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East Finchley
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PRINTED BY

Eastway Offset Ltd

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

Your contributions

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.

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

14 February is the copy deadline for the March 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 8489 0000

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 8200 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 6300
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 86687261
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

EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

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

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

Community Services

- ❖ Credit Union, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
- ❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Goodbye Phone Boxes

By Ann Bronkhorst

Several anonymous notices appeared recently in Durham Road: 'Greedy BT intends to dismantle the phonebox by the church because it does not make a profit. This payphone is in an isolated area and is needed by many residents.' and the notices urged us all to contact BT, giving e-mail and phone details.

Wondering whether 'Greedy BT' was quite fair I rang the BT number, 0800 661610. Courteously a Mr. Cullinane explained that BT has a duty to provide public payphones – but not everywhere. Payphone use is declining rapidly so BT is removing 10% of payphones nationwide in a 'rationalisation programme'.

BT informs local authorities of proposed removals but listens to objections within a 42-day consultation period. It seems the cherished Durham Road payphone is to be 'reprovided' thanks to concerns about the impact on the local community expressed by (or through) Barnet's Department of Highways.

Further risk

What the helpful Mr. Cullinane and the equally helpful Mr. Chrystostomou of Highways could not tell me was whether there are more public payphones in East Finchley at



Close call: the phonebox in Durham Road.
Photo by Tony Roberts

risk of removal. Is the process inevitable now that so many of us own mobile phones? Lack of use and, of course, vandalism are key factors. I'm told the Church Lane phone box outside Holy Trinity Church is constantly vandalised: would local people therefore want it removed? Contact THE ARCHER if you have information or views on payphone 'rationalisation' in East Finchley.

Hospital Site: Development Plan Mark Five?

By Ann Bronkhorst

Barnet's planners have been kept busy in recent months over the proposals for the former Neurological Hospital site near East Finchley station. And now a fifth development plan is in front of them.

Over twelve years ago a scheme for luxury housing and a new access road was rejected. In the last couple of years four other sets of plans have been drawn up by Octagon Property Developers but withdrawn after discussion with the planning authorities. Each time, vigorous local opposition has centred on two main concerns: the impact of the proposed large residential blocks on nearby homes and the increase in traffic.

Gain or pain?

It is a tense time for staff and students of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. In an otherwise commercial housing development, premises are included for the Institute as an educational 'planning gain'. But from March this year the Institute's accommodation problems will become acute. Park House, ex-council offices in the High Road, has been suggested as temporary classroom space but Barnet now plans to sell Park House on the open market to fund its capital programme. Will the Institute find itself homeless?

Latest version

Laurence Holder, a spokesman for Octagon, told me that their latest amended

plans for the Hospital site would be submitted in the week beginning 19 January. "While no changes have been made to the proposed Institute building, substantial changes have been made to the residential elements," he said. Sceptical local objectors will be keen to see whether this latest version can, to quote Barnet planning officers, 'meet the test of preserving or enhancing this part of the conservation area.'

Serious Concern

For the majority of East Finchley residents though, whatever their opinions on the Octagon development or the plight of the Institute, traffic congestion is a serious concern.

Local Planning Applications

85 High Road –

Installation of external access ramp and steps.
Installation of light on side elevation.

106 High Road –

New shopfront.