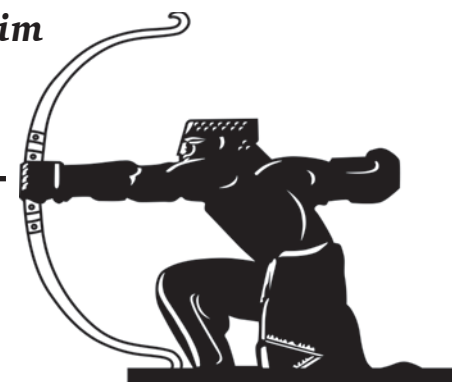


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25 years 1993-2018

The Archer



November 2018 No. 295

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Chloe Latchmore as Pop Up Opera's Carmen at the East Finchley Arts Festival. See more photos on page 7.

Photo Mike Coles

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Homes go-ahead on garage site

By Janet Maitland

For three years, there has been an ugly wasteland at the junction of the High Road and Church Lane in East Finchley after the former Esso petrol station that stood there was demolished. Concrete blocks and metal fencing now border the land and nature has started to reclaim it, leading some locals to name it Buddleia Park.

But, at last, planning permission been given for the new homes that were originally intended for the site following a successful appeal to the Secretary of State. A four-storey block of six flats will front the High Road and three three-storey terraced houses will run along Leopold Road. Sixteen parking spaces will be provided.

Appeal after two applications

Why did it take so long? The developers, Leopold Properties Ltd, submitted a planning application early in 2016, a few months after buying the site from Esso. But Barnet Council turned it down because the housing was thought to be overbearing, bulky, at odds with the surroundings, and an overdevelopment of the site. After another application was refused in 2017, despite some changes, the developers submitted an appeal.

Secretary of State James Brokenshire MP allowed the appeal as he considered the buildings would not, in fact, be



New homes: How the flats would look from the High Road.



Terraced: The three proposed houses on Leopold Road.

over-dominant or out of place. The terraced houses will chime with existing Leopold Road houses, and the block of flats will blend with the mix of other buildings on the High Road.

Soft landscaping will create

a 'green buffer' round the perimeter and the access road down the middle of the site will instill a feeling of openness, said the appeal application.

"I was surprised the council refused the application as they usually approve far worse applications," said East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra. "It is good to see some family homes, although I would have preferred some retail and employment space, or the retention of a much needed petrol station."

Smoke 'buffers' required

The developers must build non-habitable spaces, such as corridors, on the side of any new homes that are close to the neighbouring Oasis restaurant in Church Lane and its shisha smoking canopy. This was a planning condition based on four site visits made back in May/June 2017 when the inspector detected the smell of shisha smoke, when the wind was in a westerly direction.

"Give us more time to save the Phoenix"

By John Lawrence

Phoenix Cinema staff made a heartfelt plea to keep their picturehouse independent at a packed public meeting, saying the proposed deal to hand over operations to the Curzon Cinemas group should be put on ice while alternatives are fully explored.

Addressing more than 200 people at the meeting on Sunday 28 October on behalf of Phoenix staff, assistant technical manager Nathan Cable said the Curzon deal was being pushed through in an unnecessary rush and called it a "short-term fix in place of a long-term strategy".

Speaking to The Archer afterwards, Curzon's director of cinema development Rob Kenny said his company would be willing to "pause" the closing stages of the contract arrangement.

Continued on page 6



The Archer

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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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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
Gt North Leisure Park 0870 240 6020
Muswell Hill Everyman 0871 9069060
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080

Transport

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City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 0871 781 8181
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

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Disability Info Service 020 8359 7637
EF Advice Service 0300 4568365
Lone Parent Centre 020 7021 4146
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse helpline 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
RSPCA 0300 1234 999
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

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Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
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Carers' Line 0808 808 7777

Drinkline 0800 917 8282
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Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700
National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

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Police non-emergency 101
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Victim Support 0845 303 0900

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Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
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Royal Free 020 7794 0500
Whittington 020 7272 3070

OAP's Advice

Age UK Barnet 020 8203 5040
Independent Age 0800 319 6789
Age UK (general advice line) 0800 169 2081



Flu queue

Pictured is the queue outside East Finchley Medical Practice in Park Hall Road on 1 October for their first walk-in clinic of the season offering a free flu jab. Due to the huge demand they were left with no vaccines for those aged 65 plus on that day, although there was another such clinic at a later date.

So the flu jab delays predicted in our September edition have happened, though through no fault of the surgeries and pharmacies administering the vaccination who only receive a certain quantity of supplies per month.

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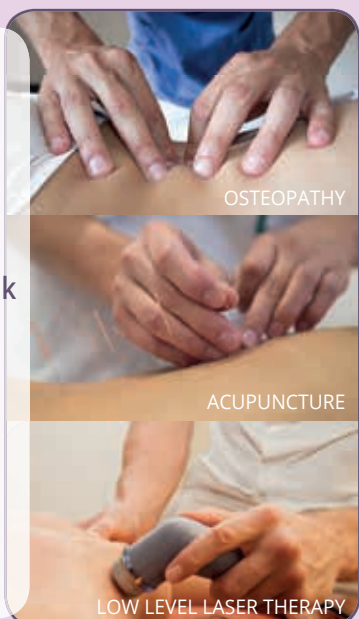
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Planning 'threat to high streets'

By Debby Hiller

Residents, landlords and shop owners are being invited to have their say on a little-known planning rule which is claimed to be threatening the economic future of our high streets.

Some readers may have received a letter from Barnet Council with the heading 'Consultation in relation to Article 4 Direction for Employment Use to Residential'

It describes a change made by the Government back in 2013 which allows shops and businesses to be automatically turned into new homes without the landlord needing to get planning permission.

Barnet Council is raising concerns that local businesses are being lost due to the rule. There is less commercial space available and this has led to increased rents, which in turn does not encourage new businesses to move into the borough.

The council is therefore proposing that, from September 2019, landlords in Barnet should have to get planning permission to change a shop into a new flat or house. It wants permission from the Government to make this change, believing this should help to protect our town centres and small businesses.

Should business premises be given this layer of protection or do we need more homes wherever we can get them? You can find out more and have your say on the council's proposal online here: <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/Article-4>. You have until Monday 12 November to comment.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

151 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single / part two-storey side and rear extension, following demolition of garage. Roof extension including three rear roof lights, three front roof lights and one gable window.

9 Brim Hill, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Removal of chimney stack and alterations to side elevation, infill of two doors, new side access door and new window.

13 Elmfield Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension and internal alterations.

Elmshurst Crescent Garages Land Adjacent To 90-100 Elmshurst Crescent And 35 Pulham Avenue, N2

Submission of details of conditions 9 (means of enclosure), 17 (acoustic fencing), 21 (refuse strategy), pursuant to planning permission 17/3722/S73 dated 22/01/2018.

62 Hertford Road, N2

Part single/part two-storey side and rear extensions, following demolition of rear conservatory and chimney to side elevation. One additional front entrance with new access steps. Roof extension, including raising ridge height, two rear dormers, five front roof lights and one obscure glazed gable window to side. Conversion of two flats to two single family dwelling houses. Associated alterations to doors, windows and landscaping, including new raised front patio with new glass balustrade and railing, access ramp, side/front gate and side railings. Cycle storage and refuse and recycling storage.

