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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Christmas Festival is on its way

It's back! The High Road will echo to the sound of sleigh bells again and there'll be man-made snow (who knows, perhaps even the real thing too) for the second East Finchley Christmas Festival, which promises entertainment and fun for everyone.

Father Christmas, real reindeer, a dog show, stalls, live music, a snow machine, food, entertainment, dance, our regular French market and indoor activities in the Bobath Centre are all promised in this year's line-up.

The date of the festival is Saturday 7 December, running from 9.30am to 5pm, so get it in your diaries and come along on the day to enjoy what's on offer.

Like last year, there will be a stage with activities and entertainment ranging from children's story-telling to a brass band, carol singing and a Christmas disco.

Father Christmas will be on hand to meet and greet people and as a special treat he's bringing along two of his reindeer to the High Road.

Roger Chapman, one of the organisers from the East Finchley Community Trust, said: "The second East Finchley Christmas festival promises to be bigger and better than last year."

More activities are being planned including fireworks (if the health and safety aspect can be sorted out). Celebrities have been invited so keep an eye out for further news. *THE ARCHER* will be posting updates on Facebook and Twitter in the run-up to the festival. Follow us @TheArcherN2.

How to help

If you want to get involved with preparations or helping on the day, the organising team is holding fortnightly meetings. Contact them on 07983 360834 or email: eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Any donations of funds would also be gratefully received as the team is having to make extra financial commitments this year to make the second festival one to remember.

Tube trouble

By Janet Maitland
Officers from British Transport Police were called to two separate incidents at East Finchley station on 4 October.

At about 2.45pm, a man threw a metal object through the station officer's office window and smashed the glass. When police arrived they searched the area and collected evidence, but no one was arrested.

Later in the afternoon a man took his bicycle onto a train. When he was told by station staff that bikes aren't allowed on the tube, he refused to leave the carriage and the police were called.

The man left the train when British Transport Police officers arrived. They spoke to him and no further action was taken. The train was delayed for eight minutes.



Children enjoying the festival. Photo by Cathy Young

One big question for The Grange

By Cathy Young
How would you spend £1 million? That's the question that visitors to the Grange Big Local Community Festival were asked in person last month.

Over 300 people from the surrounding area attended the event on the green between the High Road and Oak Lane. They were treated to a martial arts demonstration from the East Finchley Combat Academy in Church Lane, live music in the Ann Owens Centre and for the children there was a bouncy castle, face painting and a circus skills workshop. All this, and free pizza too!

But the main focus of the event for the organisers was the questionnaire to find out how local people would spend the £1million grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Big Local programme. More than 288 were completed.

Continued on page 3

Parking refunds

A reminder to everyone eligible for controlled parking zone refunds that refunds are not automatic and you have to apply. Find advice on <http://barnetcpz.blogspot.co.uk>




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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.

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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 7484950
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

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Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
BarnDoc	0300 033 3777
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

Age UK	020 820 35040
Contact (N2)	020 8432 1415

Crime

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CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900
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Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

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Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

14 Baronsmere Road, N2

Single-storey side extension

7 Church Lane, N2

Change of use from A1 (Shops) to D2 (Assembly and Leisure)

246 Creighton Avenue, N2

Roof extension, including rear dormer window, with four roof lights to front, side and rear, to facilitate loft conversion. Single-storey rear extension. First floor side extension.

256 East End Road, N2

Roof extension, including one front roof light and side/rear dormer, to facilitate loft conversion.

24 Greenhalgh Walk, N2

Single-storey side extension. Garage conversion to habitable space, including raised roof height. Replacing rear roof light with dormer. Replacing side and rear doors and windows. Internal alterations. Altering front garden, including new hard standing.

27 Gurney Drive, N2

Single-storey rear extension. French doors to existing rear bay window. Altering ground floor side fenestration. Roof extension, including one rear dormer, to facilitate loft conversion.

66 Heath View, N2

Replacing rear window with French doors.

60 Lankaster Gardens, N2

Amendment to previous permission. Replacing roof light with front dormer.

97 Leslie Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Lime Tree Court, East End Road, N2

Partial demolition of existing wall, and replacing with "like for like".

383 Long Lane, N2 ("Dick Turpin")

Amendment to previous permission. Clear glazing to existing windows, and two additional rear windows.

55 Norrice Lea, N2

Single-storey extension into inner

courtyard.

16 Oakview Gardens, N2

Amendment to previous permission. Alterations to front fenestration.

39 Park Hall Road, N2

Additional two front roof lights and one rear dormer, to facilitate previously granted loft conversion.

1 and 2 Red Lion Hill, N2

First floor rear extension and four new roof lights to sides.

Haringey Council

5 Beech Drive, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Two rear dormers. Conversion of garage into habitable room. Addition of front porch. Two front roof lights. New crossover/vehicle access.

26 Springcroft Avenue, N2

Rear ground floor infill extension. Rear first floor partial width extension. Mansard roof and rear dormers. Two front roof lights.

Bishop Douglass Christmas party

The Bishop Douglass Christmas party this year will be held on Thursday 12 December from 5pm. All East Finchley residents who are over 65 are welcome and you should book your place without delay.

As usual, you will be welcomed with a glass of sherry by Year 10 students and enjoy a three-course meal followed by carol singing and entertainment by pupils and staff. Games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus will round off the evening.

Transport can be provided for those who need it. To book your place, just phone 020 8883 0433 and leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

Pharmacies to give flu vaccine

NHS England has launched a new community pharmacy initiative that will see over 1,100 pharmacies across London working together to provide free NHS flu vaccinations free of charge to at-risk groups this winter.

CW Andrew in the High Road is one of the pharmacies taking part in this new service, which is designed to make the vaccine more accessible to patients, and to those not registered with a GP.

Sanjay Patel, spokesperson for the Local Pharmaceutical Committees in London, said: "Through this community pharmacy initiative we hope to support the work being done to reduce pressures on A&E departments and to help the NHS help vulnerable people

with underlying medical conditions stay healthy this winter."

Seasonal flu can cause great distress to many people living and working in London and it is hoped that this scheme will increase the uptake of seasonal flu vaccination. As well as increased immunising, this programme ensures all the patient clinical data is securely and confidentially transferred to relevant GPs within a few days.

For the full list of participating pharmacies, visit www.myhealth.london.nhs.uk

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Cash boost for Avenue House

The future continues to improve for Avenue House. Barnet Council has awarded a £250,000 grant to the Avenue House Estate Trust, to be paid in three annual instalments between 2013 and 2016. This will unlock £1.9 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to be used to improve the outbuildings and grounds.

