

# THE ARCHER



**GLH**  
**CAR SERVICE**  
**020 8883 5000**

ISSN 1361-3952 **20p**  
 April 2001 No. 95

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Terry Parr of Tom's the Butchers on the High Road. It's business as usual, and with a smile despite the general gloom surrounding the Foot-and-Mouth crisis. Photo by David Tupman.

## Foot-and-Mouth ban

By Kevin Finn

**On 16 March, Barnet Council announced that it is to ban access to livestock farmland and associated footpaths across the borough as the foot-and-mouth epidemic continues to spread and local 'please do not enter' request notices are ignored.**

The council justifies this drastic action by claiming that, "While most residents have acted responsibly to earlier requests not to cross farmland, others have ignored the notices and in some cases even torn them down." Irresponsible behaviour by a minority will now mean added inconvenience for the already hard-pressed local farming community.

All footpaths that cross or pass vulnerable livestock land will be subject to a complete ban as will entry to any land, which contains vulnerable livestock. Anyone ignoring this ban, or who removes notices,

faces fines of up to £5,000. Maps showing the closed footpaths and land affected will shortly be going up in local libraries and main council offices and further details can be obtained by calling 8359 4698.

### Meat Supplies

Local butcher *Graham's* is reporting business as usual. Ann Long, sister of the founder, cited the fact that they use beef and lamb from Orkney (which is so far unaffected by the outbreak) and have experienced no rise in beef prices and only modest increases in the price of lamb. Pork, which they get from a farm in Surrey, is also readily available at present. The 35-year-old business is, however, reporting an increase in demand, and puts this down to disaffected supermarket

customers. As for the future, Ann says they are just keeping their fingers crossed.

*Tom's* is reporting brisk business but that the shortage has had an effect on the prices they must pay. However Terry Parr told *The Archer* that these increases have not been passed on to their customers. He also says that some people are still unaware that the disease cannot affect humans. Nevertheless, demand for lamb and chicken is on the increase, but Mr. Parr warns us that spring lamb will be increasingly difficult to obtain.

Those city dwellers who thought that foot-and-mouth disease was an affliction of country folk are, unfortunately, likely to feel the effect of this national disaster more and more as the crisis deepens.

### FINCHLEY FORUM UPDATE

By Daphne Chamberlain

#### Licence at the Bald Faced Stag

Too loud, too late, and a health hazard. That's the reaction of neighbours to the Bald Faced Stag's request for an entertainment licence. Punch Taverns want to extend opening hours until midnight on Thursdays and 1 am on Saturdays and Sundays, but Diploma Court residents explained their objections at last month's Finchley Forum.

Their case is based on what happens already. One speaker described being woken at night by someone outside his window yelling into their mobile, "Hi! I've just left the pub, and I'm really pissed!". He has found evidence of this - and worse - against his wall.

Residents find syringes and condoms outside the flats. Because of this, a children's

play area had to be removed.

#### Noise Annoys

Environmental Health Officers have been called out because of noise in the pub. Residents argue that soundproofing walls will not help, because clientele spill out into the pub's patio and their grounds. Diploma Court residents include shift and weekend workers, while neighbouring Stokes Court provides accommodation for older people, not always in good health.

Police at the Forum confirmed that the licence application "gives cause for concern".

The licence application procedure was said to be correct, as a (small) notice was displayed for 28 days, and local papers (though not *The Archer*) were informed.

Chair Kathy McGuirk said that as objections from Diploma Court and Stokes Court Residents' Associations had been registered, as well as eight individual letters, a panel of councillors will hear a public appeal - date tbc.

#### Toddlers Groups

Two East Finchley mothers asked for assistance in starting a Toddler Group with a difference. More on this next month.

The next Forum will be on 22 May - venue to be decided.

### Iceland Attack

**On 13 March at 10.30 a.m. two men grabbed a black case from a Securitas guard after punching him as he walked from Iceland to his van outside Bar XL.**

An eyewitness told *The Archer* that he saw the men make their getaway by running up Beresford Road. They were both described as black, and neither appeared to have a weapon or transport waiting nearby.

When the guard managed to reach his van he pressed the alarm and the police from Finchley arrived soon afterwards. Was this an opportunistic attack or a planned raid? In either case one very much hopes it was a one-off incident.

### CPZ "eases parking"

**A controlled parking zone is being introduced in East Finchley on 9 April to ease traffic congestion and give priority to parking for residents and businesses.**

The move follows extensive consultation and requests from traders and residents to improve conditions locally by reducing the amount of all-day parking in the area. It will be reviewed in its first year to allow for minor changes.

Plans will be displayed at East Finchley and Hampstead Garden Suburb libraries until 25 May. For details ring Gavin Woolery-Allen in Barnet council's highway's service on 8359 4331.

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