



Pocket garden: Residents and volunteers at the environmental award presentation in Leopold Road

Green credentials award for neighbourhood garden

By Ruth Anders

Local residents and members of The Finchley Society and East Finchley Community Trust came together in early April to see the Leopold Road Neighbourhood Garden presented with an environmental award.

The Finchley Society's Environment & Transport committee supports the encouragement of green spaces, and it was easy to see why they had made the award to the neighbourhood project. The flower beds are bursting with beautiful plants, the small library, managed by librarian Valerie Teague, is thriving, and the seats beg you to take a breather there.

Mick Crick, Chairman of the Society, told *The Archer*: "It's lovely to see something that lifts the spirits and is the total opposite of the little nooks that attract cigarette ends and beer cans."

The garden's designer Edwina Roberts added, "I am very possessive about these flower beds! Living round the corner in Leopold Road it's

easy for me to check on them all the time and keep them tidy." Leopold Road resident Kathy Batten was delighted to accept the award from the Society's Peter Hale, before circulating chocolates. Barnet Council and its councillors, the Trust and the Society have all helped enable the transformation of what was once a derelict area through their financial support.

A place to put divisions aside

By Maxine Klein

We are living through a time of war, and conflict borne of mistrust and hatred of others. So it was heartwarming to attend an event a few weeks ago at which Jews, Muslims, Christians, asylum seekers from many countries, young people, older people and children all assembled to celebrate Iftar, the fast-breaking meal of Muslims in Ramadan, at Finchley Progressive Synagogue.

This event was designed to create awareness of Citizen UK's Room on the Bus campaign for free travel in Barnet for asylum seekers. The group hired a vintage bus that toured key areas and ended up in Barnet for the Iftar event.

The evening started with Rabbi Rebecca Birk saying a blessing and then welcoming guests from local synagogues, churches, schools, mosques, and other organisations. Two of the asylum seekers explained what the campaign was about and why

free transport is so essential.

There followed a delicious vegetarian meal at which the guests were encouraged to speak to people whom they did not know. Some did, others didn't, but it was nevertheless a very lively and joyous occasion.

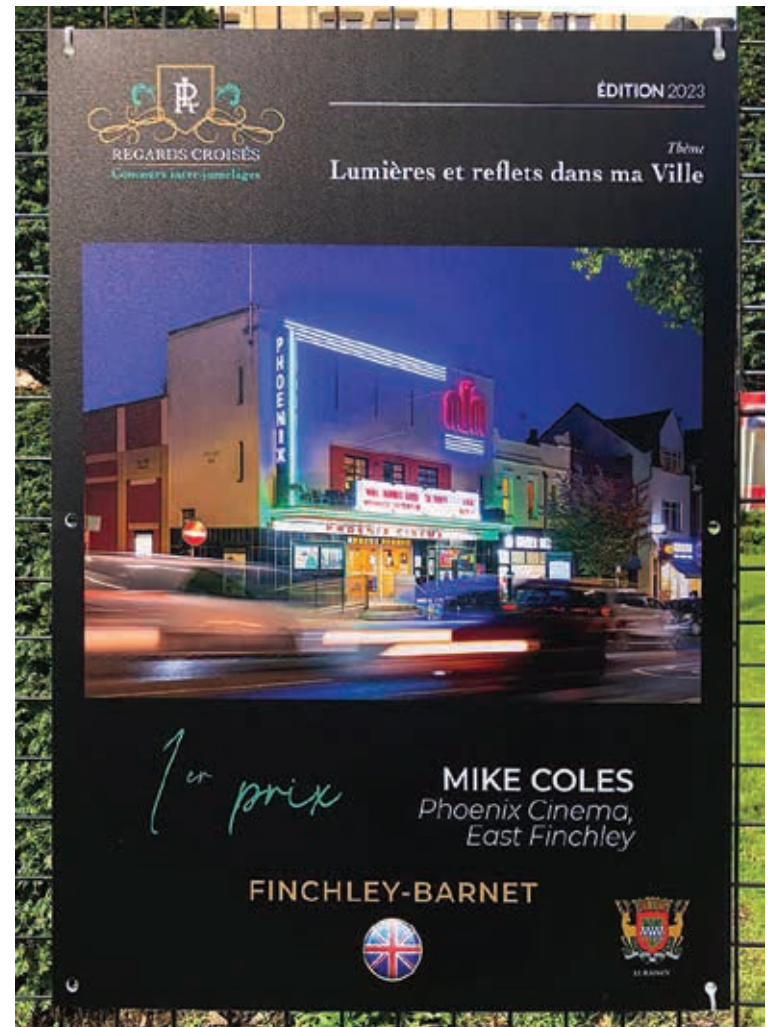


Breaking bread: People of all denominations and none enjoy the Iftar meal together. Photo courtesy Maxine Klein

Mike lights up the big screen

Congratulations to our photo editor Mike Coles, who won first place in a photo competition run by Barnet's twin town in France. Each year, Le Raincy invites residents of its twin towns, also including Caldas da Rainha in Portugal and Clusone in Italy, to send in their best work and this year the theme was 'Lights and Reflections in my City'.

This gave Mike the chance to send in one of his atmospheric shots of East Finchley's Phoenix Cinema illuminated in its wonderful neon colours with the headlights of traffic passing by on the High Road.



Neon frontage: Mike's winning shot of the Phoenix in the twin town competition

Calling all singles

Singles are being invited to come along to the East Finchley Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2, for a friendly evening with a chance to meet and talk with others.

"Many individuals try dating apps which can be daunting and sometimes impersonal, so we thought we would invite local single people to come along to the Club," said the organisers. "No games, no gimmicks, no pressure, just meeting and talking to other locals. This is open to anyone over 18, everyone is welcome." If you'd like to come along for the Singles Night on Saturday 18 May at 7.30pm, book your



space for £5 with a free drink on arrival by emailing efclub1@gmail.com. You'll receive payment details by reply.

Muswell Hill indoor sale

The next monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 25 May from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Rd, N10 3AH. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For more information, contact 020 8368 8180.