The grounds of this historic manor house in East End Road form one of Barnet's loveliest parks. House and grounds were bequeathed to the people of Finchley by Henry Stephens, founder of Stephens Ink, but less than five years ago the whole estate seemed to be unsustainable.

Andy Savage, Chairman of Avenue House Trust, said: "The support from the borough, along with the Heritage Lottery Fund grants, and money contributed directly by the Avenue House Estate Trust and its supporters, will enable us to carry out major improvements to the grounds and the out-buildings over the next three years."

The project includes restoring the landscape in the grounds, the grade 2 listed water tower (on the at-risk register of English Heritage) and stables block, refurbishing the children's playground and improving the entrances to the estate. The total cost of the project is £3.1 million.

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High Road charity shop ransacked in second raid

By Janet Maitland

The North London Hospice charity shop on the High Road has been burgled for the second time this year. When Eugenia the manager arrived at the shop at 7.45am on 4 October she found that the door had been smashed in and the shop ransacked.

"I can't tell you how distressed I was," said Eugenia. "They took everything of value. We had eight or nine watches that had been checked by a jeweller and they stole the lot. And we had some nice electrical goods on a shelf in the back office that were just waiting to be inspected by an electrician and they took all those as well.

"They'd overturned everything, even pulling out things from under the sink, from the fridge, from the place where we keep the tea towels, presumably looking for hiding places for money. They left by the back door. They'd stolen so much they couldn't get back through the broken glass on the front door. It's just so depressing.

"The volunteers often get here at seven in the morning

and don't leave until eight in the evening, so that we can make the shop look as nice as possible for customers, and the burglars just didn't care. But I've worked here for 21 years and I don't intend to stop now. We're going to keep going despite everything."

Evidence and information

The police are investigating the burglary and have taken forensic evidence. Three of the charity's shops were also broken into, in the same week, in March: the East Finchley, Muswell Hill and Wood Green branches.

If you have any information about any of these burglaries, please call the police on 101. If you want to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Fun with the firemen. Photo by Stephen Rangold

Weather emergency at street party

By Jacky Wood

With blazing days to choose from, Cherry Tree Road managed to schedule their street party on 15 September, the most miserable Sunday we've seen this summer. In defiance of the weather forecast, bunting and trestle tables were erected, only to thrash and drip in the wind and rain.

There was nothing for it but to move the whole lot indoors so "Saintly Sara" threw her house open to the burger bar, buffet, booze, face painting and talent show. It was a bit of a squeeze, and heaven knows what state her floor and furnishings were in afterwards, but it was a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and past residents and everyone had a good time.

A fire engine made a good-will call which delighted the kids, and even had a couple of the older ladies eyeing up the firemen. Thank you, Sara, for turning a disaster into a celebration.



Organisers were keen to get the views of adults.

Photo by Cathy Young

The Grange: One big question

Continued from page 1

The money is for local projects centred on the Grange but also for the wider area between Church Lane and Tarling Road and over to the Thomas More estate alongside East End Road.

Local feedback is vital to the project. "The next steps are to run a competition for young people... and to get young peo-

ple's views on what they think is needed to make the area an even better place to live in," explained Paul Bragman of the Grange Big Local Project.

So if you want a say in developing the Big Local plan for the area, or just want to find out more, visit

www.communityregen.net.

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Former staff of Martin School, happy to be back at the reunion tea party. Photo by Erini Rodis

Back through the old school gates

By Ann Bronkhorst

This year the Martin school has been exploring its past and accumulating an archive of documents, photos and stories. There's a whole century to be explored and, as deputy head John Pickering said on 7 October, the next 100 years may bring other remarkable changes.

He was sharing some of the school's history at an afternoon gathering in a hall festooned with balloons. Tea, home-made cakes, walkabouts and reminiscences were enjoyed by people who'd had a connection with the school, most as pupils, teachers or parents.

Memories

Some could recall the 1940s (school milk delivered by horse and cart, the wartime plane that crashed on the allotments, the air-raid shelters) and some had vivid memories of individuals (the children who died from polio, the naughty boys, the friends).

A group of teachers from the 1970s and 1980s looked in on their old staffroom and reminisced about pupils and colleagues. They remembered warm, supportive relationships between staff but a firm divide between those working in the 'Infants' and those in the 'Juniors'.

The schools were separated in 1943 and reunited in 2007,

changes mirrored in the structural alterations that have taken place over time. Internal walls have been removed to create larger spaces, age groups have swapped base rooms and new buildings are appearing as the Martin School expands.

Party time

Visitors were welcomed again on the evening of 11 October with music, refreshments and a party atmosphere. John Pickering thanked the Centenary Committee and others who'd worked hard on the get-togethers, research and displays. "We've learned a lot about the school over the last year or two," he said.

Many of the findings were shown in striking, very professional wall-displays. In one of these, Michael Elliott, a pupil from 1935-1941, spotted a photo of the teacher who'd given him "not a boring book but a chocolate speedboat!"

Children's own work, too, reflected the centenary. 'The Ultimate Year 6 Guide: 100

things to do before you are 12' was one of many imaginative displays in corridors and classrooms. Curious and nostalgic visitors explored freely, rediscovering what ex-nursery teacher Angela Zambito (nee Moraitou) called "this lovely school". She recalled international lunches produced with parents' help and "the richness and variety of children from a wide range of backgrounds".

If you missed these reunions, come to the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 14 December, 12-3pm. As well as fun and games for children (Santa's been invited) and plenty to buy, there'll be a 'centenary corner' where former pupils, staff and parents can meet once more: a fitting roundup to the Centenary Year.

Changes for Stanley Field

The development of the Archer Academy's Stanley Road campus has moved up a gear with the planning application being submitted to Barnet Council.

As reported previously in *THE ARCHER*, the sale of the field was dependent on agreeing a deed of dedication safeguarding at least 60% of the site for sport and recreation use by the whole community.

Roger Chapman, who's led Sport East Finchley in negotiations about the future of the field and is on the Board of the Academy, told us that the Deed of Dedication was currently with lawyers, and he would be having further discussions with Fields in Trust, the organisation that protects sports sites for the community even when the ownership of them changes hands.

Roger also told us that the bid for funding the sports facilities had been submitted to the London Marathon Charitable Trust. A decision on this is expected in November or early December.

Local views and questions

The Academy's plans for Stanley Field include the con-

struction of new school buildings, as well as sports facilities which will be available for use by local people when not in use by the school.

