



Local Society Spotlight

Victim Support needs volunteers

Victim Support Barnet has served the borough for the past 12 years, sending trained volunteers to provide free confidential support and advice following crimes ranging from burglary and assault to rape and murder.

Their office is situated in East End Road and receives referrals daily from the police and other voluntary and statutory agencies. Victims of crime, either recent or who suffered in the past, are also welcome to refer themselves on 0181-343 4435.

Help needed

People react to crime in many ways. Although most victims do not suffer long-term harm, both adults and children can be seriously affected and often need help in order to recover. People often need someone to talk to, information on police and court procedures, reassurance and emotional support, information and support when attending court, help with compensation and insurance, crime prevention advice, help with housing or benefit problems or contact with other local organisations.

Victim Support Barnet looks for volunteers who are understanding and good listeners and who can get on with people of all ages, cultures and back-

grounds. Anyone can apply and volunteers are welcomed from all the different cultural backgrounds living in our diverse borough.

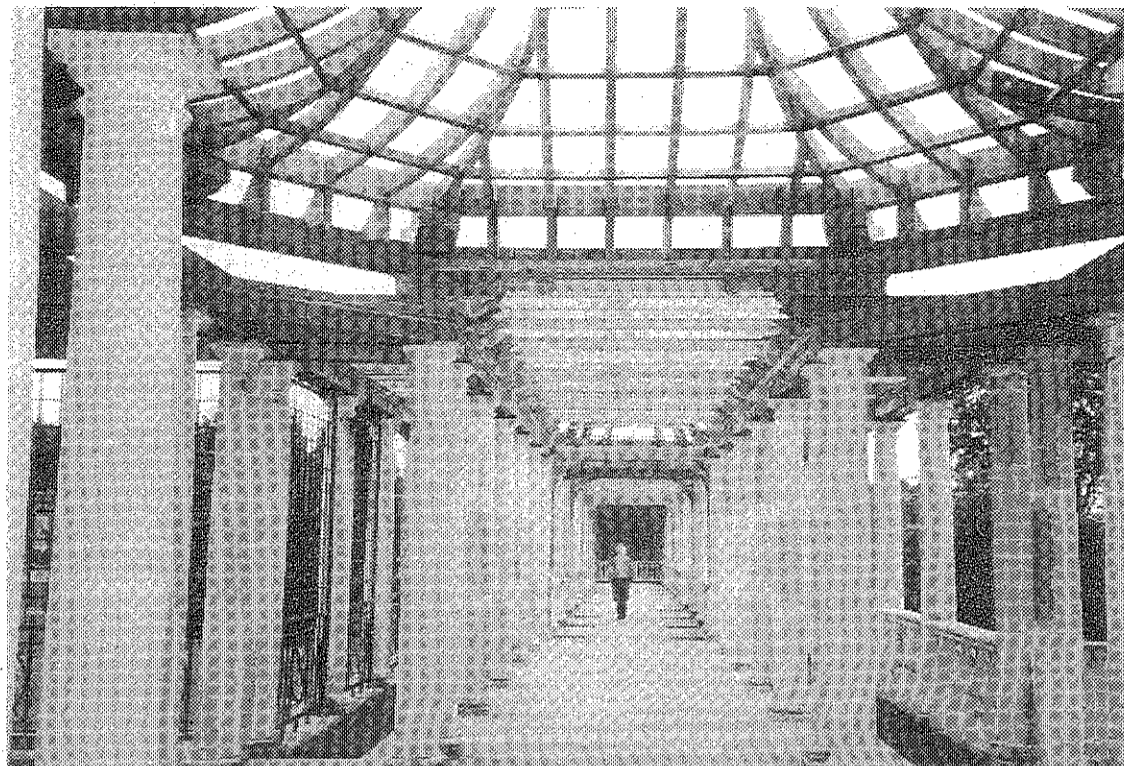
Full training

All volunteer visitors are given training and further training is available for some visitors who wish to extend their work to people who have suffered serious crimes, such as women victims of sexual violence and families of murder victims. Most volunteers work several hours a week, are closely supervised and need to attend a monthly support meeting.

Most people volunteer for Victim Support because they want to help people.

Volunteers are rewarded by seeing the difference Victim Support can make to people whose lives have been shattered by crime.

If you feel you can help Victim Support and would like further details, please ring the Barnet Co-ordinator, Pat Bacchus on 0181-447 1643



Serene entertainment: the restored pergola

The Pergola Connection

Picture and story by David Tupmam

It's historical, it's on East Finchley's doorstep and, what's more, it's free!

It's the newly-restored and resplendent Pergola at Hampstead Heath. Situated just off North End Way, it's within spitting distance of Jack Straw's Castle.

