



Sound of the Suburb

Thanks to everyone who got in touch to say they enjoyed our East Finchley Festival photo special in our last issue. Our apologies to two bands for a mix-up with one of the pictures. We wrongly captioned a picture of Sound of the Suburb on the main stage as being SofaSonic. Fans will want to know that Sound of the Suburb are playing a gig at Madden's pub, High Road, on Saturday 2 October at 9pm.

The future of Stag Court

Last month, we reported that Stag Court was on the market again and asked how you'd like to see this prime High Road property used. Here are some of your comments and ideas:

Stag Court would be an ideal space for a nice furniture/interiors shop. Something a bit like Camden Interiors - mixing new pieces with some cheaper vintage bits and nice finishing touches for the house.
Emily Hands, by email.

Stag Court has many problems, and Barnet Council must shoulder some of the blame. The development should never have been awarded planning permission in the first place due to its design, which is not in keeping with the surrounding buildings. The brickwork is different and the building protrudes into the High Road, a visual block to the entrance of Leslie Road, not to mention the adjacent church.

The large plate glass windows (boarded up) are unsuitable for an office, and three unsuccessful applications to have the use changed to a supermarket blatantly suggest that a supermarket is what has been intended all along. Ultimately a failed tactic from the developer, but Barnet have been naive in their approach to this debacle too. The result is an ugly building

that has squatted pointlessly on the High Road for eight years, making a mockery of the planning process. The only positive solution would be to demolish it.

Jody O'Dea, Leslie Road, N2.

I believe it would be great to use Stag Court as a gym, possibly with a swimming pool too!

MCC, by email.

Stag Court has stood empty for far too long, spoiling this part of the High Road. A supermarket is not required but a specialist food shop, possibly a baker's, would be ideal. There would be room to make bread or food on the premises and plenty of display space. This kind of business would have very little impact on the nearby general shops; in fact it would complement them nicely. Are there any bakers willing to give it a go?

Julia Cooper, Richmond Road, N2.

Send your comments on Stag Court to the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Picnic to celebrate breastfeeding

By Kate Imeson

Ninety mums, babies, toddlers and supporters gathered in Highgate Woods on 24 June when Highgate Children's Centre organised a picnic to help raise awareness of National Breastfeeding Week. Two qualified breastfeeding supporters, Mandy Rabin and Emma Pickett, were on hand to help with any breastfeeding questions and there was peer support for newer mothers from more experienced mums.

Nicola Englezau, mum to 19-month-old Jacob, said: "We managed to give advice to other mums who were embarking on the breastfeeding and weaning journey. It was lovely." National Breastfeeding Week was established in 1983 by the Department of Health. Its aim is to raise awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding, and to make it more socially acceptable.

Breast is best

This year's National Breastfeeding Week has fallen just weeks after a new law was passed protecting mothers who want to breastfeed in public. Under the new Equality Act, passed in April 2010, they cannot be discriminated against, asked to leave a venue or treated unfavourably because they are breastfeeding when out and about in England and Wales.

Highgate Children's Centre, on Gaskell Road, N6, has health visitors and breastfeeding supporters available to help with any

Finest Adult Education Centre in North London

By Daphne Chamberlain

At The Institute this year we can sample Box-a-Fit classes, belly dancing and furniture repairing, alongside Mandarin, maths and ESOL. The new prospectus offers over 600 courses, including some 100 new ones, many introduced by student demand.

Since its move from the Suburb, The Institute has become a familiar feature in East Finchley. In her Open Day welcoming speech, Principal Joy Solomon said that not only had recognition and pride from local people grown, but also The Institute is now much more well-known generally. Advertising on buses, in the Tube and in print have helped to increase weekly hits on their website from 5,000 to 7,500. She believes it is The

Institute's destiny to be the finest centre for adult education in North London.

Acknowledging the importance of partnership and collaboration, Mrs Solomon cited links with Middlesex University, KIS, ESOL, the Job Centre, Barnet Council, McDonald's and Danish College collaborators, as well as bankers, Council members, stakeholders and partners. Many of these were present, including Barnet's Deputy Mayor.

A good look round

This year, the Open Event was more extensive, allowing people to visit classes before choosing to enrol. Visitors had a comprehensive tour round the Arts Centre, the new building opposite the Causeway entrance to East Finchley Tube station. Anyone who had ever peered nosily through the huge windows had the opportunity to find out what was really going on inside.

The Institute is now enrolling for September 2010. The office will be open from 8.30am to 4.30pm until Friday 10 September. You can pick up a prospectus from the reception area, or view it on www.hgsi.ac.uk. For phone enquiries, call 0845 871 4141.

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