The Academy has been asking for feedback from local residents and other interested parties, prior to the council planning meeting on 18 December.

Avis Johns, the school's chair of governors, said: "We've got a lot of information on our website and we're happy to answer any questions people may have, so please get in touch with us if you would like to know more."

The planning application can be viewed at www.barnet.gov.uk (reference number F/04475/13) or by going to Barnet House in Whetstone. The deadline for commenting on the plans is 7 November but further information can be found at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk

Our 1% library

By Daphne Chamberlain

In September, Barnet Council announced that we can now enjoy Wi-Fi internet access and self-service facilities in 99% of our libraries. Councillor Robert Rams greeted the news as "fantastic", saying, "The council is absolutely committed to adapting our libraries to meet the demands of the ever evolving habits of the modern day visitor."

Unfortunately, East Finchley will have to wait a little longer to meet these demands, as our library is the only one without these facilities. A council spokesperson told *THE ARCHER*: "East Finchley Library is a listed

building, and we are working closely with the heritage planning officer in Barnet, and with English Heritage, to develop a solution which will enable us to introduce Wi-Fi and self-service kiosks without altering the fabric of the building. This takes time, but we are making progress, and hope to have a detailed timetable for implementation very soon. It is not possible to simply amend the current counter, and to do so would require English Heritage approval."

Once self-service is installed, people will be able to borrow, renew or return books by using touch screens. Staff will be around to help.

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



Breast screening to return to Finchley Memorial Hospital

By Linda Sansom

Normal service was due to resume this month for breast screening patients at Finchley Memorial Hospital following the sudden suspension of the service, which caused anger and confusion locally.

Problems with the site at the newly-opened hospital meant that the service, one of a number of mobile units in north London, was relocated temporarily to St. Michael's Hospital in Enfield. This meant a journey of up to two hours by bus for some patients from East Finchley, Finchley and Golders Green. Some were concerned this could deter many local women from attending routine breast screening appointments.

Local access crucial

East Finchley Labour councillor Alison Moore said: "Barnet had only just reached the national standard of 70 % or more of women between 54 and 70 screened for breast cancer, and my concern is that reducing the number of screening units available in the borough will mean that good work is undone.

"For every 500 women screened one life will be saved, so it is crucial that we get back local access to breast screening

at Finchley Memorial."

Power supply problems

A spokesperson for NHS England told *THE ARCHER* that the service had been removed as part of a rotation programme, but problems with the power supply had prevented its return to the hospital site.

After discussions with the ministerial team at the Department of Health, and the North London Breast Screening Service, Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer was assured that the service would be back at the hospital in November.

He said: "The funding was in place, but there have been logistical problems with the site. They are now resolved. NHS England unfortunately didn't notify stakeholders including myself, which has led to more confusion than there should have been. I am pleased these issues are now rectified and this vital local service will be returning to Finchley Memorial Hospital."



Harriet Copperman presents the quince while Roger Chapman presses the apples. Photo Diana Cormack

Apple harvest gets juices flowing

By Sheila Armstrong

A cold but sunny morning in early October saw the friends and supporters of East Finchley Abundance celebrate this year's apple harvest. You couldn't miss the event if you were on the High Street near Budgens. Apples were crushed, then pressed, thanks to the loan of Martin School's apple pressing equipment. EFA had collected a lot of apples and people also brought their own apples along to be turned into juice

The resulting apple juice was delicious and enthusiastically sampled by passing shoppers. There were also apple cakes and scones and recipes for apple snow, apple puree, apple fritters, with apples and quinces to take away. It has been a good year for quinces too as well as apples.

There was a lot of speculation in the press about this year's apple harvest, reminding us that the spring we had this year was the coldest for 50 years. But after our good summer, with high day temperatures and relatively low night ones, apples have generally matured well with high colour. The really good news for consumers is that the good acid/sugar ratio this

year gives a superior taste. The fruit was about 3 weeks late getting into the supermarkets but it was considered well worth the wait.

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Joel is a qualified counsellor based in East Finchley.

Contact Joel on 07787 226 376 or email kornjoel@hotmail.com www.2-life.co.uk

Art fair at TreeHouse

East Finchley artists are getting ready for the East Finchley Open Art Fair at TreeHouse School in Woodside Avenue on Sunday 24 November from 11am to 5pm.

Around 30 artists, EFO members and guests will be selling a selection of art including ceramics, jewellery, glass, prints, photographs and paintings. Visitors will also be able to buy greetings cards designed by TreeHouse pupils with the help of EFO member Caitlin Smail.



Left to right, EFO artist Caitlin Smail with Monika and Naomi, from the Tree House School art department, and their pupils' card designs. Photo by Mike Coles

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Heavenly music at our own arts festival in the heart of East Finchley

By Ken Carter

As dusk fell each night in late September and early October, the sound of music illuminated All Saints Church in Durham Road, where the acoustics once impressed Benjamin Britten.

The 2013 Arts Festival opened with youth and adventure from Philip Dutton and the fellow students of his own Rénatus chamber orchestra. Their music danced to Dvorak's tuneful *Serenade* and Janacek's early *Suite*; then jiggled us alert with Geoffrey Hanson's joyous new *Accord*. Milos Milivojevic slapped and squeezed his accordion to this with a spring in his step and melodies tucked up his sleeve.

Under the fingers of distinguished local resident Jennifer



Classical accordionist Milos Milivojevic playing Geoffrey Hanson's new work *Accord for Accordion*, with the Rénatus Orchestra.



The Haydn Chamber Orchestra enjoy rapturous applause for their performance of Mozart, Stravinsky and Beethoven. All photos by Marian Harris

Bate, the organ told a terrifying tale in Leon Boëllman's *Suite Gothique* on Sunday. Skilled young talent followed, the choir of All Saints in fact. Their *Beati Quorum Via* [Charles Villiers Stanford] was an utter delight.

Popular group Paprika returned with an uproarious, full-house jamboree of accordions, guitar, violin, bass and percussion. Musicians from Romania, Serbia and the UK banged away in musical stomping, having fun!

On another evening we had 'Four Young Artists'. Steven East has a strange, versatile voice, Marison Lee played with style, Miriam Nerval's recorder solos sounded timeless, distinct, resonant and true. Rebecca Leung, unbelievably only 14, was crisp and skilled in the opening movement of an early Beethoven piano sonata.

Pop-Up Opera were a delight to hear and uproarious to watch. They offered Pergolesi and Mozart snippets, and much

of *Rita*, Donizetti's hilarious one-acter. I fondly remember Cliff Zammit Stevens pacing the auditorium, distributing Kleenex as he gave Italianate voice to his mountain of woes.

