



East Finchley: your comments

Everyone who visited *THE ARCHER* team on our stall at the East Finchley Community Festival back in June was invited to tell us what they loved about East Finchley and anything they'd like to change.

We had a massive response earlier this year to our original survey of likes and dislikes (*THE ARCHER*, February 2007) so we thought we'd grab the chance to get more of your comments at the festival.

Here's a selection of what you had to say:

• Greta Rait: I love the local parks, such as Cherry Tree Wood, the great local shops, such as the fishmonger's and Tony's, and the Phoenix Cinema is a gem.

• Jean Hogan: I like the fact that people and families stay here for ever.

• Patricia Garcia: I like the new second hand book shop, Black Gull.

• Bailey and Tyler Cottingham, aged 10 and eight: We like East Finchley because it has a friendly atmosphere and is reasonably clean. People who work in the shops are nice to you as well.

• Diane Johnson: Bob the postman is great in the Cherry Tree area.

• Jake Eiseman-Renyard: I like the community festival (not everywhere has one), having lots of local parks and direct access to London via the tube.

• Lucy Simpkins: I love Cherry Tree Wood and the park. We need a park keeper to keep it this good.

• Alison Arnold: I love Cherry Tree Wood, the great local food shops, the Phoenix, our fab restaurants and good (mostly) transport.

• Rita Landeryou: I enjoy reading *THE ARCHER* very much. Several people I know have been featured in it. I was delighted that a snowman photo I took

was printed back in the March edition.

• Ryan Sampson: Tony's Continental, an excellent shop on the High Road.

• K O'Neill: We love the Phoenix Cinema, the great coffee in Amici's, the great clothes shop Lazooli and great food in Va Pensiero.



Community spirit: Juggling policeman at the East Finchley Festival.

Photo by John Lawrence

• Paul Buckingham: I love the uniqueness of the High Road and the community spirit.

And here, anonymously, are the things you'd like to change:

• No more bookies, or takeaway pizza places.

• Budgens - too expensive and not a great choice

• Barnet Council needs the vision to develop East Finchley VILLAGE: no more bookies or fast-food joints on the high street.

• Hate people feeding the pigeons in East Finchley: stop!

• The commercial boards subsidising the 'Welcome to East Finchley Village' signs: they destroy the very ambience

intended.

• I don't like Ingram Road being the parking space for the tube, the Phoenix and the Institute.

Pigeons - yuk.

• East Finchley needs less traffic, more pedestrian crossings and many more cycle ways. And bring back the park keeper in Cherry Tree Wood.

• Traffic.

• Dog fouling is becoming an increasing problem and Cherry Tree Wood needs a warden.

• Pedestrianise some streets.

• Stop rat running down Church Lane and Long Lane. Make more 20mph zones.

• Extend the library's opening times.

• Install a lift at East Finchley station.

• I would like to paint a mural on the Budgens wall on East End Road.

Don't forget, you can still tell us your likes or dislikes about East Finchley by writing to our Letters page. Send letters to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA, or email the-archer@lineone.net.

Air Ambulance called for accident in Leicester Road



The Air Ambulance helicopter in Fortismere School field.

Picture by John Dearing

By John Dearing

The emergency services were called to an address in Leicester Road at 1pm on 4 July, where a man cleaning a first floor window had fallen into the garden below. His injuries were considered serious enough for the Air Ambulance to be called. The helicopter landed in Fortismere School field.

After receiving attention from the paramedics and the Air Ambulance doctors, the casualty was taken by ambulance around to the school field, and thence by helicopter to a north London hospital, where his injuries were described as "life-changing".

Did you know...?

On the Barnet Council website www.barnet.gov.uk there is a "Contact Us" section. *THE ARCHER* has been told that complaints sent to the council this way have been swiftly dealt with.

Bothy dispute: Bill Tyler speaks

By Daphne Chamberlain

In April, *The Archer* reported the dispute over the eviction of the Finchley Arts Centre Trust (FACT) from the Bothy in the grounds of Avenue House. FACT had been restoring the building for 10 years, with the help of lottery money, to establish a community arts centre. They were evicted by The Avenue House Estate Trust (AHET).

AHET were under legal constrictions not to comment at that time, but their Chairman, Bill Tyler, has since put their position to *THE ARCHER*.

FACT were originally given a builder's agreement by Barnet, before AHET took over as landlord. They say that AHET told them this agreement had expired, but sent solicitors' letters granting them a temporary licence until November 2007. Despite this, they say AHET evicted them at six hours' notice last January.

Bill Tyler says this temporary licence allowed public entry only to the central section of the site. The entire building had to be completed before a permanent lease could be granted.

Insurance issues

Last October, FACT started using the Bothy for children's music lessons. They maintain they put in place health and safety requirements, and had public liability insurance.

Bill Tyler, however, says that fire and building inspectors declared the building unsafe for public use, and that AHET asked for problems to be put right throughout October and November. He says he was told by phone that this would be done in a couple of days.

He also maintains that the insurance certificate produced by FACT in July 2006 to cover music classes could be invalid, as the building was not safe for public occupation. As any claim could have come back on AHET insurance, AHET's insurers instructed them to stop building occupation.

Their legal advice was that children could not be allowed to use electrical equipment in that building, as there could have been an accident.

Bill Tyler says the lottery funding will not be affected, as it was given for the restoration of the building.

Reconciliation?

Council Leader Mike Freer has been attempting to reconcile the two organisations, but FACT have accused AHET of not attending these meetings. AHET say that, following a letter from FACT's solicitor threatening legal action, their own legal advice was not to meet face to face, but to speak through a middleman.

As a founder and former member of FACT, Bill Tyler says he is very saddened by events, but he has a duty as trustee of AHET to ensure the estate is run for the benefit of the community. "The main thing is to get the Bothy back in use."

The Finchley Society backs FACT

As the dispute over the eviction of Finchley Arts Centre Trust from the Bothy by Avenue House Estate Trust continues, The Finchley Society has come out in support of FACT. Until its recent AGM, the Society had remained neutral, because both sides have supporters among their members.

At the meeting, though, members voted to "call on AHET to reinstate FACT in the Bothy forthwith, and to ensure that any difficulties are resolved by discussion".

A number of speakers at the AGM said Bill Tyler had rejected offers of mediation between AHET and FACT, and that his position as chairman of AHET was incompatible with being president of The Finchley Society.

Chairman David Smith stressed that Bill Tyler was never a representative of The Finchley Society on AHET.

The Society had nominated him for appointment as a trustee of AHET (Avenue House Estate Management), which later became AHET.

THE ARCHER needs volunteer distributors for: Creighton Avenue, Twyford Avenue and Bancroft Ave.

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver.

We also require drivers to drop to our distributors (average 8 drops each).

Please contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net for details

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

Family service and Junior Church Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Worship Music Social events Wheelchair friendly
tel: 020 8349 9340 e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

St. Johns Christian Spiritualist Church

4 Woodberry Grove - North Finchley

Just behind Homebase

phone 020 8446 3544

Services: Sunday 6:30 pm - Thursday 7:30 pm

Spiritual healing and Private Readings every Tuesday 1 - 3 pm

Different clairvoyant mediums every week!!

Regular Workshops - Development circles - Friendly atmosphere - childrens corner

ALL WELCOME