

THE ARCHER



GLH
CAR SERVICE
020 8883 5000

ISSN 1361-3952 **20p**
June 2000 No. 85

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

The killing game

By Diana Cormack

Recent RSPCA concern about the rise in cruelty to animals, particularly by young people, came as no surprise to local residents who use Cherry Tree Wood. Following last month's report in *The Archer* about the cat injured by an air-rifle pellet, come more shocking events.

Pigeons and squirrels have been shot dead, but what has even more saddened and angered people is the shooting of a greater spotted woodpecker.

Gun play

There can be little doubt as to

the age of the perpetrators for on another occasion Chris Ward, the park-keeper, gave chase after hearing shots then seeing two boys running away, one with a brown case hanging from his shoulder. That boy ran up to-

wards Baronsmere Road whilst the other one tried to hide, but Chris caught him. After prevaricating, he eventually said that they had been trying out a friend's air rifle on tin cans and Chris had to let him go with a stern warning. On investigation, there were no tin cans in the area where the shots had been fired, just a dead squirrel. The boy was about 14 years old, 5ft 6ins, with a sun tanned skin and short black hair. His friend called him Jack.

It is illegal to: Carry a loaded air weapon in a public place; kill or injure any bird or protected animal; fire an air weapon within 15 metres of a road or street.

These offences carry heavy fines and even imprisonment.

Shop guns

The police have said that they will try to patrol and have the Community Beat Officer visit the park. But it is up to us to do our bit too. Air rifles can be dangerous in the wrong hands. People have been blinded, scarred for life or even killed by them. If you see or have reason to believe that such a crime is being committed, do not hesitate to phone 999.

A tall story

There is a storm of protest brewing among local residents on Park Road and Leslie Road over a proposal to replace a corner-of-street bungalow with a three-storey block of flats plus a parking area for seven cars.

An anonymous-sounding company, Greyclide Ltd of Chandos Street W1, is seeking planning permission from Barnet Council and, according to Companies House, its two directors are Jeffrey Harrington of Hatfield, Hertfordshire and none other than our own Martyn Gerrard.

The revelation of Martyn Gerrard's involvement in the proposal came as a surprise to residents. Mr Gerrard was lately closely involved in the campaign against the Brent Cross extension and has, accordingly, been seen as a champion of the environment.

The proposal to build the three-storey block at the corner of Park Road and Park Gate has been described by one resident as 'outrageous'. The proposed building would dwarf the surrounding narrow roads and small houses.

Car parking would increase in an already congested area. Although the proposals include seven car parking spaces in site, sceptical local residents have pointed out that the six flats may well contain families with more than one car and that their visitors' vehicles will have to be

accommodated.

Residents are also angry that they were given only three weeks from May 5, when they were notified of the proposal, to May 26 to lodge their objections with the council.

One resident commented on the significance of the fact Martyn Gerrard appears to have kept his connection with Greyclide a close secret.

The Archer attempted to obtain an explanation from Mr Gerrard but he was unfortunately out of the country and, therefore, unavailable for comment.



Callum, aged 5, Kushal aged 4, and Tara, aged 5 enjoy the new wooden animals in the Martin Infant School playground. The carved animals are a tribute to pupil Jem Cakir, who died tragically in a car accident. See School News on page 6. Photo by Erini Rodis.

Bernard
TOMKINS 36 High Road
 East Finchley N2 9PJ
020 8883 0033
Properties urgently required - now is the time to sell!
 Estate Agents and Valuers Established 1873

Hotblack Dixon & Co.
Estate Agents

Our success rate in N2 is very high indeed, obviously in Hampstead Garden Suburb but also in East Finchley. We have often obtained better prices from our base in the Suburb, so *Please call us for a free valuation or try us if you are on a multiple agency basis*

17 Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb
 London NW11 6JY
020 8458 8411

Instant passport photos

Kodak films 35mm
3 for 2
 all year round

Sun-Tan lotions special offers all summer

step into Scholl sandals new range in stock

C.W. Andrew Pharmacy
 32 High Road N2 Tel: 020 8883 1559