Trio Goya took time to settle their instruments in. Kati Debretzni's violin and Sebastian Comberti's cello had to

show restraint if we were to hear the fortepiano of Maggie Cole. The Beethoven Trio in C minor and the second Haydn Trio sparkled brilliantly, though.

Robert Munns delivered a musical panorama from Couperin, born 1668, to Dan Locklair, born 1949, with pride of place going to *Soliloquy*,



Pop Up Opera are all tied up for their evening of aria, duets and ensembles.

Geoffrey Hanson's cherishable exploration of the human spirit, investigated through the various voices of All Saints' rich Victorian organ.

The Haydn Chamber Orchestra visited on the last night. ("It sounds much better here than in the other [church]" declared a follower sitting behind me.) Their performance was incisive and crystal-clear. Thomas Blunt's conducting had relentless, joyous drive. Beethoven's 7th *Symphony* was a performance to remember, and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* overture and Stravinsky's *Dances Concertantes* almost as good.

Arts festival charities say thank you

By Daphne Chamberlain
This year, the East Finchley Arts Festival raised £4,300 to be divided between Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and The Harington Scheme.

This was the reaction from Punyapriya Singh Khednah, community fundraising manager for Noah's Ark: "Wow... that is amazing... Community events such as the arts festival act as a lifeline to local charities. A huge thank you to all those involved. You have not just raised funds, but also valuable awareness".

The Harington Scheme's Joanna Baxter told us: "As a small charity we greatly value local support, and it's fantastic that festival goers have shown such generosity. Many thanks to all involved".

The money came from bucket collections after each event, and from one third of all art sales. Someone very much involved was Pauline Treen, who organised the exhibition of paintings, prints, ceramics, sculpture and jewellery, which was on display throughout the festival. She told us: "As usual, it was of a very high standard, with local and national artists taking part. Hopefully both these charities have acquired new friends as well as vital funds."

Dashing Santas

The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy is organising its annual Santa 5K Dash from Muswell Hill to Crouch End on Saturday 7 December 2013.

You can walk, run or jog the gentle route which starts at the centre and school in Muswell Hill. Runners can see in the festive season looking as cool as Santa while pledging to raise £50 for the charity.

Last year 40 people signed up for the first Dash. This year organisers are hoping it will be bigger and better. Volunteers are also needed to act as marshalls on the day.

For more information contact Daisy Mathebula on daisy@cplondon.org.uk or 020 8444 7242.

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Twenty years of singing

By Valerie Cowan



Club members in full voice. Photo courtesy of Memory Lane Singing Club.

Memory Lane Singing Club recently celebrated 20 years of singing in the community. The club is a registered charity and entertains in Barnet care facilities. The 20th anniversary event in October featured popular medleys of favourite songs, tea and biscuits and a singalong. Mike Freer MP attended. There were 100 guests at the celebration including members of the Alzheimer's Society and residents of several local care homes and day centres, as well as friends and family of the singers.

The therapeutic benefits of singing are well-known. It was great to see the audience singing along with old favourites such as Let's Face the Music and Dance, Sentimental Journey and the Beatles' Ob La Di, Ob La Da.

Find your voice

Memory Lane is based at St Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, but its members come from all over Barnet including East Finchley. The club meets every Friday from 11.30am to 1.30pm under the direction of Linda Perillo, a soprano, who teaches several singing groups in Finchley. Phil Davies accompanies on piano. Singing is ideal for those looking to develop new skills and make new friends. It's a wonderful way for people living alone to have a sense of belonging to the community.

There are no auditions and you don't have to read music. New members are welcome. Come along any Friday for a free taster session. Call Valerie on 020 8458 4508 for more details or email v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk. Visit www.memorylanesingingclub.co.uk

Why drumming is good for the soul

By Nick Young

There is only one person in Britain who runs music classes for people with behavioural and personality disorders. It so happens that he is a resident of East Finchley.

David Naylor has been drumming for over 20 years, during which time he has appeared on BBC TV, played at Glastonbury, recorded alongside many artists and travelled to Cuba to study drumming techniques there.

In the last few years, he has found his role in working with some of the most vulnerable members of society, helping them to express themselves via the medium of drums and percussion.



A conduit for others

"It helps bring peace to the soul," explained David, whose company, EET Music (Enabling Expression Through Music) was established in 2010, several years after he started working as an enabler for teenagers with cerebral palsy. "I wanted to shift from 'self' to 'others'. It's not about me, it's about people."

"I realised that although someone may be restricted in movement or speech by a physical disability or cognitive condition, they may still have a desire and ability to create music or express themselves through music," said David. "What they need is a conduit,

someone to act as a pair of hands or a voice for them to channel their ideas through. I knew that I could be that conduit."

Since establishing EET Music, his work has taken him to the HIV centre in Hammersmith (initially, he had to hire some drums and carry them down there on the Tube) and the Priory Hospital in Roehampton.

Locally, he has worked with pupils at Oak Lodge School off East End Road and has recently started a community drumming group at the CUFOS centre at Alexandra Palace.

For more information, visit David's website www.eetmusic.co.uk.

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Visitors always welcome

MP joins fight to restore Old Barn to the community

By Janet Maitland

MP Mike Freer has joined the battle over the management of the Old Barn in Tarling Road. The management difficulties began when a group of new trustees led by Reverend Geoffrey Muhoro took over the centre following the resignation of the old trustees in 2010.

Soon after, services such as the Monday Club Youth group found themselves homeless. In 2011, nearly 100 local people applied to become members of the Old Barn to ensure the trustees ran the services the community needs, but the applications were not accepted by the new trustees.

AGM fiasco

The Council, Community Barnet and the Charity Commission have all been trying to resolve the issues. When the Charity Commission directed the trustees to hold an AGM so that people from the local community could get involved in the running of the centre, twenty two local residents contacted the Old Barn for membership forms in the run up to the meeting scheduled for 21 July. But a week before the meeting no one had received anything from the trustees.

The Charity Commission

therefore wrote to the trustees to say that the AGM could not go ahead as proper procedures had not been followed. But the trustees ignored this instruction and held an 'AGM' regardless.

Youth losing out

"It is just not acceptable that an organisation pretends to be a community based charity and then excludes the very community in which it is based," said Mr Freer, who has asked for a meeting with the Charity Commission and Community Barnet. Separately, it is understood that the Charity Commission is starting an investigation into the governance of the Old Barn.

