



Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Fly-posting

The council now has a graffiti and fly-posting hotline. It's 0181 359 4600. Help the council to keep East Finchley looking better by making use of the number, and not letting it be up to others.

Wood History

Sheila Williams is writing a history of Cherry Tree Wood. If you have any information or old photos. She would love to hear from you. Please phone 0181 444 5951.

News Garden

The Finchley Society is planning to create an Octavia Hill garden near her former home at Brownsells, at the junction of the slip road to the North Circular and High Road East Finchley. The formal opening is planned for December 6th 1997.

Royal Visit

I know it is a little late in reporting this news, but Queen Victoria visited Finchley on May 27th 1897.

Bad Luck

A keen bird watcher has drawn my attention to the fact that there seem to be a lot of single Magpies around these days. To those that are superstitious (one for sorrow etc.) you can avoid the bad luck by saluting the bird.

Oldest

Congratulations to Henry Rofe, of Lonsdale Vale Farm Resource Centre, Long Lane who celebrated his 100th birthday recently. This set me thinking. Who is the oldest resident of East Finchley? Please let me have your nominations.

Archer Deliveries

People occasionally complain to me when they do not receive a copy of the Archer. Our hard working distribution team always need volunteers, and you can always pick up a free copy at the Bargain Centre.

The "Joys" of Shop Keeping.

You get asked a lot of peculiar questions in a shop, but two recently took the biscuit. What does your electric bike run on? Somebody recently phoned to ask me my phone number!! Before anybody thinks of racist Irish Jokes, I would point out that both the questioners were English.

Lion Dung

The national papers last week reported that there was a large demand for lion dung, from this area. The explanation given is that if you spread it on your property, the smell will keep the foxes away. Now I am a farmer's son, and my best friend was a lion tamer and I can tell you that I have never previously heard of this idea. However, and this may have nothing to do with the story, in parts of India, rhino excrement is smoked, in preference to pot! It's said to be much better and doesn't smell.

Lotto Win

During the recent rollover draws, a syndicate of postmen had 22 wins on 28 lines!

Credit Union

Barnet Council has been in touch. They have now appointed a full time credit union worker, to help the local credit unions. We still need more people to get involved. Please contact me at the address below.

Christmas Lights

The Traders Association are in contact with the council regarding Christmas displays and lights. If the readers have any opinions on the subject please contact me.

Cycling

National Bike week occurred recently. Some facts: 23% of all journeys in the UK are made by bike 50% of all households now have a bike there are over 20 million bikes in the UK and the number is increasing.

Any News

If you have any news suitable for this column, please contact Noel at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road or phone 0181 883 0234.

Caring in mind

MIND in Barnet wants volunteers for its befriending services to provide support and companionship to people with mental health problems.

"Have you ever thought of working as a volunteer in your local community?" Writes Frances Bergman, Befriending worker. "Not only does it make you feel good, it is good for others and can be good for you to."

It is said that volunteering can increase your life expectancy, strengthening the heart and generally reducing stress.

Volunteers, male and female of all ages are wanted for an hour or so a week for its befriending service.

If you can offer friendship to someone who has few friends and family because of their age and mental health problems, MIND would like to hear from you. Training and support will be provided along with reimbursement for any out-of-pocket expenses.

For further information please phone the Befriending Worker (Hendon Project) on 01727 824502 (answerphone) or write for further information to: MIND in Barnet (Befriending, Hendon Project), 2 Schoolway, North Finchley, London N12 0RY.

Tree victory

Thanks to the intervention of The Archer and many local residents, the splendid sycamore tree in front of All Saints Church, Durham road, has been saved from destruction.

Exercising its powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the general provisions of the Tree Preservation Order, Barnet Council refused consent to remove the sycamore tree which was protected by a tree preservation order. In the Council's Notice of Refusal, it announced: "the proposal

will involve the loss of a tree of special amenity value."

Speaking from her home in Leicester Road, local resident, Frances McGrane, to The Archer, "I am thrilled that Barnet Council had taken the views of local residents into account. Chopping down this tree would have been a scandalous act of vandalism."

Cuts in special needs teaching

By Phil Wilce

A drastic cost cutting exercise by the local council may be putting the future of Barnet's special needs pupils in jeopardy.

Until recently this situation has received little attention outside the walls of school staff rooms and council meetings.

At present, pupils are allocated a period of time each week with a special needs teacher, based on a time table drawn up by the council.

From their first school days, children are monitored and mild difficulties are noted

and acted upon accordingly. As the pupils progress through school, learning concerns are brought to the attention of the teachers through a series of test stages.

Decentralisation

Barnet Council's move to disband its central services, effectively making over 500 teachers and support staff redundant, has been widely criticised. The motion involves the schools handling their own special needs budget. Schools will then recruit teachers from a pool of displaced staff term by term.

While heads and governors do not wish to cause alarm over the situation, many have suggested it is merely a cost cutting exercise made necessary by last year's overspend of more than one million pounds.

One East Finchley teacher expressed concern at the new plans: "These are the very children who, if not given help early, lose motivation, develop poor self esteem and may become social problems of the future."

Have you got news for us?

If you know of a story breaking locally or would like to alert us to an issue which concerns you

Please write to **The Archer**

PO Box 3699,
London N2 8JA
or leave a message on our voice mail
Tel: 0181 914 7280

Fully Booked

The ladies and children's wear shop known as "Reeba" closed down recently. However, the property will not remain vacant for long. Workmen are busy at 46 High Road where a book shop is to open.



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