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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Locked out: Cherry Tree Wood kept locked

By Diana Cormack

Scores of park lovers were disappointed to find that Cherry Tree Wood remained locked throughout one of the sunniest days of the winter after a mix-up kept the keyholder away.

Saturday 3 February was a beautiful winter's day, sunny and bright and just right for spending some time in the park, but people who went to Cherry Tree Wood found their way barred because all three gates were locked.

The gates remained locked all day. Disappointed children had to be comforted and angry adults wanted to know why this had happened.

Some, particularly children without adult supervision, either climbed the gates or clambered over the fence. Others discovered that the recently completed reinforcement work to the Northern line's embankment had left a semi-hidden access. Though it would be difficult to get a

pushchair or a bike through, an *ARCHER* correspondent watched as those who were determined to gain entry negotiated the gaps adjacent to a firmly-locked park gate.

According to Barnet's Greenspaces, the security company responsible for opening the gates had been told that a road traffic accident in East Finchley would prevent them getting to the park and were not



If you go down to the Wood today you're sure of a big surprise...
Photo by Diana Cormack

informed by the police that the way was clear until 4pm.

At 2.30am there had been a hit-and-run fatality at Henly's Corner, which caused disruption to the North Circular and surrounding roads, but the traffic in and around East Finchley seemed normal once daylight came.

With three separate entrances to the park which can be approached from different directions, it is difficult to understand why one of them could not have been reached at some point during the day. The park keeper had called in sick that day, which further exacerbated the situation.

Barnet Council told us that it was road closures caused by the Henly's Corner accident that had prevented the security company reaching the park.

A spokesman said: "This is very unusual and the council always tries to keep the park open during its normal hours of operation. The council has contacted the security company to gather more information on the reasons behind the park remaining shut all day. The council is unable to give keys to non-council staff, on legal, health and safety grounds."

Let it snow...



James Conway with his snowman outside East Finchley tube station and helper Nardina Betts, who joined him, while waiting for tubes to start running. Photo by Jane Conway.

More of your pictures on page 8

Lincoln Parade finally to be redeveloped

By John Dearing

After a series of legal wrangling, the mainly disused shops and businesses on Lincoln Parade are to be demolished and town houses built in their place.

As reported in *THE ARCHER* in September 2006, the latest in a long line of planning applications to build town houses was rejected by the Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee.

There were a large number of objections to the application but it was then referred to the main Barnet Planning & Environment by the Chairman of the sub-committee, Councillor John Marshall.

The main committee considered the application on 17 January, heard the objections, and then accepted it, subject to £16,750 (plus certain costs) being paid under a section 106 agreement.

Inside...

Kenwood concerts silenced after 55 years.

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