"The lack of services for young people is a tragedy," said local resident Will Hudson. "A generation of young people in East Finchley will have grown up with the feeling that they have been left to cope on their own."



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YOUNG ARCHER



The Guides hard at work.

Guides go gardening again

By Toni Dietmann, 4th East Finchley Guides leader

THE ARCHER last reported on 4th East Finchley Guides' guerrilla gardening activities in September 2010. They have been at it again as part of their regular community service on 19 September, turning a disused piece of land in Prospect Ring into a beautiful site ready for the spring.

It all started after a conversation with Kevin O'Gorman, environmental services manager at Barnet Homes, who immediately had the area cleared of rubbish and overgrown bushes.

Having worked with the N2 Gardeners (<http://n2gardeners.blogspot.co.uk/>) near the tube station, the Guides knew who to turn to for advice. Harriet Copperman came to look at the area to suggest suitable plants. The Guides secured high-quality compost from LondonWaste (www.londonwaste.co.uk) and local tree surgeon, Jude (07971 626537), dumped wood chips for mulch

on site the night before the big dig.

Many of the Guides' parents donated plants and bulbs and two mums in particular helped direct the evening, Katalin Aradi and Gillian Rae. In all, 23 Guides dug more than 30 holes for the plants and buried approximately 200 bulbs.

Local support

Over the four weeks spent preparing the site there has been a huge positive response from local residents. The involvement and generosity of people connected with the Guide Unit and strangers alike was heart warming. It shows what can be achieved when a community

pulls together.

The area runs along the side of the Post Office depot and connects Prospect Ring to Market Place. It will be a riot of colour in the spring thanks to the hard work of Georgie, Jasmine, Anna, Annabel, Ella, Miranda, Rina, Amy, Esme, Milana, Ellie, Emily, Laura, Carmela, Izzy, Sophie, Layla, Gaby, Chloe, Zoe, Gili, Annika, and Alice.

(We're very grateful that 4th East Finchley Guides is currently thriving, but sadly it means there are no spaces.)

Tasty new youth club

Young people aged 8 to 13 years will find a warm welcome at the 3rd Space Youth Club run by Barnet Lone Parent Centre. The club runs every Tuesday from 4pm until 5.30pm at the Green Man Community Centre in East Finchley. The club welcomes all local children, not just those from lone parent families.

Everyone enjoys a freshly prepared meal cooked with the help of Natasha, the club's resident chef. The club

encourages young people to try new foods, even Brussels sprouts!

Club favourites include lamb koftas with yoghurt and dill dressing, lemon and herb chicken with green salad and sweet potato wedges. All this is washed down with gallons of freshly blended pineapple and carrot juice.

For those who are more creative Vicki, the club organiser, has art projects on the go. Young people have created gorgeous hand decorated candles, art worked T-shirts and have made personalised Father's day gifts.

Young people who just want to hang out and have fun challenge each other on xBox games, wii or footie in the garden. Winner gets to select a prize from the well-stocked tuck box.

For more information about the 3rd Space Youth Club and Barnet Lone Parent Centre look at www.loneparents.btck.co.uk or call 020 7021 4146

Bat counting in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Putting up bat boxes in Coldfall Wood was a great idea, but who gets the fun job of cleaning them out? Luckily, Cindy Blaney, local bat expert, is happy to be cleaner, census-taker and photographer. Here she is up a tree finding all sorts of bat life (and even bat love, in one box). Preliminary findings



Checking a bat box in Coldfall Wood.

are encouraging: Coldfall's bats, both leislers and pipistrelles, are doing well.

Next month, look out for more information at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Stray cats saved from a cold winter outside

Neighbours in Brackenbury Road were worried that two stray cats found abandoned recently would not survive the winter outside. The brothers, pictured, were found as tiny kittens abandoned in a box.



Neighbours took turns to put out bowls of food and milk, and Spark, the local shop, also gave them milk. One of the cats even befriended a small

dog at one house and they tumbled around together in play. Luckily, as the cold autumn weather started to kick in, the neighbourhood network stepped up a gear and a homeowner in Hamilton Road volunteered to give the brothers a permanent home.



Resident Bev Cohen said: "The cats were always outside, whatever the weather. We often saw them looking for shelter and huddling in doorways and under cars. They were usually hungry and wanting affection and a real home." Looks like they've found it.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ⊙ **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage
- ⊙ **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ⊙ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at east-finchleyncct@googlemail.com
- ⊙ **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com
- ⊙ **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Sajni 8359 3460/Julia 8444 2276
- ⊙ **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- ⊙ **Stepping Stones,** interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.
- ⊙ **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thursdays 9.45am & 10.45am. Liz 07836 284538.

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REFRESHMENTS

School fair

Holy Trinity Primary School is holding its annual fundraising Winter Fair on Saturday 30 November, with all welcome from midday until 2.30pm.

Go along to meet Santa, enjoy many side stalls, games, arts and crafts, buy a ticket for the raffle, feast on delicious food, celebrate a performance from the school choir and much more!



Margaret Crockett, Gail Norcliffe, Diana Cormack, Chris Fuller, Rebecca Hawkes, Sue Love and Linda Sansom know a good read when they see one! Photo by Ian Cormack

Book club travels to Tuscany for 10th birthday

By Diana Cormack

Ten years ago my Cherry Tree Road neighbour Rebecca Hawkes set up a reading group of some women friends. Every summer since we have marked the occasion with a barbecue, a special event as it was the only one to which husbands were invited.

With the approach of our 10th birthday came thoughts of an even more special celebration. During this decade Rebecca and her husband John had acquired a property in Italy and someone suggested it should be the place for us to meet. Our reactions to this varied from silence to laughter then eventually to serious discussion, culminating with us arriving in the Tuscan hilltop town of Massa Marittima on Friday 6 September.

Amazingly we all made it for lunch within about an hour of each other, despite some having flown from Stansted to Pisa that morning, continuing by train or hire car, whilst one couple had driven from the South of France and my husband and I had driven from London!

Medieval Massa

Once we had settled in to our hotel with its fabulous view over the countryside, cars were abandoned and we became familiar with the steep climb

through the medieval streets to the town square. We learned a lot about Massa in a fascinating guided tour by local retired teacher Anna Rita Tiezzi, who had been to one of our meetings in London years before and had even read the book!

Husbands too

And for this particular group meeting our husbands had read the book (they usually do anyway) and were allowed to participate. This made an interesting difference – it couldn't just have been the setting and the wine! They also helped solve a literary quiz carefully prepared by Margaret Crockett which covered, amongst others, some of the 97 books we had read so far.

