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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER




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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Recycling in a stink

By Isabel Coe

**Environmentally-conscious residents in Summerlee Gardens were left with bulging recycling boxes for nearly three weeks because no one bothered to collect their rubbish. Excess newspapers were left littering the pavements and bottles were piled high in the black recycling boxes.**

If you had taken a stroll down the leafy cul-de-sac at the time, you might have been forgiven for thinking that its residents were over-indulging in the festive spirit in the run-up to Christmas.

Richard Milne says he and his neighbours endured nearly three weeks without a collection. "Neither the black bin nor the blue bin was collected for more than two weeks. I had all my bottles in one of them and I'm sure all my neighbours must think I'm an alcoholic. There was rubbish all over the street," he said.

### Late collections create build-up

The problem began when residents were issued with the new, blue recycling box for plastics, cardboard and tins. The box, which comes with a thin rope net as a cover, is meant to complement the existing black one and make recycling even easier.

Mr Milne explained that because his last collection

had also been late by almost a week, his boxes were always struggling to cope with their load: "OK, anyone can make a mistake once," he said. "But twice so far, in a row? Barnet must have been aware that something had gone seriously wrong."

### Council's response

One resident complained to Barnet Council and refuse collectors promptly emptied her boxes the following day, but left the bulging boxes in the rest of the street untouched.

A spokesman for Barnet Council said it had tendered the job of emptying the boxes out to another company, May Gurney. He was unable to comment on the situation in Summerlee Gardens, but said a letter of apology would be issued to all its residents.

*THE ARCHER* contacted May Gurney for a comment but at the time of going to press they had not replied. All recycling boxes in Summerlee Gardens have since been emptied.

*Is the new recycling service working for you? Our contact details are on page 2.*



The editorial team of *The Martin*. Photo by Heleln Drake

## Read all about it!

By Helen Drake

**The Martin, a newspaper produced by Year 6 pupils at Martin Primary School, hit the newsstands in November with a new editorial team at the helm.**

Sold to parents and carers while they waited to see teachers during a parent consultation evening, the first print run sold out and extra copies needed to be photocopied to meet demand. The cover price of 30p raised extra funds for the school. Teachers were given complimentary copies.

Lili, Rachel, Willem, Hester and Agnes have become the editors for the 2008-09 academic year. They have allowed themselves three weeks to plan and

write their second issue before the next parent consultations in the spring term.

### Watch out, *THE ARCHER*

For their second issue the team are planning an interview with headteacher Mrs Morrison and

details about the latest achievements in the school. Deputy headteacher John Pickering said: "If their good work continues it won't be long before a new generation of East Finchley journalists takes over duties on *THE ARCHER*."

## THE ARCHER

### has a new website

*THE ARCHER* website has been updated with new features and a smart new look. You can read the latest issue online and explore our archive of stories going back as far as 1997.

The site gives advice on contributing to the newspaper as well as details of our advertising rates and deadlines. If you're looking for a particular story, the search box should help you find it quickly and easily.

Thanks to Ross Arnold for redesigning the site. Visit us at [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk) and add us to your favourites.



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