



Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Phantom bus stop

In the October issue, we wrote about the bus shelter outside The Bargain Centre, but within a week of The Archer hitting the streets the shelter was removed. OK, maybe the removal was planned months in advance, but we didn't mention the other phantom bus stop outside Cory chemists and that's still there. A coincidence or what?

Some fiddle

The Imperial Cancer Research Charity Shop in Muswell Hill made the national papers recently. A violin that had been donated to them, originally valued at £40, made £20,000 at auction.

Madonna

Reports in the national papers state that Madonna is looking at a catholic school in North London to educate her daughter, Lourdes. She wishes her to be "a good catholic", just like herself.

Christmas business

Trade was not great in East Finchley shops during the festive season. However somebody must be doing well, since one local building society actually ran out of money.

Library

The new sign for opening times outside the library is causing much amusement. Someone from Barnet Council cannot spell Wednesday.

Hot dog

Someone stole a large china dog from outside The Bargain Centre just before Christmas. It is the only one of its type in East Finchley, so if you got a Christmas present of a large china bulldog, please ask where it came from. There are certain marks on it that only I know about.

Rewards

On 14 December, Martin Henham's antique shop was burgled. His son's miniature cycle was stolen. It's a 50cc mini Yamaha XT, shaft drive, red and cream in colour. These bikes are like hen's teeth to find! Mr Henham is offering a £200 reward for information leading to its recovery. He is also offering a £200 reward for information as to the whereabouts of his La Boheim (French) folding caravan which was stolen from Creighton Avenue on 27 December. Colour is cream with a brown band.

Auction

Apologies to people who were looking forward to The Archer auction. Cancellation was due to delays in the building work at The Old White Lion. It will now take place in February.

Talking point

The main talking point among customers at The Bargain Centre this month was the removal of the van embedded in the wall in Leicester Road. This local landmark always made people smile. We need quirky things like this to avoid the area becoming just another faceless suburb, so what idiotic bureaucrat at Barnet Council said it was unsightly? Could it be the same person who inflicted the retro column and those horrible advertising panels on us?

Any news

If you have anything of news value for this column, please contact Noel at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road or phone 883 1234 (anytime).



Dave's trellis work in the High Road - better surely than a vacant site?

Photo: David Tupman

Future perfect?

What will East Finchley be like in the year 2027? A Friend of East Finchley, Alexandra Rook, asks many questions.

How do we want East Finchley to cater for our needs in thirty years time? What will it be like in 2027? Will there be even more traffic choking the highway, or will oil reflect its true cost and the motor car be redundant? Will more people be living in single-person households, as current statistics predict, or will there be proper caring in the community as the welfare state shrinks?

Get Rio

The Rio Conference, or Earth Summit as it is sometimes known, gave rise to the notion of "acting locally, thinking globally" to bring about a change in our consumer culture and begin to reduce consumption, reuse and recycle resources so that future generations will not be compromised.

Agenda 21, as it has become known, is essentially about quality of life issues. Local authorities have been charged with involving their communities in developing action plans for a sustainable future. The Barnet 2000 conference was this borough's launch of the process; since then a couple of areas (around Friary Park and Victoria Park) have been tried out as Local Agenda 21 areas; town centre forums have been floated for the Finchleys and elsewhere. Should not those

of us who care be getting together and producing East Finchley's own agenda?

Meet and think

A few of us have been meeting together out of chance encounters and common concerns but to legitimise the process we need more of you to join in.

Perhaps some of you have already been thinking along similar lines or wondering where to start. If you are, let's get together.

If you are concerned about the quality of life, in its widest sense, now and in the future, or have particular and specific concerns about such burning issues as traffic and transport, "pigeon corner", energy and environment, increasing numbers of low-flying planes, recycling, open space and wildlife, housing and employment, then together let's start a local area strategy group and make a difference.

To increase local networking, contact any of the following Friends of East Finchley, Denys Cooper on 444 4715, Simon Partridge on 883 8968 or Alexandra Rook on 444 1645.

Garden centre uprooted?

By David Tupman

The fate of the popular East Finchley Market Garden Centre, next to Iceland, hangs in the balance as local planners have set 28 April 1997 as demolition day for the wooden structure.

Whatever the niceties of the local planning regulations, Dave and his co-workers have created a flower, gift and plant business during the last three years on what was a derelict site.

Planning blight

The owners of the plot, who have outlined planning permission for a permanent three-storey structure, have no intention of developing the site at present. But it appears that local planners have decided that Dave will have to go.

Editor's Note: We on The Archer lament this local planning decision. Surely, the whole hope of modern England is to encourage entrepreneurs rather than nip them in the bud. . .

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Tree Line
"Dense, soft, natural, green, artificial Christmas tree" was the description noticed by an Archer reader in the run-up to Christmas.
Was he the only one who thinks there is something odd or contradictory about this?

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