



Archer Calendar 2009: send us your photos!

Time is running out to submit your photos for The Archer Calendar 2009, all in aid of East Finchley's 'good neighbour' charity Contact. There are no rules about what you can submit but we're looking for images of places or people: anything that shows something unusual, beautiful or funny about East Finchley.

We're accepting photos now and the final closing date for entries is Wednesday 17 September, after which our judges will choose the 12 images to be printed. The calendar will be on sale at local outlets and online, thanks to the support of Photobox.co.uk.

If you have an image you'd like to be considered, please email it to the-archer@lineone.net. Digital photographs only, please, as we cannot accept prints. Mark your message 'Archer Calendar' and tell us as much as you can about where and why you took the photo.

Surprise of medical centre plan

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council is considering a proposal for a polyclinic on the site of Finchley Manor Garden Centre on East End Road. The application has been made by Cloverdale Estates Ltd, a property development company, who are appealing against a council decision made last December.

Permission was refused then because the plan did not protect the status of the site, which is designated as Metropolitan Open Land. This is equivalent to Green Belt, with tight restrictions on how the land can be used. There was also no evidence that alternative sites had been explored.

The revised application now incorporates a "well being" garden for people visiting patients and states that no other suitable sites are available.

The proposed polyclinic will have facilities for consultation, diagnosis and treatment, including minor surgery and could therefore be expected to have an impact on local GPs, pharmacists, dentists and opticians.

However, because the planning authority is only required to consult with residents within a certain distance of the site, few healthcare providers or businesses, if any, have been informed. "This is the first we have heard of it," said Pina Thobhani of Corey Bros, the High Road pharmacists.

PCT not consulted

THE ARCHER asked the planning authority how they would therefore be able to assess whether or not the proposed polyclinic is in line with Barnet's policy to permit new healthcare facilities only if they do not have a harmful impact on the charac-

ter of the surrounding area or its amenities. In response, the planning authority suggested that we speak to Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT), which is responsible for all primary healthcare in the borough.

However, the PCT knew nothing about the proposal, not only because Cloverdale Estates Ltd had not consulted them, but also because the planning authority had not consulted them either. "There is no requirement to consult the PCT," said a spokesperson from Barnet.

By the following day the PCT had been informed of the proposal. A spokesperson said: "In future, we would expect to be informed of any private healthcare proposals by the planning department."

Have your say

Barnet PCT is already planning to build a new primary healthcare centre on Bow Lane playing fields, adjacent to the site of the Finchley Memorial Hospital. That is expected to open in 2012.

Cloverdale Estates Ltd have declined to comment. If you wish to give your view about the proposals, go to www.barnet.gov.uk/online-services/planning-applications and search on application number F/02672/08 or send an email, quoting the application number, to fabien.bernard@barnet.gov.uk.



Anela Das and Mabel Gunnings enjoying an afternoon of tea and conversation. Photo by Sian Jones

Good for the community, good for the soul

By Sian Jones and Sarah Clackson

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact is delighted to have been chosen as the charity for The Archer Calendar 2009. One fine example of the work Contact does is Anela, a befriender to Mabel, 83.

Both agree they benefit enormously from the service. Mabel says: "The hour a week that Anela is with me makes such a difference and I really miss her when she can't come. I need someone to talk to, who wants to listen to what I have to say, tell me about

their lives and have a cup of tea or a glass of sherry if it's a special occasion."

Anela says: "You build up a rapport with the person you are seeing and can talk to them about all sorts of things."

Most of the work carried out by Contact is done by volunteers. We are currently short of people willing to help isolated individuals on a one-to-one basis. For example, we have an ex footballer who is now confined to a wheel chair and has not been able to leave his flat for over a year. Could you

be the person to take him to a football match one Saturday, or view a match on the big screen down the pub?


Or there is the 95-year-old lady who needs the occasional lift to the chiropodist and someone to chat to once a week. Her nearest relatives live in Canada.

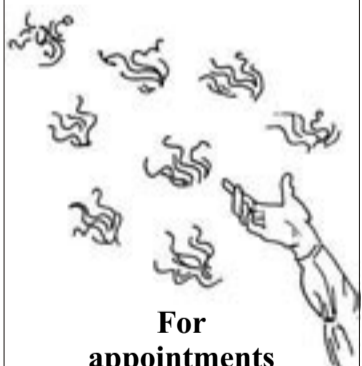
These and many other individuals need your help on a regular or short-term basis. If that someone is you, please ring 020 8444 1162. Contact will need to take references and run a CRB check on volunteers working with vulnerable adults.

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