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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Music Group left out in cold

By Daphne Chamberlain

The internationally famous Finchley Children's Music Group, based in East Finchley for 30 years, has had to find other premises at ten days notice, and their chairperson told *THE ARCHER* that they only found out by chance.

Anna Evans says that when the group's administrator phoned Barnet to confirm their usual booking, she was told, "I'm really surprised to hear from you. Didn't you know that the Wilmot Centre is closed?"

They were then told that the building, which still housed

their pianos, was unstable. Barnet attributed this to vandalism, without explaining why the group had not been informed.

Anna Evans says that Barnet again presumed they would use the Youth Theatre, even though she had already explained last year that it was not suitable.

On that occasion too, they had found out by chance that Barnet was not intending to renew leases for users of the Wilmot Centre, but after a public outcry this decision was not enforced.

"Treated so shabbily"

Jinny Fisher, whose 17-year-old daughter has belonged to the group since she was four, told us, "Barnet's left and right hands don't seem to know what each other is doing. The music group is a real feather in East Finchley's cap. We have never taken any financial help from Barnet, and we have been treated so shabbily."

For the time being, the group (fresh from an appearance in the BBC Proms) is rehearsing in St Mary's Primary School, N3, where Anna Evans says they are made very welcome. She also emphasised that Barnet's Director of Education has been extremely helpful.

THE ARCHER has invited Barnet to comment, but has received no reply.

For further information about the Finchley Children's Music Group, contact 020 8444 8418 or www.fcmg.org.uk.



Photo by Diana Cormack

All fall down

By Diana Cormack

A huge bough broke off an oak tree growing next to the railings of the children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood. In all it was about 25 feet / 8 metres long and fell leaving the broken end resting on the buckled railings and the heavy branches thick with leaves spreading over the play park, reaching the to edge of the swing area.

Luckily none of the children playing there at the time was in that particular spot. It happened at 4.30 in the afternoon, following a night of particularly high winds on 12 September. Part of the bough, close to

where it had joined the trunk, appeared to have been rotting. When the fallen bough was cleared another bough which was overhanging the play area was also removed from the tree.

Bogus caller theft

A 70-year-old woman had £600 stolen by bogus callers on Saturday 28 August at about 3pm in St Pancras Court, East Finchley High Road.

A man called at the victim's address stating he had come to clean the windows. When the victim stated that she did not want her windows cleaned the suspect said that he was going to speak to his manager. About

ten minutes later another man called at the address and kept the victim talking for a short while.

Once the man had gone she went upstairs and discovered that £600 was missing. It is believed that while she was kept talking at her front door the other suspect had entered the address through an open window.

The first suspect is described as a male aged about 20, 5ft 5inches tall and the second suspect as a male aged about 24, 5ft 5inches tall.

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