



Market stirs up a French flavour



Jerome Demuliere cooks up cassoulet at the French market.. Photo by John Lawrence

The French market made a successful return to East Finchley from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 November. Fashion and household goods, along with foodie treats, were snapped up by shoppers and there was a real buzz along the High Road.

Jerome Demuliere, who was stirring huge pans of cassoulet, reported good business on the Saturday although rain plagued the traders for a second year running on the Sunday.

Children's health centre opens in Oak Lane

East Finchley has become the home of the only health centre in the borough dedicated to the care of children. Oak Lane Children's Health Centre was officially opened at the end of October by Esther Rantzen, founder of the children's charity Childline.

Established at a cost of over £1.5 million, the centre will provide a wide range of services including immunisation, child development, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy. There is also specialist care available for children with dental problems which cannot be treated by their family dentist. Youngsters with mental health problems will be catered for under a special service from the centre run by Barnet, Haringey and Enfield Mental Health Trust.

Beat the burglars this Christmas

By Sergeant Lee Benham

Here are our tips for making sure you don't become a victim of burglary if you are going away for Christmas.

Make your home look like someone is living in it. Use automatic timer switches to turn your lights on when it goes dark. Don't leave the curtains drawn as this is a sure sign the house is empty.

Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries, bring bicycles inside the house and consider leaving important documents or valuables with family or friends.

Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may overhear details of your absence from home. Don't put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your destination.

General tips on home security

Fit mortise locks (kite-marked BS 3621) or bolts to all outside doors, and locks to all accessible windows. Install an approved alarm system.

Mark belongings visibly and permanently with your



postcode and house number. Keep a list of the make, model and serial number of these items and take photos of any valuable items that can't be marked. Ask us for advice on how to get post-coded property stickers to put in your windows.

Most burglars get in through a back door or window, so lock all side or back gates and add trellis to the tops of walls and fences. Remember, if you have lost your keys but can still get in, so can a burglar.

Put tools away and lock your garage and shed with security locks. If you have to leave a ladder outside, lock it to something secure.

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at East Finchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

East Finchley library makes it to 70

By Daphne Chamberlain

Our local library celebrated its 70th birthday in October. Described variously as the great survivor, East Finchley's most distinctive building, the area's last civic building, and the most attractive building in Finchley.

Opened in 1938 by Alderman Pike, Mayor of Finchley, it was the third of the new borough's public libraries, following Church End in 1933 and North Finchley in 1936. Councillor Collis, Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, was issued with the first reader's ticket and borrowed the first book.

Afterwards, tea was served in the Lecture Hall. In 2008, readers were offered slices of a birthday cake made by one of the staff.

Intended for all the community, "the professional worker, the artisan, the student and the general reader" (including children), its opening hours then might surprise some people today. The Reading Room was open from 9am to 8pm, and the Adult Lending Library from 10.30am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, apart from Bank Holidays. There were full-time Children's Library staff, too, running a range of activities in the Junior Room right from the start.

Surviving the ups and downs

Since its opening, our landmark building has survived the Second World War and Barnet's proposed resiting of the library within a Waitrose store



East Finchley Library's birthday cake, made by a member of staff. Photo courtesy Barnet Libraries.

opposite the Underground station. In August 2003, local residents Tony Hart and Polly Napper both applied successfully for Grade-II listing for the building, and five months later we heard the result of the Council's public consultation. East Finchley had voted overwhelmingly for the library to stay put.

It's been a bit of a switch-back ride since, with the downgrading of the library and the disappointment of being refused lottery funding.

Staying positive, though, one schoolchild said recently: "It's a lovely library, and everyone uses it." Congratulations, East Finchley Library, on your first 70 years.

THE ARCHER is interested in anything you may have to tell us about the library - past, present or future. Our contact details are on page 2.



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