



Oven gloves on for return of the East Finchley Bake Off

By Fiona Doyle

Readers may remember the wonderful EAT Finchley Food Fest that took place last March along the High Road celebrating all things foodie in East Finchley. A particularly successful element of the event was the Bake Off competition, which was hugely enjoyed by all who entered and all who sampled the bakes!

This year, organisers from the East Finchley Town Team have incorporated the Bake Off into the East Finchley's Got Talent event taking place at the Phoenix Cinema on Sunday 21 April.

'The Silver Screen'

The theme this time is 'The Silver Screen' and you can be as creative as you like with your bakes. Perhaps you could make a cake to represent your favourite film, or something to celebrate a cinema or the movies

generally?

Entrants of all ages and abilities are welcome to take part. Bakes can be brought to the Phoenix anytime from 10am on Sunday 21 April. Entrants will be asked to complete a short form with their contact details and also a list of the ingredients used in the bakes.

The competition will be judged by Councillor Arjun Mittra and 11 year old Essie, the winner of last year's Bake

Off. Judging will take place just before the interval of the talent show and the winner will be announced on the Phoenix stage.

Slices of the bakes will be available during the talent show interval and also at the end of the event. All donations raised will go towards the Phoenix Cinema charity. For more information, email EFtownteam@gmail.com, or feel free to bring a bake along on the day.



Taste test: Judging gets under way at last year's Bake Off event in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles



Green space: Trees, seating and performance areas feature in the vision for the pavement area outside Budgens and Iceland. Image LFA2023 © Kes-Tchaas Eccleston and MillsPower Architecture

Town square plans moving ahead

By Roger Chapman

Last month's *Archer* featured a new Town Square proposal for the area between Budgens and Iceland on the High Road drawn up by local architects Mills Power Architects for the East Finchley Town Team.

The plans have received strong support with a strong desire for the plans to be realised as soon as possible. There have also been very useful detailed comments about the type of trees to be used to avoid hay fever problems and leaf litter. All these are being taken into account.

Barnet Council officers

have told the Town Team that they "are reviewing [the plans] to understand the options and issues, and to give some early views on next steps", including in-person meetings to discuss the proposals further.

A bid has been submitted to the London Festival of Architecture 2024 to manufacture some demonstration staging

and bench arrangement, which could be in place this June.

Kate Brown, Chair of East Finchley Town Team, said: "We are pleased at the progress being made but know that the bureaucracy and fundraising needed to realise the whole scheme will take some time. We will keep the pressure up and ensure local people are informed of progress through *The Archer* and our website www.east-finchley.london

New round of community grants

Grange Big Local has announced the third round of Community Grants for individuals (up to £600), and for organisations (up to £10,000), who want to deliver activities in the Grange Big Local area. The activities should benefit residents, the environment, or the local economy.

Applications will open on 22 April. Latest details on how to apply will be available at www.grangebiglocal.org.

Extra support

You'll also be able to find

out about Grange Big Local's monthly grant-writing clinics providing support for those applying for the grants and anyone else looking for grant-writing support.

Air quality and parking tackled by Town Team

By Roger Chapman

A good crowd turned up at the Constitutional Club last month to hear a wide range of updates at one of East Finchley Town Team's informal monthly meetings.

Dave McCormick, from Barnet Friends of the Earth, ranged wide on a number of issues to do with air quality, active travel, buildings and energy, citizen science and all other issues connected with sustainability as part of Barnet Net Zero 2040.

Air quality monitors are being employed both inside and outside homes across Barnet to obtain pollution information. Town Team are thinking about how we can employ such air pollution monitoring, perhaps starting at the London Festival of Architecture event in June.

There was an interesting discussion about the Barnet food plan, along with healthy high street initiatives – including a good food charter for businesses and a new scheme being promoted by Barnet Council about eating legumes, beans, peas and lentils.

We heard an update about Asian hornets and the problems that they can cause. There has been a good response to the request for people to take traps into their gardens and nearly 20 people are taking part.

The next meeting of the Town Team, on Thursday 11 April, will focus on the pro-

posed CPZ in East Finchley extending to the North Circular. This will be held in the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. All are welcome.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: April 2014

The future of East Finchley Post Office in Viceroy Parade was in doubt and last ditch local efforts were being made to stop its closure. Despite a petition signed by 934 residents and representations from local disability groups, the Crown Post Office soon closed and services were relocated to UOE on the other side of the High Road.

15 years ago: April 2009

Princess Anne led a host of dignitaries attending a premiere at the Phoenix Cinema. The film on show starred deafblind people and was made to highlight the work of Sense, the national deafblind charity. The action followed the process of assessing a client's needs through to providing support and seeing its impact.

23 years ago: April 2001

Amidst the Foot and Mouth disease epidemic, Barnet Council announced a ban on public access to farmland and associated footpaths across the borough. Despite the crisis, local butchers reported no problems with meat supplies although some prices had risen and spring lamb was likely to be in short supply.



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