



# New Mayor supports better bus service

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Brian Coleman, Barnet's Mayor in waiting, has told East Finchley Bus Watch he will support calls for a better bus service between East and North Finchley. With MP Rudi Vis and the Green Party asking for an additional service, the campaign has across-the-board political backing.**

TfL told *THE ARCHER* last month that the present service is adequate, unless traffic delays cause unreliability and overcrowding. When we reported concerns over the extension of the 263 to Holloway, an area known for traffic delays, they replied that they had increased the peak time quota of buses from 15 to 17.

### Contentious

Reminded of their previous statement that they have an obligation to consult stakeholders (MPs, police, local authorities and members of the public) before extending a route, they told us that they were not obliged to consult members of the public unless the change was contentious.

"This is part of a contentious issue," a Bus Watch member told *THE ARCHER*. "I'm not against the extension itself. It's great to travel beyond Archway, but not if the service at our end of the route suffers. They haven't convinced us that they can't run the 17 through to North Finchley, as they used to do."

### Hospital route needed

Rudi Vis has also asked TfL for another service between East and North Finchley, with one bus running on to the Royal Free Hospital and possibly beyond to the West End. He is concerned that anyone visiting the Royal Free will now have to negotiate major crossings at Archway to catch the C11.

The Green Party is already campaigning for another bus to run from North Finchley through East Finchley to the Royal Free.

TfL told *The Archer* that they were "aware of the long-standing request from borough and passengers to improve services between North and East Finchley". They said they had recently looked at a number of proposals, but "have not been able to find a scheme that provides increased benefits to passengers, and that provides a worthwhile and efficient use of our resources". TfL say they welcome comments, complaints or suggestions. They can be contacted on 020 7222 1234.

# Pigeon post returns to the skies

By Diana Boyd

The call to stamp out the feeding of pigeons at Pigeon Corner (*THE ARCHER*, February 2009) could soon be answered. A scheme involving the nearby Post Office on the High Road, which would speed up the delivery of certain types of correspondence and also put the pigeons to good use, is under consideration.

Instead of sitting around getting fatter, the birds could be trained to become postal delivery assistants. This is not a new idea. Historically pigeons have played a vital role in the carrying of messages, particularly during wartime. They would provide back up for the present much maligned mail system, supporting postal workers by carrying short messages swiftly and silently to their destination.

### A feather in our cap

"If this succeeds it would be a real coup for Britain," a spokesman commented. "There would be no need to sell off our postal service to a foreign company. Indeed, other countries may well

want to adopt the scheme."

Subject to planning permission, nesting boxes or a pigeon coop could be built at the corner. Provision would be made for integral feeding facilities with regular supplies and servicing. This would negate the need for any other form of feeding, thus ridding the area of what has become for some locals a long-standing health and safety issue.



Year 5 pupils from Holy Trinity and Kerem Schools with Councillor John Marshall and Katie Artemiou. Photo courtesy Holy Trinity School

# Two schools, one purpose

By Montel Misewe and Florence Wood

**Children from Holy Trinity Primary School in East Finchley and Kerem School in Hampstead Garden Suburb joined forces for a fundraising fair on behalf of the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall.**

Pupils from the two schools, one Church of England and one Jewish, have been working together as part of a Shared Futures project to make links between them.

One of the tasks was to organise and plan a fundraising event to raise money for the Mayor of Barnet's charity, Barnet Young Carers. Before the half term, Year 5 pupils from the two schools got together to plan what they wanted to do. They were put into small groups to plan and make their

own exciting game.

Holy Trinity teacher Katie Artemiou said: "The children from both schools worked extremely well together to produce fantastic games. This project has provided great opportunities for children to make links with children they wouldn't normally come into contact with. It has highlighted and ironed out the misconceptions that they had about each other."

The event on Tuesday 3 March was a complete success and raised over £100. All the children thought that this was a very enjoyable afternoon and they were all on their best behaviour.

From Holy Trinity, Molly said: "I loved sharing the instructions with the people who were playing." Lilly added: "I thought it was a great experience for Holy Trinity and Kerem."

# Events in Cherry Tree Wood

If you go down to Cherry Tree Wood on two days in April, you could take part in some interesting activities run by the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).

On 8 April there will be bird box making, guided walks and sunflower seed planting in newspaper pots. On 18 April there will be bird box making, sunflower seed planting and, for adults, making fences. These events will run from 11am to 3pm. For more information about BTCV, visit [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org)

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