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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Despair after accident at 'Danger Corner'

By Ruth Brown

A collision at the junction of Creighton Avenue and the High Road has raised new fears that it is only a matter of time before an accident there causes serious injury or death.

Just after 8am on 6 November a truck turning off the High Road into Creighton Avenue was in collision with a cyclist.

Parents and children walking to Martin Primary School were shocked to see the mangled bicycle under the wheels of the lorry. The cyclist was taken to hospital; police later described his injuries as "not life-threatening".

Fast turn

Campaigners have long dubbed this junction 'Danger Corner', arguing that it is an accident waiting to happen because the pavement curve means traffic can turn off the High Road at a relatively high speed.

However, Barnet Council has said they designed this corner specifically to make it easy for larger vehicles to turn off, to keep High Road traffic flowing.

In a public demonstration two years ago, children held banners saying "Protect me, not traffic flow".

Last spring, the Council built out the pavement to make it slightly less rounded. A survey of 43 parents in July showed that the majority thought this had improved safety. However, 81% still thought the crossing was dangerous.

Further measures

Parents feel a pelican crossing is justified but, failing this expensive option, they are asking for the corner to be squared off, to force traffic to slow down before it turns.

In an email to Barnet Council, parents have expressed the hope that the Council "will act soon to make this corner much safer for all the children and adults using this junction".

A Council spokeswoman said there had been only three injury accidents at the junction in the last three years but it was

aware it was a busy location and that there were safety concerns.

She said: "The council will continue to work with the school to review and improve travel conditions for all road users in the vicinity, including considering what further safety improvements might be made at the junction."



In a whirl:

The scene at East Finchley Art Fair on 18 November. See the report on page 7

Youth club move

By Lucy Chamberlin

A popular youth club which was threatened with closure if it could not find new premises is finally settling into a new home.

After some uncertainty over its future, the Monday Club has switched from its old haunt at the Methodist Church to St Mary's Church Hall, further down the High Road.

Home-grown talent

The goodbye party on 22 October saw a big turnout and showcased club talent including Luena, who performed three songs, rap by 'our own boys', and Vishal mixing on the decks.

Other turns included a sketch by Baptist minister Peter Kenelly, dance with Stamp & Shout from Freedom, and Councillor Colin Rogers speaking about the progress of the club, after which everyone tucked into a tasty buffet provided by Casa Pepe, Budgens and Chorak.

The group is enormously popular and has grown to

include around 160 youngsters, aged nine to 15. With so much energy to cater for, the group had outgrown the Methodist Church.

Organisers Maureen Clemenson and Maureen Antoinette were given plenty of time to find a new home but they were concerned at one point that they might not be able to find a central venue, putting the whole club in doubt.

The good news is that the church hall at St Mary's is a large and dynamic space and Father Tony Pelegrino has welcomed them with open arms.

Sergeant Alex Kay and the community police team will continue to support everyone involved, and all the activities, such as football in Martins Primary School field, table tennis, nail-painting and many others, will carry on as normal.

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