As well as getting to know each other better, we all shared some wonderful experiences which none of us will ever forget; so wonderful that we still can't quite believe we did it.

Tomato surprise

By Diana Cormack

The "guerrilla garden" which lies behind the High Road bus stop and the approach to Cherry Tree Wood entrance gives pleasure to people all the year round.

This is usually provided by a variety of flowers but in late summer a surprise visitor arrived in the form of three tomato plants. One of the gardeners told *THE ARCHER* that their seeds must have come in a batch of compost. At the time of writing the lovely little fruits were struggling to ripen as the warmth of the summer died away.

Choir is Berlin-bound

North London Chorus is going to Berlin. In November members are joining with a German choir, Cantus Domus, to perform Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* at the Berlin Konzert Haus.

This work was first performed in 1962 at the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral. The Latin Mass is interspersed with the war poems of Wilfred Owen, and it needs huge forces: a large orchestra, a chamber orchestra, four soloists and three choirs (mixed, semi and children). And, of course, two conductors. With long-distance artistic decisions made between London and Berlin, this is making for an interesting rehearsal period.

The choir is arranging a return performance with Cantus Domus next year in or near London, but in the meantime it has a definite summer date with them for a programme of Brahms and Vaughan Williams at Milton Court at the Barbican. These concerts celebrate the centenaries of Benjamin Britten (1913) and the outbreak of World War 1 (1914) in a spirit of commemoration and reconciliation.

Open days at Academy

Around 1,200 parents and children attended the Archer Academy's first open evening on 9 October, some queuing for over an hour for their first chance to see the school in action.

Headteacher Mick Quigley thanked visitors for waiting patiently and said he was proud of the current Year 7 students whose enthusiasm for the school made them excellent advocates.

The school in Beaumont Close hosted two extra coffee mornings for Year 6 parents on

24 and 25 October, giving them a chance to chat to senior staff.

Support and personal care required some mornings/evenings for elderly lady with some dementia in East Finchley.
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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Pole-axed

Well, that's it, the last ball has been kicked, the last expletive deleted and the parrots are celebrating because England beat Poland and have postponed the inevitable ritual humiliation until next summer. It's not that I want humiliation, I'm not into some kind of 50 shades of failure, I'm just being realistic.

When the World Cup started in 1930, England was not a member of FIFA and even though Uruguay asked us specially to come, the FA said no. They said no in 1934 and 1938, when Italy won, and only finally got round to entering in 1950. What everyone remembers about that one was England losing to the USA and going home early. What everyone forgets is that Scotland qualified as second in their group behind England and then went off in a sulk and refused to go, thus starting that great tradition of Scottish underachievement.

High hopes and abject failure is the story of England's attempts at footballing success. We usually get no further than the quarter finals and sometimes don't even manage that. Just to make the point, every couple of tournaments we go one worse and don't even qualify. Forty years ago we gave all of Scotland a laugh by not going when they did and added to their joy four years later when we made a mess of it again. We even used up our stock of excuses when we failed to get to the USA in 1994 while the Irish got to the quarter finals.

And what of our 'glorious' success in 1966? Let's start with home advantage and end with the Russian linesman. Let's not mention the mindless clowns who celebrated the win by beating up German tourists. Not much to be proud of there. The only other time we got anywhere close to getting our clammy little hands on the trophy was in 1990 when we got to the semi finals and promptly lost on penalties to the Germans. Nice one, boys.

So when the whistle blows and England's finest lumber out into the Brazilian sun I will be watching in hope and expectation: hope that they don't cock it up and expectation that they will. They are England after all and they've made a habit of it.



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07593 367134.
- **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.
- **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **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 1pm. James 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 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. 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.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lillian 8444 1793.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Ladies Keep Fit** Class for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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.
- **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706

Clubs & Social

- **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.
- **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 Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 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. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- **Youth Club** at Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale every Tues in termtime. Ages 8-13, £1 entry.



—Ally Pally painted in coffee by Colin Foo, with augmented reality tag

Coffee stains hide a deeper meaning

By Daphne Chamberlain

Paintings in coffee that are also a secret history of Muswell Hill? What's all this about? Local artist Colin Foo celebrates familiar landmarks in an unfamiliar way. I saw his paintings at the Broadway patisserie, Sable d'Or. Given a sepia feel by the coffee, they look almost antique. But then, before your very eyes, each building stops being a picture and turns into a printed account of its history. This 21st century magic comes via a free Layar app on your smartphone or iPad, held up in front of the picture.

An extra dimension

Colin has used this Augmented Reality Technology in his work as a designer, but never before in his personal artworks. He told *THE ARCHER* that the artwork needs to be strong on its own. "AR can add another dimension, but only if it's relevant, if it adds something extra/special, and not as a gimmick. I've used AR in my series of paintings because, like the history of the buildings itself, you'll only find out the stories if you dig a little deeper." (Appropriately, one of the buildings is W.Martyn, the coffee and tea specialist on the Broadway.)

So why coffee? Noticing

long-lasting coffee stains on some of his old paperwork, he found himself wishing he had turned them into doodles at the time, and this started a personal challenge. He decided to bring out the shape and form of buildings using different strengths of diluted coffee.

Colin's next coffee ven-

ture is a commission to paint Hampton Court, but he works in many mediums. His paper-cut impression of Noah's Ark will be auctioned soon for the Noah's Ark Hospice.

The coffee exhibition continues at Sable d'Or until 15 November, but you can see Colin's work on www.colin-slab.co.uk/coffee.

Green gym in green space

A new green gym has opened in Hendon, combining help towards better fitness with a conservation session to improve the park.

Gym goers will plant trees, seed wildflower meadows and create habitats for wildlife. No knowledge of gardening is needed; residents need only to be enthusiastic and passionate about improving their local environment.

The sessions are being run by The Conservation Volunteers, in partnership with Barnet Council, on Wednesdays from 10.45am until 2pm at West Hendon Playing Fields.

The Conservation Volunteers' London Health Manager, Chris Speirs, said: "The Green Gym will be the first in Barnet and is a free and fun way to get fit, learn new skills and meet new people. We hope to see as many people as possible joining in." For more information please contact the Green Spaces Project team at gg-barnet@tcv.org.uk, or ring 020 8533 8022.

Alternatively log on to www.tcv.org.uk/barnet

Pirates in Highgate!

