



Councillor Offord operating the new graffiti removal machine. Picture courtesy of London Borough of Barnet Council

# Cracking down on graffiti

Barnet Council's graffiti removal team, in partnership with Childs Hill Safer Neighbourhoods police team, has undertaken a week-long project to eradicate graffiti from properties in Childs Hill.

On Tuesday 2 August Cllr Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, took part in the clean up operations.

Funding has been made available from the Building Safer Communities Fund to purchase a new graffiti-cleaning machine.

L'oreal Goldswell products



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# Support for Stanley sports centre idea

By Daphne Chamberlain  
East Finchley Community Development Trust has reported overwhelming support from residents near Stanley Road playing field to the idea of turning it into a communal sports centre.

The Trust has been setting out its proposals to transform the neglected playing field into a multi-sport and recreation centre for all the community, and asking for comments and suggestions. At the time of writing it was reporting an almost 100% positive response to the plan from their door-to-door survey.

Typical comments from residents included: "Please, no more flats!", "We don't need any more housing here", "East Finchley's infrastructure is under pressure already" and "This area should be kept as playing fields for the community, considering the national campaign to keep school fields."

### Community arena

THE ARCHER has seen some of the responses. What is clear from them is that local people are asking for what one resident describes as "an active focal point for the community". They want an opportunity for people of all ages to play a variety of sports and are excited at the thought of a flexible, adaptable arena.

They are thinking ahead to the 2012 Olympics, and concerned over levels of fitness and child obesity, as well as the closure of more and more playing fields.

One resident, who overlooks the field, said that the area was used frequently until

very recent times, when it has become a "wilderness".

There are practical concerns - particularly about access and supervision - but at the time of writing the response is a general "thumbs-up".

See page 6 for the history of Stanley Field.

# Curry powder warning

The Food Standards Agency has again warned about the contamination of some brands of Rajah Premium Hot and Mild Curry Powder with the illegal dye, Sudan 1.

The products affected are in 100g and 425g tins with BBE dates up to June 2008, and in 400g packets dates up to June 2007. Products bearing codes after these dates, and other Rajah products, are not affected.

Barnet Council is visiting shops and restaurants in the borough to ensure any contaminated powder has been removed.

All residents are urged to check their food cupboards. If any of these products are seen on sale, please contact the Council's Food Safety Team immediately, on tel. 020 8359 7443.

# A saucy tale

By Diana Cormack

During the night of Saturday 6 August, the two majestic white lions that stand guard outside the pub next to East Finchley tube station were the victims of a senseless attack. The following morning, street cleaner Colin Knox was puzzled when he came across an empty plastic sauce bottle, the kind usually found in cafes and restaurants, but not the type used in the Old White Lion. Looking round, he soon discovered where the contents had gone, for both lions had been liberally smeared with ketchup.

### Seeing red

"It's beyond belief what some people will do for what they call fun," Colin told THE ARCHER. he wondered if the sauce could be removed without leaving a stain.

Paula Felgate, trainee assistant manager at The Old White Lion, spent more than one-and-a-half hours cleaning the lions. "There is still a little pink left behind. I just hope the English weather will eventually get rid of it," she said. "It looked like the lions were bleeding. It wasn't very funny."



The white lion statue defiled. Photo by Ian Cormack

# Free bus travel for under-16s

From 1 September, 14 and 15 year-olds are entitled to free bus and tram travel in the Greater London Authority area. To be eligible, they must obtain an Oyster photocard, available from Underground stations and Post Offices.

Since 1 August, all 11-13 year-olds have been able to travel free on buses and trams. They do not need an Oyster card, but are advised to carry proof of their age. Additionally those 16 and 17 year-olds in full-time education are entitled to travel on a child's fare, but only with a photocard. Transport for London says free bus and tram travel "may well" be extended to them next year.

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