102B Hertford Road, N2

Partial removal of rear roof to create terrace with glass balustrade. Roof extension, including

partial raising of ridge height at existing front, with hip to gable end on both sides. One rear dormer, two front roof lights.

12-18 High Road, N2

Details of conditions 9 (Works contract), 10 (Desktop Study), 11 (Air Quality Assessment), 18 (Landscaping), 35 (Tree Protection Plan), pursuant to planning permission dated 07/11/17.

132-134 High Road, N2

Details of condition 4 (Privacy Screens) and 6 (Condenser Units) pursuant to planning permission dated 23/12/15.

74 Leicester Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension.

21 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Depth 5.4 m, eaves height 2.8 m, maximum height 3 m.

Old Barn Youth Club and Land adjacent to corner Of Fallows Close and Tarling Road, N2

Details of condition 17 (Delivery and servicing plan), pursuant to planning permission.

21 Summerlee Avenue, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliette balcony, three front roof lights and new side gable window. Single-storey side and rear extension.

11 Viceroy Close, N2

Variation of condition 1 of planning permission dated 02/10/2017 for eight residential units and raised landscaped courtyard to link with existing raised podium of Viceroy Court. Variation to include amendments to plans to facilitate technical changes, including vehicular access.

21-25 Viceroy Parade, High Road, N2

Details of condition 3 (Sound Mitigation) pursuant to planning permission dated 05/09/18.

Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired Professional & Business men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3 3QE. Next meeting 21 November: Cambridge Astronomer Dr Robin Catchpole's illustrated talk asks Is There Intelligent Life Out There? All welcome, including lively retirees from outer space to help him answer. Details from Eric (8449 0566).



Residents playing table tennis in the Meadows Care Home Photo Mike Coles

Drug-free therapy on the table for Alzheimer's

By Daphne Chamberlain

A care home in Muswell Hill is providing table tennis therapy for people living with dementia, using a special table designed by the Bounce Alzheimer's Therapy (BAT) Foundation.

The table at the Meadow Care Home in Colney Hatch Lane has side panels that obviously keep balls in play for longer, but also increase spatial awareness and peripheral vision, and create a comfortably secure place to play. The brilliant white surface is supported on a black framework, and balls and bats are orange.

The foundation's creative director Ian Craigton-Chambers explained that the early stages of Alzheimer's affect vision. As well as spatial and processing slowness, there is also a need for higher contrast. White against white becomes virtually invisible.

Benefits to the brain

BAT work with neuroscientists at King's College, London. They say that research



Meadows staff with Haringey Mayor Gina Adamou. Photo Mike Coles

shows that after playing for 20 minutes, five parts of the brain light up. Hand-eye coordination, motor skills and long-term memory can all be improved by table tennis. A big added bonus is that it can be played standing or sitting, and with as many players alongside each other as

needed, making it very sociable.

Patrick Gray, Dementia Friendly Communities Co-Ordinator for Merton, Haringey and Barnet, told us that The Meadow table was one of three in the Haringey and Barnet area. Alexandra Palace has one for their weekly Wellness Café, open to all on the last Monday of the month, 1-3pm in the Transmitter Hall. The other is at the YMCA Fitness Centre in Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, with open sessions twice a week.

For more information on access to the tables, please email patrick.gray@alzheimers.org.uk, call 07484 079785, or follow PGray_DAA on Twitter. For more information on BAT, visit www.batfoundation.com.

Barnet political map set to change

By David Melsome

The political map of East Finchley could change after the independent Local Government Boundary Commission launched a consultation asking people for their help in drawing up a new pattern of council wards across Barnet.

The borough will continue to have 63 councillors but the areas they represent may change. In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission says each councillor should represent roughly the same number of voters and new wards should reflect as far as possible the identities of local communities.

Questions to consider

Professor Colin Mellors, chair of the Commission, said: "If you have a view about which communities or neighbourhoods should be part of the same council ward, then we want to hear from you. And if you think a road, river or railway makes for a strong boundary between communities in your part of Barnet, then this consultation is for you."

The types of questions the Commission is asking residents at this stage are: do you have suggestions about where your ward boundaries should be;

which areas do you identify as your local community; and where do people in your area go to access local facilities such as shops and leisure activities?

How to take part

Residents have until 3 December to submit their views and will have a further chance to have their say after a set of draft recommendations is published in February 2019.

Take part online at consultation.lgbce.org.uk where you will find more information and interactive maps of the current ward boundaries.

Submissions can also be made by email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk and by post to The Review Officer (Barnet), LGBCE, 1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. The last review of ward boundaries in Barnet was in 1999. Any changes will be in place before the next scheduled London local elections in 2022.

Name that special person

Nominations have opened for Barnet's 19th annual Civic Awards for people who deserve recognition for their outstanding achievements and contribution to life anywhere in the borough.

This year, there are three categories of civic award: Young citizen of the year, Outstanding service to the community and Lifetime achievement.

Each nomination will be reviewed by a judging panel and winners will be invited to attend a ceremony at Hendon Town Hall in April

2019 to receive their awards. Submit your nominations online at barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards. You can also put someone forward by emailing mayor@barnet.gov.uk or phoning 020 8359 2652 to ask for a hard copy of the nomination form. The deadline for nominations is Monday 31 December.

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Winners at the Retail Industry Awards. From the left: David Shrimpton, Editor of Independent Retail News, Elliot Jacobs from UOE, Debbie Smith, Chief Executive of The Post Office, and host Colin Murray.

Post Office is a winner

The East Finchley branch of UOE has been crowned Independent Post Office Retailer of the Year at the Retail Industry Awards. Managing director Elliot Jacobs said: "This is a fantastic reward for all the hard work we've put into the UOE brand. Being a high street retailer in the 21st century is a major challenge, but the Post Office franchise has given the UOE store a new lease of life, enabling us to provide secure employment opportunities in East Finchley and beyond." UOE now operates six Post Offices and stores across north London and Hertfordshire, with a seventh due soon.

First World War dead are still remembered 100 years on

By Ann Bronkhorst

Wearing a red poppy each November is widely-observed in the UK, with the poppy sales supporting the Royal British Legion's work with thousands of war veterans. This year's poppy-wearing and wreath-laying ceremonies will feel special, however, because it is a century since the Armistice that ended the First World War.

Cemetery walks

In December 2014 *The Archer* reported on the imaginative ways in which the London Borough of Islington was commemorating that war and Islington's own war dead. Most were buried abroad, close to where they were killed, but many died here of wounds and were buried in Islington and Saint Pancras Cemetery, on East Finchley High Road.

To recognise these forgotten dead as individuals, as many graves as possible were identified and marked by signposts. Five circular walks linking the graves and memorials were supported by maps and name-lists (still downloadable from www.islington.gov.uk/ww1centenary). There, too, is the Islington Online Book of Remembrance where the names change daily: it's sobering to realise that on this date 100 years ago these particular people died.

Shrouds of the Somme

Individualising the dead while showing their vast num-

bers is the achievement of artist Rob Heard who has created 72,396 small figures, each subtly different and wrapped in a tiny shroud. From Thursday 8 to Sunday 18 November they will be exhibited in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London. To find out more, go to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, www.cwgc.org.uk and look for Shrouds of the Somme.

