



Letters

Phoenix reborn

Dear Editor,

East Finchley's beloved independent Phoenix Cinema reopened just before Christmas to showcase its sumptuous refurbishment. Not only has the main screen had a luxurious makeover, there's an exciting additional screen to increase the repertoire of films on offer to residents of N2 and further afield.

We were thrilled to visit the new additional screen a few days after its opening. It's a wonderfully cosy and incredibly comfortable setting in which to spend a few hours of film watching. Boasting 23 large, modern cinema seats, the second screen is an absolute delight. It also includes a brand new 2k laser projector and an immersive surround sound system.



Take it easy: Some like the new seats at the Phoenix, some don't

As a new year treat, we were back, this time to see a film showing in the transformed main screen, with its upgraded sound system. There's a lovely aroma of new soft furnishings, with large, comfortable seats including extra leg room and drinks holders for the cup of tea that is essential for me for film watching, all adding to the joy of a trip to the Phoenix. For those who feel like splashing out, premium seating is also available.

If you haven't yet been to our fantastic new look local cinema, it's well worth a visit for an extra special afternoon or evening out. Part of the High Road since 1910, the refurbished Phoenix well deserves its place as one of the jewels in East Finchley's crown.

Gail Norcliffe
Address supplied

Send your letters to:
news@the-archer.co.uk

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.

Not impressed

Dear Editor

Following the £500,000 refurbishment and expansion of the Phoenix Cinema, apparently "first reactions to the new seats in the main auditorium were positive" (The Archer, January 2025).

I beg to differ: on my first visit in early January I was not the only one to be frankly appalled by the highly uncomfortable, backwards-leaning seats. These could be appropriate in a plane or train, encouraging occupants to doze away a long journey, but are counter-productive in a cinema.

As the backs are non-adjustable I put my rolled-up coat behind me; my neighbour will bring a cushion next time saying, tongue-in-cheek, that the sleep-inducing angle might be intentional so that viewers have



Planet friendly: The Eco Eddy mascot designed to front Martin Primary School's sustainability project

School sets goal of super sustainability

By Isobel Grant

A green mascot called Eco Eddy designed by children at Martin Primary School in East Finchley is helping pupils and staff to achieve the school's goal of becoming a Sustainability Super School by the end of the summer term.

The school ran a competition last term for the children to create an eco-mascot image to represent the programme, and the winner was Eco Eddy, who is now appearing all over the buildings and grounds, attached for example to light switches (Switch It Off!), and everywhere else where an action reminder is helpful.

At the same time, Martin Primary is establishing better forms of waste reduction and disposal, introducing more trees and plants to its premises and implementing an air quality measuring project in partnership with Imperial College.

The school has even launched its own Eco-Council,

whose members from Years 4 to 6 include a representative from each class. They meet once a week to discuss possible improvements to school activities.

One of the school's governors, acting as their Climate Ambassador, is working with a designated member of staff to develop and deliver a climate action plan unique to the school.

Make a difference

Headteacher Ziz Chater told TheArcher: "I'm delighted with the progress that has already been made with this programme.

We're working hard to engage the children, staff, parents and the wider community

to be aware of all the things they can do to make a difference. The children are really enthusiastic."

Martin Primary is aligning with the Climate Ambassador initiative developed by University College London's Climate Action Unit, a programme that is progressing the Department for Education's sustainability and climate change strategy to help education settings develop impactful climate action plans.

Barnet Council is also involved, co-producing schemes giving general support to schools in the Borough. So, a lot of help is available to inspire and help put the MPS programme into practice.

Boxing can be for anybody

Fitness coach Nick Weekes has a passion for boxing as a tool for personal growth in both mind and body, and he is keen to dispel any notion that it's an activity "just for blokes".

"It's all about keeping it fun with good, happy, vibes and there is no upper age limit: anyone can use boxing skills to be fit and healthy," said Nick, who has just opened a new boxing club in the centre of Muswell Hill.

He is offering a free first session to anyone interested in getting strong, fit and confident. This includes his youth classes

for 12 to 18-year-olds. Find out more at muswellhillboxingclub.com



Punch it: The new boxing club is open to all ages and all abilities

Did you know?

The Archer is printed each month on paper made from 100% recycled fibre, mostly retrieved from old newspapers collected by local authorities around the country.

It is made here in the UK in King's Lynn in Norfolk, some 50km from our printers Sharman and Co in Peterborough.

Tell us the news

Have you got a news story or an interesting photo for us? Tell us what is going on in East Finchley by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748. Thank you.