Garden Suburb Theatre returns to Upstairs at The Gatehouse in Highgate with Treasure Island, promising an exciting show with plenty of laughs and gasps!

The production features a motley cast of pirates and includes East Finchley resident Isaac Rudden as Jim Hawkins. Isaac attends Christ's College Finchley and this marks his second role with the group.

The play runs from Wednesday 27 November to Sunday 1 December at 7.30pm, with a 4pm show on the Sunday. Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are available from www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com or by ringing 020 8340 3488.



Arr, me hearties! Mark Overall will star as Long John Silver.

November at the Phoenix

By Phoenix Cinema manager Cassie Birtwistle
This November at the Phoenix we're gearing up for a full slate of screenings from the UK Jewish Film Festival. This year we have more films than ever with four UK premieres and four Q&As and are excited to be participating in this popular festival once again.

As far as main features go, you can't go wrong this month. Stephen Frears's newest film *Philomena*, showing for the first two weeks of the month, manages to tell a heartbreaking story with warmth and humour and is anchored by a tour de force performance by Phoenix patron Dame Judi Dench.

Starting from Friday 15 November we're bringing the 2D version of Alfonso Cuarón's *Gravity* to our screen which has garnered rave reviews at festivals and talk of an Oscar nomination for Sandra Bullock.

Finally, starting from 22 November we're showing the 2013 Palme d'Or-winning *Blue is the Warmest Colour*, an intense depiction of the relationship between two schoolgirls which touches on wider themes of personal identity and family upbringing.

For full listings please see our website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

What's On...

Sunday 10 November

• **Free music concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30 p.m.; The Ellerdale Trio play Glinka, Fauré and Schubert. Free admission, collection in aid of the Anthony Nolan blood cancer charity. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 November

• **Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society** present *Footloose, The Musical* at The Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green N13 4Dh. Tickets 020 8482 6923 or ticketsource.co.uk/ffbos.

Thursday 14 November

• **Tales from Fukushima**; East Finchley resident Nicola Grove tells stories gathered in Fukushima, Japan, this summer, from storytellers, evacuee families and campaigners fighting Government inertia and propaganda; Black Gull Books, High Road, 7.30-9.30pm. No charge but suggested £3 donation. Space limited: advance booking recommended 020 8444 4717/black.gull.finchley@gmail.com

Saturday 16 November

• **Christmas Craft Fair at Henrietta Barnett School**, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 7BN, 11am to 5pm. Adults: £2; Children under 12: free. More than 30 stalls in aid of the Family Holiday Association.

Thursday 21 November

• **Music at Lauderdale House**: Carol Grimes with Annie Whitehead (trombone), Dorian Ford (piano), Neville Malcom (bass) and Winston Clifford (drums); Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8.30pm / £9 (£7.50 concs)

Saturday 23 November

• **Fabulous Finchley: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at Finchley Central tube station (Ballards Lane exit) at 11am. Discover 1,000 years of the history of Church End and East Finchley. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

• **Christmas Fair at St Mary's Catholic Church**, 279 High Road, N2, 12 - 3pm. In one hall children can meet Santa; decorate cookies; make Christmas craft; shoot-out;

dance and more. Other hall will have cake stall; toiletries; books; knitwear; and more. Burgers, hot dogs and soup on sale along with mulled wine, mince pies & waffles.

Sunday 24 November

• **East Finchley Open Artists Winter Fair** at TreeHouse School, Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill from 11am - 5pm. Free admission; donations welcome to Ambitious About Autism.

Wednesday 27 November to Sunday 1 December

• **Garden Suburb Theatre Company** presents *Treasure Island* at the Upstairs at the Gatehouse Theatre, Highgate; 7.30pm, with a 4pm show on the Sunday. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com or by ringing 020 8340 3488.

Thursday 28 November

• **Artsdepot: the first nine years and the future**. Keith Martin gives the Jean Scott Memorial Lecture for The Finchley Society; 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3

30E. Admission £2 for non-members, but everyone very welcome.

Saturday 30 November

• **Holy Trinity Primary School Winter Fair** open to all from midday until 2.30pm. Meet Santa, enjoy many side stalls, games, arts and crafts, buy a ticket for the raffle, feast on delicious food, celebrate a performance from the school choir and much more!

• **North London Hospice craft fair**, Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, Muswell Hill from 10am to 4pm. Lots of handmade and craft items to browse and buy.

Wednesday 4 to Saturday 7 December

• **The Guild Players present Jack and the Beanstalk**. Tickets £8 from guildplayers.org.uk

Saturday 7 December

• **East Finchley Christmas Festival**, all along the High Road from 9.30am to 5pm; live music, entertainment, food, crafts, storytelling, a snow machine and a visit from Santa with two live reindeer. Free and open to all.

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



Letters



Our new family of recycling bins.

Bins, bins, bins

Dear Editor

I am all for recycling, but what Barnet Council is doing to our front gardens, pavements and public highways is insanity! Bins, bins, BINS! I'm sure not only the streets I live in are affected!

Yours faithfully,

Name and address supplied.

Kicking the habit

Dear Editor

From my first cigarette out of a pack of Woodbine in the boys' toilet at school when I was fifteen until eight months ago I had been a regular smoker of between 15-20 cigarettes a day for nearly fifty years. After reading your piece: Tips to kick the smoking habit (The Archer, October 2013), I just had to respond.

Clearly, Miss Bouvier either never was a smoker or she never became addicted to smoking. When a seasoned smoker craves for a cigarette, they have to smoke. If it means a battle with the elements, be it storm, tempest, or earthquake, whether or not they have a phone or a bottle of water in their hand at the time, they will suffer that. You can drink any quantity of water, take no end of deep breaths and eat sugar-free mints or gum till doomsday, but you must have that cigarette. If you deny yourself, the craving remains with you for longer than '3-5 minutes'! Ms Bouvier seems to have made no allowance for the effect of nicotine in the system.

Five to ten years ago, before aids to help people stop smoking became available, a smoker kicked the habit through either a serious health scare or just plain will power. Whether or not they could afford to smoke was not an issue. Now, with patches, sprays, lozenges, gum and electronic cigarettes available, all of which contain nicotine, it has become easier to stop but it still requires will power.

The only advice this lady offers that I can subscribe to is that you should be clear about your reasons for wanting to stop smoking. Perhaps hypnotherapy does help, I've not tried it. But for Ms Bouvier to sweep aside the determination of former smokers, many of whom, I am sure, have been through hell and high water in their successful attempts to stop smoking, with claim that 'will power has very little to do with your success', I think is derisory.