Last post plays

Locally, individual servicemen who died are being remembered in various ways. Captain Frisby, whose valour won him a Victoria Cross, was honoured by Barnet Council recently with a plaque on a paving slab in New Barnet. On Saturday 10

November, 10am to 4pm, an Open Day at All Saints Church, Durham Road will include First World War stories, and other local churches will highlight their own memorials.

On the morning of Thursday 8 November the sound of a bugle playing the Last Post and Reveille will ring out, twice, across Islington Cemetery where Camden and Islington Councils have two civilian and two war memorials each. Council leaders and veterans will lay floral and poppy wreaths. Every year this tribute is made to the dead, no longer countless and, now, named and known. Those wooden signposts, weathered by four years, still give us pause for thought.



Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Distraction thefts

Most of you will have heard of the scam thieves operating on the High Road. In August there were three distraction thefts: one at the parking meter outside Cootes chemist, another at the meter near Caffe Nero, plus one at the Post Office ATM. In September there were five: one at the parking meter by the Phoenix Cinema plus three at the Post Office ATM and one at the Coffee Bank ATM.

There may have been more unreported incidents as victims often feel embarrassed after being duped. We would like to thank Chris and his wife Kim at Tony's Continental for their sharp eyes and community care for calling the police when they saw suspicious activity at the ATM outside Pacey's Newsagents and for spreading the word to as many vulnerable customers and their families as possible.

The scammers generally targeted the very elderly or disabled, though one victim was in their 30s. Police made one arrest and enquiries are ongoing.

Moped crime

Fortunately we had zero moped-enabled thefts in August and September, although sadly there have been seven thefts of mopeds. Stolen mopeds are used for thefts and other crime, making it very hard to identify the offenders, but specialist operations are working on this problem.

If you own a moped, try to

store it off-road, preferably behind a locked side gate as thieves will often lift a cycle complete with its locks into or onto a larger vehicle.

Home security visits

With autumn coming in our thoughts turn to burglary prevention. I am offering home security visits in November. To make an appointment please email me at jan.lovell@met.pnn.police.uk with your contact details.

Security tip of the month

Most of you will be familiar with plug-in timer switches for your lamps. As with everything, there are new developments. If you have an Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant or Apple home kit, you can add a timer plug to your system for approx £20 and vary the time from your phone. There are also digital timer switches which are easy to alter, and digital timer plates for wall switches. *And the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green police teams sent us this alert:*

Car thefts

Theft of motor vehicles is increasing. One method in particular is that of a device being used to gain access electronically. This involves the individuals standing close to your front door to get a signal from your keys which in turn triggers the unlock on the car from their gadget. These have been high end cars. Our advice is to not hang your car keys close to the front door.

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Autumn Fair

Saturday 10 November, 12-3pm

Holy Trinity Church

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Action and funding are needed for Cherry Tree Wood

By Debbie Linton

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood feel there could be more investment and maintenance in the wood by Barnet Council and by people in the local community, and that they can help to make that happen.

At a meeting of the group in September it was agreed that Cherry Tree Wood provides a very popular and rather unusual local benefit of recreational facilities and ancient woodland alongside each other, and the right balance between them needs to be struck.

Suggested activities for the coming year included improving the amenities such as the tennis and basketball courts, having more regular litterpicks, liaising with the council about the lack of suitable bins and a small survey of the wood.

Pavilion

Improved engagement with the council generally, including attracting more funding, was also discussed. Councillor Alison Moore provided a brief update about the pavilion building and reported that a legal settlement between the lessee and the council was imminent. Consideration was given to what might happen at that site,

and possible other areas suitable for a café.

The history of the wood was also discussed and how the Friends could provide information about this to visitors. The Friends were pleased to note the successful cessation of vehicles parking near the High Road entrance of the wood.

Friends' AGM

It was agreed that many of the subjects discussed would be revisited at the forthcoming AGM with the desire to keep objectives for 2019 straightforward but also moving forward. The AGM takes place at 12 noon on Sunday 20 January at the Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Park House, 16 High Road, N2.

If you would like further information, or to help in any way to maintain the woodland and the facilities, come to the AGM or email the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood at a new address: friendsofcherrytree-wood@gmail.com.

Bishop Douglass Christmas party for over 65s

The Bishop Douglass Christmas party this year will be held on Thursday 6 December. The evening will start promptly at 5pm (arrival from 4.30pm) and end at 7pm. 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 traditional Christmas 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 offered

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

Long Lane Pasture Calendar 2019

Long Lane, Finchley, N3 - opposite Finchley Fire Station (A39)
Winner of: Green Flag Community Award 2018/19
& The RHS & London in Bloom, 2018 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awarded 'Outstanding'



Out now: The Long Lane Pasture calendar

A year on the pasture

The new Long Lane Pasture calendar for 2019 is out now and it's a limited edition so get yours soon before they are all snapped up.

Still at only £5, this ninth edition shows a variety of views and wildlife seen on the Pasture throughout the past 12 months. Only 250 are being printed.

You can buy yours from the

volunteers who work on Saturday mornings on the pasture, opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3. Alternatively, get one by contacting Donald Lyven on 07727 748209.



Training partners: Carlos D'Souza, left, and Lionel Grelet Photo Mike Coles

A strong mind for a strong body

By John Lawrence

When Carlos D'Souza was growing up, he wondered why he couldn't keep up with his friends at school. He was always restless and disorganised, and didn't seem to learn as quickly as they did. Despite that, he went on to get his first job as a personal trainer and studied on a four-year degree course in sports injuries and rehabilitation at Middlesex University.

It wasn't until he was 25 that his girlfriend realised why he might have been struggling all his life. She recognised the symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and a doctor confirmed the diagnosis.

Carlos was given medication and a course of cognitive behavioural therapy and he felt transformed. Shortly afterwards, despite no business experience, he set up his own

personal training studio and is now in his fourth year with head trainer Lionel Grelet at their base in Long Lane, N3.

The Carlos Method

Carlos, 35, says his personal story has a big impact on the way he trains: "Having a condition I didn't know anything about until I was 25 and wondering why I had made slower progress than everyone around me left me with very low self-esteem.

"I used to be frustrated but then I got my self belief back and realised I can do what I want. My Carlos Method is based around a strong mind and a strong body. Motivation, determination and perseverance

are the qualities of mind we teach while training the physical body."

Carlos and Lionel offer 30-minute personal training sessions at their gym and there is also a pilates studio. Next to the junction with Squires Lane, it's open seven days a week, including from 6am to 10pm on weekdays. Find out more at thecarlosmethod.com.

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Key questions in the Phoenix Curzon deal

Last month's news that the Phoenix Cinema Trust is planning to hand over day-to-day running to Curzon Cinemas raised many questions. Before the 28 October public meeting was announced, we put some of them directly to Alison Gold, Phoenix Cinema trustee, and Rob Kenny, director of cinema development for Curzon.

• The Archer: Has the deal between the Trust and Curzon been fully completed?

Alison Gold: We think it is the right thing to do so we are keen to complete it. We had a target date of 1 November in mind but we are still consulting. If we take the wrong decision and the cinema closes then it would be our fault. We are very keen that this doesn't happen.



