



Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Help with learning difficulties

Glossy business magazine, 'Executive Black Woman', did a two page spread recently about an East Finchley woman, Sandra Fox. Sandra has only recently been diagnosed as severely dyslexic. However, she has overcome her disability mainly through the use of computers. "It is hard to convey to you how much this has revolutionised my life," she said. "It all boils down to the simple realisation that the way dyslexics learn things is different to other people." Her skills and, ironically, her ability to communicate clearly with others soon came to the attention of academics at Middlesex University, who have now employed her. She has also set up a company Tapin Computers, to spread and encourage the use of computers, by people with learning difficulties such as dyslexia, contact Sandra on 0385 714804.

Free computer training

If you are in business in Barnet there is free computer training available from EU funds. I have been on this course, which takes place once a week for six weeks and it was excellent. The classes are for 2-5 people and training is available for beginners through to advanced users. Contact Lesley Houghton 0181 346 9213.

Redundant Executives

A new self help network for executives who have been made redundant has been set-up by ex-Archer member and founder, Andrew Taylor. The group can be contacted by e-mail at Andrew@Taylor.co.uk.

Millennium Celebrations

Barnet council is making special arrangements for anyone who wants to hold a street party during 2000. Instead of having to apply and pay for the usual permission to close roads etc., the council will do this free of charge.

Radio station in East Finchley

London Greek Radio Ltd has applied for planning permission for a radio studio and reception at 437 the High Road.

Arsenal Football Club moving to Finchley

Not quite, but Arsenal has applied for planning permission to turn the Bow Lane playing fields into an all weather training ground.

Lucky Cats

The late Vera Thursfield left £54,000 to the local RSPCA in her will. The money has been used to the cat-neutering scheme.

Please send your news to Noel Lynch noellynch@lineone.net or call 020 8883 0234.

A farmers' market for Finchley?

By Daphne Chamberlain

More and more people would like to know exactly where their food is produced, and to buy fresh, uncontaminated produce at an economic price. To most city dwellers that really is just pie in the sky.

Out of town, though, farmers' markets are becoming popular, and the North London Campaign for Safe Food want to offer this option to Finchley residents.

At the time of writing, the Group is investigating the possibility of starting one - probably on Sundays, and possibly at Barnet.

At these markets, customers buy directly from local farmers, who grow everything they sell.

Bursting at the seams

Until recently, the only market available to North Londoners was the Sunday one at Spitalfields, which is said to be "bursting at the seams" every week. Last month, though, the Standard reported the start of a new market in Islington, which promises fresh and varied food from farms within 100 miles of London.

You'll find it at The Angel - in Camden Passage, N1, just off Upper Street. The Angel station is on the Northern Line, and the 43 bus from Muswell Hill and Archway runs past Camden Passage.

Do investigate if you are interested, and please let us know if you would like an organic market in Barnet.

Your verdict

We'd also like your verdict on a couple of suppliers of organic food boxes, which can be sent to the customer's home. They are: - Farm Around (0181 291 3650) and Organic and Natural Foods (0171 924 7800).

The Group and THE ARCHER would welcome your opinions and recommendations on both the market and the boxes. The contact for the North London Campaign for Safe Food is Ronald Saxon (0181 446 0131).

Footnote: "We had three copies of the petition on the stall, and people were still queuing to sign. We were collecting about a hundred an hour. I've been on many campaigns, and never seen a response like this." That was a member of the NLCSF, talking about the astonishing success of "Five Year Freeze Day" in June, when so many punters voted with their signatures for a freeze on GM food.

Citizens panel results

Barnet council has released the results of its second Citizens Panel questionnaire. The Citizens Panel is a group of 1,000 Barnet electors who have volunteered to submit to questioning at least twice a year on a range of topics; they are representative of the adult population of the whole borough. A total of 64% returned their questionnaires.

Nearly all the respondents supported recycling in the borough - with over 70% favouring an increase in the number and accessibility of recycling facilities. Car parks, at 87%, were the most popular sites.

Over half of the panel expressed concern over the amount of pollution in many of the rivers and streams in the borough. This led to the council holding a meeting with the Environment Agency and Thames Water to discuss the issues raised.

Most residents approved the Passport to Leisure Scheme, especially if the scheme were based on a resident discount card.

There was considerable support for bus lanes, 85%, and the enforcement of parking restrictions in them, 91%.

Is Barnet choking on traffic?

By Tony Roberts

When copies of a professional leaflet dropped through the door publicising a meeting on this topic, with nationally known speakers, I was interested. After all nothing is bound to cause controversy more than attempts to solve the problems of parking and traffic and I was keen to hear the experts.

The meeting, organised by Golders Green Friends of the Earth, at Avenue House on 3rd June was packed to capacity. Rudi Vis MP kicked off in his wryly amusing after dinner speech style, with an outline of Government policy, spiced with a few personal anecdotes and the occasional Dutch-style expletive. He was in favour of low neighbourhood speed limits and had signed the Commons' Early Day Motion supporting an actual 10% reduction in traffic by 2010. Then came John Dawson, the AA's Public Affairs Director, with lots of technical information, showing how emissions were being 'reduced' through legislation and suggesting that it was mainly a question of getting unsuitable traffic off unsuitable roads. Charles Secrett, Director of Friends of the Earth, arrived from the Northern Line just in time to give his speech, which, in a nutshell said that if we wanted true traffic reduction and voiced it loud enough, the government would have to accede to our demands. The speeches finished with Ron Bailey, Traffic Reduction Cam-

paign Co-ordinator who made an impassioned plea for us to support a third push to make the government stick to their promises. It seems that Labour commitment to a 10% reduction in traffic levels has been watered down to allow a 25% increase.

As might have been predicted, with these nationally recognised speakers, practical proposals for Barnet were not at the top of the agenda. There was a heated exchange between resident Dr Oliver Natelson and MP Rudi Vis, but no real review of how Barnet will achieve its objectives.

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Mrs Anne Weston

THE ARCHER is saddened to report the death of Mrs Anne Weston on 27 June.

She and her husband Percy were supporters of this paper, having been long-term Friends of the Archer. They had lived in Baronsmere Road, East Finchley since 1953. The couple would have celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary on 15 July.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Hyams of Elmshurst Crescent who have recently celebrated fifty years of marriage.

Bigger and better

Budgens store in the High Road is awaiting refurbishment. If all goes to plan, in a couple of months we could be shopping in a bigger and better Budgens.

Noel all

Local shopkeeper and Archer Columnist Noel Lynch was prominently featured on BBC1 on two separate programs, on the same day recently.

He was shown auctioneering at Hornsey Auctions on Panorama, and also featured on almost all newscasts the same day opening a campaign at Green Party HQ, to celebrate the Green's historic win in the Euro elections. Noel, one of the chief architects of the campaign, said, "It was a great night, we have waited on this for 28 years. However I was to busy on that day to see either of the broadcasts."

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