



No action at "eyesore" building site

By Nick Young

For several months, workmen have been conspicuous by their absence on the building site located at 411 Great North Road, with residents unable to get an explanation for what has happened from either the developers or Barnet Council.

Building work has happened sporadically at the site for the last couple of years. No work at all has been done on the site since June, when workmen were called in to deal with a blocked drain caused by a manhole that had been blocked with builders' rubble leading to flooding in nearby gardens.

Mutton Brook, which rises in Cherry Tree Wood and is a tributary of the River Brent (itself a tributary of the Thames), runs underneath the Great North Road at that point.

"It's been a nightmare," says local resident Ruth Schenirer, who lives next to the development. Ruth describes the site as "an eyesore, a health and safety issue and a security issue".

Whose responsibility?

Until 2006, a Texaco garage was located on the site, which is currently owned by a Stoke Newington-based development company called Hilderton Estates Ltd.

The property is actually located in the Hampstead Garden Suburb council ward, which surprised residents who had contacted East Finchley councillors about it. Councillor Arjun Mitra (Labour, East Finchley) advised *THE ARCHER* that he had referred the matter to Pam Wharfe, the council's interim director for environment, planning and regeneration, but at the time of writing no action has been taken, nor have residents been given any explanation.



Building work has come to a halt at the site on Great North Road. Photo by Nick Young



Martin School reception children look back at the generations before them.

Martin School tells its story

East Finchley Community Trust is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund All Our Stories grant. Its 12-month project, called Martin School, Our School; Our Story, has been given nearly £10,000 to tell the story of the school's history and centenary in 2013.

Commenting on the award, Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Trust, said: "We want to hear people's stories about Martin School and its impact on the local commu-

nity. This will be an opportunity for local people to contribute and volunteer to help a superb project that will provide teaching resources for our children's future and an excellent celebra-

tion of the school's past."

If you want to get involved contact the Martin Primary School Centenary by emailing martinprimary100@gmail.com or call Roger on 07855 304488.

Snow clearance

Barnet Council is once again offering free grit and spreading equipment to residents who volunteer to clear snow from their street or outside their child's school.

If four volunteers sign up at Barnet Pledgebank to keep the pavements of their streets clear, the council will support them by offering a one ton bag of grit as well as spreading equipment, wheelbarrows and snow shovels. To volunteer, visit <http://pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk/>

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For more information please contact the Church Office, Tel: 8883 1544 or visit our web site: www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk
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