Trustee: Alison Gold

• Has the Trust considered community fundraising as an alternative way of keeping the Phoenix running?

Alison Gold: We have looked at lots of fundraising opportunities. One thing we did earlier this year was put Gift Aid on ticket sales, but that's not enough on its own. There was a lot of hard work done to raise money for the Phoenix's centenary restoration in 2010. That is feasible for big capital projects, where grants and other sources of money are available. It's not so easy raising funds for the day-to-day costs of keeping a cinema running.

• How will Curzon arrest the decline in attendances, down from 100,000 to 75,000 per year in the last four years?

Rob Kenny: We have to arrest the decline. In our Knutsford cinema for example, which we took over from the council there, it was a similar situation with falling ticket sales. We have stopped that decline by putting £1 million into the cinema to grow the audiences. At the Phoenix, people can expect to see improved house facilities, like the bar and café, the toilets and perhaps the seats. Investing is the way to bring the audiences back.

• What other changes can the Phoenix audience expect to see?

Rob Kenny: We will not change the programming drastically. We have our own distribution arm and most of our films happen to play in East Finchley anyway. The terms of our deal state that important initiatives like the Kids Club, the dementia screenings and specials like the Jewish Film

Festival will continue. We will keep the Phoenix sign in the top right of the building. It is iconic. But we expect to adapt the front signage to incorporate the Curzon name. Things will be adapted rather than changed outright.

• Will there be a second screen?

Alison Gold: A second screen is technically feasible. There is space around the back of the existing building. It has been an idea that has been discussed by the Trust for decades but never gone any further.

Rob Kenny: In the medium term we would be keen to incorporate a second screen. It enables us to give a lot more variety in our programming and play films for longer if they are popular. A film that has been popular doesn't have to occupy the main screen for weeks, we can move it onto a second screen if it is still attracting an audience.



Curzon: Rob Kenny

• Will ticket prices go up?

Rob Kenny: We haven't got any plans to put ticket prices up. We will have a look around the area at what others are charging. Somewhere in the region of the Arthouse in Crouch End is where we will probably set our prices. (Editor's note: Peak time prices at the Arthouse are currently £11 for adults, compared to £12 at the Phoenix).

• How will the Trust and Curzon work together?

Alison Gold: It has to be a relationship between the Trust and Curzon. The Trust will continue to guide the Phoenix's educational programmes and other community responsibilities. For the Trust it will be a positive thing to have a clearer focus on the educational and community side, rather than the job of keeping the cinema going. It will help us do that job better.

Rob Kenny: We both want the same things which is saving a great cinema. We are not going to do that by changing it drastically. It's not going to become a corporate monstrosity. That would make no sense.

Give us more time to save The Phoenix



Phoenix staff member Nathan Cable speaks to the public meeting alongside six of the cinema's trustees. Photo Mike Coles.

Continued from page 1

"If the board asks for more time, we are open to that," he said. "We will pause our legal work to give them time to prove their case one way or the other."

Earlier, the Phoenix's Mr Cable had been greeted with applause and shouts of support from many in the cinema's auditorium when he said: "We sincerely believe the Phoenix should remain independent. We are asking the board to give us a few more months to find the finance and make the organisational improvements that will maximise profits and secure a future as an independent cinema."

A £20,000 Save the Phoenix crowdfunding campaign on the GoFundMe website had raised almost £4,000 at the time of going to press.

East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra warned it would be difficult to pull out of the Curzon contract once it had been signed,

citing the example of Barnet Council's deal with Capita to run many of its services "where a lot of shiny promises were made at the start but it has since gone badly wrong".

The trustees made no commitment at the meeting to postpone the signing of the deal. The next step, they said, was a board meeting, with cinema staff, three days later, just after this newspaper went to press.

Chair of the trustees James Kessler told the public meeting that the timescale was urgent and the financial position of the cinema was "dire". Losses for the first half of this year stand at £60,000. However, he said the contract with Curzon had not been finalised and also insisted that safeguards had been built in.

He said: "We will have two remedies: the first is our contractual relationship and the trustees will make sure that Curzon delivers to the standards we have agreed; the second is

that there will be occasional break clauses. We will not be stuck long-term in an unhappy relationship."

There were many questions and passionate interjections from members of the public during the 90-minute meeting. "The Curzon plan has taken everyone by surprise," said one lady, who has been a regular Phoenix-goer for more than 30 years. "Independence will be sacrificed irretrievably," said another.

One man with experience in the field of charities and fundraising called on the board to "harness the emotions" of everyone in the room to draw up a strategy that kept the Phoenix running as an independent cinema. Another said the Phoenix board could not afford emotions, adding: "If income and footfall are dropping, they have got to find a way out of it."

See page 11 for readers' letters about The Phoenix

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World-class acts at Arts Festival

Congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who run the annual East Finchley Arts Festival for another bustling and rewarding 11 days of music, art and film at All Saints Church, Durham Road, and at the Phoenix Cinema. *Archer* photographer Mike Coles captured many of the acts who performed over the last few days of September and the start of October and put together this photomontage for us.

This is what happens when you leave leaves

Many of our side roads have a number of plants thriving at the kerbside and at pavement edges. It seems that last year's uncollected leaf fall has made good bedding for them as well as providing a resting place for a variety of litter.

In the event of a heavy downpour, will this cause a blockage to street drainage or will a load of plants and litter be washed down the drains?

This would be ludicrous since, during the first week of October, there was the rare sighting of tankers clearing drains in the locality. If this year's leaves are left to pile up, how much bigger will the problem be in future?

Interestingly, you can tell which borough you're in when walking between Muswell Hill and East Finchley just by looking at the state of the roadside, thanks to the very different street cleaning regimes of Haringey and Barnet councils.

At the time of going to press, Barnet Council had begun to remove the growth from some roadsides, but many still remained to be cleared.



Plants growing in the uncleaned gutters Photo Mike Coles

A new leaf

Barnet Council is to plant 4,500 trees over the next five years to add to the 30,000 street trees that it currently manages. Populated areas with little tree cover will be made a priority for tree planting to reduce urban heat build-up and sun exposure for residents, along with major roads like the A1 and North Circular where trees will help to counter the effects of air pollution. Old trees in parks and near schools will also be replaced.

'Cowardly' career criminal jailed for string of beauty salon robberies

By Janet Maitland

A man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for robbing women at knifepoint in shops and beauty salons across north and east London, including one in East Finchley.

Kevin Brandy, 50, from Wandsworth, admitted ten counts of robbery and 13 counts of possession of an offensive weapon between March and May 2018. The judge at Wood Green court added an extended licence period of five years to Brandy's sentence, calling him a 'cowardly career criminal.'

One of the robberies was at Nail Studio Designs on the High Road late one afternoon in early May. Brandy broke into the shop wearing a mask and brandishing a knife, forcing the young member of staff and two clients into the back of the shop and stealing a handbag, a mobile phone and £20 before making off on a motorbike driven by an accomplice.

"This man inflicted serious trauma on his victims," said DC Angus Handley. "He deliberately targeted shops with female staff and customers."

