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THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURTIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Happy birthday, Geoffrey!

Renowned composer Geoffrey Hanson celebrated his 70th birthday with a special concert at All Saints Church, Durham Road. Read our review on page 10)

Could we take charge of East Finchley?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local resident Harriet Copperman has a question for East Finchley. In her words: are we fed up enough with Barnet Council to set up our own local council? It can be done, and it only needs 10% of a particular community to set the ball rolling.

Although Barnet would retain overall control, a portion of the Barnet Council tax would go to a local council to provide, maintain or contribute to local resources and services. Since 1997 around 200 new local councils have been created, and recent changes to the law mean that they can now be set up in London too.

The

Gloucestershire model

Harriet, who was brought up in Finchley and has lived in Stokes Court for the past three years, was involved in the establishment of the North London Hospice, for which she was awarded an OBE.

She has observed a local council at work when she lived in a rural community in Gloucestershire. "It served fewer than 1,000 people," she told *THE ARCHER*. "Compare this with Barnet's population of more than 300,000, which is approximately the population of Gloucestershire. So whilst Barnet has one authority, Gloucestershire has a number of town, district and parish councils."

Ending party dominance

She describes herself as deeply frustrated by Barnet's decision to focus resources on six town centres, and what she sees as the corresponding neglect of other areas, including East Finchley.

Truly local councillors, she believes, could really make things happen, rather than suffering the impotence of being a Barnet councillor, where decisions are taken along party lines. In a local setting, each council member's vote carries the same weight. They would also have



much more knowledge and interest in the local issues they were dealing with than a Barnet councillor living on the other side

of the borough.

Further information

Applications to set up a local council can only be made if more than 10% of the area is in favour. There is then a clearly defined process to go through, with a "community governance review".

More information on the subject is available from the National Association of Local Councils www.nalc.gov.uk or www.nalc.gov.uk/Toolkits/Create_a_Council/Create_a_council.aspx

Comments or questions would be welcome via *THE ARCHER* or harriem2@btinternet.com

Brace yourself for Northern line shutdown

By David Melsome

Passengers using the Northern line are facing severe disruption over the next 18 months as services are shut down on weekends and early on weekdays to let maintenance work take place.

Saturday 27 March is expected to be the first of 64 weekend closures lasting until October 2011. Then from July, the line will close an hour earlier at 11.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays, meaning the last trains could leave central London around 10.30pm.

Tube Lines say the closures are essential to bring in a new computerised signalling system,

which will eventually increase capacity on the line by 20%.

No replacement buses

Weekday commuters are unlikely to be affected by the upgrade work, but it will have a serious impact on people wanting to get home from an evening out in town. Those who wish to use the Northern line on weekends will have to take buses instead. No dedicated rail replacement service is planned.

Transport for London, which has contracted Tube Lines to upgrade the Northern, Jubilee and Piccadilly lines, has not confirmed whether all 64 weekend closures will be allowed. Permission is currently in place for the early closing and for 16 weekend closures. Tube Lines has said it needs all 64 weekend closures if it is to get the job done.



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