Yours Faithfully

T McCann

Hobbs Green, N2.

Worried about foxes

Dear Editor

I am very concerned about the number of foxes roaming around the streets, and among the back and front gardens of East Finchley.

I have seen them in my back garden and they come right up to the back door. Last week two of them were going wild in my garden.

I have seen them roaming in the gardens of Summerlee Avenue and on the road. They are not afraid of the public.

I think they are a danger to the public, and something should be done about them. Barnet Council should do something about them. I'd like to know what other people think?

Yours faithfully,

Dolores Connolly

Address supplied

Can children travel safely in minicabs?

Dear Editor,

When a local resident recently contacted five minicab companies to book a minicab with a child car seat for a family member travelling with a toddler, she was advised only one minicab had a child car seat but there was no guarantee it would be available as it depended if it's free when booked!

Apparently the law states a child can travel without a child car seat in some circumstances. In a licensed taxi or minicab (private hire vehicles), children under three years of age can travel without a child's car seat or seat belt, but only on the back seat, and children aged three years or older can travel without a child's car seat if they wear an adult seat belt.

Surely taxis and minicabs are not exempt from having accidents and causing injuries to passengers, regardless of adult or child? As Health and Safety rules apply to almost everything and anything these days, I wonder why it doesn't extend to private hire vehicles?

Yours faithfully,

Betti Blatman,

Cecilia Close, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Laundrette changes hands

By Diana Cormack

After 27 years of running A Heck of a Wash at 109 High Road, Hector Cisneros has handed the business on. In a farewell letter displayed on the door he thanked his loyal staff and his many clients and wished the new owner well. The laundrette is now owned by Mr A Razavi, who also owns Wash R Us in East End Road.

Manager Dav Zeinali worked there for two years and is happily settling in to his new premises. He has charge of 18 washing machines with varying capacities along with ten dryers. He told THE ARCHER that in addition to the service washes, shirt laundering, dry cleaning and alterations already available, a shoe repair service will be offered to customers.

A Heck of a Wash is open and fully attended from 7.30am -7.30pm on weekdays, 7.30am -6.30pm on Saturdays and 9am -5pm on Sundays.



Manager Dav Zeinali. Photo by Diana Cormack.

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.



A Cliff-hanger for Ricky Savage

By Harriet Webb

What has happened to Kalashnikov Kultur? On reading October's offering I almost felt sorry for Ricky in his pitiful attempt to savage Cliff Richard. While trying to castigate the "weirdly mysterious ... ageing phenomenon" (surely you're not ageist, Ricky?) he merely succeeded in producing a series of back-handed compliments.

Cliff was 73 on 14 October and is still worthy of media attention with the news of his 100th album. And it will sell, Ricky, just like everything he has "churned out" for the past 54 years. It seemed to bother Ricky that Cliff has altered his style over the years, but beginning as Britain's answer to Elvis Presley was a sure way to get him noticed, after which he was able to make it on his own. Not forgetting The Shadows of course, but they all managed to survive after drifting apart.

I saw their "final" tour at the O2, when arenas country-wide sold out and extra performances had to be arranged. Of course the audience didn't look particularly cool, but they probably did get a bit hot under the collar when Radio 2 removed Cliff from their play list (Radio 1 has just done this to Robbie Williams).

Who can say why the annual calendar which outsells all others is the one featuring Cliff Richard? Maybe it's because he looks like a nice person and he probably is. After all, not many singers would be brave enough to risk their reputation by singing live and unaccompanied to entertain a rain-swept Wimbledon crowd, and in perfect pitch too.

He was decent enough not to complain when he was cheated out of winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1968, the truth about which has since been revealed. Newspapers seem to have stopped trying to dig up any scandal about him. After all, he is now a knight of the realm.

Ricky didn't mention that, but on re-reading "Beware ... Cliff" there is only one thing I can say: "Come out of the closet, Ricky. You're actually a big Cliff Richard fan"!!



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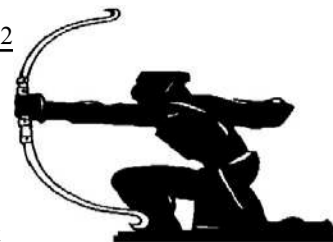


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The train approaching platform one... is full of gravel

Hordes of high-vis workmen invade the tracks as the Northern line upgrade works reach East Finchley. In the foreground, one

man uses a metal cutter to slice through the rail in a spray of sparks while behind him service trucks bring in materials for

the new track bed. This photo was taken by John Dearing in the cutting between East End Road and Stanley Road on the weekend of 12-13 October. Track improvements and weekend line closures are expected to continue beyond the summer of 2014, possibly up to December next year.

Quiz master has them puzzling

By Sheila Armstrong

The world of pub quizzes is a way of life with its own rules and traditions. First appearing around 1976, there are currently about 383 in London each week. On 1 October, The Old White Lion pub hosted the fifth birthday quiz in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital organised by Brian Hooper.

The whole of the pub's dining room was buzzing with over 15 quiz teams from East Finchley and all over London. Impeccably organised, quizmaster Brian quietly and efficiently asked the questions, took the money from late comers, cut the birthday cake and still had time for a joke or a friendly word. The pub provided a selection of prizes, from a £50 bar tab to a packet of crisps, and £70 was raised on the night.

Brian also fundraises for other causes including All Saints Church in Whetstone, the RSPCA in East Finchley and others. Other events at The Old White Lion are planned in the lead-up to Christmas. Contact Brian on Facebook at OWL / Brian's Tuesday Quiz, on his mobile 07775 932 906 or email briansquiz@aol.com



Quiz master Brian Hooper gets the teams puzzling.

Pinkham Way plant dropped

North London Waste Authority has dropped plans for a waste treatment plant at Pinkham Way after agreeing to keep its waste management services in-house by continuing to use its existing facility at Edmonton.

The NLWA, which handles waste disposal for seven north London boroughs, originally planned to build a mechanical-biological waste facility (MBT), capable of handling 300,000 tonnes of non-recyclable household waste per year, on the nature conservation site at Pinkham Way, making it one of the very largest waste processing facilities in Europe.

This was revised in December 2012 to a Materials Recycling Facility building (MRF), but local residents and campaigners feared the size of it would obliterate the nature conservation site, and add more than 1,000 vehicle movements per day to the junction of the North Circular Road with Colney Hatch Lane.

The NLWA has admitted that the decision to scrap the plans will save it £900 million over 30 years, however £32 million has already been spent on this cancelled project and the unnecessary purchase of the land.

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