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Local News Is Our Aim



THE ARCHER

GLH

CAR SERVICE
020 8883 5000

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Photo by Femke van Iperen.

Celebrating Chinese New Year in style:

See page 5 for *THE ARCHER*'s review of Finchley's newest restaurant.

Buyer Beware

Trading Standards officers are warning Barnet residents to be on their guard against two potentially misleading postal promotions currently doing the rounds in the Borough.

The first, a mail-shot offering pills which claim to help weight loss, comes in the form of a newspaper cutting presented to look as though it has been posted on by a friend or acquaintance, although there is no indication of who actually sent it. The letter arrives in a plain rather than a business envelope, is stamped, not franked, and the "press cutting" has a hand-written note on it suggesting that the recipient try the product.

Some consumers feel upset by this promotion and the advice is to evaluate the offer in just the same way you would any other product. Trading Standards officers would like to hear from anyone who has ordered the pills, which cost £39.95 for a month's supply or £69.90 for two months, to see whether or not they received anything for the payment.

Data Protection

The second warning is to local businesses who may receive letters from companies offering services relating to the Data Protection Act 1998

which requires every organisation processing personal data to register with the Government's Data Protection Commissioner.

The cost of registering under this official body is £35, but cases have been brought to the attention of Trading Standards officers where up to £110 is being charged by some organisations currently sending out letters in the area.

The Trading Standards team has now joined forces with the council's Joint Inspection Unit to warn local nursing and residential homes - which have been targeted by these companies in other areas - to be wary.

Any business which needs to be registered under the Data Protection Act, or anyone who has any concerns about letters they may have received offering them registration services, should contact the Office of the Information Commissioner on 01625 545700.

To report any incident or to get further advice, call Barnet Council's Trading Standards Service on 020 8359 2606.



FIELDS OPTICIANS

- ▶ Free eye tests for over 60s and children under 16
- ▶ Diabetic screening
- ▶ Late night opening Thursday until 8pm
- ▶ Please call for more information

108 High Road, East Finchley London N2 9EB
Tel: 020 8883 0063

Joined up landscaping

Following requests from residents at the Finchley Area Forum, Barnet councillors have backed planting and landscaping schemes designed to make the area more attractive. The projects include the footpath linking Long Lane to Tarling Road and planting outside East Finchley Library.

Funding has been awarded for an extension of the existing cycle route along the A1000. The scheme will link the cycle facilities between Creighton Avenue and Summers Lane with Woodhouse Road, providing a continuous route along the High Road.

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