



Alderman Alfred Thomas Pike. Image courtesy Avenue House.

# Finchley Celebrates the Big 70

By Daphne Chamberlain

In October 1933, when Barnet was the country cousin up the road, Finchley became a borough. That lasted only until 1965, when they both joined up with Hendon to become our present LBB. Still, there was a lot of local identity bound up in those 30 years, celebrated last month by the Finchley Society on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Borough Charter. Anyone presuming that was just a paper transaction should have seen the Society's Avenue House exhibition.

### Charter Day

At the time, Alderman Pike, who led the bid for borough status, wrote, "It is of course necessary that the honour bestowed upon Finchley shall be celebrated appropriately, and it is desired that in addition to official celebrations, arrangements be made to give a tea and entertainment for the school children in the district, a supper for the aged and infirm, and to provide some benefit to the families of the unemployed. Celebrations shall not be a charge on the rates, and I am therefore asking some of the residents for donations."

His plea was successful, and East Finchley hosted the supper for the aged and infirm, in the Congregational church on the site of Budgen's. There was also

a fair on the corner of Summers Lane and the High Road (known as the Gun Site), junior football at Summers Lane, a youth rally in Victoria Park, celebrations at Avenue House, a road walk race, and a water carnival at the original Lido (nothing like its Warner Village replacement).

VIPs, including royalty, lunched at Christ's College and had dinner and a ball at King Edward Hall (junction of Regent's Park Road and Hendon Lane). At the handing over of the Charter, a messenger was dispatched to George V.

### Historic Films

Thanks to films made by the Finchley Cine Society, exhibition visitors saw most of these events

on video. Norman Burgess, who watched the Charter procession as a child, provided the commentary. Still photos, plus subsequent history of the Borough of Finchley, were presented by Finchley Society archivists Maggie Ferguson and Derek Warren, and Alderman Pike's grandson lent memorabilia from Charter Day.

### Chain of office

At a (non-public) evening reception, Barnet's mayor wore the chain of office of the mayor of Finchley. It was brought from the Town Hall archives with Finchley's mace—both generally harder to see than the Crown Jewels.

The Finchley Society can be contacted on 020 8883 2633 or [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk).

## Forum Fury Postpones Wilmot Decision

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Herbert Wilmot Centre has a stay of execution, thanks to the recent Finchley Forum meeting which was dominated by angry users of the Centre.

The internationally known Finchley Children's Music Group said they had found out about the closure in casual conversation, when it was suggested they could use the Finchley Youth Theatre. They had then explained that the Theatre was occupied when they would need it. Furthermore, the Youth Theatre's own location is now uncertain.

The After School Club had not been consulted, and no alternative provision had been made for them. They were supported by Holy Trinity School, who said that many of their children—often from one-parent families—attended the Club.

### Foul Play?

Stanley Road Playing Field Association accused the Coun-

cil of neglecting and failing to repair the Centre after running down youth services that had been there before. (The Centre houses the field's floodlight controls, showers and changing-rooms.) They alleged that Barnet had removed equipment necessary for the upkeep of the field, and had refused to extend their lease some years ago. This is claimed to have lost them a potential £250,000 grant from the Lottery.

It was also noted that official sources had referred to the closure of the Centre as "imminent" before the Cabinet meeting.

Barnet's Deputy Chief Executive Brian Reynolds said he had understood that Wilmot

Centre users had been offered alternative accommodation, and that closure was part of Barnet's policy of bringing services to youth, rather than being tied to a fixed site. The future of Stanley Field was still being considered.

### Something going on

Forum Chair Cllr Leslie Sussman expressed concern, adding, "There is something going on here which does not gel". He said he would make a report to the Cabinet Overview Meeting. A few days later, Cllr Lyon announced his decision to rescind the closure.

The next Forum meeting will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 3 December at Trinity Church, 15, Nether Street, N12.

## Caption Calamity

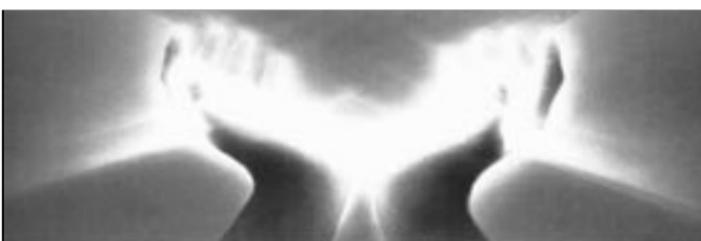
In last month's ARCHER, we inadvertently made two errors:

On page 5 our Yogastory referred to 'Sally' Rose and her daughter 'Summer'. The names should have read 'Sallie' and 'Sunnah'.

On the next page we failed to credit

the photograph of Church Lane. This photograph was provided by kind permission of Clive Smith of Memories Picture Library in Hendon.

We offer our sincere apologies to those concerned for any embarrassment or offence caused.



## The Power of Healing Isabel Douglas Health & Beauty Centre

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Although Yoga is relatively new to the West, it has a long and venerable tradition in the East. It is thought to date back to at least 3000BC and has been practised in India to promote physical and spiritual health and well being for millennia.

Yoga was originally popularised in the West during the 1960's. For a while, Yoga and Meditation remained a mystery to the West but more and more people are taking Yoga as a physical activity. The fact is that Yoga is a suitable form of exercise and relaxation for people of all ages and abilities. Beginners are not expected to perform the full postures straight away, modified versions are still very beneficial and often essential if the practitioner is explaining health problems.

For those in the know, Yoga is not simply a series of poses but a whole way of life, encompassing diet, massage, relaxation and meditation. As well as being a great way to stay in shape, it also promotes the body's natural healing powers and can be used by anyone to treat a wide range of health problems.

Isabel Douglas Health & Beauty Centre in East Finchley offers Yoga, Pilates and Alexander Technique throughout the week.

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