Reminiscent of old times, the pergola offers serene covered walks to those who enjoy quiet

recreation and peaceful contemplation.

Hill charm

Originally built between 1906 and 1925 as part of the landscaped gardens of The Hill, Lord Leverhulme's north London home, this oasis of calm has had extensive restoration of brickwork and timbers by its new owner, the Corporation of London. During the autumn, replanting of the walkway and

the former kitchen garden will complete the project.

How to get there:

Take the 102 bus from the High Road to Golders Green. From the bus station walk past the old Hippodrome and on up North End Way on the right-hand side. A vigorous 10 minute walk finds the intrepid visitor searching for the hard-to-find sign to The Hill garden where the pergola is.

COMPUTER CLUB

I See No Chips!

Wednesday July 26 saw the first meeting of *The Archer* Computer Club at Welch's Ale House, East Finchley.

The half dozen or so who came together ranged from complete computer novices to seasoned cyber punks who regularly cruise the information superhighway.

Once the excellent beer on offer was sampled, the group got down to business.

The subject of the day turned out to be the Internet and *The Archer's* planned "Electronic Newspaper" on the World Wide Wen (WWW).

WWW is a way of producing and distributing information, software and documents to

a wide audience in an easy-to-use and often entertaining way. All that is needed to get such information is a computer, a modem, access to the Internet itself and appropriate software.

The Archer Computer Club will be designing the on-line version of *The Archer* which should be available to the public next month. Full details of how to access it, and answers to common Internet questions will be published next month.

Readers interested in being involved (or learning about WWW publishing) should get in contact with the Computer Club, either by writing to *The Archer* or by sending e-mail to archer@finn.netkonect.co.uk.

Another selection of computer problems and answers from our readers:

Q. Slow word-processing

I have just upgraded my word-processing package from Microsoft Word for Windows version 2 to version 6, but now my system runs unbearably slow. My computer is a Dell 325sx with 4MB RAM. Why does it run so slowly.

A. Newer versions of software often have extra features built in, and as a result are much larger than their previous version. As a consequence a more powerful computer is needed to run these programs satisfactorily. In this case there are two options: upgrade the RAM or change the computer for a more powerful 486 model. The RAM can quite easily be upgraded on this model to 8MB.

Q. Not enough disk space
One of my friends has recommended upgrading the hard disk on my computer. If I have this work done, will I lose the programs that I already have? What happens to the disk space that I have at the moment?

A. When adding a hard disk to a computer, it is possible to fit two hard disks at once, so the new hard disk will add to the space that you already have. Therefore, no programs or data should be lost. Fitting two hard disks at once, however, should be left to an expert unless you are competent with computer hardware.

Q. Windows performance
What setting in Windows

will have the biggest effect on performance? My computer runs very slowly and I am sure it is capable of running faster.

A. The configuration of the Windows swapfile is largely responsible for performance in Windows. By default a temporary swapfile is set up, which can be improved greatly by changing to a permanent swapfile. To change this setting start the Control Panel. Choose the enhanced icon, and press the Virtual Memory button. If a permanent swapfile is already installed, press OK, otherwise press the Change button. Change the Type setting to Permanent; additional performance can also be gained in some cases by enabling the 32-bit disk file access features. Then press OK; your computer will restart and Windows will run faster.

Next month we will feature another round of questions from readers. You can send your questions by post to *The Archer* P.O. Box 3699, N2 8JA or by email to archer@finn.netkonect.co.uk

On the Net

Dear Sir,
I was interested to note that you now have an e-mail address. Unfortunately I cannot make the first meeting on July 26th but I am interested in the idea of community use of the network. I am a librarian (but writing in a personal capacity) and have spent a good deal of time over the last 3 years working with networked information.

The Internet is a major part of my working life now and inevitably becomes part of personal life too. I have seen that there are initiatives in various places to promote "community networking" - e.g., Pavilion have done this in Brighton.

There are two aspects to this:

1. Making it easy to gain access to the network (putting terminals in public libraries, cafes, etc.) and,

2. Providing local information on the network (probably via the www). This can lead on to also making it easy for individuals (or local businesses) to publish their own info on the network.

Is this an area that you plan to explore with your computer club, or perhaps outside that group?

Frank Norman
Fortis Green N2
The editor writes:
This is *The Archer's* first piece of Internet mail. Congratulations, Mr. Norman and welcome aboard!

East Finchley Youth Football Club ATTENTION!! EFY FOOTBALL CLUB NEEDS YOU

EFY requires players for next season at under-11s and under-12s age groups to play competitive football in the north London area. For more information please ring the club secretary, Pete Dean on: 0181-343 3750

COMPUTER CLUB
next meeting
Wednesday
30 August