



Organic supermarket for Muswell Hill

By Daphne Chamberlain

Planet Organic has announced it will open a 4,200 sq ft supermarket, including an in-store 30-seat café, just round the corner from Muswell Hill Odeon, on the site previously occupied by the Bond and White DIY and bathroom store in Muswell Hill Road.

Comments from local residents include: "We need a new café in Muswell Hill like a hole in the head", "I like organic food, so I'll check it out", and "Thank God it isn't Tesco!". (Tesco were said to be interested in the site, which is virtually opposite Sainsbury's).

The site is next door to health food supplier Holland and Barrett, who are playing a waiting game. A member of staff told *THE ARCHER* that its new neighbour seemed to concentrate on fresh produce, while Holland and Barrett sold a lot of dietary supplements. So the two could be complementary, rather than

competitive. They were also hoping that Planet Organic would bring new customers into the area.

Planet Organic started in 1995 and already has stores in Westbourne Grove, Fulham and Torrington Place (off Tottenham Court Road). The Muswell Hill shop and another new store in Essex Road, Islington, are due to open this summer.

The company sells certified organic produce, with an emphasis on food in season. They say they are in close contact with their suppliers, and have "a British policy on buying meat, and British first for fruit and vegetables."

No parking at Park House

By Diana Cormack

Access to both the car park behind and the parking area beside Park House, opposite East Finchley tube station, has been blocked. Earlier this year the barrier between the unmade and made up parts of Brompton Grove was lowered. A heavily loaded skip was placed behind this barrier and for

a while a commercial-sized wheelie bin was positioned across the entry gates to the car park, which were chained and locked.

Park House has been up for sale since last summer. It was an integral part of the site involved in the Warning on Waitrose campaign run by local residents, prior to Hamp-

stead Garden Suburb Institute renting the building some two years ago. The building has been empty since the Institute moved out. In response to *THE ARCHER*'s query, Barnet Council replied: "Barnet Council has blocked access to prevent unauthorised parking on a piece of land that the council owns. The public footpath remains passable."



Help keep the RSPCA clinic open

By Caroline Broome

The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic has been serving East Finchley from Market Place for over 50 years, providing a vital veterinary service for domestic animals and wildlife alike.

The trustees of the local RSPCA branch are responsible for maintaining the clinic entirely through voluntary help and charitable donations and now desperately need your help to save it from possible closure.

Most committee members have been loyal trustees for several years but a number have retired and replacements are required to form a full complement as a charitable committee.

Can you help?

RSPCA South East animal welfare manager Becky Kenny said: "Our volunteers and committee members are the backbone of our organisation and without them we would not be able to do all the fantastic work to help animals. We are looking for people with a commitment to animal welfare who want to make a real difference to the lives of animals locally."

Today's hectic lifestyle makes it difficult to commit to offering time to voluntary work. As a Trustee, however, you only need to spare the first Tuesday evening each month to attend committee meetings at the Clinic.

As a Trustee you will be involved in decision making about branch fund raising events and clinic matters, and hear first hand all about local and national RSPCA activities and initiatives.

If you think you can help, please contact Caroline or David Broome on 020 8444 2329. The RSPCA Small Animal Clinic is open on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5.30 - 7.30pm, with consultations starting at 6pm. In emergencies, ring the

RSPCA Harmsworth Hospital on 020 7272 6214.

Fancy a game of football?

Every Sunday morning a small group meets at Cherry Tree Wood for a game of four, five or six a side.

We have goals and a football, but need a few more players to keep the numbers up. We meet at 9am on the field near the playground. Just join us, or for more details call Danny on 07710 392971, or email Tibor, at tibor@themail.co.uk.

Arts Council cuts hit Community Focus

Community Focus, the inclusive arts centre based at artsdepot in North Finchley, has had its £50,000 Arts Council England annual funding withdrawn.

The charity has been the beneficiary of Arts Council funding since the charity was established in 1978. This helped the organisation to develop into the contemporary arts centre it inhabits today, supporting 300 class members, 20 tutors, 50 volunteers and hundreds more through outreach programmes in the borough.

CF specialises in working with people with disabilities

and learning difficulties, older people and members of the community dealing with mental health problems.

The charity openly welcomes offers of support. If

you are interested in fundraising for Community Focus or taking part in any of the centre's 26 classes, contact the charity on 020 8369 5483 or e-mail admin@communityfocus.co.uk.

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