



FINCHLEY FORUM UPDATE

By Daphne Chamberlain

East End Road bridge

London Underground Ltd has written to Mr and Mrs Jenkins, the East Finchley couple campaigning for greater pedestrian safety on East End Road bridge.

LUL would consider a foot-bridge, but it would still need unobstructed access to its cables, and Barnet Council would have to pay the full cost.

Barnet Council's Chief Engineer, Robin Hodsdon, repeated that it would be difficult to guarantee cable access. The absolute minimum cost would be £250,000, which would be too much for his limited budget.

Dark humour

Councillor McGuirk agreed, but did nothing to help her case by insisting that East Finchley people could always use The

Causeway or the two pedestrian bridges between Market Place and East End Road. (After dark? I don't think so.)

Later, Robin Hodsdon told THE ARCHER that he would consider requests to narrow the road itself, though it would probably be too late to do anything in the new financial year.

Mr Hodsdon can be contacted at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ.

The next Finchley Forum will be held on Tuesday 23 May at 6.30pm at Northside School, N12 8JP (next to Lodge Lane carpark).

Graffiti eye-opener

Graffiti is increasing throughout the borough. A recent offender was 30 years old, and others are described by police as "well-to-do and well-educated".

These facts emerged at the latest Finchley Forum, held at the Old Barn in Tarling Road. Mark Beauchamp, of Fairlawn Avenue, had asked whether perpetrators could be identified, and if the problem was being tackled in schools.

Another member of the public suggested a minimum age-limit for buying spray-cans, which has apparently cut down graffiti in New York. According to a police representative, our Government will be bringing in similar legislation next year, with a probable minimum age of 16.

Councillor Kathy McGuirk said that youth workers were "liaising" about the best course of action, but the Forum agreed that offenders of all ages have got to be identified.

CCTV cameras may be installed in some areas, and anyone can ring 999 if they actually see the vandals in action.

To deal with this stupidity in the short term, a Mobile Graffiti Removal Unit has been set up to tour the borough. THE ARCHER will keep East Finchley informed on the details.



Chris Costi of Takis with marathon medal. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

Chris raises £1400 for disabled children

By Daphne Chamberlain

Northern East Finchley people usually see Chris Costi behind the counter at Takis, the general store in the High Road just past Lewis Gardens (the last shop before the North Circular).

Now they know him as a London Marathon runner.

He completed the course in four-and-a-half hours. "It should have been under four hours," he says, "but I injured a knee after 17 miles. The last five or six miles were the worst, but the atmosphere and the people were

great. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Chris, who belongs to The Manor in Fortis Green, has been running 30-40 miles a week in training for the past year. So far he has raised £1,400 for Kith and Kids, a society which supports disabled children by focusing on their abilities.

Red boxes

What are these red boxes mushrooming up around East Finchley? Martin O'Donnell of Strawberry Vale has come up with the answer.

According to his "postie", mail vans top up the boxes with post to be delivered.

This should make life easier for the postal workers, and maybe bring about a better service for us. Let us know your verdict.

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Best Boot Forward

by Diana Cormack

Eight year olds Josh Bristow of Elmshurst Crescent and Matthew Joyce of Market Place are pictured wearing the size 13 boots which were donated to the North London Hospice shop in the High Road, East Finchley.

So far there have been no reports of Big Foot wandering our streets, but perhaps these boots were made for walking to raise funds in the hospice's annual charity walk?

Hospice walk

A record breaking 800 people took part in this year's North London Hospice walk from Cherry Tree Wood to Westminster Abbey and raised an estimated £75,000.

Green belt

The eight-mile walk went from Cherry Tree Wood, through Highgate Woods, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, Hyde Park, Green Park and St. James Park before finishing at the Abbey.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the hospice appeal should contact the Hospice fund-raising officer Pauline Treen on 020 8446 2288.

Paint it grey

By Sonia Singham

A Long Lane resident watched as a young chap sprayed a shed door. After leaving his trademark he coolly put the spray can in his jacket pocket and walked towards the newsagents.

This brave senior citizen then followed the young man, took the can of paint from his pocket and liberally sprayed his jacket with what was left in the can. When she had finished she suggested that he report the matter to his mother and ask the mother to come to see her if she so wished!

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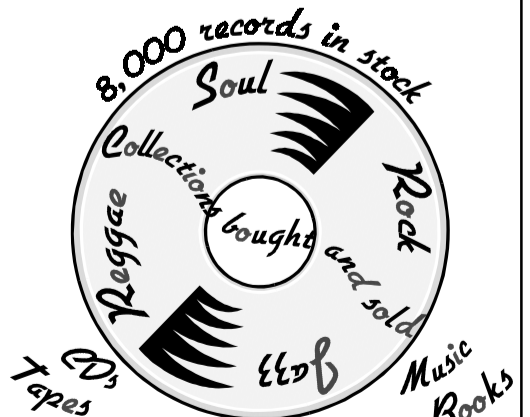
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