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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.

Stanley Field for sale

By Daphne Chamberlain

By the time this article is published, Barnet will probably have made the decision to put Stanley Road Playing Field on the market. On 30 November, the Council's cabinet resources committee was expected to agree that the freehold interest in the land should be marketed and disposed of as it is surplus to requirement.

The field has been neglected for years, but East Finchley has always known that it was anything but surplus to requirement. For the last seven years local people have been drawing up plans and making suggestions for its renewed use as a recreational centre.

Barnet admits that this part of the borough is very badly off for playing fields. The report going to cabinet acknowledges this, and also says: "It is considered likely that the sale of this land will raise significant levels of public concern and will give rise to policy considerations. We expect local residents to actively have a particular focus on the future of this site."

Planning advice is that re-use or redevelopment should depend on whether the current playing area is no longer needed, or can be catered for elsewhere. Sport England must be consulted.

At present Finchley Development Trust is in negotiation with a local group, including Steve Sellwood, Head Coach at Finchley Cricket Club (though he is acting as an individual). Mr Sellwood would love any development to provide indoor

facilities for cricket and other sports.

The Trust's Rob Robertson is committed to keeping Stanley Field as a sports site, as part of East Finchley's Olympic legacy. Considering the 2012 Olympic badges feature Archie, our Archer, this is particularly appropriate.

The report recommends that Barnet go for a two-phase approach, with the first phase identifying interest, proposals and bids. *THE ARCHER* will carry a full report in our January edition.

Decision on Park House

As we went to press, we learned that Barnet Council's cabinet resources committee on 30 November, which was discussing Stanley Field, may also be taking a decision about Park House, the long-vacant council property opposite the tube station. A decision is requested on letting it to third party organisations for a commercial rent. We will report in our next issue.



Children at Martin Primary wave the flag for international relations. Photo by Rachel Ellis

Raise the flags as school goes global

By Rachel Ellis

Martin Primary School is going global with a range of new initiatives linking it with schools across the world. The school has just been awarded money from the British Council in partnership with the European Union to take part in a Comenius project, which aims to improve inter-cultural understanding within Europe.

On The Way

Over the next two years, pupils will be creating an online newspaper called *The Way*, which they will share with children in schools in France, Spain, Croatia, Lithuania, Finland, Portugal and Belgium.

Martin School will also hold a video conference with the other schools and children from Years 5 and 6 and teachers will take part in exchanges with the partner schools.

Living languages

Headteacher Helen Morrison said: "We have a range of different global projects across the school. All these activities really bring home the importance of learning other languages and give it a real life context."

Other international projects include links with schools in Spain and Columbia and a partnership with a school in China. The school now runs Mandarin, French, Spanish and Japanese clubs.

Break-in at newsagents

Thieves broke into Pacey's Newsagent in the High Road by chiselling through a wall and stole thousands of pounds worth of cigarettes and phone cards.

When they were unable to get past a security shutter at the rear of the shop, they made a hole in the wall to crawl through, police said. They also broke into the general store next door.

The burglary happened in the early hours of Monday 15 November. Owner Ghazanfar Mehmood was quoted in *The Press* newspaper as saying: "Business is tough at the moment,

we are all struggling. There have been many times I've thought we are going to have to close, so this is not what we needed."

The break-in at Pacey's came after armed robbers twice targeted the Iceland food store in the High Road. Anyone with information can contact police on 0300 123 1212 or anonymously via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

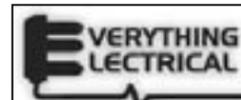
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Have a happy festive season!

Best wishes for the festive season and a happy 2011 to all our readers from everyone on *THE ARCHER* team.

We would like to thank all the contributors, advertisers and deliverers who help us produce the paper and distribute it to nearly 10,000 homes in East Finchley every month. We hope 2011 is a happy and prosperous year for everyone.

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