



Another year for Ann Owens

By Daphne Chamberlain

Finally, we have some official information about the future of Ann Owens Centre. It will continue to provide traditional day centre services for senior citizens, including transport and lunch, until the end of March 2015.

Already operating for only two days a week, these were originally scheduled to end this month, but Age UK say they have been sufficiently "touched by letters and words from clients, carers and volunteers" to allow another year to help in the transfer to new neighbourhood services. No day centre staff will be made redundant.

Age UK's Mark Robinson told *THE ARCHER* that he recognised that what traditional day centre users valued was meeting up socially, but many clients need transport, and Barnet Council funding for this was stopped a year ago. During the coming year, Age UK will have to work at fundraising, and will welcome any help and suggestions.

Barnet Council says that its new borough-wide plan is to extend activity groups, courses and services, to offer more choice locally. These activities, advertised for "older people", include tai chi, dance, computer tuition, reading and gardening clubs, falls prevention, etc, as

well as lunch clubs and coffee mornings. More than 20 new activities and 17 new locations have been introduced since last April, reaching more than 1,000 additional people.

THE ARCHER asked whether there is any analysis of people using the new activities, some of which are already running at Ann Owens. Barnet said that Age UK was monitoring the profile of people using the services, to make sure a cross section of the population is catered for, and that services were spread across the borough.

A spokesman said: "We recognise that our most frail residents will still need transport to activities. People attending the Fremantle day centres at present are entitled to transport provided by Barnet Council as part of their care package. There is also a wide range of help with transport available including dial-a-ride, Disability Living Allowance Mobility Component, blue badges, and transport support from the council for people with substantial and critical needs."



Thanks for all your ideas!

East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB) ran a volunteer-led 'pop-up' info shop from 17-27 February in the foyer of the Finchley Youth Theatre (pictured above). Around 10-15 local people attended each day to share their ideas on what they would like to see happening in East Finchley.

The sessions helped to showcase some of the projects already up and running, such as IT training groups, sharing cooking skills and a gardening project, and many people put their names down to join them.

Some new project ideas suggested by residents included a discussion group for social interaction and a bridge club. EFAB volunteers plan to take these projects forward along with their existing groups.

If you would like to find out more, please visit www.efab.org.uk, call Lisa on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk. Updates on EFAB can also be found on Twitter @eastfinchleyab or on its Facebook page: 'eastfinchleyab'.

Three burglaries in one road

By Janet Maitland

Residents of Sedgemere Avenue have been subjected to three burglaries in the last few months, two of them through the front door.

The first of these was on 12 November when burglars forced open the front door of an unoccupied property at about five o'clock in the afternoon. A witness saw a man running from the smashed open door and getting into an old grey car with a driver.

The suspect was described as a white man, of slim build and wearing dark sportswear and a black beanie hat. The driver was also a white man, wearing the same kind of hat.

Burglars also broke in

through a front door on 17 January sometime between 11.30am and 6.30pm. Police think a screwdriver or a jemmy was used to force it open. A camera and several pieces of costume jewelry were stolen.

On 21 January burglars broke into another property by climbing over a back garden gate and forcing open a sash window into a bedroom. Several electronic items were stolen.

If you have any information about any of these crimes,

please ring the police on 101, or contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) on 020 7161 9014. If you want to remain anonymous, call 0800 555 111.

Trinity too

Also back in November, there was one burglary and two attempted burglaries in one night in nearby Trinity Road. All the burglaries occurred between 11.30pm and 10.30am. The residents were asleep in two of the houses; the third was unoccupied.

New service for Jewish LGBT young people

Jewish 16-21 year olds who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or think they might be (Questioning), now have a culturally sensitive and confidential service.

The service will be provided by experienced volunteers and will offer social events, programmes on social and cultural issues and a secret Facebook group as well as information and guidance.

Karen Lewis, Chair of the Steering Group, says, "This is

an exciting and well overdue project. We are providing activities and guidance for young people and showing them that it is possible to be both Jewish and LGBTQ."

Young people who want to find out more should email sam@jglg.org.uk

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All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>