



# Combined cadet centre opens

By Diana Cormack



L-R Air Cadet Sgt Emma Albone and Army Cadet Sgt Kim Richardson (both 18) at the plaque with Sir Michael Craig Cooper. Photo by Michael Nolan

**On 7 September, more than 150 cadets, parents, guests and dignitaries gathered for the official opening of Finchley's new cadet centre at 444 High Road. It has been built on the old Territorial Army Centre site as a condition of land sale under the Barnet enterprise scheme, alongside 170 social and private housing units.**

The centre will serve the boys and girls of 393 (Finchley) Squadron Air Training Corps and 214 Detachment Army Cadet Force.

Before the opening and reception, the Air Cadets gave a drill and band display, followed by a rescue and first aid demonstration by the Army Cadets. Performing the opening ceremony the Queen's representative, Vice Lord Lieutenant Sir Michael Craig Cooper, said how impressed he was by the building and thanked the instructors for the work they do there.

Among these was former East Finchley resident Jim Olney, who ran Josephine's

the florists for more than 40 years. Now living in Frinton, he still travels here for the twice-weekly ATC parades.

Mayor of Barnet Andreas Tambourides expressed his good wishes for the centre, as did the borough's Deputy Lord Lieutenant Major Paddy O'Brien.

### Flying high

Amongst the many activities offered are sports, adventure training, first aid, map reading, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, rifle shooting and flying. In fact, ATC cadets can gain their wings before they can hold a driving licence. The age range is from 12 to 18 and cadets can achieve

the equivalent of four GCSEs through their normal cadet activities under the BTEC scheme. Not all the youngsters intend to join the armed forces; for some the centre is more of a youth club.

Speaking to *THE ARCHER* Brian Salinger, Leader of Barnet Council, said, "It's great to see the kids using this building." The Air Cadets meet on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7.30-10pm. Telephone 020 8444 9861 for further details. The Army Cadets meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7.30-9.30pm. For more information, telephone 020 8952 7605.

## Letters to the editor

### New squeeze on sports facilities

Dear Editor,

I have been following the Stanley Field sports facility issue with interest. On 27 August, I received a notification from Barnet Council, advising me of a planning application for a floodlit multi-sport pitch, timber adventure trail, etc, to be built on the only remaining green space in Tarling Road, opposite the entrance to Vanderville Gardens.

The plan is to squeeze this sports facility into the very small area next door to the Old Barn Community Centre. The area of the proposed development backs right onto the flats in Brownswell Road and Fallows Close, and is essentially their back garden. Street noise already travels and echoes in this neighbourhood "pocket".

Tarling Road, though mainly residential, already accommodates three "community projects" in the form of the Old Barn Community Centre, Newstead Children and Family Centre and the Ann Owen Centre, and really does not have the capacity to house an additional sports facility.

The Old Barn Community Centre operates as a children's pre and after school facility for much of the time during the day, but it is also used for evening and weekend clubs and social functions. When a social function is taking place, the whole of Tarling Road is full of cars parked on both sides of the road, as the centre often has inadequate private parking.

It is the most ridiculous area to even consider siting such a facility.

S. Steven.  
Vanderville Gardens, N2.

### Our polluted allotments

Dear Editor,

At East Finchley Allotments (behind Martin School) we were interested to read about the sewage problems on the Vale Farm, Tarling Road, allotments (*THE ARCHER*, September 2005).

They are not alone! There have been on-going problems for years from pollution in the two streams crossing our site from south (Creighton Avenue) to north.

We have been in touch with the Environment Agency and Thames Water about this, but progress is slow.

While the streams take surface water from Creighton Avenue and probably the county roads as well, it is obvious from the suds, the filth and the stench that they are also taking water from people's drains.

Some householders may not be aware that their sinks or washing machines have been plumbed into the surface water drain instead of the sewer. This is particularly likely when properties are refurbished or new appliances added.

The pollution involved is not just local. Since the streams run into larger rivers, our wrongly-connected washing machines are helping to pollute waterways and kill wildlife for miles.

We can help each other to help the environment by making sure this hasn't happened with the plumbing in our own homes.

Yours sincerely  
Richard King  
Chairman, East Finchley Allotment Holders' Association

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

## OBITUARIES

### Eric Dean

By John Dearing

**Eric Dean, a familiar figure in East Finchley for many years, died in August. Most people will remember him wobbling about in East Finchley with his walking stick.**

Eric, who was in his early 60s, was born on the Isle of Wight, where his grandfather had been station-master at Bembridge. As a young man, he joined the Royal Air Force and worked as an engineer in the motor transport division. After suffering a slipped disc, he was invalided out of the forces about 20 years ago.

Eric was always interested in motor sport, so after the RAF he worked as a mechanic for Lotus. However, his health problems, which included asthma and spinal spondylosis, continued to plague him and he was forced to take early retirement.

In recent years, Eric became steadily less mobile, but he remained interested in cars, always willing to offer advice to amateur mechanics from his extensive knowledge.

Eric's problems with his flooded flat were reported in *The Archer* in March of this year. Eventually he was allocated a new flat in Market Place, but had moved in only three weeks before he died.

Eric died a week after breaking his hip, following a fall outside his home. After being operated on in the Royal



Eric in the Bald Faced Stag on Bobath Centre Charity Race Night in February, clutching his winnings! Picture by Frank Tymkov

Free Hospital, he contracted pneumonia. His funeral was held at Marylebone Cemetery on 6 September.

### Guide dogs' ambassador dies

By Betti Blatman

**An East Finchley resident who became an ambassador for guide dogs has died just a few days before her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Joyce Dale, of St Mary's Green, Thomas More Estate, East Finchley, died on 15 August 2005. Sadly, the birthday party planned by the Blind Association at Avenue House had to be re-arranged for her funeral.**

After going blind at the age of 54, Joyce became an ambassador for guide dogs. She was a committee member for the Barnet branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and gave talks to various groups. During her blindness, she owned three guide dogs, Eliza (retriever), Gary (labrador/retriever) and Crispin (flat-coated retriever). She was also involved in The Disablement Association for Barnet, Barnet Borough Sight Impairment, Network Agenda 21 and Access. Before going blind she helped run the 9<sup>th</sup> Finchley Cub Scouts.

A spokeswoman for Barnet's branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association said, "Joyce was a very strong lady who was determined not to let her disability get in the way of enjoying life."

She will be greatly missed by her son, Terry, and her family, friends and neighbours.

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