Brandy pointed a knife at the stomach of a pregnant victim



Jailed: Kevin Brandy

at a beauty salon on Holloway Road, then stole £80 from the till. At a nail bar in east London he frogmarched a woman with a young baby at knifepoint to the back of the shop and stole £120 from her. He held a knife to the neck of a customer at a hair and beauty salon in Ever-sholt Road NW1 and stole £100 from another.

When Brandy was arrested he had three Stanley knives in his possession.



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YOUNG ARCHER



Behind the mic: The Radio Rithmik crew get ready to broadcast.

Radio station tunes in to young voices

By Aisha Khan

A radio station is giving young people the chance to have their voices heard and create shows that are tuned in to their age group.

Radio Rithmik is a project run by Barnet Youth Services and is based at Canada Villa Youth Centre, close to the Barnet Copthall sports centre. Young 'radioheads' meet there every Tuesday evening during term time to create entertaining and informative shows, covering a range of topics from culture to history.

They work together as a team and get a chance to experience the many different roles in professional radio, such as producing, researching or managing the shows.

Manager Mark Vargeson said: "Giving young people an opportunity to express themselves creatively is really important for us as a youth service, particularly for young people who don't feel comfortable discussing their issues or challenges in a one-to-one environment."

"Complete mix" works

Billing itself as 'Barnet's first and only voice for young people on radio', the project is led by Marcus Day, who comes from a DJ and music production background. He helped to create it with support from the Camden Roundhouse, who supplied funding for equipment and also valuable training.

He explained that there is a "complete mix" of kids attending the centre, adding: "It's probably a group of young people that wouldn't even look at one another at school or become friends or talk but here, they're completely submerged in music, collaborating, talking and sharing ideas."

Fifteen-year-old Naomi Zeidman, Radio Rithmik's station manager, said: "During my time at Radio Rithmik I have seen

eye-opening, valuable skills that will stay with me. I have learnt to work well with a team as well as essential ways to manage a team."

Diary details

The Canada Villa centre is one of the last few youth centres in Barnet and provision is free. On Mondays from 5pm to 8pm a drop in is open to all young people aged 13-19 and up to 25 for those with special educational needs. A core team comes in every Tuesday and works on the radio shows

and, on Wednesdays, alternative education is provided at the centre during the day, coordinating 12-week creative media courses with a final qualification.

Find Radio Rithmik on Mixcloud and follow them on Twitter and Facebook @RadioRithmik. If you are interested in joining for production or radio sessions contact Marcus at radiorithmik@gmail.com.



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All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an
enthusiastic choir.

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

Brownie first aid training pays off

Nine-year-old Olivia Sulenski put the first aid skills she'd learned as a Brownie to good use when she and her mother came across an accident victim. The pair were on their way home after dark from a Girlguiding meeting when they saw what looked like a man passed out at the foot of the stairs into Stephens House in East End Road.

Olivia, a member of 8th West Finchley Brownies, remembered her Safe Space training and said that one of them should maintain a distance and be ready to call for help before investigating further.

Her mum Jacqueline, a trained first aider, found the man was barely conscious and badly hurt. Meanwhile, Olivia found his lost glasses, phone and hearing aid by using the torch on her mother's mobile phone.

The injured man had been due to give a talk at Stephens House that evening and the staff there responded quickly to the situation, providing first aid and calling for an ambulance. He was discharged from hospital

after treatment for a head wound and other injuries.

"It is reassuring to see the values taught in Girlguiding being used to benefit the community," said Jacqueline.

Brownies keep busy

There is a regular Thursday meeting of 4th East Finchley Brownies for seven to 10-year-olds at St Mary's Church Hall, High Road, N2. Some East Finchley girls, like Olivia, belong to groups outside N2 but all the groups belong to the Finchley family of Brownies and Rainbows so often travel to shared meetings and events. Volunteers are always needed to help run the groups. Find out more at girlguiding.org.uk.

A night when you could be naughty

By Diana Cormack

Many people believe that *trick or treat* is an American import which has taken over some of our British traditions. However, it seems that those who migrated from here to America over the years may have taken with them some types of *trick...* but without the *treat*.

When I was a little girl I remember taking part in Mischief Night. If you google this you will find that there were special times dating from way back when people could play tricks on each other. They had different names in different parts of the country, but were found more in the north.

We were living in Yorkshire where, on 4 November, youngsters would go out intending to do something naughty. Perhaps some did nasty things, but we only had a bit of fun like knocking on doors and running away or tying opposite door knobs together so people couldn't open them. Other children were more inventive with eggs, paint, water, syrup and suchlike being put to mischievous uses.

Causing havoc

Various explanations have been given as to how such nights came about. I was led to believe that in Yorkshire it all went back to Guy Fawkes, who was discovered the night before he prepared to blow up Parliament on 5 November.

Guy was a Yorkshireman and, to show their feelings about his treatment, people there rampaged around causing havoc on the anniversary of his arrest. The damage they used to do gradually morphed into a gentler Mischief Night.

Hallowe'en and all that goes with it nowadays overshadows other traditions to do with Bonfire Night and Guy Fawkes, but I like to think that the *trick* part of *trick or treat* originated here and is now back in a different form.

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Restaurant's bid for shisha smoking turned down AGAIN

By Janet Maitland

The long-running saga over whether the Oasis restaurant on Church Lane, N2, should be allowed to host shisha smoking has reached another milestone after Barnet Council once again refused permission.

If you thought the Secretary of State had already ruled against shisha smoking back in January, you are right. However, the main concern then was that the ventilation system had only been tested for smoke drift on a single day. So the owner Khalil Jelbouia had the system tested over seven days and submitted another application.

The council agreed that the new ventilation system installed last July is very powerful, but they cannot be certain that it will prevent smoke from drifting outside in all situations because the roof is partially open due to smoking regulations. According to the council's report, a "combination of increased wind speed, direction and varying numbers of smokers" might therefore offset its effectiveness. Testing the system over seven days wasn't enough.

Catch 22

But how can the Oasis test the system in any way at all when that makes them liable for an unlimited fine for not complying with the ruling of the Secretary of State? And when it is the council that is responsible for enforcing the ruling?

We asked the council what would satisfy them that the

system had been properly tested and what they had done to enforce the ruling. "The use of the premises is under investigation," said a spokesperson. "In the meantime, the applicant is able to seek advice from the Planning Service regarding alternative proposals."

Key issue is odour nuisance

The council report makes a point of stressing that its refusal is based on no other consideration than the nuisance of odour to neighbouring properties on Church Lane, Leopold Road and the future housing development to be built on the old Esso site.

It also states that "the principle or morality or location of the unit comprising shisha use" are not material considerations and neither are "health issues arising from shisha smoking". Furthermore, the proposal for smoking is not considered detrimental to the character and appearance of the surroundings. Consideration has been given to the Oasis' former existence as a pub.

Of the 140 people who commented on the restaurant's application, 119 supported it. Seventeen of the 21 objectors live on Leopold Road.



Green and silver: From left to right, champion gardeners Caroline Broome, Rosie Daniels and Diane Berger.

Garden winners all in a row

There were two hat tricks for local gardeners in this year's London Gardens Society awards. Caroline and David Broome, of Church Lane, N2, won Best Small Back Garden for the third year on the trot and Diane Berger, of Willifield Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, won Best Large Back Garden, also for the third year. At the same time, Rosie Daniels, of Park Crescent, N3, was runner-up in the Best Patio section. Congratulations to them all.

