



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 June is the copy deadline for the July 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
Warner 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

Local Planning Applications

Leopold Road Express, 217 High Road - Redevelopment of petrol filling station to include a single storey building for retail sales, new canopy over repositioned pump islands, repositioning of vehicular access from High Road. Parking spaces for ten cars.

East Finchley Tube Station - Relocation of automatic ticket validating gates and installation of a new barrier division.

Cherry Tree Wood Pavilion - Use of pavilion as an A3 café/restaurant. External alterations to pavilion involving new doors/windows and repair of roof.

The Five Bells Public House, East End Road - Ground floor rear extension replacing rear conservatory feature, pitched roof to existing rear extension. Alterations to existing side conservatory involving new slate roof and new windows. Landscaped seating area with pergola feature replacing children's play area to front.

214 - 216 High Road - Change of use from A1 retail unit to A3 restaurant/café.

93 High Road - Change of use from ground floor shop to ground floor shop and self-contained flat.

60 Lankaster Gardens - Redevelopment to provide six flats in a three storey building following demolition of existing house. Eight car parking spaces with access from Lankaster Gdns.



On the beat - PC Paul Carter. Photo by Femke van Iperen

Cutting the red tape

By Femke van Iperen

Emergency callers who are fed up with being put on hold once too many times might see a big change in the near future. This May, Home Secretary David Blunkett announced a £140 million new call-handling system for the Metropolitan Police.

The C3i system, for which Hendon is one of three possible centres, is designed to reduce red tape - often blamed for slowing down the jobs of frustrated rank and file officers.

The aim of the new "Command, Control, Communications and Information Project," (C3i), which is part of the wider police reform agenda, is to provide a modern system by processing emergency calls more efficiently. It is hoped that the training and recruiting of civilian staff will free officers and resources.

Good news

Speaking about the new scheme, Dr Rudi Vis MP of Finchley and Golders Green said, "The police are dealing with more calls for assistance every year. They and the public service need an effective system, which can be relied on. C3i represents a real opportunity for us to invest in a modern efficient system,

which will greatly enhance the capacity and responsiveness in London. This is good news for the Met, London and Barnet."

Police Community Sergeant John Ballard of Golders Green said he is aware that the 999-system needs to improve, and is concerned with the drop in crime reporting as a result: "We need to know there is a problem, and what affects the public. We might not be the right agents to deal with, but we can point callers in the right direction."

East Finchley's local beat officer PC Paul Carter, added, "Phone calls are very time consuming. You spend a lot of time in grey areas which are not quite crime, but which are passed to us."

In addition to the Met's recruitment target of 3,400 new officers in the forthcoming year, it is estimated the programme will release a further 800 officers to front line duties on London streets over the next four years.

Out of Court

By Diana Cormack

Residents adjacent to 72-74 Twyford Avenue, part of which comes under Haringey Council, have been shocked to receive a letter from the Planning and Environmental Control Service.

It refers to the site of Highgate Tennis Club, which was a popular and accessible club, well used by local people and their children until it closed down a few years ago. An application has been made for planning permission, involving change of use to a residential development.

A campaign against the proposal is well under way, organised by neighbours Bill Smith and Richard Rosen. Bill told THE ARCHER that tennis has been played on the site, with a succession of clubs, since before WWII. Highgate Tennis Club moved there in the early seventies after the Church Commissioners sold the land they played on behind St Michael's School, Highgate, to the education authority. Indeed Mr Smith feels that it was once believed that the ground landlords, the Church Commissioners, had emphasised its continued usage as a tennis club when granting the lease and that this may have been one of the reasons why Haringey had rejected previous attempts to redesignate the land.

Foot fault

This belief is now questionable, particularly since it appears that the club had the rug pulled out from under

it when the lease came up for renewal. In 1995 major improvement plans foundered because a condition of the Lawn Tennis Association's investment in them was dependant upon security of tenure. Time ran out for the club, which was unable to match the terms offered by another party who eventually took the lease.

For five years the property has become more and more derelict and an obvious target for vandals. A petition has received 100% support from residents, who have also written letters to the local authority objecting to the proposals. In addition, they are discussing ways in which the land could be used for the benefit of local people and how this could be brought about. The first planning committee meeting is in June.



42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

You can contact East Finchley's Community Police Officer, PC Paul Carter, at The Community Office, Golders Green Station, Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail: paul.carter@met.police.uk