



THE ARCHER

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Thank you to Madden's Ale House for providing us with a meeting place.

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

Your contributions

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

THE ARCHER aims to publish on the first weekend each month. To maximise the chance of publication, all contributors are urged to submit their articles early the preceding month:

14 August is the copy deadline for the September issue.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838
London Electricity 0800 096 9000
OFTEL 020 7634 8700
Thames Water 0845 920 0888
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Health Authority 020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8975 9700

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
Cophthall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema. 020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018
Wamer Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

**Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445
Childline 0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600
Relate 020 8445 0888
Samaritans 020 8889 6888
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
CancerLink 0800 132905
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Information Service 0800 665544
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404*
MIND 020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8342 1212
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 3121
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950
City Airport 020 7646 0000
Greenline 020 8668 7261
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999*
RSPCA 0870 5555999

Tragic Fall

Rene Mainwaring, aged 83, died on Friday 22 June at the Whittington Hospital after falling down the entrance stairs to her flat on the previous Tuesday.

Terry Stone, manager of East Finchley Advice Service, visited her flat on the Thursday morning after no reply to several telephone calls and found her still alive after two days at the bottom of the stairs.

Rene Mainwaring had worked as a volunteer and member of the management committee for the East Finchley Advice Service for many years and as a volunteer for Contact - an organisation helping the elderly in East Finchley.

Rene was not only a caring person, but was always aware that others were less fortunate than herself and made time for everyone.

Rene will be sadly missed by all and she will be very difficult to replace.

Home Alone

By Diana Cormack

Too often nowadays we hear the incredible news of children being left at home while the parent looking after them goes off on holiday. While we are horrified by this, it seems obvious that the errant parent must either have had awful problems coping on their own or be incredibly stupid or selfish or both.

Strangely, there is no law which states at what age children can be left alone. Each child is an individual and children mature at different ages, so leaving them is dependant on their ability to cope in an emergency and whether they feel happy about being left. However, the NSPCC advises that no child or young person under at least 16 should be left alone overnight. When leaving teenagers alone, ensure that they are happy about this and that they know how to contact the emergency services and have a telephone number where they can contact you.

Child labour

Teenagers are often used as babysitters. Again, there is no law regarding the age of the babysitter but if he/she is under 16 the parents are still legally responsible for their child's safety. Babies or young children, whether asleep or awake, should never be left at home alone, not even for a few minutes. Even most children under 13 should not be left alone for more than a very short time as they may not be able to cope with an emergency, says the NSPCC. They advise leaving clear instructions for dealing with any problems, along with a list of people you trust whom they could go to or telephone. Also, try to put away all obvious dangers such as matches, medicines and sharp objects.

Being a parent is a 24-hour job and everybody needs the occasional break. But parents can be prosecuted for "wilful neglect" under The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 if they leave a child unsupervised "in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health."

For further information, contact the NSPCC on 020 7825 2500 or at www.nspcc.org.uk

Your blood can save a life

The mobile donor unit of the National Blood Service will be in East Finchley on Wednesday 22 August. It will be parked outside the underground station from 1.45 - 4.15 pm and 5 - 7.45 pm.

If you are a new donor you must be aged 17 to 60, weigh more than 7st 12 lbs (50 kg) and be in good health. Existing donors can give blood until 70 years of age. You must ensure that you feel well on the day and have had something to eat and plenty to drink beforehand.

Session times may change, so for current information please call 0845 7711711, see Ceefax BBC2 page 465 or visit www.blood.co.uk

Organised crime in East Finchley

A local business on the High Street was disturbed one summery Friday afternoon, when a highly organised gang robbed staff of their belongings.

A group of smart looking people, possibly of Eastern European origins, entered a local business. One woman, a five-year old child, and two men distracted people with queries regarding the shop and its staff. The men positioned themselves strategically for a good view and the woman asked to use the toilet. They reportedly spoke in Arabic and possibly exchanged warning messages.

Getaway

Although a member of staff foiled an attempt to rob the till, the robbers took several handbags and the group disappeared into a red Renault. The shop informed the police straight away. The police have not been to investigate. They claim that the group is an untraceable gang of illegal immigrants, and inspection would be ineffective.

One employee, whose wife had to cancel her planned holiday, said, "Everything is upside down now. I don't know

what to do. I've managed to save the till money, but I have lost all my own things."

His female colleague, who lost a substantial amount of money, has been traumatically affected and said, "It has changed my whole outlook on life. My privacy has been invaded. I know it's not tragic, but there are organised gangs getting away with it who might seek violent revenge afterwards."

Soft targets

Local people are worried that the gang has been active for a long time in North London. Unfortunately, these places are becoming more attractive to criminals compared to areas such as a CCTV-infested Oxford Street. A neighbouring shop owner called the incident 'opportunist robbery'. He said, "It is madness that we are not more vigilant". He was also distressed by the length of time it took for his 999-call to be answered and by the lack of any response to it.

Florence in September

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Personal & Professional Development



NLP TRAINERS

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If you fancy lazy learning in the autumn sun, evenings strolling in the piazza and pasta and vino over the Arno then come and join us.