Kick start to library fundraising

The Archer Academy will officially unveil its £250,000 fundraising campaign to build a new library and resource centre this month and it's being backed by award-winning local children's author Anne-Marie Conway, who will donate £20,000 from the sale of her new book.

It is one of a number of initiatives to help reach the school's ambitious target to 'Make Beaumont Brilliant', so-called because the library and resource centre will be built at the Upper School site on Beaumont Close, N2.

Anne-Marie will read from her book, called *Unicorn Girl*, at a special Q&A session for students, and later for parents and residents. She said: "My eldest son joined the Archer Academy the year it opened and I've also taught drama there, so it's close to my heart."

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: "It may seem ambitious to try to raise a quarter of a million pounds in the current climate. But we are passionate about the value of reading and independent study, and are determined to ensure that our GCSE students

have the space and facilities they need to support their learning."

People who want to support the appeal can buy 'leaves' at different prices, starting with Platinum at £5,000, going down to Green at £50. Every

purchaser will have their name displayed on a permanent tribute in the finished library. The appeal has so far raised more than £38,000 and people can donate online here: <https://tinyurl.com/archermbb>

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Phoenix nights

There's something about the movies that endures. Well, in the world of Netprimeflix, it may not endure for everyone, but it sure as hell does for me. It was the first place you could watch flickering images on a silver screen that towered in front of you in a way that no megascreen TV can ever manage.

It's been going for well over a century and here in East Finchley we've had our own magic box of tricks since 1912. I'm not old enough to remember the old Picturehouse or even much about the Rex, but the 1970s and the Phoenix is where I come in.

Back then the pubs closed at 11pm, TV had only three channels, shut down before midnight and was mostly in black and white. So what was a poor boy meant to do after playing in a rock'n'roll band? Well, I'll tell you what we used to do on Friday and Saturday nights, we used to go to the movies. And that meant the late night show at the Phoenix.

Arriving just in time before the first film, bottles of cider and cans of beer hidden under our coats, we knew we were entering another world. We'd pay a couple of quid, climb the old twisting staircase to the auditorium, find the right seats and settle down to watch films they didn't show at the Odeon. It was a movie education.

Trust me on this, but watching *Casablanca* or *Some Like it Hot* in the dark on a big screen is so much better than watching them on TV. Settling down to our favourite double bill of *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Chinatown*, or indulging in late 60s nostalgia by getting recreationally wasted to *Woodstock*, or even drifting our way through *The Man Who Fell to Earth* followed by *2001: A Space Odyssey* was the perfect way to end an evening.

Now older, and no wiser, but still in love with flickering images, I have constantly returned, knowing that the Phoenix might change, but would still be the same, still an experience, still show movies that I couldn't see at a multiplex and do it in style.

Do I care that the Curzon group are going to take over the programming? Maybe, but if they are going to keep showing the kind of films that got me hooked on movies I'll go with it. If the choice is that or a dark screen and a selection of executive apartments, I'll go with the Curzon Phoenix East Finchley.



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- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on tennisgift@gmail.com.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.
- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464. www.a-chord.uk
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **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.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

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
- **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.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **Bridge Club**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Have a butcher's at this

You may have seen the work of watercolour artist Rob Thom on his stall at the East Finchley Festival over recent years showing scenes from N2 and views of London more widely. Now Rob has his first solo painting exhibition, called East Finchley and Beyond, running at the Phoenix Cinema from Thursday 1 November. His work will be on display there until Thursday 29 November and entry is free during Phoenix opening times.

A spot of Hay Fever

Garden Suburb Theatre's latest production is Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, a classic play with a modern feel.

Judith and David Bliss reside in the country with their grown-up children Simon and Sorel. Each member of the family has invited a guest down from London to stay for the weekend. What they have omitted to do is consult either the others or their long-suffering maid Clara.

The scene is set for high drama, theatrical emotional outbursts and questionable romantic clinches. Will the unsuspecting guests survive the weekend with their sanity intact?

Catch the show Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate from 22-24 November at 7.30pm, with a matinee on 25 November at 4pm. Book tickets priced £14/£12 at www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com.

What's On...

Thursday 1 to Thursday 29 November

• **East Finchley and Beyond**, an exhibition of watercolours by artist Rob Thom; foyer of Phoenix Cinema, High Road, N2. Free entry.

Saturday 10 November

• **Battle of Barnet**, guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet 11am at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, EN5 5PP; to explore the famous battlefield of 1471 (Wars of the Roses). Details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or from www.barnet-walks.co.uk.

• **Autumn Fair at Holy Trinity Church**, Church Lane, N2, 12-3pm; games, activities and stalls; homemade cakes and chutneys, toys and books, bric-a-brac and craft items, plus a tombola and raffle. Everyone welcome. Free entry.

• **Finchley Chamber Choir** presents *Dona Nobis Pacem*, a concert to commemorate the end of the First World War, featuring works by Durufle, Elgar, Howells and Finzi; Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 7NN at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £15/£13 concs and £6 under-18s, on the door or in advance at www.fcchoir.co.uk.

Sunday 11 November

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue; An Evening of Spanish and Latin American Music, with soprano Deborah Hudson, mezzo soprano Aurore Lacabe, violinist Duygu Ince, guitarist Berxwedan Koçkaya and pianist Suzy Ruffles; 7.30pm; free entry with collection in aid of MIND. Fully accessible venue.

Friday 16 to Thursday 29 November

• **50:50**: major new themed exhibition at the Highgate Gallery by **East Finchley Open Artists**; open Tuesdays to Sundays, free admission; Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, Highgate, N6 6BS. Find out more at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Saturday 17 November

• **Bulb Planting & Tree Care Day** at Long Lane Pasture, Long Lane, N3, opposite fire station, 10am to noon. Come and join volunteers weeding and mulching around the pasture's trees to prepare for winter and planting flower bulbs for spring.

• **Geology Walk in Coldfall Wood**, leader Diana Clements; 10.30-12.30; book at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk; meet Creighton Avenue opp. Fortismere School. £3 donation appreciated.

• **North London Chorus and Meridian Sinfonia** perform Haydn's *Missa Angustiis*, Britten's *The Company of Heaven* and JS Bach's cantata for solo alto and strings *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*; St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10, at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £23, £19 and £11 (concessions £2) from northlondonchorus.org/tickets and from St James Church Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill.

• **Finchley Symphony Orchestra** present a concert of Russian orchestral fireworks including Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien*, Borodin's *Symphony No.2 in B minor* and Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*; Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 7NN, at 7.30pm. Save £2 a ticket by booking in advance at www.finchleysymphony.org.

