

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



These children are the same age as The Archer: - seven this year. Photo by Maureen Bourdon

Now we are seven!

The Archer celebrates its seventh birthday this month - see page 5.

Redundancy Shock for Teachers

Teachers who work for the Multilingual and Language Support Service (MELSS) in Barnet are being made redundant.

MELSS staff work in partnership with schools to help children new to English and bilingual children to become more fluent in their use of the language.

Funding

Funding comes partly from central and partly from local

government, but now the funding arrangements allow an increase in the devolution of central funds to schools. Most secondary school heads have decided to take the money, so the secondary sector will no longer use MELSS. About half of the primary heads also wish to employ their own language support staff. The number of posts required centrally is to be reviewed and a new structure is being developed. Schools will

be "encouraged" to recruit staff from the existing MELSS team.

A right melss

To this end, posts are to be advertised in schools by half term, which is 21 February.

Redundancy notices were served this week. As people become re-deployed either in schools, by the end of March, or elsewhere within Barnet borough, the redundancy notices will be withdrawn.

Many women, particularly those from ethnic minority groups, could be adversely affected in the future despite their long, loyal and successful service to our schools, our children and ultimately our community.

It is to be hoped that neither the children nor their teachers will be damaged by any consequences of these redundancies.

Helping hands

Many old people today are virtually trapped by, if not in, their own homes. Some of them find it very difficult to manage their own affairs and they do not know how or who to ask for help.

The Homes Project, funded by Barnet Council, aims to provide advice and support on money management, energy savings and home safety and security to elderly people who are referred by community agencies, including social services, local organisations and also neighbours.

Reach out

If you are concerned about someone in your street or community, please get in touch with the Outreach manager at the Neighbourhood Centre, 42 Church Lane, East Finchley. All advice given, including home visits, is free. Any charges for materials or work carried out, can be discussed beforehand

with the Outreach manager to see if there are any suitable grants available.

Volunteers

Our Outreach manager is Denise Blake, who lives in East Finchley. She will be visiting people's homes to assess their needs and is trying to form a team of volunteers who can give practical help with such things as putting up smoke alarms, fitting window locks, door chains, spy holes, etc.

If you feel that you have something to offer, please phone or fax on 020 8883 3164.

Ignorance is bliss

The National Lottery is sometimes described as a tax on ignorance. If that is true, then ignorance is bliss for two regular visitors to East Finchley.

The winning ticket for Saturday 29th January was bought from the Spar grocer on the High Road. The delighted shop owner, Murali Nada, described the winners as two builders, probably not local, who stop regularly to buy bread, and spend £21 weekly on the lottery.

As The Archer went to press no further details were available, but the payout is believed to be £6.8m.

Strike two

Coincidentally, Murali also sold a ticket that won nearly £100,000 on Wednesday 2 February with five numbers plus the bonus. What chance of a hat-trick?

Bernard TOMKINS

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