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THE ARCHER

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020 8883 5000

June 2004 No. 133
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



The parade making its way to Cherry Tree Wood for last year's festival. Photo by David Glick

Festival fun

This year's East Finchley Community Festival will take place on 26 & 27 June, with 5-a-side football and events at The Green Man Community Centre and live music, food and drink, craft stalls and entertainment in Cherry Tree Wood. See www.eastfinchley.co.uk/festival for details.

New initiative against crime

By Daphne Chamberlain

A large part of East Finchley has become a CSAZ (Community Safety Action Zone). This means it has been identified for a co-ordinated campaign to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime. The designated area lies between the North Circular Road and the High Road to the north and east, and East End Road to the south and west.

Dedicated team

The area will have its own team of one police sergeant, two constables and three PCSOs (police and community support officers). These PCSOs will have the power of arrest in certain cases. The team will be based in the area, and should not be withdrawn for duty elsewhere.

A management group drawn from community workers, local organisations

and associations, and police and Council representatives will run the project, initially chaired by Inspector Nigel Walton from Golders Green. A preliminary meeting for this group has been arranged for 1pm on Tuesday 15 June at the Old Barn, Tarling Road.

Community involvement

This scheme, a joint initiative between Barnet Council and the police, is intended to allow local people to prioritise

their needs and concerns. Police spokesperson Anne Bellamy told *THE ARCHER*, "We want as much community involvement as possible." Local households and businesses should all receive questionnaires.

With an allocated budget and the highest number of officers in its history, the police are setting up CSAZs throughout all 32 London boroughs, and pilot schemes are reported as producing positive results.

Ann Owens Centre 'probably secure for two years'

By Daphne Chamberlain

It is "reasonably certain" that the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane will be staying open – for the next two years anyway. Mark Robinson, Chief Officer for Age Concern Barnet, told *THE ARCHER* that, although negotiations were still going on, he would be surprised if the Centre's immediate future was not secured.

Following the outcry against the threatened enforced closure of Ann Owens, Barnet have now found some funds

which, together with input from Finchley Age Concern, Age Concern Barnet and Freemantle's, should keep the centre open and running normally.

Freemantle's, the charity who have taken over some of Barnet's former centres for the elderly, are redeveloping Leaside, leaving those users temporarily without a day centre. Mark Robinson told us that an arrangement has been reached whereby the small number of Leaside users will be bussed to Ann Owens, where they will be integrated into the normal programme of activities.

THE ARCHER will look in more depth at the Ann Owens situation in future issues.

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