Casting surprise keeps actor busy

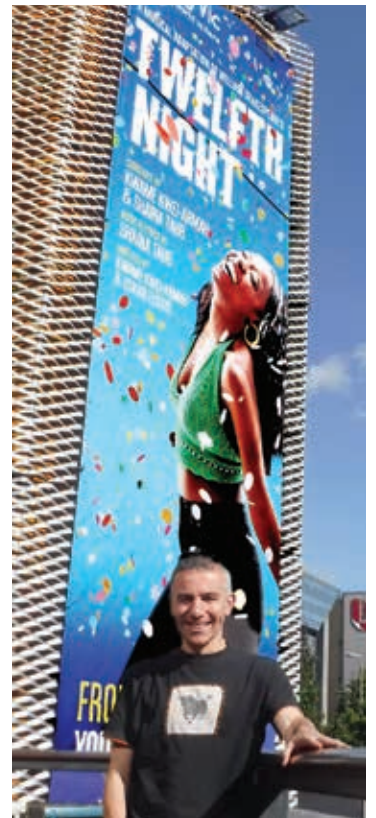
Local actor and teacher Paul Willcocks has been cast as Fabian in Kwame Kwei-Armah's joyous version of *Twelfth Night* at the Young Vic Theatre.

Paul originally planned to be in the community cast and then, out of the blue, was offered a professional contract by Kwame to be in the main cast.

"It was a brilliant opportunity," says Paul, "and initially quite a daunting one as I had also accepted another role at Fortismere School in Muswell Hill, teaching drama and English."

After swift negotiation, Paul found it possible to do both and now teaches drama and English during the day and then zooms down to Waterloo to appear in the show every evening.

His father Len was news editor and feature writer for *The Archer* in the 1990s. "I know my mum and dad would have been so proud," he says, "and the role of Fabian is perfect. He's a mate of Sir Toby Belch and is busting at the seams to play pranks on the kill-joy Malvolio. And the



Paul Willcocks at the Young Vic.

Photo Robert Moore

show's music is just incredible."

Twelfth Night plays at the Young Vic at 7.30pm every evening with a 2.30pm matinee Wednesday and Saturday until Saturday 17 November.

Angelic sounds

For the first concert of North London Chorus's new season, the choir will be joined by the Meridian Sinfonia to perform Haydn's *Missa Angustiis* (aka *Nelson Mass*) and JS Bach's cantata for solo alto and strings or *Widerstehe doch der Sünde*.

The programme will be completed by Benjamin Britten's *The Company of Heaven* which was commissioned for a radio broadcast in 1937 but not performed until 1989. The concert takes place on Saturday 17 November at St James Church, Muswell Hill at 7.30pm. See What's on (below) for ticket information.

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

org/concerts.

Sunday 18 November

• **The Royal Free Music Society** and **The Zemel Choir** mark the centenary of the end of WW1 with *The Spirit of England*, Sir Edward Elgar's tender, haunting requiem and the world premiere of *Armistice* by Benjamin Wolf, musical director of both choirs; Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, NW11 7AA, 7.30pm; Tickets available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/rfms or at the door.

Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 November

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, a classic play with a modern feel; Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate, Thursday to Saturday 7.30pm, with Sunday matinee at 4pm. Tickets £14/£12 from www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com.

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November

• **East Finchley Open Artists** host their **Winter Fair** at Finchley Youth Centre, High Road, N2; browse and buy unique ceramics, textiles, paintings, jewellery, photos and more. Free entry; donations go to the group's chosen charity Art Against Knives. Doors open from 11am to 5pm both days. Find out more at eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Saturday 24 November

• **Muswell Hill Indoor car boot sale** 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; admission 50p; refreshments available. More information from 020.8368.8180 or 07708.152354.

• **Ramblers Association walk around East Finchley**, 5 miles / 8km; meet at 11am at

East Finchley station to walk along Mutton Brook and Dollis Brook ending near Friends Meeting House, Alexandra Grove, North Finchley. Bring picnic lunch. More details from leader Chris Barker on 020 8347 7684 or 07951 905 493.

• **Sound of the Suburb** rock and roll band play at **Madden's Bar**, High Road, N2, from 8pm. Free entry, all welcome.

Thursday 29 November

• **Beyond the Call**, a collection of anecdotes, letters, poems, diaries and bulletins about nurses from Florence Nightingale to today who put their lives at risk to help others, presented in words and pictures; presented as **The Finchley Society's 'Jean Scott Memorial Lecture'**, 8pm, Avenue House at Stephens House and Gardens, East End Road, N3. All welcome, non-members £2.

Saturday 1 December

• **Holy Trinity School Winter Fair**, from 12 noon, Eagans Close, N2. Lots of fun to be had and food to be enjoyed. An Open Day for the school's early years and nursery facilities will run at the same time..

• **Christmas Fair at St Mary's Church**, 279 High Road, N2, from 12 noon to 3pm; meet Santa in his grotto; kid's activities galore, Fortnite dance-off, home bakes, knits, tombolas, arts & crafts, hot food, refreshments and singing. Free entry.

• **Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra** presents works by Berlioz, Prokofiev and Debussy at St Andrew's Church, N10 2DD, 7pm. More information from www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.



Side-by-side dining for family business

By Diana Cormack

For much of this year locals have been wondering what was happening at Genzo, the popular restaurant which has been trading on the High Road, N2, for 11 years. Following a long and extensive refurbishment of the main restaurant, interest focussed on the smaller premises next to it that had been formed out of the original building.

This adjoining area opened briefly as a Pan Asian café but then remained closed for many months as a work in progress. However, on 16 October all was revealed with the launch of Genzo Greek.

"Now is the right time to do it," owner Fodi Toumazos told *The Archer*. "The décor took a while, staff are back from their holidays and my brother and I needed time to finish our jobs before joining the family business."

Fodi previously worked as an accountant at KPMG so has taken on the financial side of things plus a front-of-house role alongside brother Lorenzo.

Genzo itself has been relaunched as Brasserie G. Each restaurant will have an individual menu of homemade food, one Greek, the other European.

But all this would not be

happening without their father and head chef Aggie who, now approaching 60, still loves cooking as much as he did when he started at the age of 16. His enthusiasm for modern and traditional Greek food is the reason behind the new venture. Their mother Maria will be also be active in both restaurants.

Both restaurants open daily from noon to 10.30pm. Call 020 8883 8383 or visit www.genzo.co.uk for more information.

Quiz success

A recent quiz at Nazareth House raised £1,018 towards treats and entertainments for elderly residents there.

Organiser Ruth Jacobs thanked everyone involved, with a special mention for John Kinoulty's hard work preparing the questions.



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Letters

Parking re-think

Dear Editor,

North of the traffic lights at the junction of East End Road and Fortis Green, the Controlled Parking Zone operates from 2-3pm on Monday to Friday. This single hour on a weekday has been sufficient to deter all-day parkers while allowing reasonable car access and parking to shoppers and visitors to the businesses on the High Road and the residential roads either side of it.

South of that junction, however, Barnet Council panicked in anticipation of a huge parking demand from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute prior to its move to premises adjoining East Finchley Underground Station.

The council introduced a CPZ operating from 10.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. That's eight hours a day six days a week. The HGS Institute has long gone from this area and there is no longer any justification for this onerous and unnecessary CPZ (if there ever was) and yet it remains in place, making it more difficult to shop by car in the High Road, visit residents in the adjoining roads or take small children by car to Cherry Tree Wood on a Saturday.

It would be relatively simple and cheap to retain the CPZ but alter the hours of operation to make it only one hour a day Monday to Friday. How about Barnet Council doing it as a goodwill Christmas gift to the residents and businesses of East Finchley?

Yours faithfully,
Eugene Myerson,
Annington Road, N2.

