Jeremy Leaf & Co.
est 1979
residential sales • lettings • management
020 8444 5222
www.jeremyleaf.co.uk

ISSN 1361-3952

The Archer

Local News is our Aim

November 2026 No. 391

Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley

The Archer is a non-profit-making, non-political & non-religious newspaper, run entirely by volunteers

Cinema unveils plans for major foyer redesign

By Ruth Anders

"Absolutely thrilled," said recent graduate Alex Smith, when told his team had won the competition to design a stunning new interior for the foyer of the Phoenix Cinema. "The Phoenix Cinema is a key part of what makes East Finchley special."



Part of the Phoenix foyer redesign

Alex is one of the students from Middlesex University's Interior Architecture Design course who took part in this summer's competition to propose a scheme for the revitalisation of the cinema's foyer and toilets, alongside fellow student Abyudh Gajja, Marco Leung and Niloofar Toutounchi.

Their winning design features a completely revamped box office and snacks counter beneath an illuminated menu board resembling a cinema marquee. Elsewhere in the foyer there are new seating areas backed by low-lit panels featuring designs reminiscent of projection rooms and celluloid film. The cinema's toilets are also given a smart makeover in keeping with the venue's art deco heritage.

Alex, who has lived in the area all his life, told The Archer, "I knew the Phoenix needed some help, and I took the idea to our tutor Jason Scoot. It was the first group project we'd done, and the four of us worked well together to agree a concept and then develop the detail."

Continue reading and see more of the winning designs on page 3



Golden arrow

Maggie Woolf demonstrates her skill with a bow perfected through 50 years in the sport of archery, which have included an influential role in helping to bring the Olympic Games to London in 2012. Friends and family came together at the Aquarius club in East Finchley to celebrate her five decades of shooting on target. Read the full story on page 4. Photo Geoffrey Davies

Christmas party

Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road, N2, will be holding its annual Christmas party for senior East Finchley residents again this year, on Thursday 10 December, from 5 to 7pm. Guests are asked to arrive by 4.45pm in order to make a prompt start. 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 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 can be provided for those residents who are less able. To book your place, phone 020 8883 0433, leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

Light up the festive season

By Hat Townley

Everyone is invited to the East Finchley Town Square, outside Budgens in the High Road, to celebrate the start of the festive season on Saturday 28 November at 5pm.

Watch the area shapeshift into a blaze of seasonal light as our lights will switch on to the sound of music and carols led by our local choirs and the London Metropolitan Brass Band. And, of course, you!

As ever, thanks to the generosity of Budgens, there will be mince pies to cheer our souls and mulled wine to warm our voices and remind us all that 'tis the season to be jolly… Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

In this issue

Car park theft.....p5
Ground-breaking hospice.....p5
House full of history.....p6
Capoeira international.....p8
Arts and reviews.....p9
Your Letters.....p11

LONDON KITCHENS
for everyone
www.londonkitchens.co.uk

AMANDA WALKER
exp
Independent Estate Agent
07817 598309
Trusted local estate agent with years of experience. Give me a call – I'd be happy to see how I can help.
• Sales • Lettings
• Property management
e. amanda.walker@exp.uk.com
w. amandawalker.exp.uk.com

BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 GOLD WINNER ESTATE AGENT IN EAST FINCHLEY
BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 GOLD WINNER ESTATE AGENT IN MUSWELL HILL
PRICKETT & ELLIS ESTD 1767
East Finchley Office
82 High Road, N2 9PN
020 8883 0033
eastfinchley@prickettandellis.com
www.prickettandellis.com
Sales & Lettings | Surveyors | Valuers | Property Management | Financial Services