

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Turpin and his mol aka Rob and Jacqui Dabor. Photo by John Dearing

Green Light for The Stag

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Bald Faced Stag has risen again - bathed in a green night-light, and that light seems to be the only controversy so far. Reaction otherwise seems to have been very positive. The outside is attractive and the inside is unrecognisable. Only the old fireplace and the tree in the garden have been preserved.

Dick Turpin wouldn't know the place. (Well, it's doubtful that he ever did, in spite of what Punch Taverns may have heard.) Anyway, for last month's official opening, landlord Rob Dabor appeared in highwayman's costume, with his wife, Jacqui, dressed up as a wench.

That was a bit of fun, but they both know that their new neighbours' misgivings about the pub were serious. Jacqui

told *THE ARCHER* that they want to build their trade around the locals. They have worked in dubious areas, and trouble is certainly not what they want.

There are regular bouncers on the door, and music nights will have no DJs and no vibrating bass. They have a programme of sport, games, live entertainment, pool, music and karaoke, with something on every night of the week. The food looks good, too.

"We want to give our locals what they want", said Jacqui. "If anyone has any comments, suggestions or complaints, we hope they will come and talk to us."

Prime site

The sale of the old scout hut in New Trinity Road has resulted in yet another planning application.

Locals have received a letter informing them that they can view plans for the proposed property at Barnet House, Whetstone between noon and 5.15 pm on weekdays.

More housing

Following demolition of the hut, developers want to erect a terrace of six three-storey houses, with associated car parking and vehicular access.

The TA Headquarters just across the North Circular Road is also currently up for sale.

East Finchley online

By Femke van Iperen

The Peabody Trust, a London charity, is running free computer and Internet courses in the Green Man Community Centre in Strawberry Vale. The 'Online Centre' is designed for people who find it difficult to get the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with today's computer technology.

These courses, provided by Barnet Council, have drop-in sessions and cover areas such as computer literacy, web-page design, spreadsheets and IT. People are given their own e-mail addresses and a free crèche is provided. Some courses are tailored to particular groups, like the 'Silver Surfers', which is for retired people to learn at their own pace in a comfortable environment.

Martin O'Donnell, the Community Centre Manager, said, "We will do anything to try and encourage people to use new technology. The courses are predominantly fun related and we will design t-shirts and have themed weeks. They

will run in short sessions and will not necessarily lead to a certificate. We are also working with the Finchley Credit Union to tackle financial exclusion from the Internet. Some people miss out on cheap flights and can't shop on the Internet because they have no credit card."

I can do it

The first day of a 'BBC Talking' beginner course was attended by a group of different ages and genders, with the screens displaying a bold 'Computers Don't Bite' message.

A young mother from a neighbouring estate said the course provided her with a

good opportunity and she was impressed by the free crèche.

Two mothers confessed they were a little bit nervous. One of them said, "I don't really want to do this. I have to use computers at work, but I tend to avoid them." She did not feel confident with the courses offered by her work itself, partly because they were too short. The other mother said that the first time her child told her he had been playing with a mouse she told him to go and wash his hands.

One retired man from East Finchley said the course would help him not get bored in life, "I don't know much about technology, but once someone shows me, I can do it."

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