



Breast screening to return to Finchley Memorial Hospital

By Linda Sansom

Normal service was due to resume this month for breast screening patients at Finchley Memorial Hospital following the sudden suspension of the service, which caused anger and confusion locally.

Problems with the site at the newly-opened hospital meant that the service, one of a number of mobile units in north London, was relocated temporarily to St. Michael's Hospital in Enfield. This meant a journey of up to two hours by bus for some patients from East Finchley, Finchley and Golders Green. Some were concerned this could deter many local women from attending routine breast screening appointments.

Local access crucial

East Finchley Labour councillor Alison Moore said: "Barnet had only just reached the national standard of 70 % or more of women between 54 and 70 screened for breast cancer, and my concern is that reducing the number of screening units available in the borough will mean that good work is undone."

"For every 500 women screened one life will be saved, so it is crucial that we get back local access to breast screening

at Finchley Memorial."

Power supply problems

A spokesperson for NHS England told THE ARCHER that the service had been removed as part of a rotation programme, but problems with the power supply had prevented its return to the hospital site.

After discussions with the ministerial team at the Department of Health, and the North London Breast Screening Service, Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer was assured that the service would be back at the hospital in November.

He said: "The funding was in place, but there have been logistical problems with the site. They are now resolved. NHS England unfortunately didn't notify stakeholders including myself, which has led to more confusion than there should have been. I am pleased these issues are now rectified and this vital local service will be returning to Finchley Memorial Hospital."

Art fair at TreeHouse

East Finchley artists are getting ready for the East Finchley Open Art Fair at TreeHouse School in Woodside Avenue on Sunday 24 November from 11am to 5pm.

Around 30 artists, EFO members and guests will be selling a selection of art including ceramics, jewellery, glass, prints, photographs and paintings. Visitors will also be able to buy greetings cards designed by TreeHouse pupils with the help of EFO member Caitlin Smail.



Left to right, EFO artist Caitlin Smail with Monika and Naomi, from the Tree House School art department, and their pupils' card designs. Photo by Mike Coles

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Harriet Copperman presents the quince while Roger Chapman presses the apples. Photo Diana Cormack

Apple harvest gets juices flowing

By Sheila Armstrong

A cold but sunny morning in early October saw the friends and supporters of East Finchley Abundance celebrate this year's apple harvest. You couldn't miss the event if you were on the High Street near Budgens. Apples were crushed, then pressed, thanks to the loan of Martin School's apple pressing equipment. EFA had collected a lot of apples and people also brought their own apples along to be turned into juice

The resulting apple juice was delicious and enthusiastically sampled by passing shoppers. There were also apple cakes and scones and recipes for apple snow, apple puree, apple fritters, with apples and quinces to take away. It has been a good year for quinces too as well as apples.

There was a lot of speculation in the press about this year's apple harvest, reminding us that the spring we had this year was the coldest for 50 years. But after our good summer, with high day temperatures and relatively low night ones, apples have generally matured well with high colour. The really good news for consumers is that the good acid/sugar ratio this

year gives a superior taste. The fruit was about 3 weeks late getting into the supermarkets but it was considered well worth the wait.



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