



THE ARCHER

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If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:

Admin/Town Hall	020 8359 2000
Council Tax	020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon	0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema	020 8446 9933

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950
City Airport	020 7646 0088
London Transport	020 7222 1234
National Express	08705 808080
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General	0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood	020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial	020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic	020 8349 7000
Royal Free	020 7794 0500
St Luke's	020 8219 1800
Whittington	020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline	020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Barndoc	0300 033 3777
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

Age UK	020 820 35040
Contact (N2)	020 8432 1415

Crime

Emergency	999
Barnet Police	101
Mus. Hill Police Stn.	020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer	
Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

Advice Barnet Project	0844 826 9336
CAB Money Advice	020 8201 7727
Carers' Line	020 8343 9698
Childline	0800 1111
Disability Info Service	020 8446 6935
Gingerbread	020 8445 4227
National Debt Line	0808 808 4000
NSPCC	0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse	020 8683 3300
Relate	020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

Festival date in the diary

Organisers have announced that the 2013 East Finchley Festival will be held on Sunday 23 June in Cherry Tree Wood. As ever, there will be the usual mix of stalls, live entertainment and food and drink.

The festival will start at 12pm and finish at 6pm and the organisers are hoping for a massive turn out this year, with their fingers firmly crossed for fine weather after last year's washout.

East Finchley has talent

In the build-up to the festival, the organisers are holding a Battle of the Bands on 16 March at the East Finchley Constitutional Club from 2-8pm. They are looking for exceptional young local acts to come and perform their tunes with the chance of winning a coveted spot on the main stage of the

summer festival. If you are interested or know of an act that might be, please email details to eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Festival stalls and volunteers

Application forms for stallholders will go out via email. If you are not on the regular database but are interested in a stall, please email eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com for information.

The organisers of the festival have managed to keep it a free event for over 35 years. In that time, it has never been

grant-aided by Barnet Council and is run entirely by local volunteers.

At the moment, they are actively recruiting people to help with publicity, press and marketing. On the day, at least 50 volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets, steward the event or help in the bar. If you can spare some time over the next few months or an hour on 23 June to make a contribution to the success of the festival, ring 07983 360 834 or email the same address: eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

Library saga takes a twist

By Daphne Chamberlain

There has been one more twist in the tale of Friern Barnet Library, which has already had more plot surprises than a television soap. This continuing story, though, is too important for our neighbouring community to switch on and off. As a nationwide audience knows, the library closed by Barnet nearly a year ago has refused to stay shut. Here is what has happened since our last report.

On 1 February, Barnet Council obtained an order to evict squatters, who have restocked the shelves and run a regular library service, and has confirmed it will put the building on the market. The judge praised the squatters and Friern Barnet residents for running a "happy, pleasant place", telling them they still had a right to protest, as long as they were not occupying the premises.

Bidders encouraged

Then Cllr Robert Rams surprised everyone by making Community Barnet (the former Barnet Voluntary Services Council) the building's licensee, asking them to support community organisations who want to make "right to bid" proposals for the library. He cited

the success of the community-run HGS library, set up last year, when Friern Barnet's bid for a similar arrangement was refused. Saying that Barnet is now better off financially, Cllr Rams stated they had "the scope to look favourably on bids for the building from local residents".

Friern Barnet campaigner Keith Martin told *THE ARCHER*: "I imagine that we shall see if we have common ground with Community Barnet, and discuss the situation with them". He hopes that the books (donated by the public) will be left on the shelves, believing that "the occupation has increased the value of the building as a going concern to a potential user who wants it to continue to function as a library".

Donate a coat and spread the warmth

For the second year running Age UK is asking people to donate coats for their national Spread the Warmth campaign. With many old people dying from the effects of cold weather each winter, the campaign has three key aims: offering practical help during the colder months, campaigning to tackle cold-related ill-health and fundraising to help older people when they are particularly vulnerable.

Celebrities such as Spice Girl Geri Halliwell have given coats to be sold in Age UK charity shops, with the money raised being used to help the campaign. There are shops at 6 Western Parade, New Barnet, and 25 Vivian Way, Hendon, but Age UK in East Finchley will accept donated coats. They are based at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, London N2 8LT, and are open daily (except Wednesday) from 10am-3pm. For further details call 020 8432 1423.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

3 Brim Hill, N2

Replacement of all windows, including front door, garage door and side door. Insertion of door and windows to rear elevation to replace existing rear window. Insertion of roof light to rear. Alterations to front garden.

84 Huntingdon Road, N2

Retention of extension of existing rear decking, including new wooden railings and trellis with soft

landscaping.

64 Leopold Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

Haringey Council

1-8 Buckden Close, N2

Replacement of existing timber windows and doors with new timber windows and doors.

1-20 Clissold Close, N2

Replacement of existing timber windows and doors with new timber windows and doors.

- Beginners -

Tai Chi & Qigong

2 Classes in East Finchley

Wednesdays at either 12.00 or 1.00pm (Trial session: £5)

James Drewe is a qualified teacher and has been practicing t'ai chi for 37 years. He is the author of 3 books on t'ai chi & is a member of the BCCMA.

Other classes: www.taiji.co.uk

email: james@taiji.co.uk phone: 020-8883 3308

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