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

Dance hall days

Bang in the middle of the current series of Strictly Come Dancing, EastEnders star Kellie Bright and her dance partner Kevin Clifton dropped in to the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, to practise their latest routine in front of day visitors.

Everyone at the Centre enjoyed the visit but it ended up being a tough week for the pair, who on the following Sunday found themselves in the competition's dance-off. Luckily, the judges backed them and they survived to dance on. Thanks to Age UK Barnet for the photo.



Kellie Bright and Kevin Clifton show off their moves at the Ann Owens Centre.



Movie magic: Youngsters get creative ahead of a showing of 'Minions' at the Kids' Club. Photo by Mike Coles

Front row fun at the Phoenix

By Sheila Armstrong

The Phoenix Cinema is keen to encourage young children to enjoy film from an early age at its Kids' Club on Saturday mornings, introducing them to film and cinema-going in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Starting with an activity session led by experienced facilitators, the Club can accommodate up to 20 children aged five to 10. Please book in advance at the box office 020 8444 6789 or in person.

Activities are craft based and related to the week's film. Children up to 12 can see the film immediately afterwards. Check out more details on the website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

And don't forget Toddler Time for ages two to four on Tuesdays with an activity starting at 10.30am followed by a 30-minute film at 11am.

Football between the trenches

By Daphne Chamberlain

So did they or didn't they play football between the trenches on Christmas Day, 1914? Some did, but a soldier from Bowes Park described what happened with his regiment.

In a letter to his parents, Rifleman W. Ridden wrote, "I shall remember this Christmas Day as long as I am spared to live, as the most extraordinary one possible....Stand to arms at 6.30am, when we sang *God Save the King* and *Deutschland uber Alles* in compliment to our enemies. They replied with cheers, etc....We lit nightlights and candles along the top of the trenches, and sang carols.

"The Germans and ourselves then did as we liked, walked about on the top, exchanged cigarettes and grub, shook hands, and some exchanged addresses to

write to each other after the war. They sang German carols, one of which I had heard just 12 months before, played by a German band at Crouch End.

"We helped bury each other's dead in the afternoon, six men and one officer of each side going out to do it....

"I had heaps more grub to eat than it was possible to manage.... Breakfast: cold ham and tongue, bread, jam, hot cafe au lait. Dinner: meat, potatoes, haricots, carrots and onions all together in a tin, with the natural juice (fat and jelly). I soon heated it up and made a good stew. More tongue,

Christmas pudding, dates, figs, muscatels, almonds, chocolates, and many other sweets. To finish up, I had a piece of the wounded cake (a gift from home which had received a bullet when it had been left on the top of the trench).

"By the way, the Germans challenged us to a game of football, which our officers, however, did not see fit to allow. They came from a town which I know is keen on footer."

The whole of this letter is included in *All Over by Christmas* by local author David Berger, published by Chaville Press, ISBN 978-0-956-93449-9.

Boxing scam

A reader has warned us of a scam where teenage boys ring the doorbell and ask for a donation towards equipment for their boxing club.

One boy claimed to represent the Cheshunt ABC Boxing Club, however, the club's manager, Mark Bliss, has stated: "We would never encourage our youngsters to raise funds door to door as this is highly inappropriate."



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