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## Time travel in Twyford Avenue

By Ann Bronkhorst

**It was June 1953: a young queen on the throne, rationing and wartime shortages nearly over. There was no East Finchley Festival yet but the annual fete at All Saints' Church had been planned for months and must have been a major community event.**

For a fortnight the Rex cinema, now the Phoenix, showed a short publicity film about the coming fete, Miraculously it still exists and the BFI (British Film Institute) has given *THE ARCHER* these black and white images from it.

### Handkerchiefs and pram races

It's a fascinating glimpse into the past. Church records allow us to picture the scene: teas on the lawn and dancing displays (the church had more space around it then, as well as a church hall). There were sideshows, such as Roland the

Roller Horse and the Wheel of Fortune. Dads could take part in a dads-only pram race (someone's practising for it in one of the stills) and mums could enter the cake competition with local baker E.P.Hahn as the judge.

Stalls included some categories we'd find surprising today: household goods; grocery and provisions; handkerchiefs and china. After years of rationing it must have seemed wonderful. The two-day event raised nearly £145.

One of the Boy Scouts shown here still lives locally and next month he will share his memories with *THE ARCHER*. Can he recall what was in that enormous basket? Poet and local resident Fleur Adcock has searched the parish council



Two boy scouts carry a basket to the fete. Photo courtesy of the BFI.

records and found the details of this fete and of its predecessor, a 'mediaeval fair' held in 1952. Could the publicity film for it still exist, too?

Watch the All Saints' fair film for yourself by going to <http://player.bfi.org.uk> and typing 'Thurs June 25' into the search box. You can search the BFI's full archive at <http://player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film>

## Artsdepot seniors

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Artsdepot at North Finchley wants to welcome everyone in the community. There has been some criticism that their programmes have been slanted towards younger people. However, a grant from the City Bridge Trust will enable them to run a three-year project to bring in more senior citizens, especially those over 75.**

Estelle Buckridge, artsdepot's newly appointed community champion, told *THE ARCHER* that they are already establishing links with Age UK and sheltered accommodation.

There is a limited budget for transport to events for groups of older people. Unfortunately this doesn't extend to individuals, though all escorts and drivers will be welcomed. Programmes will be planned to interest most of the community, as the aim is to use the arts to address social isolation.

The project is still at the planning stage, but will include monthly workshops, social activities and special events.

Estelle told us: "I'm new to the area and want to know more about it, and to hear your ideas. Artsdepot is in a good location, with disabled access, and we welcome everyone."

For further information, please contact Estelle on 020 8369 5496 or at [estelle.buckridge@artsdepot.co.uk](mailto:estelle.buckridge@artsdepot.co.uk). There will be free events for Older People as part of the Fun Palaces event on Saturday 3 October from 11am-4pm.



A man demonstrates the pram race in a Twyford Avenue free of parked cars; All Saints' is in the background. Photo courtesy of the BFI.

## 26 things about East Finchley

**"Nestled in the heart of north London, only just in zone 3, East Finchley is often made to feel like Muswell Hill's ugly little sister, but people who grew up there know that it's so much more than that!"**

So reads the introduction to an evocative online article called 26 Things You'll Understand if you Grew Up in East Finchley.

Tapping into the memories of anyone who has had their formative years in N2 from the 1980s onwards, the article lists the special things that bind us together.

For instance, number 16 is VidBiz, the old video shop on the High Road that closed down something like a decade ago. "Their eclectic collection of new releases, world films and cult classics was unrivalled,"

says the writer Evlin Kazancel.

Then, do you remember the 7-11 we used to have way back when, and more recently the much-missed street celebrity Horace, whose cheery "Best of luck!" kept everyone smiling?

The article is full of memories that will mean something to you if you're an East Finchley-ite. Find it by searching for East Finchley on the website [www.lifedeathprizes.com](http://www.lifedeathprizes.com) *What would you add to the list? Email us at: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or message us on Facebook and Twitter @TheArcherN2.*

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