



## THE ARCHER

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*Thank you to  
Madden's Ale House  
for providing us with a  
meeting place.*

*THE ARCHER team wishes  
to thank all the generous  
people who give up their  
spare time, in all weather,  
to deliver the paper for us.*

### Your contributions

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address or leave a message on our voice mail on 01426 923 549

THE ARCHER aims to publish on the first weekend each month.

To maximise the chance of publication, all contributors are urged to submit their articles early the preceding month:

*The 13th December is the  
copy deadline for the  
January issue.*

## CHEMIST'S OPENING HOURS Xmas and New Year

**Saturday, 25 December** (Christmas Day) - *CW Andrews, 32 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8883 1559.* (Oxygen -yes, needle exchange - no) 11 am - 12.30 pm.

**Sunday, 26 December** (Boxing Day) - *Cootes, 134 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8883 0073.* (Oxygen -no, needle exchange - no) 11.30 am - 1pm.

**Monday, 27 December** (Bank Holiday) - *Cory, 168 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8444 7464.* (Oxygen -yes, needle exchange - yes) 11 am - 12.30 pm

**Tuesday, 28 December** (Bank Holiday) - *Cootes, 134 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8883 0073.* (Oxygen -no, needle exchange - no) 11.30 am - 1 pm

**Friday, 31 December** (New Year's Eve) - *CW Andrews, 32 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8883 1559.* (Oxygen -yes, needle exchange - no) 11 am - 12.30 pm.

**Saturday, 1 January** (New Year's Day) - *Cory, 168 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8444 7464.* (Oxygen -yes, needle exchange - yes) 11 am - 12.30 pm.

**Sunday, 2 January** - *CW Andrews, 32 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8883 1559.* (Oxygen -yes, needle exchange - no) 11 am - 12.30 pm

**Monday, 3 January** (Bank Holiday) - *Cory, 168 High Road, N2, Tel. 020 8444 7464.* (Oxygen -yes, needle exchange - yes) 11 am - 12.30 pm.

## Fatal accident

Family and friends were devastated by the tragic death of 19-year-old Colin Surrey in a car accident on Tuesday 19 October. Colin, of Old Farm Road, East Finchley, died when his Renault 5 Turbo crashed near East Finchley Station at 10.50pm. His passenger, Sean Blunt, suffered head injuries in the accident.

His funeral, at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, on 29 October, was attended by his family and friends, including a large number of people from Royal Mail for whom Colin worked as a postman in Golders Green.

The Archer extends its sympathy to his parents, Terry and Kathy, and to all those who knew him.



42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.  
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

### General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.  
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

### Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

## Crime Diary

By John Larimer

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) advises the following alleged incidents were reported as having occurred within the N2 postal code area during October, 1999: **Burglary of dwelling, 12; Burglary of other than dwelling, 7; Theft of motor vehicle, 5; Theft from motor vehicle, 29; Criminal damage to motor vehicle, 24.**

If you are the victim or witness of a crime, ring 999. If you have any information and don't want to give your name, ring Crimestoppers, anytime day or night at 0800 555 111. For further information or advice you can contact our MPS Crime Prevention Officer, PC Peter Hayward, on 020 8733 5092.

## Richard's Run Results

Readers will be impressed to learn that Richard Solomons of Trinity Road, East Finchley (featured in our last issue) raised an amazing £2,800 for Macmillan Cancer Relief from sponsorship for his efforts in the London Triathlon.

## Playgroup faces closure

The numbers of children attending the outstanding East Finchley Playgroup are declining and recently have reached such a low level that its future is now in serious jeopardy.

The playgroup is a community organisation, established in 1972 and run by parents. It employs three fully trained and experienced staff, and children are encouraged to learn through play in a friendly, secure environment, giving them the necessary preparation for the school years ahead.

### Child benefit

Following the government's decision to place children as young as just three years old into the more formal school nurseries, the need for separate nurseries has declined, and Barnet Council have not seen fit to increase the playgroup's grant without changing its nature and working ethos.

However, many parents believe that at three years our children are just too young to be sent to nursery school, preferring the more informal and caring playgroup environment.

### Playtime's over?

But unless more children attend the East Finchley Playgroup soon, it will be forced to close. Therefore for all the parents in East Finchley with young children the message from their local playgroup is clear: either use it or lose it.

Details are available from Amanda McCrae, Playgroup Chairperson on 020 8343 1763.



Children at East Finchley Playgroup. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Bridge Over Troubles Walkers

By Diana Cormack

The bridge which carries the East End Road traffic over the Northern Line is notoriously narrow, with drivers having to be doubly cautious, especially when approached by the larger vehicles which try to thunder through. This situation is not helped by cars parking too close to the Budgen end of the bridge, where many a near miss occurs.

But Mrs Doris Jenkins of Beresford Road, East Finchley, is more concerned about the pedestrians who use this bridge. She cites the plight of old people who may be shaky on their feet or have mobility problems. They have to suffer vehicles brushing by them as they make their way along the pavement, which her husband Clifford has measured. One side at the Budgen end is 53-55 inches wide; the opposite side going the other way is 38-43 inches wide. As the average pram is 22 inches wide, imagine pushing one along there with a toddler or two by your side. Even worse, try doing the same thing with a double buggy! And

how does it affect people in wheelchairs?

### A bridge too far

Doris has written to local MP Rudi Vis, who contacted Barnet's Highway Department.

They say that the bridge is the property of London Underground Limited and that any consideration of road widening would have to be taken by them. However, Barnet is prepared to investigate the possibility of narrowing the carriageway! With contributing traffic from The Causeway and Deansway, this is surely a non-starter.

Clifford Jenkins' suggestion of getting rid of the pavement on one side, thus enabling

the opposite one to be widened, seems feasible. But that would raise the possibility of the need for some sort of pedestrian crossing nearby and we know how long that could take, judging by the lack of one (at the time of writing) in Fortis Green.

See also readers comments on the letters page (9).

## A1 winner

The winner of the Sony Playstation in the A1 Motor Store/Comma Oil and Chemicals competition was Mrs B Coughlan of Moorland Mews, London N1. Congratulations!