



Advice service shuts down

Desperate appeals for funding by the East Finchley Advice Service (EFAS) have failed and the charity has been forced to stop its work.

We reported in our last issue that the community charity based at the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale, needed £15,000 to cover its costs and give it time to find long-term funding. Barnet Council withdrew financial support for EFAS last December.

Sadly, no one came forward with any donations in time and the service was shut on 30 September. The closest service for East Finchley residents looking for advice on benefits, money management and legal issues is now Citizen Advice in Finchley Central, which already faces huge demand.

Irreplaceable

EFAS projects manager Ruby Joseph said: "There are other services but none that will replace what EFAS did. We were an informal drop-in service helping about 10 people every day with very real problems in their lives. There is now one less place for people to turn to for help."

EFAS was originally set

up in 1982 and was run by volunteers with Ruby as the only salaried employee.

Impact of closure

Eldon Pethybridge, Chair of EFAS, said: "The closure will cause considerable difficulties for local residents. Although Barnet recognises that parts of East Finchley are amongst the most deprived in the borough, those requiring assistance will now have to travel much further to seek help and will place an extra burden on other surviving advice agencies.

"I doubt whether EFAS is the first or the last charity to be forced to go out of business for these reasons. Barnet simply does not seem to realise the significant impact the withdrawal of a relatively modest amount of money will have in the area.

"I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff and volunteers who have worked for EFAS over the years and done so much excellent work helping the disadvantaged members in our local community."

False alarm on library move

By Daphne Chamberlain

A good many people were disturbed by recent reports that the Hampstead Garden Suburb Library, which is going to be relocated, was moving into one of The Institute buildings in East Finchley. If it were true, what implications were there for our own popular library along the High Road?

When *THE ARCHER* made enquiries, The Institute told us: "The Suburb library is definitely not moving into The Institute, to either of our buildings. The move was recently discussed as a possibility, among a whole range of options, but was decided against.

"The Institute positively promotes East Finchley Library to our students, and in fact we are holding a parent/child Mandarin class at the library (Satur-

day 22 October) as part of their Family Learning Week."

Barnet Council has confirmed that it has invited proposals for a "community-led library or community facility" in the Suburb, and told us that they are currently in discussion with community representatives about a library.

They have set a deadline of 31 October to receive proposals. After this, proposals will be reviewed and a decision made.



Daniel Hanna in a scene from *Journey's End*. Photo by Graham Michael.

'War' actor runs for Royal British Legion

Born and raised in south west Wales, East Finchley resident Daniel Hanna moved to London in order to pursue a career in acting. Since January of this year, he has been touring major venues across the UK in RC Sheriff's First World War play *Journey's End*.

It's a production that has received critical acclaim as well as picking up awards in London and Broadway. After a seven-week residency at the Duke of York's Theatre in the West End, the production is back on the road.

Despite their busy and intensive performance schedule, Daniel is in training with some fellow company members to take part in The Great South Run in Portsmouth, a 10-mile race raising money for the Royal British Legion.

Daniel explains: "The play is set in a British officers' dugout in St Quentin, in March of 1918 just before the last great German offensive. We thought that it would be a good idea to raise money for a charity with some connection to the play, and The Royal British Legion has that very thing."

Marathon weekend

It will be a tall order for the cast as they are in a different town or city every week, often doing eight shows in as little as five days. They will travel

from Coventry to Portsmouth after the curtain comes down on their Saturday night performance, run the race on the Sunday, and then head up to Sheffield for curtain up on the Monday.

Daniel adds: "It's a cause that we are all very passionate about, and those of us taking part in the race are eager and excited about the challenge. Any donations would be greatly appreciated by us, the charity, and the people that the money will go on to help."

If you wish to make a donation, or would like to read a little more of Daniel's story, then please visit www.justgiving.com/journeysend

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