Disappointing makeover

Dear Editor,

It is disappointing that in its recent makeover Budgens has done away with its reduced price section that was very important for many low-income families in East Finchley. Aside from being heartless, Budgens now derives NO revenue for selling reduced price foods but rather transports them unnecessarily to be consigned to waste fill sites. This practice now sets Budgens apart from Tesco, Sainsbury, Waitrose and Morrisons.

Instead the meaningless makeover now provides customers with mindless muzak and faux-rustic looking hessian-covered fruit and vegetable trays that are certain to look ragged before long.

With Budgens soon to encounter competition from Sainsbury, how much longer before Budgens is forced to close and be replaced by Aldi?

Yours faithfully,
Norman Kessel,
Talbot Avenue, N2.

Phoenix: Nonsensical screenings

Dear Editor,

Whilst sad to see the news that the Phoenix might lose its independence, I was not surprised. I am a proud resident of East Finchley and huge supporter of our local independent businesses. I would happily go to the Phoenix every time I wanted to see a film.

However I have been left frustrated that screenings are either at nonsensical times (especially at the weekends), limited to random mid-week showings or indeed screenings of a new release not announced until a week or so after release, when I have already given up and gone elsewhere to view.

As such I can understand why visitor numbers have fallen. Sadly the multiscreen Everyman in Muswell Hill offers options that work for all schedules with a far more reliable website and new release announcements.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

Carry on recycling

Dear Editor,

I was delighted that Barnet Council has removed the unsightly recycling bins and the associated rubbish, making the area outside East Finchley tube station clean and open.

Laurence Robinson's letter in the September issue of *The Archer* seems to believe that recycling is no longer possible at this location. This is not true as can be seen by the green sacks deposited by the street light. I recycle papers, bottles, tins and cardboard etc. on a weekly basis. I suggest that Laurence obtains some green sacks and continues recycling. They can be obtained from Amazon. I recycle my dead batteries at Everything Electrical at 38 High Road, N2.

Yours faithfully,
Geoffrey Ferris,
Address supplied.

You're just my type

Dear Editor,

I wonder if other commuters on the Northern line play the same game as me? When I'm heading home and the train has left Camden Town I try to guess which of the people in my carriage will get off at East Finchley.

I seem to get it right about 50 per cent of the time. Not a bad hit rate, and perhaps it suggests there is an 'East Finchley type', although I wouldn't be able to describe it in words. Perhaps it takes one to know one.

Yours faithfully,
Joe Cooper,
East End Road, 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.

Phoenix: Wishful thinking

Dear Editor,

I am one of what I suspect is the (near silent) majority who support the partnership between the Phoenix and Curzon Cinemas. The deal will preserve what we love (the building and its charitable status, the community and education activities, the eclectic programme of films) whilst improving what we do not (the seats and the fact that not all staff receive the London Living Wage).

It's easy for campaigners opposing the deal to engage in wishful thinking but they do not have the responsibilities on their shoulders of keeping a much-loved venue afloat and of preserving jobs. I have seen nothing to suggest that the trustees are acting recklessly or in anything other than the best interests of the cinema.

Yours faithfully,
David Atfield,
Western Road, N2.

Phoenix: Fundraising not enough

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to *The Archer* for its balanced and fair reporting of the proposed takeover of the running of the Phoenix by Curzon Cinemas.

I have lived in East Finchley for 30 years, and have loved and attended the Phoenix for all that time. It would be great if it could continue to operate independently, and I understand the feelings of those who are petitioning for this.

But those who are campaigning need to come forward with a solid and sustainable business case, which relies on more than community fundraising. In the face of declining audience numbers, I am sure that the trustees did indeed think long and hard about all the options.

Yours faithfully,
Nick Starling,
Durham Road, N2.

Phoenix: Puzzled by plans

Dear Editor,

As a retired director and one that fought the battle to save the Phoenix Cinema in the 1980s, I am most perturbed about the current situation.

Clearly the Phoenix cannot continue losing money. However I cannot believe that the ethos of this listed building and its trust status would be fulfilled by a Curzon take over.

A massive refurbishment with Heritage Lottery grant fundraising in 2010 included new seating, so I am puzzled why the Curzon needs to rip out the interior, though toilet improvements would be greatly welcomed and are urgent.

I wonder why loyal staff at the Phoenix were not informed initially of proposed changes to ownership.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

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Janka and Little Volcanoes Science Club at the recent Fun Palace in East Finchley library. Photo Mike Coles



Story time with Carolyn Pickles in the children's library. Photo Alison Roberts

How East Finchley got its library 80 years ago

East Finchley library opened 80 years ago. To mark this occasion, a group of local volunteers have been exploring the archives to uncover its history.

By Emily Burnham

"Books are as necessary to the public as open spaces, baths and health services," said Councillor Herbert Wilmot to the East Finchley Ratepayers Association in January 1938, welcoming the library that was to open nine months later on the High Road, the second purpose-built library in the district after North Finchley opened in 1936.

It is thanks to Cllr Wilmot that we have a historical record.

As chairman of the Public Libraries Committee in 1931, he recalled the first resolution for a library service had come in 1912 from the Finchley branch of the National Women Citizens' Association (NWCA), an outgrowth of the suffrage movement. Headmasters of local schools followed.

Key supporters

In 1925 when Finchley Council voted against the Public Libraries Act, East Finchley ratepayers disagreed and voted that support for libraries should be "an election plank". A couple

called Mr and Mrs Tinkler were key supporters and we can see their foresight when Mr Tinkler is quoted as saying: "A library tends to become a civic centre and what Finchley lacks today is a municipal soul."

Mrs Tinkler was vice-chair of the women's section of the Labour Party. Her name crops up in fundraising events like Christmas fairs at Martin School and raising money for causes such as miners' relief.

A Mrs Timberlake was another key figure. She was the first female councillor in Finchley from 1925, supported by the NWCA. In 1932, when she joined the Libraries Committee, a colleague ceded to her "so she can see the books are suitable for the flappers of the

district".

Once the depression of 1931-32 had passed, in 1935 the Council felt able to increase rates by 3d a year specifically to fund local services in health (Oak Lane Clinic), housing (Red Lion Hill, later The


Grange) and the "municipal soul" of the library.

When East Finchley's library finally opened in October 1938, the headline in The Hendon Times read: *£13,000 Library Opened... A Treasure of Mental Culture.*

Weekend winter fair

East Finchley Open Artists will be holding their Winter Fair over a whole weekend on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November at the Finchley Youth Centre in the High Road, next door to Tony's Continental.






It's a chance to browse and buy unique ceramics, textiles, paintings, jewellery, photos and more. Entry is free with donations going to the group's chosen charity, Art Against Knives. Doors will be open from 11am to 5pm both days. Find out more at eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.



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Silver screen history

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is hosting an evening exploring the history of the Muswell Hill Odeon.

Cinema historian Jeremy Buck will describe its controversial opening in 1936, the boom years of the 1930s and 40s, the threat of closure in the 1980s and its rebirth as the Everyman.

His talk will be fully illustrated with a selection of images and the Paramount newsreel of the opening night. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book. It takes place on Thursday 8 November at North Bank, Muswell Hill Methodist Church, Pages Lane, N10, at 7.30pm.

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