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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



A lone policewoman leads the procession towards Cherry Tree Wood.  
Photo by David Glick. See the centre pages for our festival spread.

## Power cut misery

By John Dearing

The Grange estate in East Finchley suffered three days of power cuts towards the end of May, with three power interruptions, each lasting between six and 16 hours.

Senior residential caretaker Tristan Green first knew about it on the morning of 24 May, when an elderly resident of Sycamore House told him that he had no electricity.

This was reported to Barnet Homes who promptly despatched an electrician. However, it soon became apparent that the problem was widespread and the electricity company was called.

Over the next two days, the pattern repeated itself, and the caretaking team found themselves boiling up kettles full of water and making pots of tea for residents affected.

One resident of Vane House had a freezer full of food for his child's birthday party that weekend. He called the helpline and was told he should be all

right for 12 hours as long as he kept the door shut but no information was given about when the power would be restored.

A resident of Sycamore House, who has a new baby, told *THE ARCHER* he became so concerned that he had to move the child to a friend's house until the power was restored.

EDF Energy said they sincerely apologised to 60 customers in the Central Avenue area of East Finchley for the recent power cuts, which were caused by an intermittent fault on the local network, and proved particularly difficult to trace. This can occur when heat generated at the time of the fault reseals the cable.

Finally, on 26 May they were able to pinpoint the faulty section of cable and permanent repairs

were made. EDF Energy encourages people to call the power cut helpline 0800 028 0247 if they have a power cut, as they are unable to monitor the local network remotely. They say that they will give callers their best estimate of time to restoration.

On this occasion, they received 29 calls about this incident and made 61 calls out to customers over the fault period to keep them informed and check restoration of supply. Although they have a vulnerable customers' list, no special needs customers were registered in any of the affected postcodes. They have a partnership with the WRVS, whom they can call upon to provide vulnerable customers with hot food and drink during a power cut.

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## Here comes summer?

By Diana Cormack

Young visitors to the East Finchley Community Festival were among the first to enjoy the renovated children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood. Thanks to much hard work put in by the committee of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, who obtained a substantial award from the Living Spaces organisation which was matched by a grant from Barnet, new equipment and a safer surface have been provided in time for the school summer holidays.

However, regular users of the park may still be wondering about the future of the café. As reported in last month's *ARCHER*, a Freedom of Information request to Barnet Council about this then remained unanswered, as did other correspondence on the subject.

In the article, people were encouraged to telephone Barnet and ask what was going on. Many of you did and you let us know what you had learned.

It seems that there were two responses to the invitation to tender for the kiosk, but the preferred tenderer no longer wishes to take the premises. At the time of writing, Barnet Council has told *THE ARCHER* that the kiosk has been offered to a third party on the basis of a tem-

porary letting for the summer. Their performance will be monitored and necessary action will be taken to ensure continuity of occupation if this temporary letting is not converted into one with a longer term. Occupation

will commence on completion of the legal paperwork.

At the festival, well over 300 people signed a petition urging Barnet Council to get the kiosk open on a permanent basis as soon as possible.

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