size, style and function. Basically there are two types: those for solar water heating, which can provide around a third of your hot water needs over a year, and solar photovoltaics (PV) which use the sun's energy to produce electricity. PVs help run your household electrical appliances and lighting and any excess power is sold back to the National Grid via your electricity supplier.

My roof gazing resulted from having installed solar photovoltaic panels earlier this year. It was my husband's idea, but not one that got off the ground very quickly. As well as cost being a big consideration, I was put off and disappointed by the first company we encountered. If you have ever endured a window replacement pitch, with the price dropping after each phone call to the office, you will know what I mean.

So I consulted *THE ARCHER's* "green" writer Adam Justice-Mills, who put us in touch with the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group. Along with other useful information, they provided contact details of companies used by members.

Cosy roof

means smaller loft

We had the roof renewed simultaneously so lost some loft space due to present insulation requirements, but local charity shops and Freecycle benefited from this. Adam would be proud of us! (See July *ARCHER*, page 12) Dermot Barnes, managing director of the locally based supplier of energy saving products and services who installed our system, said: "This is a great example of a small step which we should all be taking to reduce our energy bills and help the environment. The combination of insulation and renewable energy is crucial."

New housing plan for hospital site

Camden and Islington NHS Trust has decided to sell the site of St Luke's Hospital, Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill.

A group of local residents have set up a social enterprise, the North London Sustainable Housing Partnership, which aims to use the site to provide sustainable housing for a mixed inter-generational community.

The plan is to support localism and community cohesion through an age mix including over-50s and under-50s, allowing 'downsizers' and 'empty nesters' to remain in their local community, along with younger people leaving home and people finding themselves in changed circumstances.

A mixed-income community could be supported by the provision of a range of housing with a choice of tenures

including accommodation to rent. Its built form would comply with high-energy efficiency standards.

The community would follow Co-Housing principles and residents would share some resources, for example car sharing, appliance sharing, shared spaces.

In order to explain the project and hear the views of the local community a public meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 September at 7.30pm at Muswell Hill Friends' Meeting House, Church Crescent, N10 3NE. Ideas enabling provision of additional kinds of community use, such as a café, health clinic, after-schools club and affordable workspace, are very welcome.

**All Saints' Church, Durham Road,
East Finchley
Church of England
(a Grade II Listed Building)
is celebrating**

The 100th Anniversary of the Completion of the Church

Sunday 9th October 2011

Pontifical Mass at 10.00 a.m.

The Bishop of Edmonton
to preside and preach,
followed by refreshments.

Open Day

Saturday 22nd October 2011

including photograph displays.
Do come and view our beautiful building.

Refreshments will be served all day.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>